



Guardian

America's First Choice for Environmental Restoration

A Publication of the Environmental Restoration Program

Travis Air Force Base, California

July 2004

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Training Tomorrow's Leaders

Local Students Get First Hand View of Environmental Field

By Tom Sreenivasan
Travis Chemical Engineer

Most people find that they learn faster with hands-on training than from reading straight from a book. About 240 students from the Golden West Middle School in Fairfield got the chance to learn about the environmental world last April through presentations provided by the Travis Air Force Base Environmental Flight.

Environmental experts from Travis AFB and URS Corporation, a national environmental consulting firm, put together a series of science demonstrations in the school's library that

focused on current environmental issues. By the end of the day, students had learned more about groundwater, water treatment technologies and chemical contamination in an hour than many people pick up in a lifetime.

Ms. Deborah Hirsch, the Communications Manager at URS, and Ms. Karin Van Klevern, a science teacher at Golden West Middle School, arranged the day's activities as part of a community relations outreach effort by the Travis Environmental Flight. They set up four work stations that focused on groundwater contamination, chemistry analysis, soil vapor extraction systems and health and safety equipment. School

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Chief, Environmental Flight

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Chief, Environmental Restoration

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60th AMW Public Affairs

Linda Weese

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Jim Whalen, *Community Co-Chair*

Dick Curtis, *N. Solano County Realtors*

John Foster, *City of Fairfield representative*

David Kanouff, *NARFE*

John Lucey, *U.S. EPA*

David Marianno, *Suisun City resident*

Cyrus Morad, *Fairfield resident*

Eamon Moriarty, *Goodrich Corporation*

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Michael Reagan, *TRAFIC*

Jose Salcedo, *Cal EPA/DTSC*

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 environmental cleanup program may be sent to the following base Public Affairs office address:

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Travis AFB, CA 94535
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Questions and comments about the environmental web site may be sent to:

enviropa@travis.af.mil

The Changing of the Guard

Serving as Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Co-Chair for the past year and a half has been a highlight of my tour at Travis AFB. I want to thank all the RAB members, especially Mr. Jim Whalen as our Community Co-Chair, for taking time out of their very busy schedules to be involved and to provide the community's perspective on the Travis Environmental Restoration Program. I also want to thank Lt Col Pat Smith; Commander, 60th Civil Engineering Squadron; Mr. Troy Martinson, Chief, Environmental Flight; Mr. Mark Smith, Chief, Environmental Restoration Program; and the rest of Travis' environmental team who have put their hearts and technical expertise into all of Travis' programs. All of you play an important role by contributing to Travis' mission in ways that minimize negative impacts on the environment, correcting environmental issues from past years, and cleaning up environmental sites in a timely and cost effective manner.

You can rest assured that Travis AFB is fully capable of executing its global reach mission. In conjunction with this mission comes the responsibility to remain a good environmental neighbor with Solano County. We cannot afford to become careless in planning for the future or in protecting human health and the environment. To this end, the RAB remains a vital source of information and experience for successfully guiding Travis' environmental future.

In looking back over the last couple of years, Travis has made considerable progress in responding to environmental threats. For example, contaminants from yesteryear that have created plumes of contaminated groundwater are now



VIEWPOINT

Colonel Michael Sevier
Travis Air Force Base
Vice Wing Commander

fully contained by networks of extraction wells and groundwater treatment plants. These plumes are not growing any larger, and I look forward to the day when we can celebrate the complete cleanup of these groundwater sites.

Despite Travis' great strides, some of the challenges left to us from past industrial practices remain, and there is still more to do. We are currently addressing the environmental concerns with our remaining group of soil sites, and I hope that we will soon reach agreement on soil cleanup levels with state and federal regulatory agencies and acquire the necessary resources to complete the cleanup of these sites.

I commend all the RAB members with whom I have had the opportunity to work and ask that you continue to remain involved. Because of your participation, the RAB today is in an excellent position to keep its finger on Travis' pulse and to offer valuable input regarding the environmental restoration of the base.

As a steward of the environment, Travis AFB will continue to be open and frank about what we find, what cleanup measures will be taken, and what practices we will implement to promote a healthy environment. If the past ten years of activity are any indication, the next ten years will reap tremendous environmental rewards.

Spotlight on the Travis Restoration Advisory Board

By Glenn Anderson

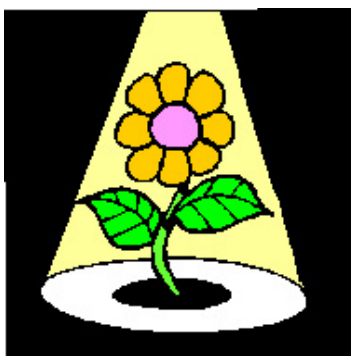
Travis Project Manager

Many people are surprised to learn that we are approaching the ten-year anniversary of the establishment of the Travis Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). For almost a decade, the Travis RAB has facilitated public participation in the environmental restoration activities on the base. Throughout the rest of this year, the Guardian will focus on the RAB and its contributions to the Travis environmental restoration program.

For someone who has not attended this type of public meeting, an introduction has to start with the two RAB co-chairs. Colonel Michael Sevier, the Air Force co-chair, serves as the Travis AFB Vice Wing Commander (second in command of the base, behind the Wing Commander) and is very much involved with base environmental protection issues. Mr. Jim Whalen, the Community co-chair, represents the Office of the Mayor for the city of Vacaville (the Honorable Len Augustine) and uses his substantial formal training and experience in pesticide management to support pesticide cleanup actions. Both co-chairs keep the discussions moving and set a tone so that everyone in the room can feel free to ask questions and provide input to improve the cleanup program.

Most of the RAB membership consists of interested community members from the Vacaville, Fairfield and City of Suisun areas. They volunteer their time by attending quarterly meetings and participate in focus groups that address community relations, budget, and technical document review. In addition, three

RAB seats are held by representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Mr. John Lucey), the State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control (Mr. Jose Salcedo), and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Ms. Sarah Raker). These members of the regulatory community oversee the Travis environmental restoration program on a full-time basis and provide a unique



opportunity to discuss issues directly with the local community.

Almost all of the presentations to the RAB are conducted by the Travis restoration staff. Mr. Mark Smith, the Remedial Program Manager (RPM), is a major participant at RAB meetings and is responsible for all aspects of the restoration program on the base. His staff consists of three engineers (chemical, electrical, and mechanical), a physical scientist with a background in geology, an environmental attorney, an administrative assistant, and a field manager with a long list of hazardous waste and safety qualifications. He also receives support from the base public affairs office and an environmental contractor that specializes in public relations.

As with most successful

programs, the Travis restoration program is a team effort that requires the active involvement of all base organizations and command levels. It is not unusual to see the Environmental Flight Chief (Mr. Troy Martinson), the Base Civil Engineer (Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Smith), or other base representatives in attendance and contributing to the discussions at RAB meetings.

You can learn more about the RAB membership that represents your community by visiting <https://public.travis.amc.af.mil/pages/enviro/pubpart/rabcont.html> on the Internet. To find out more about the Travis AFB RPM and his support staff, please visit https://public.travis.amc.af.mil/pages/enviro/abouttra/ww_tafb.html. Note that there is an underscore (_) between the “ww” and the “tafb” in the second web address. These links take you to pages on the Travis AFB environmental web site, where you can view photographs of the restoration sites and download meeting minutes, reports and articles about the program. You can also send any questions concerning the Travis restoration program or recommendations to improve the web site via an e-mail link in the Feedback page.



Guard

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As I move to my next assignment, I want to congratulate each of you on all you have done, leading up to the RAB's 10-year anniversary! It has been my distinct honor to have served with you, and I wish you and the local community all the very best.





Students gather around Mr. Steve Herrera as he demonstrates how a soil vapor extraction system is able to remove volatile compounds from the subsurface.

School

■ From page 1

officials rotated classes, numbering between 30-40 students, through the work stations each hour.

This is not the first time that the base restoration program has offered entertaining and educational presentations to local classrooms. Ms. Emily Rued, a retired teacher within the Travis Elementary School District and former member of the Travis Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), came up with the idea in the mid-1990's, and the Community Relations Focus Group within the RAB accepted it as a way to teach children about the importance of living in an environmentally-friendly manner.

Mr. Tom Sreenivasan, a PhD chemical engineer and Travis AFB



Ms. Sunny Fross explains why personal protective equipment is so important.

Ms. Linda Weese of the Travis Public Affairs Office shows a poster display to Principal Bryan of the Golden West Middle School.



project manager, staffed the introductory workstation that showcased the overall environmental restoration effort at Travis AFB. Mr. Sreenivasan focused on groundwater contamination that resulted from the



Mr. Tom Beer gets his demonstration of environmental chemistry ready for the next group of students.

past industrial practice of using early-generation chlorinated solvents and other potentially hazardous chemicals in aircraft maintenance. Using colorful poster boards and a base map, Mr. Sreenivasan taught students about the nature and extent of groundwater contamination and the cleanup methods used to separate the contaminants from the water.

Mr. Steve Herrera, a URS engineer, used a vacuum cleaner to illustrate the science behind soil vapor extraction, a popular soil cleanup method. "This is my second year, and it is a valuable outreach program. The kids are enthusiastic, and that keeps us going all day," said Mr. Herrera. "We hope this encourages the students to learn more about their community, about themselves and their career goals."


Station Three belonged to Mr. Tom Beer, a URS chemist. Mr. Beer used vials of water samples to show students the value of clean drinking

water. He also used a poster board and litmus paper tests to briefly discuss water chemistry and to illustrate how water quality is evaluated. "Reaching students in the middle schools is important," said Mr. Beer. "We can show 'hands on' how the equipment is used. The students see how the math and sciences they are taking now turn into careers."

The last and most popular station belonged to Ms. Sunny Fross of URS, who showed the students the proper way to wear an assortment of health and safety equipment that is commonly used during site cleanups. Students got to put on and test out personal protective equipment such as full-face air respirators, white Tyvek full-body suits, rubber nitrile gloves, hard hats and safety glasses. They were introduced to various field activities, such as groundwater sampling and proper water well construction. They also learned how important such sampling and well construction are to a successful

environmental cleanup program.

All in all, the response from the students was very positive. "I was very impressed with the presentations and especially the patience and care taken by the four guest presenters from your group," stated Mr. Jim Bryan, principal of the Golden West Middle School. "I was able to be in the room several times during the day and observed students actively engaged in learning and working at each of the stations. It is very special to have experts in the field come to work with our age group students who are exploring curriculum as well as career pathways. The information that they learned about environmental issues and restoration practices was engaging and easily understood. My only question is: When can you come back?! Thanks so much!"

Judging from the reactions of the scientists-in-waiting, it was an experience most of them will not soon forget. 

From the Field: Four Featured Photographs

By Glenn Anderson
Travis Project Manager

Summer is here, and the 2004 construction season is underway. This is a sample of the environmental activities that are taking place on and off base.



Mr. Dale Malsberger shows the Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU) to Restoration Advisory Board members during a base tour.



Sediment Sampling in Union Creek: The resulting data will be used to support cleanup decisions.



Extraction well installation near CAMU.



A Site Characterization and Analysis Penetrometer System collects water data at the base battery and electric shop, using specialized chemical sensors.

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
 - Middle School Presentation
 - Base Tour
- Break*
- V. **Cleanup Program Status**
 - Soil Cleanup at Potrero Hills
 - DP039 Optimization
- 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**

Adjourn

Travis AFB Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

July 22, 2004
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.



or view our web site at <https://public.travis.afm.af.mil/pages/enviro>

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