



# Guardian

America's First Choice for Environmental Restoration

A Publication of the Environmental Restoration Program

Travis Air Force Base, California

October 2005

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### Next RAB Meeting:

The next Restoration Advisory Board meeting will be held on October 27, 2005 at the Office of the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors. This will be the first meeting to be chaired by the new Air Force Co-Chair (Colonel Zadalis) and the new Community Co-Chair (Mr. Marianno)..... 4



(Photo by Mark Smith)

## Ecology Summer Camp

**Pooling Around:** Steve Stopher, Travis' Environmental Field Manager, uses a model to show a group of middle school children how a vernal pool holds water. Travis uses science demonstrations like the one in Lagoon Valley Park as opportunities to increase environmental awareness in the local community.

### Travis Outreach Covers Environmental and Career Issues

By Julia Tseng

Travis Compliance Project Manager

Most kids associate summer with swimming pools, camping trips, and part time jobs. For a small group of middle school children, this summer will be remembered as a time to learn about the environment and career opportunities while enjoying the sunshine.

Several members of the Travis Environmental Flight joined with the Community Service Department of Vacaville on the morning of July 15, 2005 at Lagoon Valley Park to present Nature and Environment topics at an Ecology Summer Camp. Ms. Beverly

Morlock, a Nature-Environmental Education Program specialist, managed the camp activities.

Mark Smith, the environmental restoration chief; Steve Stopher, the base environmental field manager; and Julia Tseng, a civil service intern who recently joined the federal government through the Air Force Civil Engineer Career Program, participated in this community outreach effort. They gave presentations on land restoration, vernal pool preservation, and career opportunities in the environmental field. A vernal pool is a sensitive area that temporarily holds rainwater long enough for a unique group of plants and animals to survive. Unlike most classroom settings, this learning opportunity took place around a picnic

See **CAMP** page 3





Travis Air Force Base, California

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The *Guardian* is a publication of the 60<sup>th</sup> 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.af.mil/pages/enviro>. Questions and comments about the program may be sent to this address:

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# New Co-Chair Joins RAB

By **Linda Weese** (Travis Public Affairs) and **Glenn Anderson** (Travis Project Manager)

Colonel Timothy Zadalis will join the Travis Restoration Advisory Board as the new Air Force co-chair at its Oct. 27 meeting. He replaces outgoing Air Force Co-Chair Colonel Scott Hanson, who is now the commander of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Air Refueling Wing at Fairchild AFB, Washington.



Colonel Zadalis is the vice commander of the 60<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing (AMW) at Travis Air Force Base (AFB) and serves as the assistant to the commander for leadership in Air Mobility Command's largest air mobility wing, which supports over 26,000 active duty, reserve and civilian personnel and their families.


He also serves as the chairperson of the base's Environmental Protection Committee (EPC). The EPC ensures that the base follows environmental law and policy as mandated by the U.S. Congress, the State of California, and other local government agencies. As the EPC chairperson, Colonel Zadalis verifies that all military organizations on Travis AFB are complying with all legal requirements and meeting or exceeding environmental management goals.

"I look forward to continuing the strong legacy of Travis AFB support for aggressively addressing environmental issues, site restoration and working with our community partners," said Colonel Zadalis. "Whether it's minimizing mission impact, addressing issues that potentially threaten the environment, or remediation (cleanup) efforts that

secure sensitive sites for future generations; all are a priority."

Colonel Zadalis brings to Travis AFB a wealth of education and environmental experience. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Science from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska in 1982. He also earned a National Security Fellowship at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, where he focused on public policymaking. Early in his military career, Colonel Zadalis assisted in establishing the first Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program (ECAMP) at Altus AFB, Oklahoma. ECAMP is a detailed audit of the environmental compliance status of an Air Force base. This audit provides opportunities for improvement and ensures that any identified problems receive the attention and resources needed for their resolution.

Before assuming his current position at Travis in June 2005, Colonel Zadalis served as the U.S. Transportation Command's Liaison to U.S. Northern Command. He is a Command Pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours principally in the C-141 Starlifter and C-17 Globemaster cargo aircraft. When time permits in his busy schedule, he looks forward to develop technical proficiency with the KC-10 Extender refueling aircraft.

Because of his previous experience with environmental issues, Colonel Zadalis places considerable emphasis on managing an open environmental program that is upfront with all interested parties. "I, like many others, enjoy the outdoors and understand the delicate nature of the environment. I look forward to working with our community partners; concerned citizens and state and federal agencies as a member of the Restoration Advisory Board," he said. 

# Camp

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table under the canopy of a group of oak trees.

Mr. Stopher started by using a model to show how a vernal pool forms. The model demonstrated how clay-rich soil allows water to stay in the pool during spring time to allow special animals and plants to flourish. He introduced the concept of endangered species and passed around a sample jar containing fairy shrimp which are often found in vernal pools. He also passed around postcards of other endangered or threatened species such as the Contra Costa Goldfields, burrowing owl, California tiger salamander and giant garter snake and stressed the importance of preserving vernal pools to maintain the ecological balance of the natural environment. The kids really liked those post cards!

Mr. Smith used an aquarium filled

with dirt and chocolate syrup to show how solvents can contaminate soil. He used green candy sprinkles to represent heavy metal contamination and blue-dyed water to represent rainfall. The children watched as the water passed through the soil and settled in the bottom of the tank to form groundwater. As expected, the 'contamination' also moved with the water, spreading into the lower soil layers. When asked for ideas to clean up the contamination, one boy answered 'Dig it out'. So, Mr. Smith used his hand to 'excavate the contaminated soil' and then talked about other ways to clean up soil, such as the use of naturally occurring microbes that live in the soil and can use contaminants as a food source.

Ms. Tseng wrapped up the morning with a discussion of her experiences with the environmental career field and stressed the importance of education in reaching career goals. Although it does not

take a college degree to get into the environmental field, it definitely helps. Ms. Tseng gave examples of environmental jobs and the levels of education needed to qualify for them. Ms. Morlock added to the discussion her career path from soldier to researcher to environmental education program specialist, and Mr. Stopher described his career path in civil service from Air Force fighter jet mechanic (which brought out several OOHs and AAHs from the boys) to field environmental engineer.

"All of the children were attentive and asked great questions," stated Mr. Smith. "We never know if these presentations inspire any future environmental professionals, since most of the kids seemed more interested in the NBA, fire fighting and cosmetics marketing. However, and most importantly, we joined with the community to help cultivate environmentally-conscious citizens no matter what profession they choose."

# From the Field

By Glenn Anderson

Travis Project Manager

Suumer is over, and the 2005 summer construction season is almost behind us. The following photographs are from the environmental restoration activities that have been taking place, on and off base.



Now you see 'em, now you don't: Two sets of off-base monitoring wells along Creed Road were decommissioned at the request of the county engineering office. The four wells were no longer used by the base, and their removal improved road safety along the roadway shoulder.



Mr. Dale Malsberger explains the planned cleanup strategy for a landfill on the northeast side of the base to a group of risk assessors and contractors. Contaminated soil will be excavated and placed in a Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU) during the summer of 2007.



Mr. Malsberger and environmental contractors coordinate CAMU maintenance. A CAMU is an area that is designed to carry out a part of a cleanup action, such as permanent soil placement and control.



Members of the Travis AFB Restoration Advisory Board inspect the CAMU during a base tour. The CAMU is located on the northeast side of the base.

## 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
  - Ecology Summer Camp
  - Plume Changes Over Time
  - Monitoring Well Decommissioning

*Break*
- V. **Cleanup Program Status**
- 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**

## Travis AFB Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

October 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.

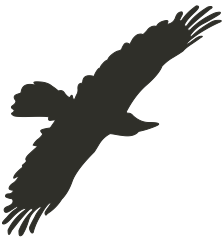
### Mitchell Memorial Library

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>*

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