Guardian

A PUBLICATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA JANUARY 2023

Restoration Advisory Board Members Visit Travis AFB

On November 16, 2022, Mr. Chet Storrs, the Travis AFB Restoration Program Manager (RPM), hosted a site visit to several on-going restoration sites.

The tour started shortly after the conclusion of the quarterly RPM meeting with regulatory agency partners (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board [Water Board], and Department of Toxic Substances Control [DTSC]). The tour was attended by five Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members, one member of the public, our three regulatory agency representatives, Air Force staff, and contracting staff from Jacobs.

Tour stops were determined based on RAB member interests communicated during the October 2022 RAB meeting. The group visited three groundwater treatment plants with discussion of the applied remedial technologies led by Jacobs team member Doug Berwick. The group also stopped by the construction site for the new three-bay KC-46 hangar, where Jacobs team member Lorenzo Lujan led a discussion about the Site SS016 bioreactor. Of course, no visit to Travis AFB would be complete without a drive by the flightline and a surprise stop to tour a C-5M Super Galaxy.

This tour, which lasted approximately 3 hours, was the first site visit in over 2 years and allowed for in-person open engagement between the community, regulatory agencies, and Travis Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) members. The ERP staff hopes to lead another tour in 2023 during the late summer when field activities are in full swing. Stay tuned for details!

RAB members at the smallest of the three treatment plants visited. This plant is 100 percent solar-powered and treats about 125,000 gallons of trichloroethene-impacted groundwater monthly.

RAB members visit the largest treatment system at Travis AFB and receive an overview of plant operations from field staff.

A stop to visit a C-5M Super Galaxy. For most on the tour, this was the first time inside a C5 aircraft.

Phase I RI for AFFF Areas – Field Event #2 Update

The Phase I Remedial Investigation (RI) is progressing with the completion of additional field activities. The objective of the Phase I RI is to delineate concentrations of per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) constituents associated with aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) areas in soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment, and provide a better understanding of their presence in the environment.

In November 2022, all on-base drilling and sampling activities for Field Event #2 were completed. Since Field Event #2 began in July 2022, 59 new monitoring wells were installed for groundwater monitoring activities. Soil samples were collected at select locations during well installation to understand if elevated concentrations of PFAS constituents may be present and to also understand geochemical properties of the subsurface environment. Soil samples were also collected from 67 soil borings near AFFF source areas. To evaluate groundwater, samples were collected from existing and new monitoring wells; the field team also collected surface water and sediment samples. All samples were submitted to an accredited laboratory for analysis, and laboratory reports are forthcoming. Plans are currently being coordinated to install 25 additional monitoring wells at off-base locations.

Oneida project geologists direct monitoring well installation and collect soil samples during Field Event #2.
Photo Credit: Oneida Field Team

Results from Field Event #2 will be evaluated together with previous data and used to update the conceptual site model with respect to presence and transport in the environment. Additional data collected during Field Event #2 will be assessed with other site data to make recommendations for Field Event #3, which is anticipated for Summer 2023.

The Oneida project geologist logs soil collected in acetate liners from borings during Field Event #2. The soils are logged to capture data on soil types and characteristics to evaluate how constituents may interact or move in the subsurface environment.
Photo Credit: Oneida Field Team

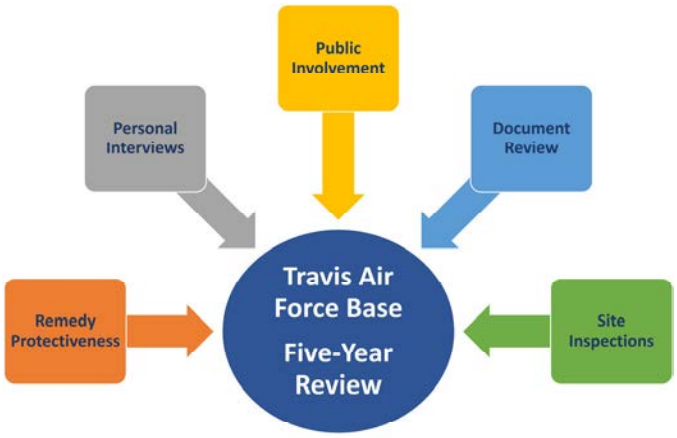
Protecting the Environment: Five-Year Review at Travis AFB

Because of its historical use as an airfield and aircraft maintenance facility, Travis AFB has multiple environmental restoration sites that are undergoing cleanup activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and other related environmental legislation. To date, contaminated soil has been removed and disposed of, or treated onsite at various locations. Impacted groundwater is also under treatment at several sites across Travis AFB.

Ongoing activities include optimization and monitoring of groundwater remedies. More information about the environmental cleanup activities at Travis AFB can be found at https://www.travis.af.mil/Information/Environment/.

CERCLA requires reviews of all remedial actions every 5 years until a site is deemed safe for unlimited use or unrestricted exposure. Accordingly, Five-Year Reviews (FYRs) of the remedies at Travis AFB are conducted to ensure they remain protective of human health and the environment.

FYRs typically include interviews of Base personnel, community members, and regulatory agencies; review of relevant documents and data; site inspections; and an evaluation of remedy protectiveness. Documents reviewed as a part of the FYR typically include decision documents, performance monitoring reports, land use control inspection reports, and other relevant documents. The information gathered and analyzed during the FYR is compiled into an FYR report. Recommendations are made to address any issues found.



Components of the Five-Year Review Process

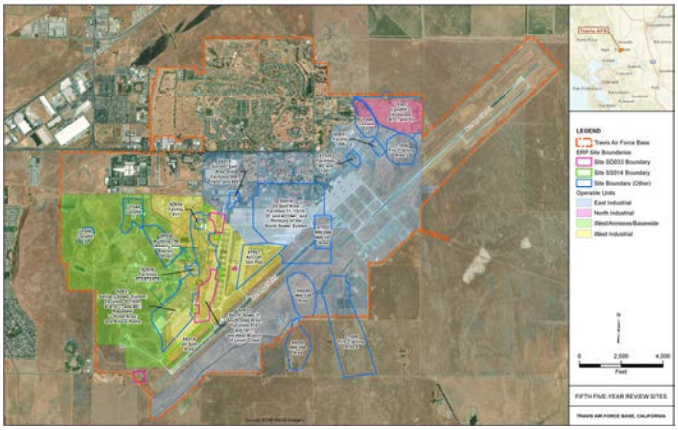
The FYR report serves as a snapshot in time and addresses three major questions:

- Is the remedy functioning as intended?
- Are the assumptions, data, cleanup levels, and cleanup objectives used at the time of remedy selection still valid?
- Has any other information surfaced that could affect the protectiveness of the remedy?

The Fourth FYR for Travis AFB included a review of the remedial actions for various sites from 2013 through 2016. The Fourth FYR report is a public document. It and other relevant documents are available on the Travis AFB Administrative Record website at https://ar.afcec-cloud.af.mil/.

Fifth FYR on the Horizon

A contract for the preparation of the Fifth FYR was awarded in September 2022 to Bayside Engineering Construction, Inc. in partnership with Engineering/Remediation Resources Group, Inc. This contract is administered and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, together with the U.S. Air Force Civil Engineer Center. The following figure (click on it for a larger version) shows the sites included in the Fifth FYR. Recent activities include the preparation of a work plan that describes the technical and on-site procedures of the Fifth FYR. Public notifications will occur at the start of the FYR process and following completion in the *Tailwind*, the *Vacaville Reporter*, and the *Fairfield Daily Republic.* The Fifth FYR is expected to be completed in September 2023.



For more information on the environmental cleanup at Travis AFB and the upcoming FYR, please email enviropa@travis.af.mil.

Restoration Advisory Board Tours and Meetings

Community members are cordially invited to attend the public RAB meetings and tours. **The next RAB meeting is planned to be held in-person at 3690 Hilborn Road, Fairfield, CA. The meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.** You are welcome to arrive early to socialize with fellow RAB members, community members, and the project team. Light refreshments will be provided. Please stay tuned to your email for updates. We look forward to connecting with you in-person very soon!

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

(707) 424-3955

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

Remedial Program Manager
(707) 424-2812

Public Affairs Officer
(707) 424-2011

Or visit:

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