



# Guardian

A PUBLICATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

JULY 2022

## Restoration Advisory Board Update

It's Summer 2022, which means we have been living with COVID-19 pandemic restrictions for well over 2 years. Existing restrictions in place as we planned the April 2022 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting resulted in our need to host that meeting virtually. The U.S. Air Force (Air Force) thanks everyone who attended the virtual meeting, and we hope you learned some new information about the ongoing and upcoming environmental work at Travis Air Force Base (AFB).

We are looking forward to reconnecting with our RAB members and community and are hopeful that we can hold our next regularly scheduled RAB meeting, planned for October 20, 2022, in person. As we have learned over the last 2 years, the pandemic restrictions are subject to change at any time based on local, state, and federal guidance, so please stay tuned to your email as we get closer to October for full details and information about the upcoming meeting.

Whether we meet in person or host another online virtual meeting, we will provide our usual updates about environmental work that has been conducted and fieldwork that is planned for the future. Additionally, our current RAB members will vote on a new community co-chair and new members.

We look forward to seeing you in October; virtually or in person!

## How to Access Historical Travis AFB Environmental Records Online

The Travis AFB Administrative Record is an important resource for anyone interested in the environmental activities at the base. It is a repository of reports and other documents detailing the environmental investigations and remediations that have been performed at Travis AFB since the start of the base Installation Restoration Program, now known as the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP), in 1982. These reports and documents are associated with the cleanup of chemicals and petroleum hydrocarbons that were released during historical activities at the base under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), known also as Superfund.

A digital version of the Travis AFB Administrative Record is available to the public on the U.S. Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) Administrative Record Search website <https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil>. The digital reports and documents on the Air Force website can be searched by individual sites, operable units (OUs), decision documents, or keywords.

To access the Travis AFB reports and documents, click the **Continue to site** link on the bottom of the home page. This takes you to a search page for all available Air Force Administrative Records. Once on the search page, first click the button marked

**Active Duty** in the upper left of the screen. Then, scroll down the list of active Air Force facilities on the left side of the screen and click **Travis AFB**. This will populate the search portion of the webpage in the right side of the screen. Each of the sites, OUs, and decision documents (listed in the RODs box) are populated in the appropriate search box.

The screenshot shows the 'U.S. AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEER CENTER ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD 2.3.0' search interface. On the left, under 'Installation List', 'Travis AFB, CA' is selected. The main search area has several input fields: 'Subject or Title', 'Full Metadata Search', 'Full Document Search', 'Author AFI', 'Recipient AFI', 'AR #', 'Site' (with a dropdown menu), 'OU' (with a dropdown menu), and 'RODs' (with a dropdown menu). Below these are 'Documents After' and 'Documents Before' date pickers. A 'Search' button is at the bottom right. The footer includes 'Official United States Air Force Website' and various accessibility links.

Source: Administrative Record Website

If you know what site, OU, or decision document you are looking for, just scroll through the appropriate search box, select the item, and click **Search**. A list of all of the associated documents will appear at the bottom of the screen. The listings will include the name of the report, author, date, Administrative Record number (AR #), and file size. To the left of the title is an image of a magnifying glass. Click the magnifying glass to download an electronic version of the report. The report listings appear in chronological order based on the report date with the newest report at the top.

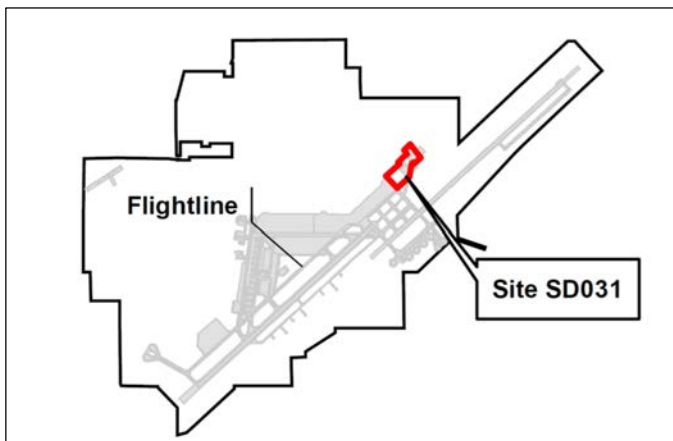
Large reports are broken up into several parts on the Administrative Record. Each of the parts are listed (for example, Part 1 of 5). To get all the pieces of the report, each part has to be downloaded separately.

When you are done with your initial search and are ready to perform a new search, click the **Reset Search** button, which will clear previously selected information.

If you don't know what site, OU, or decision document you are looking for but know what time range the report was issued, you can do a blanket search by clicking the Search button without highlighting any site, OU, or decision document and without listing any keywords or subject words. This will list all of the documents in the Travis AFB Administrative Record in chronological order.

## Data Gap Investigation Planned for Site SD031

ERP field activities planned for summer 2022 include an investigation at Site SD031. Site SD031 is located in the northeastern portion of Travis AFB, near the flightline. The site has been recently expanded to encompass approximately 29 acres and includes facilities historically used for maintenance of diesel generators; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units; as well as military aircraft. Infrastructure associated with these facilities includes wash racks and oil/water separators and a laydown yard. Both active and inactive jet fuel lines cross the site. Wastes generated at these facilities included oils, antifreeze, and solvents. Accidental releases near the wash racks appear to be a source of contamination at the site. Spillage also likely occurred during cleaning and refueling of the interceptor jets and transport planes in the laydown yard. Since discovery of the releases, proper materials handling and process controls have been implemented to prevent additional releases. One of the facilities (Facility 1205) is still in use today.



Location of Site SD031 at Travis AFB.  
Image Credit: Jacobs

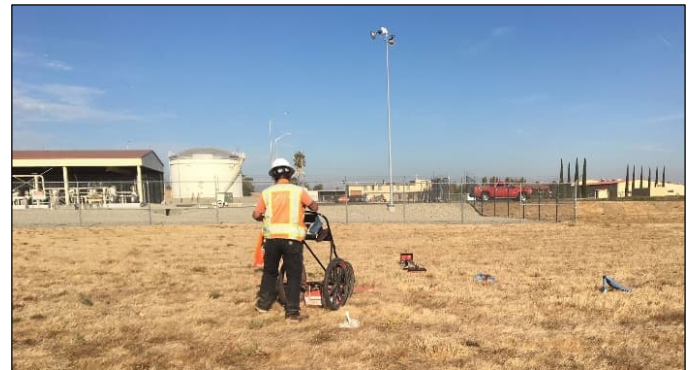
Site SD031 has been used for maintenance activities since at least 1957. The variety of activities conducted at the site over several decades adds to the challenge of understanding the nature and extent of contamination at the site. **Photos 1 through 5** show some of the recent cleanup and investigative fieldwork performed at the site.

Starting in 1992, several investigations have been conducted at the site, and the site boundaries have been expanded to encompass recently discovered contamination; however, questions remain that must be answered to ensure appropriate remedies are selected to address contamination. A remedial investigation (RI) is planned for 2023/2024 to answer these questions: (1) what are the site chemicals of concern (COCs)? and (2) what is the extent of the site COCs? A large amount of data has already been collected to help answer these questions, but some gaps remain. The 2023/2024 RI will fill these last pieces of the puzzle and pave the way toward remedy selection.

To support RI planning, a screening level "data gap" investigation will be performed this summer. This investigation will be focused on portions of the site where no historical data exist, and where, based on the known distribution of contamination, it appears contamination may be present. Field screening tools will be used to test for the presence or absence of petroleum and chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs). Field investigation activities will include advancing up to 40 borings to approximately 30 feet below ground surface. During drilling, downhole screening tools will be used to detect the presence of the targeted chemicals.

Two types of screening tools will be used: (1) the subsurface membrane interface probe (MIP) and (2) the Ultra-Violet Optical Screening Tool (UVOST). The MIP will be used to detect the presence of CVOCs and total petroleum hydrocarbon as diesel (TPH-D), and the UVOST will be used to detect the presence of petroleum nonaqueous phase liquid (NAPL). NAPL, if present, would indicate a source area. A direct-push rig, similar to that shown in **Photo 2**, will be used to advance the screening tools to the desired depth. Sample results indicating presence or absence of CVOCs, TPH-D, and NAPL will be available while the sampling team is still in the field.

Initial sampling locations for the data gap investigation have been identified, and if contamination is identified at the initial locations, additional samples will be collected at step-out locations. Through this investigation, the Air Force hopes to better define the extent of petroleum and CVOc contamination and support selection of sampling locations for the upcoming RI. Samples collected during the RI effort will be sent to an offsite laboratory for analysis and will provide chemical concentration data, rather than just an indication of whether or not the chemical is present. These data, in combination with previously collected data, will be used to identify the site COCs and define the extent of contamination at the site.



**Photo 1:** Utility location in 2019 prior to intrusive work at Site SD031.  
Photo Credit: Jacobs



**Photo 2:** Direct-push drilling at Site SD031 in 2020.  
Photo Credit: Jacobs





**Photo 3:** Concrete coring in 2016, in preparation for drilling a soil boring.  
Photo Credit: Jacobs



**Photo 4:** Collecting soil samples from a soil core in 2016.  
Photo Credit: Jacobs



**Photo 5:** Collecting a groundwater sample from a newly installed monitoring well in 2020.  
Photo Credit: Jacobs

## Restoration Advisory Board Membership

Are you interested in the environmental cleanup and restoration activities going on at Travis AFB? Are you looking for a way to have more input on these activities? Do you want to get to know others in your community who share these interests and goals? If you answered “yes” to any of those questions, please consider joining the Travis AFB RAB! Membership is open to anyone onbase and in the communities surrounding Travis AFB, and you do not need a technical background to join us.

The RAB is the community advisory group that meets regularly with Air Force and regulatory agency representatives in a public meeting format to discuss the installation's ERP at Travis AFB. The primary purpose of the RAB is to involve the local community in the decision-making process for cleanup actions by making information about the cleanup processes, risks, and progress available to the public, and establishing an official forum for public participation on the project.

RAB members are expected to attend all meetings and tours, provide input on environmental restoration issues, and serve as voluntary liaisons to the community. Meetings typically include briefings about ongoing and upcoming environmental investigation and cleanup activities and time for discussion of the topics presented. Recent tours have included up-close demonstrations of various sampling and remediation processes at our cleanup program sites, including our subgrade biogeochemical reactors (also known as bioreactors).

If you are currently a member, please share our newsletter with a friend or colleague and invite them to our next RAB meeting in October 2022. If you are not a member but would like to join or receive more information about the RAB, please contact us at [enviropa@us.af.mil](mailto:enviropa@us.af.mil) for more information. We'd love to get you more involved!

## Restoration Advisory Board Tours and Meetings

Community members are cordially invited to attend the public RAB meetings and tours. **The next RAB meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.** While we hope to hold this meeting in-person, we continue to monitor the evolving local, state, and federal guidance regarding COVID-19 and will make a decision that considers the safety and comfort of our community. Please stay tuned to your email for updates and details as we get closer to October.

***If you are interested in finding out more about the Travis AFB RAB, wish to be included on the email mailing list, or want to inquire about becoming a RAB member, let us know:***

[enviropa@us.af.mil](mailto:enviropa@us.af.mil)

(707) 424-7520

***For more information about Travis AFB's Environmental Restoration Program, please contact us:***

**Remedial Program Manager**  
(707) 424-2812

**Public Affairs Officer**  
(707) 424-5743

***Or visit:***

<https://www.travis.af.mil/Information/Environment/>