



Guardian

America's First Choice for Environmental Restoration

A Publication of the Environmental Restoration Program

Travis Air Force Base, California

January 2005

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Two regulatory representatives who actively support community involvement at contaminated sites know how important a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) can be to a cleanup program. They share their viewpoint on the Travis RAB..... **2**

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The next Restoration Advisory Board meeting will be held on January 27, 2005 at the Office of the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors **4**



(Photo by Steve Stopher)

Award Ceremony: Colonel Michael Sevier, former Travis Air Force Base Vice Wing Commander and Restoration Advisory Board Co-Chair, presents a plaque to Community Co-Chair Jim Whalen. The plaque's inscription reads "In Recognition of Ten Years of Outstanding Service as a Founding Member and Co-Chair of the Travis Restoration Advisory Board." Mr. Dave Kanouff and Mr. Dave Marianno also received ten-year service awards.



A Decade of Dedication

Travis Restoration Advisory Board Celebrates Ten Years of Community Involvement with Base Cleanup Program

By Glenn Anderson
Travis Project Manager

This month marks a significant milestone for the Travis AFB environmental restoration program. It was ten years ago that the base implemented a new approach for establishing a working partnership with the local community.

By establishing a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), the base discovered a new group of motivated

stakeholders that was willing to offer both practical advice and skilled services. RAB members are volunteer community members that represent interested community groups and advise the Air Force and regulatory agencies of community concerns with base cleanup.

Prior to the Travis RAB, the base met with a Technical Review Committee (TRC) on a quarterly basis. Composed primarily of base neighbors, the TRC kept people informed of base cleanup activities, but their meetings tended to be briefings rather than active discussions and often focused on topics other than environmental restoration.

See **DECADE** page 2

Visit our Environmental Restoration Program web site at <https://public.travis.amc.af.mil/pages/enviro>



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 Jim Whalen, *Community Co-Chair*
 Dick Curtis, *N. Solano County Realtors*
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 Alan Friedman, *Regional Water Quality Control Board*
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The *Guardian* is a publication of the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron's Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). The newsletter is designed to inform and educate the public about the base's ongoing environmental cleanup program. Contents expressed herein are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. Additional information about the program can be obtained from the public website at <https://public.travis.amc.af.mil/pages/enviro>. Questions and comments about the program may be sent to this address:

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Questions and comments about the environmental web site may be sent to:

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Regulators Recap RAB's Role

By **Kris Escarda** (DTSC Public Participation Specialist) and **Viola Cooper** (EPA Community Involvement Coordinator)

The Travis Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) held its first meeting in January of 1995. This month, the RAB will celebrate its ten-year anniversary.

RAB members are to be commended for their ongoing participation and long-term commitment to the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) at Travis. The community RAB members donate their time to discuss key issues, review plans and reports, make recommendations, and share information with other individuals and organizations.

The Travis RAB consists of a broad spectrum of local stakeholders representing diverse community interests. Members represent residents, businesses, agriculture and livestock farmers, civic groups, school districts, governments, environmental regulatory agencies, and the Air Force.

The active participation of community RAB members provides

valuable feedback to the Air Force and regulatory agencies regarding community preferences for site cleanup activities and priorities. This meaningful input has helped the Air Force and regulatory agencies implement and improve the investigation and cleanup program at Travis.

The regulatory agencies would like to acknowledge the RAB members (listed in the left hand column of this page) for their dedication and service.

The progress of Travis' remediation would not have been possible without the active participation of the RAB members.

Please join in thanking the RAB members as well as other individuals who regularly participate in meetings, review cleanup documents, and provide input.

Continued community stakeholder involvement is essential in ensuring long-term success and sustainable cleanup. All who work with the Travis ERP look forward to continuing to work with such dedicated RAB members.

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By the late 1980's, the Air Force vision for environmental restoration was to "execute and complete site closeout at environmental cleanup sites using a risk-based approach, through building partnerships with interested stakeholders, and by implementing efficient and effective cleanup technologies." Unfortunately, few Department of Defense facilities across the country had built effective partnerships, to the detriment of their cleanup programs. This often led to mistrust and beliefs that the government was keeping the public in the dark and without a representative voice.

After taking in applications and

coordinating with regulatory and local city officials, Colonel William "Skip" Mills chaired the first Travis RAB meeting on 12 January 1995 in the Fairfield Civic Center. A total of 20 new members represented the cities of Fairfield, Suisun, and Vacaville as well as a variety of environmental and business interests. Together, they established a charter for conducting meetings and made important decisions that would carry them for the next ten years.

"Our working relationship with the board has been excellent," stated Mr. Mark Smith, Travis Remedial Program Manager. "They have a clear picture of the program's goals and offer constructive criticism in a

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candid and professional manner.”

One of the first environmental topics that the new RAB faced was also one of the most controversial. Adverse media attention toward a 1950 B-29 crash triggered an expedited investigation to determine whether radiation had been released at and downwind of the crash site. The site was swept with radiation detectors, soil samples were collected and analyzed, and federal and State of California regulatory agencies reviewed the resulting technical reports. In the end, all technical experts concluded that radioactive residue was not present at the site.

At the July 1995 meeting, RAB members heard from and discussed the findings with base and regulatory officials, asked questions about the

What was happening in 1995?

To give the reader an idea of the significance of this milestone, 1995 was known for the following events or aspects of life.

1. Computers ran on Disk Operating Systems, or DOS.
2. President Clinton signed a highway bill that ends the federal 55 mph speed limit.
3. “Braveheart”, starring Mel Gibson, won the Oscar for Best Picture.
4. The Atlanta Braves beat the Cleveland Indians to win the World Series.
5. Steve Young led the San Francisco 49ers past the San Diego Chargers in Superbowl XXIX.
6. The world lost Howard Cosell, Jerry Garcia, Wolfman Jack, Mickey Mantle, Dean Martin, Bobby Riggs, and Jonas Salk.
7. The O.J. Simpson murder trial took place.
8. The NASDAQ stock index closed above the 1,000 mark for the first time.
9. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed above 5,000 for the first time.
10. The last new Calvin and Hobbes cartoon strip was published.

results, and took this information back to their constituents. At the following meeting, they had the opportunity to inspect military artifacts and debris from the crash.

What else has the Travis RAB done in the last ten years? As an advisory committee, the RAB has exhibited a high level of participation, and each member has found one way or another to contribute to the cleanup decision-making process. Many have offered creative solutions to environmental challenges during meeting discussions. One suggestion led to the early cleanup of pesticide-contaminated soil at the Cypress Lake Golf Course, resulting in a quick site closure. Site closure frees the property of environmental concerns.

Others have joined focus groups that addressed budget, community involvement, and relative risk issues. “Their push in the 1990’s for an Air Force commitment to stable cleanup program funding allowed us to be where we are today - closing sites and returning base property to safe and productive use,” said Mr. Smith.

Board members with technical backgrounds have spent countless hours, reading draft environmental documents and submitting suggestions for improving them. Those with a flair with the written word found ways to communicate their concerns about the Travis cleanup program through letters to higher Air Force commands and their views to the public through articles in this newsletter.

The last ten years have shown that the Travis RAB is an effective link to the local community. By keeping the RAB informed of the progress in cleaning up sites, the base helps to keep its neighbors informed as well.

“We are grateful for all that the community volunteers have contributed to the Travis restoration efforts,” said Mr. Troy Martinson, Travis Environmental Flight Chief. “We look forward to seeing what the next ten years will bring.”

Who was at that first RAB meeting?

Even though most of the original 20 members have moved to other parts of the country or followed other interests, we owe them a debt of gratitude for their participation and support. These are the original attendees and their affiliations:

1. Colonel William Mills
Travis RAB Co-chair
2. Randy Adams
CA Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
3. Richard Barela
Vacaville Unified School District
4. Russell Cayler
Fairfield-Suisun Chamber of Commerce
5. Jim DeKloe
Sierra Club Chair, Solano Chapter
6. Lalo Flores
BDC, Inc.
7. Fred Griffin
Fairfield Chamber of Commerce
8. Ray Groom
American Planning Association
9. Nancy Jao
Fairfield Resident
10. David Kanouff
National Association of Retired Federal Employees
11. Robert Lando
Solano County Affordable Housing
12. David Marianno
Fairfield Resident
13. Cheryl McNabb
Vacaville Resident
14. Stephen Mitchell
Suisun Resident
15. Dana Rice
Suisun Wildlife Center
16. John Rundlett
Suisun City Council
17. Michelle Schutz
Environmental Protection Agency
18. Darleene Snider
Suisun Marsh Natural History Assn.
19. Jon Weiss
Vacaville Resident
20. Jim Whalen
Vacaville Mayor Representative

Meeting Agenda

6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Open Forum:

The open forum allows RAB and community members to discuss ongoing Travis AFB restoration program activities with the Travis AFB environmental staff on a one-to-one basis.

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. RAB General Meeting

- I. **Welcome and Introduction to New RAB members**
- II. **Approval of Minutes**
- III. **Additional Agenda Items and Questions**
- IV. **Discussion Topics**
 - NEWIOU Soil ROD Status
 - RAB (Last 10 Years)
 - RAB (Next 10 Years)

Break
- V. **Cleanup Program Status**
 - FT004 Enhanced Solvent Removal
- VI. **Regulatory Agency Reports**
- VII. **Focus Group Reports**
- VIII. **RAB/Public Questions**
- IX. **Set Time and Place for Next RAB Meeting**
- X. **Set Focus Group Meeting Times**

Adjourn

Travis AFB Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

January 27, 2005
7 p.m.

Northern Solano County
Association of Realtors
3690 Hilborn Rd
Fairfield, CA



LOCATION OF INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Vacaville Public Library
1020 Ulatis Drive
Vacaville, CA 95688

(707) 449-6290

Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday-Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Fairfield-Suisun Com. Library
1150 Kentucky Street
Fairfield, CA 94533

(707) 421-6500

Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday-Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Mitchell Memorial Library
510 Travis Boulevard
Travis AFB, CA 94535

(707) 424-3279

Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

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If you would like more information or need special accommodations for the RAB meeting, please contact Mark Smith, (707) 424-3062. You can also view our web site at <https://public.travis.af.mil/pages/enviro>



**For more information about
Travis AFB's restoration program,
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