

**Meeting Minutes  
Travis Air Force Base  
Installation Restoration Program  
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting**

**Travis AFB, California  
26 July 2001**

RAB members present:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
Swickard, Col. Jan M.	Travis Air Force Base/RAB Co-Chair	√
Whalen, Jim N.	City of Vacaville Representative/RAB Community Co-Chair	
Child, David	Fairfield Resident	
D'Lima, Anne	Travis AFB Resident	√
Flores, Lalo	BDC Marine	
Foster, John	City of Fairfield Representative	√
Guido, Timothy	David Grant Medical Center	√
Kanouff, David F.	National Association of Retired Federal Employees	√
Lucey, John	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	
Marianno, David	Suisun City Resident	√
Morad, Cyrus	Fairfield Resident	
Moseley, Michael	Daily Republic	
Negron, Daniel	Vacaville Resident	
Raker, Sarah	SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board	
Root, David	Crosswinds Church	
Rued, Emily	Vacaville Unified School District	√
Rundlett, John	Suisun City Resident	
Salcedo, Jose	Department of Toxic Substance Control	√
Taylor, William W.	Travis Unified School District	
Tolentino, Ron	Solano Garbage Company	√
Urquhart, Kurt	Goodrich Corporation	√

Public Members present:

- Deena Hardy                      Vacaville

Agencies and Contractors present:

- Allen Brickeen Travis AFB
- Glenn Anderson Travis AFB
- Wilford Day Travis AFB
- Kevin Jackson Travis AFB
- Bruce James Travis AFB
- Dale Malsberger Travis AFB
- Tom Sreenivasan Travis AFB
- Steve Stopher Travis AFB
- Parker Atkins Informatics
- Gwen Vergara CH2M HILL
- Peggy Taylor CH2M HILL
- Wayne Williams CH2M HILL
- Deena Stanley URS
- Traci Bjers URS
- Joe Saxon URS
- Mike Wray GTI
- Patricia Ryan DTSC

## **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Colonel Jan Swickard called the meeting to order and welcomed all that were present. He introduced Tom Sreenivasan and Steve Stopher, the two newest members of the Travis AFB environmental restoration staff.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The April 2001 RAB meeting minutes were approved with corrections and finalized.

## **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS AND QUESTIONS**

No other agenda items.

## **DISCUSSION TOPICS**

### **B-29 Crash Site Environmental Investigation**

Mr. Glenn Anderson gave a slide and poster board historic presentation on the B-29 crash site environmental investigation.

The B-29 crash site was an area of concern that was part of the remedial investigation for the West/Annexes/Basewide Operable Unit (WABOU). Unlike the other potential WABOU sites, the B-29 crash site received a large amount of news interest, primarily due to chemicals of potential concern which included uranium and plutonium.

On 5 August 1950, the 99<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing was completing their week-long preparations to transport 10 combat-ready B-29s to Anderson AFB, Guam. These aircrafts had been modified to carry nuclear-capable bombs. A nuclear-capable bomb is a bomb that can initiate a nuclear reaction when a capsule of high-grade radioactive material is placed inside of it. When the capsule is not there, it is just a special type of conventional bomb.

Brig. Gen. Robert F. Travis flew in the first aircraft to take off. The aircraft developed overspeed problems in two engines, forcing their shutdown. The B-29 could not remain airborne, but the pilot was able to set the aircraft down in a controlled sliding crash. The aircraft broke apart and caught fire. Twenty minutes later, the bomb caused a huge explosion that scattered wreckage over a wide area. The following year, Fairfield –Suisun AFB was renamed Travis AFB.

In 1994, to respond to media questions concerning the environmental condition of the crash site, Travis AFB brought in a team of environmental health specialists from Armstrong Laboratory, the Air Force organization that has expertise in environmental health and industrial hygiene. In coordination with an independent environmental consultant, they conducted an expedited radiological survey of the crash site and the surrounding areas. Soil samples from any suspected locations were collected and sent to two separate laboratories for analysis. The team found that there was no elevated radioactivity at the crash site and at any other locations that had investigated.

Based on the field and laboratory data, reports were submitted to the three regulatory agencies for review. The results received regulatory scrutiny and the agencies concurred with the conclusions that there was no elevated radioactivity at the crash site.

Mr. Anderson stated that the following lessons were learned during this investigation;

- It is critical to keep all stakeholders informed.
- It is important to have a public affairs specialist with media experience involved with all public meetings.
- “Never take adverse media attention personally!”

*Mr. Timothy Guido asked what the contents of this plane were.* Mr. Anderson stated it contained a conventional (nuclear-capable) bomb.

Col. Swickard commented that the nuclear bomb components were always shipped separately.

*Mr. Marianno asked where the remains of the plane are.* Mr. Anderson stated that no one really knows. However, several pieces of debris are available for public viewing at the Travis Museum.

*Mr. Marianno asked if the Travis elementary school was claiming in 1994 to have an unusual amount of medical ailments that led to the investigation.* Mr. Anderson stated that during the time of the investigation, the school was closed for renovation. The media attention led to the investigation.

*Mr. Urquhart asked if this site is considered an IRP site. Mr. Anderson stated no, that it had been merely an area of concern, which was investigated and deemed environmentally safe. It is an 'area of non-concern'.*

## **CLEANUP PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS**

### **West/Annexes/Basewide Operable Unit Soil Record of Decision**

Mr. Anderson gave an update on the WABOU Soil ROD:

- **Ecological Issues** — Comments on the technical memorandum have been received from the U.S. EPA and DTSC. This document is evolving more into a PhD thesis, potentially resulting in a need for additional funding, which could result in an unacceptable delay. Travis AFB will complete a revised draft technical memorandum for submission next month to the agencies. Mr. Kanouff asked if there are major stumbling blocks. Mr. Anderson answered that there is confusion between the Ph.D. wildlife toxicologists involved with the technical memorandum concerning what took place in the WABOU ecological risk assessment.
- **Cleanup Levels** — The Groundwater Protection Technical Memorandum is complete. Once the eco issue is resolved, the cleanup determination will be finished.
- **Acceptance Levels** — Travis AFB has finalized the CAMU technical memorandum.

### **Third Revision to the Draft WABOU Soil ROD**

Mr. Anderson reported that the final version of the ecological protection technical memorandum is tentatively scheduled for September 2001. The WABOU Soil ROD will be revised accordingly, and the third revision is scheduled for submission for agency review in October 2001, regardless of the status of the technical memorandum.

## **Real Estate Agreements (Easements)**

### **FT005 Off-Base Easement Status**

Mr. Brickeen reported that final details are being negotiated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the property owner's attorneys. Construction is expected to start this summer to install off base extraction and monitoring wells.

*Mr. John Foster asked if the property owners will be compensated for loss of use. Mr. Brickeen stated that the Air Force is purchasing the easement.*

## **Summer Construction**

### **SS016 Groundwater**

Mr. Brickeen reported that Travis AFB is extracting groundwater and soil vapor. The soil vapor is then sent to a thermal oxidizer to burn the contaminants in the vapor stream. Travis AFB will sample the burner exhaust to ensure that dioxin is not being created. In order to avoid cutting

across the concrete, drilling was done horizontally underneath the parking ramps to connect the wells to the treatment plant.

Travis AFB has installed two extraction wells and six monitoring wells. The system is scheduled for startup in August 2001.

### **FT005 Off-Base Groundwater**

Travis AFB will install four extraction wells and seven monitoring wells.

Mr. Brickeen reported that plume's contaminant of concern is 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA), which is not treated effectively by activated carbon. An air stripper was installed to treat the 1,2-DCA, which resulted in scale accumulation in the air stripper, piping, valves and pumps. Travis AFB is currently working with the Water Board to use a chemical agent to prevent scaling.

Mr. Brickeen reported that a hole was burned through the well casing of EW01x05 when the pump speed was slowed to limit the 1,2-DCA entering the treatment plant; it has since been repaired.

### **LF007C Groundwater**

Mr. Brickeen reported that there is a contaminated groundwater plume beneath the vernal pool. Travis AFB is working on a design to install extraction and monitoring wells. An easement will be obtained. Because of funding problems, the design was started late. Construction is not anticipated until next year. Travis AFB is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on an agreement that as long as the vernal pool has water there will not be any pumping. Travis is also attempting to obtain an agreement on installing wells within the vernal pools.

*Mr. Marianno asked if Air Force is trying to purchase the property. Mr. Brickeen stated no.*

*Ms. Rued asked about the integrity of the vernal pool bottom. Mr. Brickeen stated that the design will consider that issue.*

### **Community Involvement Plan**

Mr. Jackson explained that Installation Restoration Program's Community Involvement Plan is modeled after a sample he obtained from the U.S. EPA public web site. Mr. Jackson asked for input or feedback from the RAB.

*Mr. Foster commented paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4 could be a paragraph or sentence stating what type of activities occurred. He recommended that Section 5-1 be called Community Involvement Techniques and Activities. He gave Mr. Jackson written comments.*

*Mr. Foster also commented that Travis AFB should go out to the local elected bodies at some appropriate interval and give an update on how the cleanup is going at Travis. This should be done every two years and the RAB member from that particular city should introduce the Travis AFB presenter.*

*Mr. Guido asked if there is a base orientation program to inform Travis AFB newcomers of the environmental cleanup activities.* Col. Swickard stated that the base holds an orientation for all newcomers and it would be easy to provide them with information about the environmental cleanup program at that time.

*Mr. Urquhart stated that there are groups that are trying to bring economic development to Solano County.* He inquired if it would be appropriate for Travis AFB to contact the groups that are relocating in communities surrounding Travis AFB. Mr. Urquhart was asked to give names and addresses to Mr. Jackson in order that these companies could be added to the mailing list.

Mr. Jackson said that Mr. David Cooper, the former U.S. EPA community involvement coordinator who worked on the Travis IRP, commented that he was pleased the Air Force would communicate environmental issues to Travis AFB employees.

Mr. Jackson announced that he accepted a new position with the U.S. Army in Korea and that he will depart in early September. Col. Swickard thanked Mr. Jackson for doing an outstanding job.

### **Regulatory Agency Reports**

No report.

### **Focus Group Reports**

#### **Community Relations**

No report.

#### **Budget/Scheduling**

Mr. Brickeen stated that this focus group will meet prior to the next RAB meeting.

#### **Technical review**

No report.

#### **RAB/Public Questions**

There were no public or RAB questions.

#### **Set Time and Place for next RAB meeting**

The next RAB meeting will be 25 October 2001 at location that is yet to be determined.

#### **Next meeting topics/suggestion**

Suggested meeting topics are to be submitted to Mr. Brickeen.