



# Guardian

America's First Choice for Environmental Restoration

A Publication of the Environmental Restoration Program

Travis Air Force Base, California

April 2007

## INSIDE

### Viewpoint:

*A successful project manager looks six to eight months into the future, but a successful program manager looks six to eight YEARS into the future. Mark Smith, the Travis Remedial Program Manager, lets us know what he sees for our base.....* **2**

### New Regulatory Reps:

*Mr. Glenn Kistner takes over from Mr. John Lucey as the EPA representative, and Ms. Chao Thao assumes the Department of Toxic Substances Control public participation specialist duties from Ms. Kris Escarda.....* **3**

### From the Field:

*Thanks to a relatively dry winter, we were able to complete a lot of field work in support of our groundwater cleanup actions. Take a look at what we have been doing over the last five months.....* **3**

### Next RAB Meeting:

*The next Restoration Advisory Board meeting will be held on April 19, 2007 at 7 p.m. at the Office of the Northern Solano County Assn. of Realtors. This will be the last meeting for one of our Restoration staff members, Tom Sreenivasan, who will be retiring this fall.....* **4**



Tom



(Photo by Lonnie Duke)

**Easy Does It:** Field team members from CH2M HILL, an environmental consulting firm, carefully collect groundwater samples from a soil boring, using a bailer. The water samples will be analyzed for petroleum constituents. Laboratory analysis results will be used to identify the contaminants.

## A Little POCO Work at Travis

### Performance-Based Approach Takes Care of Petroleum Sites

By Lonnie Duke

Travis Environmental Field Manager

What does "POCO" mean to you? If you are from my era and listened to country-rock music in the 1970's, you may recall hit songs like *Crazy Love* or *Little Darlin'*. Spanish and Italian speakers know that "poco" means "little". For the Travis AFB Environmental Restoration Branch, POCO is an acronym for Petroleum-Only Contamination.

Like all airports, Travis AFB uses petroleum products such as gasoline and jet fuel. Some of the jet fuel is pumped to the base through a single pipeline and is transferred to where it is needed through a network of pipes

and storage tanks. Past breaks in fuel piping and accidental spills caused the release of jet fuel into the subsurface soil and groundwater.

POCO sites are handled differently than other restoration cleanup sites on Travis, because Congress addressed petroleum separately in federal environmental law from other types of contaminants. Most fuel products can be thought of as a mixture of many petroleum-based constituents, so chemical analysis and cleanup has to address all these constituents.

Travis AFB is currently tackling cleanups at three POCO sites. ST018 consists of two gasoline service stations on both sides of Travis Avenue. Both stations are currently in use

See **FUEL** page 2



Travis Air Force Base, California

### Staff

#### Commander, Environmental Flight

Wayne Williams

#### Chief, Environmental Restoration

Mark H. Smith

#### 60th AMW Public Affairs

Linda Weese

### RAB Members

Col. Thomas Sharpy, *Air Force Co-Chair*  
 David Marianno, *Community Co-Chair*  
 John Foster, *City of Fairfield representative*  
 Alan Friedman, *Regional Water Quality Control Board*  
 Glenn Kistner, *U.S. EPA*  
 Cyrus Morad, *Fairfield resident*  
 Michael Reagan, *County Supervisor 5th District*  
 Jose Salcedo, *Cal. Department of Toxic Substances Control*  
 William Taylor, *Travis Unified School District*  
 Philip Velez, *Vacaville Ch. of Commerce*

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 <http://public.travis.amc.af.mil/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](mailto:linda.weese@travis.af.mil)

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

[enviropa@travis.af.mil](mailto:enviropa@travis.af.mil)

# The Planning Never Stops

There have been never ending stories, songs that never end, and talkers that won't stop or get to the point, which brings me to my point. In Environmental Restoration, the planning never ends.

Back in the 1980's, we developed a plan to identify those areas on base where contaminant releases prior to 1984 from past industrial practices potentially took place on Travis. Later, we identified those confirmed releases as sites that needed to be investigated and possibly cleaned up. We planned how to address these sites. We planned the Remedial Investigations, the Feasibility Studies, the Proposed Plans. We actually planned for proposed plans; that sounds like a bureaucratic statement if I ever heard one! We still plan meetings with the regulatory agency representatives, document schedules, remedial actions and public meetings.

The end result of all of this planning will be the cleanup of soil and groundwater contamination which is something everyone involved in the planning and implementation can feel good about.

So all this planning is for a good cause and results in something worthwhile getting done. As with most programs, people only see what gets done. What they don't see is everything that goes on behind the scenes. We remember Neil Armstrong when he stepped onto the surface of the moon but may not think of all the planning it took to get him there.

Environmental Restoration is not rocket science, but it does require a phased approach to cleanup. It is a step-by-step

## Fuel

■ From page 1

and have operated since the mid-1960's. ST027 is a 35-acre parcel near the flight line that is used for jet fuel storage and aircraft engine testing. ST028 consists of several jet fuel storage and pumping facilities in the northeast part of the base.

In a first for Travis, the Air Force is using a performance-based approach to deal with the petroleum releases at these three sites. A Performance-Based Contract (PBC) is different from a typical contract



## VIEWPOINT

Mark H. Smith  
 Travis Remedial  
 Program Manager

process, and as an Environmental Engineer I enjoy that. Engineers like organization and quantifiable, definitive packets of work. When we finish one step, we feel a sense of accomplishment, and we then move on to the next. Most of these steps require community input, and all of them require funding. Travis has one of the least expensive restoration programs in the Air Force; because we planned ahead, we solicited Restoration Advisory Board and community input early in the program, and we tried to work smarter even before that catch phrase became popular.

The July 2007 *Guardian* will focus on the implementation of our plan for soil cleanup this summer. The fruit of our planning will once again be visible, and we'll be turning dirt as they say in the industry.

In January of this year, we met with the Regulatory Agency Reps to begin the planning for our Basewide Groundwater Record of Decision (ROD). The resulting ROD will select an appropriate groundwater cleanup strategy for each site. We'll plan to carry out these strategies, whether it is pump and treat or in-situ chemical oxidation or some other cleanup method. The cleanup actions could take a few years or even decades. I'll let you know when (if?) we finish planning.

in that the base defines specific objectives to be met, but not how to reach those objectives. The PBC advantage is that it provides the environmental contractor, who is an expert at cleanup, the freedom to choose their own approach and it provides a lot of incentive to reach the objectives as quickly as possible. Payments are made to the contractor when specific and measurable milestones are achieved; this promotes innovation and a willingness to work hard to reach those milestones. The

# Fuel

■ From page 2  
Air Force is shifting more and more of its contract work to this PBC concept.

The final outcome for jet fuel sites ST027 and ST028 is to obtain regulatory acceptance for an appropriate petroleum cleanup remedy and to have it in place and in operation. The final outcome for the gasoline site ST018 is to select an appropriate cleanup remedy and to demonstrate its effectiveness to achieve site cleanup.

Before a contractor can identify the best cleanup remedy for a petroleum site and receive regulatory approval, the nature and extent of the petroleum problem has to be

investigated. To speed up the investigation of these three sites, the environmental contractor elected to use an aggressive data collection approach, known as Triad.

Triad consists of rapid data collection in the field, followed by real time data review and decision-making by all project managers. For example, an extensive soil gas survey could be carried out one day, and the results of the survey could be used the next day to pick the best locations for groundwater sampling while the field team is still mobilized. The three project managers that are supporting the Triad investigation are from the Travis AFB Environmental Flight, the California

Regional Water Quality Control Board and the environmental contractor performing the field work, CH2M Hill.

“Triad field work requires long hours and a high level of dedication by the stakeholders,” stated Mark H. Smith, Travis Remedial Program Manager. “By keeping the lines of communication open and all participants focused on the end product, we can get a lot done in a short time.”

This POCO contract is good for three years, which is not a lot of time to get cleanup remedies in place at these three sites. Travis AFB will report on the progress as the project matures.



## Changes on the Regulatory Front

**By Glenn Anderson**  
Travis Project Manager

Two regulatory representatives have left the Travis Environmental Restoration Program since January to take on new challenges. Mr. John Lucey from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Ms. Kristine Escarda from the California Department of Toxic Substances

Control (DTSC) have moved on to other cleanup sites. He participated in site investigations and remedy selections for soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater sites. He also supported the signing of four major decision documents between the Air Force and regulatory agencies that led to the construction of all four groundwater extraction and treatment systems on Travis.

Mr. Glenn Kistner replaces Mr. Lucey



**Glenn Kistner**

Control (DTSC) have moved on to other cleanup sites.

Mr. Lucey served as the EPA representative for over 12 years. He partici-



**Chao Thao**

as the EPA Remedial Project Manager for the base. Mr. Kistner has over 20 years of project management experience and has worked on private sites and on a number

of military bases, including the former McClellan AFB. Glenn is originally from Buffalo, New York and moved to California to escape the Buffalo weather!

Ms. Escarda served as the DTSC Public Participation Specialist for over three years. She supported community involvement efforts and oversaw updates to the base Community Involvement Plan as well as the environmental restoration web site.

Ms. Chao Thao will be taking over the DTSC Public Participation Specialist duties for the base. Ms. Thao graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a bachelor degree in Government. She brings with her a passion for public service and more than five years of experience working with diverse communities throughout the state of California. She will be working with the Travis Air Force cleanup team to ensure that community questions and concerns are addressed and taken into consideration when final decisions are made. You can contact Ms. Thao through email at [cthao@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:cthao@dtsc.ca.gov) or by phone at (916) 255-3649.



## From the Field

Field work continues on the base to finish groundwater construction projects and to prepare for soil cleanup actions that are scheduled for this summer. Wetland identification and burrowing owl surveys support soil excavation projects by locating sensitive habitats that must be avoided during heavy equipment operations.



Construction engineers battle wind and rain to put finishing touches on a protective vault for a new Dual-Phase Extraction well at a groundwater site.



Field biologists evaluate soil conditions and plant life at a wetland area near a soil cleanup site. Travis will use collected data to protect sensitive habitats.

(Photo by Lonnie Duke)

(Photo by Lonnie Duke)

## 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

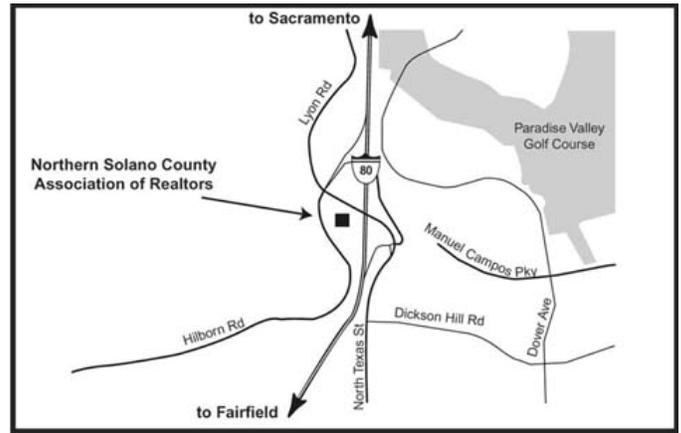
- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Additional Agenda Items and Questions
- IV. Discussion Topics
  - Soil Cleanup Preparations
  - Petroleum Cleanup Status
- Break*
- V. Cleanup Program Status
  - Funding Status
  - Manpower Status
- VI. Regulatory Agency Reports
- VII. Focus Group Reports
- VIII. RAB/Public Questions
- IX. Set Time and Place for Next RAB Meeting
- X. Set Focus Group Meeting Times

*Adjourn*

## Travis AFB Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

April 19, 2007  
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:** Closed

**Saturday:** 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Sunday:** 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Printed on recycled paper 



*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 <http://public.travis.af.mil/enviro>*

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

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

**Chao Thao**  
Public Participation Specialist  
Cal EPA/DTSC  
(916) 255-3649  
cthao@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

