



Guardian

America's First Choice for Environmental Restoration

A Publication of the Environmental Restoration Program

Travis Air Force Base, California

April 2004

INSIDE

Viewpoint:

Gregory Parrott, an Air Force attorney assigned to the Travis Air Force Base Restoration Program provides his thoughts on the role and foundation of the Restoration Advisory Board..... 2

Next RAB Meeting:

The next Restoration Advisory Board meeting will be held on July 22, 2004 at the Office of the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors 4



(Photo by Dave Musselwhite)

Prevention at the Pit Stop: Operators remain on site and constantly monitor fuel handling operations. Note that the entire loading area is surrounded by a concrete berm which provides containment for potential leaks. Federal regulations require secondary containment around loading areas.

Prevention: The Best Defense

Environmental Protection Is A Daily Responsibility

By Dave Musselwhite
Travis Compliance Engineer

Over the last three years, Travis AFB has made great strides in cleaning up contaminated sites that resulted from faulty past industrial practices or accidental releases. Even though this is good news, it is obvious that the best way to protect the environment is to ensure that it does not become contaminated in the first place.

Today's environmental laws and regulations prohibit chemical releases and

require quick spill cleanups. The responsibility for ensuring that the base follows these laws falls on the Compliance Branch of the Travis AFB Environmental Flight.

When a spill occurs, it is the job of the engineers and environmental specialists in the Compliance Branch to notify all appropriate regulatory agencies and to verify that the spill cleanup is conducted correctly. "It is very important to catch and clean up a spill before it gets into the soil or water and becomes a release," stated Ms. Melissa Malakos, Compliance Branch Chief.

"We follow our response plan to ensure
See **DEFENSE** page 3





Staff

Chief, Environmental Flight

Troy Martinson, P.E.

Chief, Environmental Restoration

Mark Smith

60th AMW Public Affairs

Linda Weese

RAB Members

Col. Michael Sevier, *Air Force Co-Chair*

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, *B.F. Goodrich Aerospace*

Sarah Raker, *SFBRWQCB*

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 should be addressed to:

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

RAB Rules and Relevance

As we approach the tenth anniversary of the Travis AFB Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), it is worthwhile to review its purpose and legal foundation so that new readers can appreciate its value to environmental decision makers.

The RAB plays a very important role in Travis' environmental restoration program and has a twofold purpose. First, the RAB is a forum for representatives of the installation, federal and state regulatory agencies, and the local community to discuss and exchange information about Travis' Environmental Restoration Program. Second, the RAB gives affected and potentially affected persons or entities the opportunity to participate in the cleanup process and make their views known to decision makers. The RAB is not intended to substitute for other community involvement initiatives, like preparing community relations plans and establishing and maintaining information repositories. Rather, the RAB complements those activities by serving as a focal point for dialogue. All advice provided by the RAB is considered, whether it is individual or consensus.

Congress and the President authorized the Secretary of Defense to establish a RAB at any military installation where environmental restoration activities are planned or being implemented. This authority is codified at 10 USC Section 2705(d). This statute also authorized the Secretary to prescribe regulations regarding the establishment and composition of RABs, but the statute



VIEWPOINT

Gregory Parrott
Travis AFB Environmental Attorney

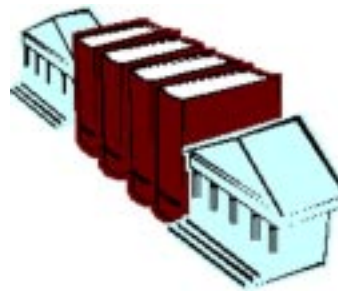
expressly provides that issuing such regulations is not a precondition to establishing a RAB. Joint Department of Defense (DoD)/Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) RAB Implementation Guidelines were published in 1994. The Secretary started the process of turning these guidelines into federal regulations in 1996, but that process has not been finalized.

RABs remain free to operate under a very flexible set of joint DoD/EPA guidelines. These guidelines envision, but do not require, a RAB to adopt a set of operating

procedures dealing with such matters as RAB attendance, meeting frequency, membership and co-chair length of service, and procedures for removing, replacing or adding members, reviewing and responding to public

comments and public participation. Travis AFB's RAB currently operates under a charter adopted in 1995 that contains an adequate set of operating procedures for most of these matters. The RAB has no other written operating procedures, by-laws or such rules. While the charter might be starting to show its age, the RAB has functioned smoothly over the last nine years within its nominal provisions.

Should RAB members determine that the charter needs to be updated, it may be amended by a majority vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting.



Defense

■ From page 2

that the work is done properly.” Known as the Integrated Contingency Plan for Oil and Hazardous Substance Spill Prevention and Response, it describes storage facilities and spill containment, operating procedures, storage capacities and facility inspection procedures designed to prevent releases. The Plan also describes response training and exercise requirements needed to maintain an effective release response team.

Compliance engineers focus on building hazardous material containers and storage facilities with safeguards to prevent releases. For example, the largest quantity of hazardous material used on Travis is jet fuel. The fuel storage and distribution system consists of almost 2.5 miles of piping and 13 aboveground bulk storage tanks with an 8 million gallon storage capacity. Each day, about 250,000 gallons of fuel is moved through this system. The tanks are designed and managed with spill prevention in mind. They are built with overfill prevention systems, corrosion protection and secondary containment. Annual tightness tests, annual cathodic protection system evaluations, and daily and monthly visual inspections are conducted to ensure problems or leaks are prevented and/or detected as early as possible. Fuel pipes are leak tested each quarter using state of the art technology.

There are also 10 underground tank sites that support various vehicle refueling stations and maintenance facilities. All of these tanks are double-walled and are fitted with automatic, continuous leak detection systems. Audible and visual alarms alert operators of potential leaks almost immediately. When an alarm



(Photo by Dave Musselwhite)

Mother of All Tanks: Since spills from tanks are most often caused by overfilling, these 420,000 gallon fuel tanks are equipped with high level alarms and automatic high level shut-off valves. Secondary containment is the surrounding sealed concrete area that can hold all of the fuel from each tank. Federal regulations require secondary containment to be impervious and to have sufficient capacity for the entire tank volume.

goes off, base personnel evaluate the cause and initiate corrective action. Also, each leak detection system is certified annually by an independent third party tester.

Another important part of the Environmental Flight is the Pollution Prevention Branch which strives to minimize hazardous materials usage and hazardous waste generation. In the past, the environmental impact of hazardous materials used in workshops was rarely considered. Today, pollution prevention specialists screen all hazardous materials to evaluate potential hazards and find more environmentally friendly substitutes. Likewise, they analyze waste generating processes to find ways to reduce or eliminate hazardous waste.

At one time, it seemed that every workshop on base kept large inventories of hazardous materials which increased the chances for a spill to occur. Today, a central hazardous materials distribution center reviews

all material orders to ensure only authorized materials are ordered and in minimum quantities. A computer system controls inventory, distribution, and eventually disposal. This tight control over hazardous materials ensures less usage and better cost control.

We operate all of our tank and hazardous material management systems with release prevention as the primary objective,” stated Troy Martinson, Environmental Flight Chief. “Should a release occur, we are fully prepared to respond quickly to contain it, minimize environmental damage and mobilize resources for an effective cleanup. We work closely with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the local Water Board, and the Solano County Department of Environmental Management to ensure each facility and operation complies with federal, state and local environmental regulations.”



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
 - RAB Statutory Foundation

Break
- V. **Discussion Topics (continued)**
 - Union Creek Protection
- 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

April 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.af.mil/pages/enviro>

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

Mark Smith
Chief, Environmental Restoration
Travis AFB
(707) 424-3062

Kristine Escarda
Public Participation Specialist
Cal EPA/DTSC
(916) 255-6683

Viola Cooper
Community Involvement,
Program Coordinator, U.S. EPA
(415) 744-2188
(800) 231-3075

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

