



Guardian

America's First Choice for Environmental Restoration

A Publication of the Environmental Restoration Program

Travis Air Force Base, California

July 2005

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Hail to the Flight Chief

Past Experience is Key to Future Successes

By Glenn Anderson
Travis Project Manager

There's a new face in the Environmental Flight Chief's office, although he's not really that new.

On March 21st Mr. Wayne Williams took over the reins of Travis' environmental team from Mr. Troy Martinson, who relocated to Yokota Air Base in Tokyo earlier this year. In his new role, Mr. Williams oversees restoration activities along with Travis' environmental compliance, pollution prevention, and conservation programs. It's a role that he is uniquely suited to fill.

After completing a master's degree in Environmental Management (EM) at the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1994, then-Captain Williams was assigned to the civil engineering unit on Travis AFB and was an obvious choice to join the growing EM office.

"I arrived at Travis in September 1994, and my first job was to manage restoration construction projects," Mr. Williams said. He was involved early in some of the fieldwork at site SS016, including the first horizontal well installations and the construction of its initial groundwater treatment system. "I have lots of stories about the 'good old days'," he said.

However, it wasn't long before new opportunities came along. Wayne was selected to be an executive assistant on the Base Commander's staff, a highly competitive job usually reserved for flyers. The experience was demanding but very rewarding. "I saw the base



(Photo by Glenn Anderson)

from a whole new perspective, and I learned about the flying mission that drives everything we do at Travis," he said, "It was definitely an eye-opener."

Mr. Williams completed his tour on the General's staff and spent a year in the construction engineering office before deciding to leave active duty and remain in the area to settle down. He switched his military commission over to the Air Force Reserve and then started working for CH2M HILL, an environmental contractor, in their Sacramento office. This career move provided Mr. Williams with the chance to return to the Travis restoration program, this time as a consultant. As the focal point for all of CH2M HILL's work at Travis, Wayne was involved with the expansion and operation of the South Base Boundary Groundwater Treatment Plant, construction of various groundwater treatment systems, the Corrective Action Management Unit design, basewide groundwater monitoring and the restoration community relations program.

But after nearly five years in consulting, the call to resume government service grew too loud to ignore. When the opportunity arose to come back to Travis as the Base Community Planner, Wayne jumped at it. Two years later, he

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Travis Air Force Base, California

Staff

Chief, Environmental Flight

Wayne Williams

Chief, Environmental Restoration

Mark Smith

60th AMW Public Affairs

Linda Weese

RAB Members

Col. Scott Hanson, *Air Force Co-Chair*
 David Marianno, *Community Co-Chair*
 Ray Call, *N. Solano County Realtors*
 John Foster, *City of Fairfield representative*
 Alan Friedman, *Regional Water Quality Control Board*
 David Kanouff, *National Association of Retired Federal Employees*
 John Lucey, *U.S. EPA*
 Cyrus Morad, *Fairfield resident*
 Eamon Moriarty, *Goodrich Corporation*
 Michael Reagan, *County Supervisor 5th District*
 Jose Salcedo, *Cal. Department of Toxic Substances Control*
 William Taylor, *Travis Unified School District*
 Ron Tolentino, *Solano Garbage Company*
 Philip Velez, *Vacaville Ch. of Commerce*

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:

Linda Weese
 60th AMW Public Affairs
 400 Brennan Circle
 Travis AFB, CA 94535
 (707) 424-0132
linda.weese@travis.af.mil

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

enviropa@travis.af.mil

Standing Up for Travis AFB

Recently, I participated in a Performance Management Review (PMR) for all bases (Andrews, Charleston, Dover, Fairchild, Grand Forks, MacDill, McChord, McConnell, McGuire, Pope, and of course Travis) within Air Mobility Command (AMC), our parent Air Force organization. A PMR is a detailed overview of each base's cleanup program. The purpose of a PMR is to evaluate all funding requests and cleanup schedules to verify that each base receives the proper amount of funding at the right time. This process ensures that each base is able to meet its current and future cleanup requirements while staying within AMC's restoration budget. The PMR was held in AMC headquarters at Scott Air Force Base (AFB), Illinois.

What is a PMR like? Imagine a room with a group of tables, shaped like a "U". Seated at the tables are the Remedial Program Managers (RPM) who manage their bases' cleanup programs and AMC program managers who provide technical and financial assistance to the bases. At the top of the "U" is a stage with a large projection screen on which each program is displayed in all its glory.

One by one, each RPM walks to the stage and uses his/her presentation to show all of the cleanup projects that are scheduled for their base for the next ten years. Cost data is presented in table format, and at the bottom of each table is the amount of money that the base is requesting for each year. At the bottom right-hand corner is that base's funding request for the next decade.

You can think of a PMR as an interview where your life's work is shown on the screen behind you, and you are there to explain and promote it. Everyone has the opportunity to ask questions about each other's sites, projects and funding requests, and there are always lots of questions. Each RPM defends her/his cleanup



VIEWPOINT

Mark H. Smith
 Travis Remedial
 Program Manager

program and makes changes to it when better strategies are identified. Even though the discussions around the room can get a little heated at times, everyone understands that this 'trial by fire' is necessary to ensure that every cleanup program is set up for success.

Oh, did I mention the Pentagon representative who sat at the bottom of the "U"? His questions were often the most difficult to answer, but there was a good reason for his concern. He went back to Washington DC to defend the AMC cleanup program and to push for increases in funding for AMC for the next ten years.

By and large, the numerical tables with all of the Travis AFB environmental restoration sites, projects, cost values, subtotals, and totals IS the Travis Environmental Restoration Program. Without it, environmental studies would not get done, cleanup decisions would not be made, and sites would not be cleaned. Our program reflects the legal decisions that Travis has made with regulatory organizations, the cost data that is generated from specialized budget software, and the ideas from a team of environmental professionals who truly desire to get the job done right the first time.

Let me finish with a few observations. First, it is amazing how many numbers can fit in a table with the right font size and style. One of the AMC program managers commented that he wished he had not left his magnifying glass in his other pants pocket! Second, the spirit of cooperation that was shown by my fellow RPMs was impressive. One can imagine a scenario where each

New Co-Chair Takes a Seat

By Glenn Anderson

Travis Project Manager

By an unanimous vote, the Travis Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) elected Mr. David Marianno as its new Community Co-Chair during the April 28 RAB meeting at the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors Office. Mr. Marianno is the third Travis RAB Community Co-Chair since its formation in 1994. He takes the place of Mr. Jim Whalen, who served as Community Co-Chair for the last six and a half years.


Along with the Air Force Co-Chair, the Community Co-Chair sets the tone for RAB meetings and works to ensure a smooth flow of information between Air Force representatives and members of the community. The Community Co-Chair provides active leadership and guidance for the RAB, presides along with the Air Force Co-Chair over RAB meetings, suggests agenda topics, ensures that community members participate in an open and

constructive manner, ensures that community issues and concerns related to environmental cleanup are raised, and assists with the sharing of information with the general public.

As one of only two remaining founding members of the Travis RAB, Mr. Marianno offers both experience and a sincere desire to promote the Travis Environmental Restoration Program. He is a Suisun City resident who has lived in the Denverton area for the past 24 years. Prior to retirement, he worked as a mechanic for 44 years, starting with the Sheldon Oil Company and later as a civil servant for Solano County.

Although he does not really consider himself to be an 'activist', Mr. Marianno has been very active in the community. He has served as a little league president and as a school board trustee for the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District. Currently, he is a member of the Solano County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. He and his wife, Kathy, have three children, 10 grandchildren, and 2


great-grandchildren.

"Dave Marianno is a base neighbor who is truly interested in seeing us succeed," stated Mr. Mark Smith, Travis Remedial Program Manager. "He knows the local residents and their concerns about the base and its environmental program. We look forward to working with him on future cleanup issues." 

Standing

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base representative fights for as much funding as they can get, but that would be further from the truth. In reality, everyone understood that the only way the Air Force can have a successful cleanup program is to use its cleanup dollars wisely and to not let even one base fall behind.

Taxpayers and base neighbors expect nothing less. Finally, I was proud to show off our restoration program, a culmination of years of hard work and cooperation between Travis AFB and the regulatory agencies, between the military and civilian communities, and between environmental professionals from the public and private sectors. Even though the stage was large and intimidating, I did not stand alone. 

RAB Revises Its Routine

Changes More in Line with Base Cleanup Activities

By Glenn Anderson

Travis Project Manager

One of the big decisions that was made during the April 2005 Travis Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting was to reduce the frequency of future meetings from a quarterly to a semi-annual basis. Board meetings will now take place in April and October of each year.


Although this schedule change results in two Board meetings per year, Board members will have sufficient opportunity to discuss cleanup issues and offer constructive feedback. The Board will remain a significant part of the community outreach effort for the Restoration Branch.

"Frankly, we were running out of cleanup-related topics to discuss with the RAB," stated Mark Smith, Travis Remedial Program manager. "Many of the important cleanup decisions have already been made, and some past RAB questions had nothing to do with environmental restoration."

To make better use of each Board member's time, the new schedule is set up to follow the base cleanup activities. The April meeting coincides with the beginning of the construction season, so the cleanup plans for the year will be presented. The October meeting takes place at the end of the construction season, so the base will present the progress that was made during that year.

Another decision was to add a base visit in the June/July timeframe to give Board members the opportunity

to see the base cleanup activities firsthand. Each tour will focus on several high profile aspects of the cleanup program. "Discussions of our program in a meeting are useful, but site visits where Board members can see the field activities and ask questions of our project managers are more effective," said Mr. Smith.

In spite of the reduced schedule, the RAB will still play a significant role in community outreach efforts and decision making within the Travis Environmental Restoration Program. Board members will continue to review documents and provide technical and budget input, particularly when cleanup strategies are being selected. Overall, the schedule change will serve to make each meeting more structured and productive. 

Chief

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accepted the opportunity to move into the Environmental Flight Chief position.

Picking Mr. Williams for the job looks like the right move. With a military background, previous experience in the Environmental Flight, a basewide perspective from his executive officer and community planning experience, an environmental degree, reserve duty in the engineering and operations flights, and professional consulting experience, he brings a diverse set of skills to the team.

“I’m excited about my return to the Travis AFB Environmental Flight and to support the restoration program again. We’ve got a great program – one of the best in the command – and I look forward to being a part of many successes in the next few years.” Mr. Williams said.

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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>

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.

For more information about Travis AFB's restoration program, please contact:

Mark Smith
Chief, Environmental Restoration
Travis AFB
mark.smith2@travis.af.mil
(707) 424-3062

Kristine Escarda
Public Participation Specialist
Cal EPA/DTSC
(916) 255-6683
kescarda@dtsc.ca.gov

Viola Cooper
Community Involvement,
Program Coordinator, U.S. EPA
(415) 972-3243
(800) 231-3075
cooper.viola@epa.gov

Community Relations
60 CES/CEVR (Environmental Restoration)
411 Airmen Drive, Building 570
Travis AFB, CA 94535-2001
(707) 424-4359

