



Guardian

America's First Choice for Environmental Restoration

A Publication of the Environmental Restoration Program

Travis Air Force Base, California

July 2016

INSIDE

Viewpoint:

Last year's summer construction season was one of the busiest and most productive. The acting Travis AFB Restoration Program Manager takes a look at last year's accomplishments and the start of this year's field work in the context of achieving contract cleanup goals.....2

Next RAB Meeting:

Instead of a meeting, the Travis Restoration Advisory Board will tour the base on October 20, 2016.....4

Editor's Corner

Welcome our new boss!

This edition of the *Guardian* is devoted to the new Environmental Restoration Team on Travis AFB. Although not the subject of an article, we need to recognize our newest member. As Section Chief for the Travis Installation Support Team, Ms. Carol Gaudette provides valuable high-level support to both Travis and Beale AFBs as well as other west coast bases. Ms. Gaudette spent the last 10 years on the Pacific Air Force Civil Engineering staff, where she successfully managed a number of multimillion dollar projects and programs. Ms. Gaudette brings to her new assignment over 20 years of Air Force experience in the environmental and engineering career field. Aloha, Carol!



(Photo by Glenn Anderson)

Meet the New Travis Restoration Support Team: Ms. Carol Gaudette is the new Travis Installation Support Team Section Chief and is responsible for both restoration and environmental quality programs on Travis and Beale AFB. Mr. Lonnie Duke (left) is the acting Restoration Program Manager, and Mr. Angel Santiago is the new environmental project manager from Ageiss, Inc.

Meet the New Old Guy

Environmental Contract Support
Vital to Effective Cleanup

By Glenn Anderson

Travis Environmental Project Manager

When Mr. Lonnie Duke took over as the acting Restoration Program Manager for Travis AFB, it left a gaping hole in the restoration staff. There was no one to coordinate field activities with base personnel or to escort field teams to high security areas to carry out necessary sample collection or well installation.

One way to fill staff shortages and acquire the necessary technical expertise is to hire an environmental professional under a Global Engineer,

Integration and Technical Assistance (GEITA) contract. GEITA contracts are often set aside for small businesses and cover two years with an option to extend the contract for up to three years, depending on the demand for services. To fill the open environmental field manager position at Travis AFB, the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) brought in Ageiss, Inc. as their GEITA contractor.

After reviewing resumes from environmental professionals from all around the United States, the AFCEC staff found the right person for this particular job. Mr. Angel Santiago

See **NEW GUY** page 3

Visit our Environmental Program web site at <http://www.travis.af.mil/About-Us/Environment>



Travis Air Force Base, California

Staff

Acting Restoration Program Mgr

Lonnie A. Duke

60th AMW Public Affairs

Merrie Schilter-Lowe

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Merrie Schilter-Lowe
 60th AMW Public Affairs
 400 Brennan Circle
 Travis AFB, CA 94535
 (707) 424-0135
merrie.schilterlowe@us.af.mil

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

enviropa@travis.af.mil

Before Looking Forward...

First, let me introduce myself. My name is Lonnie Duke, and I am the acting Restoration Program Manager (RPM) for Travis AFB and have taken over the program responsibilities from Mark Smith, who retired from federal civil service a few months ago.

Even though I am the new guy when it comes to RPM duties, there are actually very few people on Travis AFB who have worked here longer than me. I came to Travis AFB from Mare Island Naval Shipyard as a painter for the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron in 1991 a few years before Mare Island's closure was announced. Because of my interest in environmental matters, I was transferred to the base environmental office when the CE paint shop closed and worked with the field team when it was still directly under the Air Mobility Wing. After a five and a half year tour at Aviano Air Base in Italy, from January 2001 to July 2006, I returned to Travis and took a position as the field manager on the Environmental Restoration Program staff. It has been the most demanding but also rewarding time in my career.

Until a new RPM is officially selected for Travis, my job is to continue the path forward that Mark Smith established for us. This is a big responsibility, and I am fortunate to have the support of a great group of environmental professionals on base as well as in the Air Force Civil Engineer Center in San Antonio, Texas and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in Omaha, Nebraska. When managing a multi-million dollar performance-based contract, working with regulatory agency representatives, and talking to interested community members, I am not alone.

When asked for my viewpoint, my first thoughts were of the amount of field work that we have scheduled for this year's construc-



VIEWPOINT

Lonnie A. Duke **Acting**
 Travis AFB Restoration
 Program Manager

tion season. Over the next couple of months, we hope to complete all groundwater cleanup actions, start a few interesting demonstration projects, and decommission a number of oil-water separators that the base no longer uses.

Although this sounds like a lot of work (and it is), it does not compare to what we accomplished last year. So, for my viewpoint, I want to put into perspective last year's accomplishments, because they set us up nicely to meet all of our cleanup goals for the next five years.

To start, our field team drilled 225 borings, of which 150 were converted to either wells or gravel chimneys (the key component of a groundwater recirculation system). If you stand those 225 borings end upon end, the total drilling footage is 7,718.4 feet, or about 1.46 miles. Our total drilling was greater than the elevation of Donner Pass (7,057 feet above mean sea level [amsl] or 1.34 miles) on Highway 80 as well as Echo Summit (7,382 feet amsl or 1.4 miles) on Highway 50. If we had managed a few more borings, we may have reached the same distance as the length of the Golden Gate Bridge (8,980 feet or 1.7 miles).

Other statistics associated with last year's activities are equally impressive. We collected a total of 1,493 soil samples and 1,972 groundwater samples for laboratory analysis; a total of 27 soil analyses and 24 groundwater analyses were performed on those samples. The volume of those groundwater samples added up to 624 liters (almost 165 gallons), and we sent over

See **VIEWPOINT** page 3

Viewpoint

■ From page 2

18,931 liters (slightly over 5,000 gallons) of waste water to treatment plants for disposal. Those soil samples added up to 73,680 grams (over 162 pounds). The field team filled out about 243 chain-of-custody forms to keep track of those samples. We needed about 220 ice chests to transport those samples to analytical laboratories and about 4,620 pounds of ice in 7-pound bags to keep those samples cold during the trip to the lab. I am sure FEDEX was happy with those numbers!

Long time readers are familiar with our use of technologies that rely on microscopic organisms to break down contaminants into harmless compounds. To start this cleanup process, we inject emulsified vegetable oil into the ground, and the oil creates the conditions that promote the cleanup of solvent contamination. The vegetable oil is delivered to the base in large totes that each hold

2,100 pounds of oil. Last year, 71 totes were brought onto the base, and they held 165,900 pounds or 21,550 gallons of vegetable oil.

But the injection achievement gets even better. To get the oil into the ground, it has to be diluted to a ratio of 3.5% oil to 96.5% water. That means that the total injection volume of the oil-water mixture

was 615,700 gallons. Finally, after the oil is in the ground, it has to be spread around with fresh water. This water is called chase water, and the total amount of chase water needed was 215,000 gallons, so the total amount of injected oil and water was 831,200 gallons. That's a lot of liquid!

To complete all of this work, we used two drill rigs in the field at one time and expended 16,814 man-hours or over 2,101 man-days over the course of the construction season. Along with the two crews that manned those rigs, these man-hours represent the field geologists who meticulously recorded their descriptions of the soil borings



Supersized Salad Dressing: Plastic totes such as these are used to transport and store large quantities of emulsified vegetable oil (EVO). EVO injections into a body of solvent-contaminated groundwater has proven to be an effective groundwater cleanup method at Travis AFB. (Photograph by Glenn Anderson)

as they were coming out of the ground, the field chemists who tracked and recorded important water quality parameters, and the team members who filled out the chain-of-custody and FEDEX forms. Not to sound too cute, but it takes a well-oiled machine to accurately manage the hundreds of thousands (if not millions) of individual

pieces of data that we need to make important cleanup decisions.

As the environmental field engineer representing the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's Installation Support Team assigned to Travis AFB, my responsibility was to ensure these field teams could access all portions of the base where this work took place. This included the proper submission and completion of base excavation permits, Civil Engineer work requests, Federal Aviation Administration notification and submittal of temporary air field construction waivers; it also included daily coordination with Base Operations when field work took us near runways and aircraft

parking ramps as well as with individual facility managers who were responsible for the areas where the field teams needed to work.

As the acting RPM, my focus looking forward is now on contract completion, compliance with federal and State of California laws and regulations, coordination with a higher level

of base leadership, and keeping this program moving in the right direction. Fortunately, we now have access to contractor services to take over my previous responsibilities, so the transition to the RPM role has not been too difficult. After looking back at last year's accomplishments, this year looks really promising.



New Guy

■ From page 1

is a retired Air Force Master Sergeant who spent two tours of duty on Travis AFB. For six years, Mr. Santiago worked in the Environmental Management on the field team and also as the Compliance

Project Manager, Lead & Asbestos Program Manager, Emergency Response Coordinator, Environmental Training Officer, and Hazardous Waste Program Manager. He also taught the Air Force Transportation of Hazardous Materials course and Contingency Cargo Preparation

course.

After retiring from the Air Force, he worked for Recology in Solano and Napa Counties as a Regional Environmental Compliance and Safety Manager, where he promoted safety and injury prevention

See **NEW GUY** page 4

New Guy

■ From page 3

programs. Later, he took on the challenge of working as a self-employed consultant who specialized in safety issues and taught courses in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response as well as Asbestos and Lead-based Paint Related Construction.

He earned two Associate in Applied Science degrees in

Transportation and Information Management from the Community College of the Air Force; a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Management from Columbia Southern University; and certificates in Environmental Management & Auditing, Hazardous Materials Management and Workplace Health & Safety from the University of California, Davis Extension.

“Angel offers the best of both worlds: an in-depth understanding of the Air Force culture and a variety of environmental disciplines,” said Mr. Lonnie Duke, acting Travis AFB Restoration Program Manager. “Because of his previous work on the base, he brings with him the corporate knowledge that would take someone else years to acquire. I am grateful that he is a part of our team.”



Quick Notes

Public Comment Period for Old Skeet Range Action Memo ends August 8!

Download your copy now from:
www.travis.af.mil/About-Us/Environment

Travis AFB Restoration Advisory Board Base Tour

October 20, 2016

Printed on recycled paper



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: Closed

Saturday: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.



If you have any questions or would like more information about the RAB tour, please contact Lonnie Duke, (707) 424-7520.

For more information about Travis AFB's restoration program, please contact:
Lonnie Duke
Acting Restoration Program Mgr
Travis AFB
(707) 424-3062
mark.smith.6@us.af.mil
Ben Fries
DTSC Remedial Project Manager
(916) 255-3667
bfries@dtsc.ca.gov
Nadia Burke
EPA Remedial Project Manager
(415) 972-3187
Burke.NadiaHollan@epamail.epa.gov
Adriana Constantinescu
RWQCB Remedial Project Mgr
(510) 622-2353
Adriana.Constantinescu@waterboards.ca.gov

Community Relations
AFCEC/CZOW (Environmental Restoration)
550 Hickam Avenue, Building 248
Travis AFB, CA 94535
(707) 424-3062

