



Guardian

America's First Choice for Environmental Restoration

A Publication of the Environmental Restoration Program

Travis Air Force Base, California

July 2007

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Next RAB Meeting:

The next Restoration Advisory Board meeting will be held on October 25, 2007 at 7 p.m. at the Office of the Northern Solano County Assn. of Realtors. The agenda is to be determined.... 6



(Photo by Glenn Anderson)

Site Prep: Heavy equipment operators clear the surface of a contaminated soil site of vegetation prior to the start of excavation. The soil-vegetation mixture will be sent to an appropriate landfill for disposal.

Commence Digging!

The End of the Travis AFB Soil Cleanup Program Begins

By Glenn Anderson

Travis Environmental Project Manager

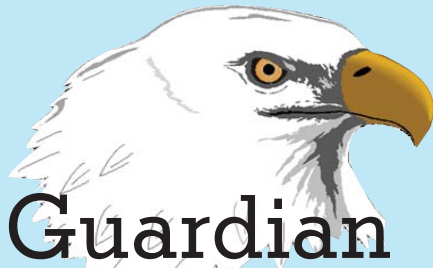
On June 18, Travis AFB officially began the first of seven soil and sediment cleanup actions that are scheduled for this year. Once they are finished, the soil and sediment portions of the Travis AFB Environmental Restoration Program will be over.

Similar to the 2003 soil projects, most of the contaminated soil will be placed in a Corrective Action Man-

agement Unit (CAMU). A CAMU is a designated area within a facility that is designed to carry out a corrective action, such as the management of contaminated soil. The Travis AFB CAMU was constructed in 2003. It is located on top of a closed municipal landfill in the northeast portion of the base.

Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure (Shaw) is the environmental contractor that is carrying out the soil and sediment cleanup actions. This is not the first time that Shaw has worked on Travis AFB. Their field team success-

See **SOIL** page 3



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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 <http://public.travis.amc.af.mil/enviro>. Questions and comments about the program may be sent to this address:

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

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New Co-Chair Joins RAB

By Linda Weese (Travis Public Affairs) and Glenn Anderson (Travis Project Manager)

Colonel Giovanni Tuck will join the Travis Restoration Advisory Board as the new Air Force co-chair at its October 25 meeting. He replaces outgoing Air Force Co-Chair Colonel Thomas Sharpy, who is now the commander of the 92nd Air Refueling Wing at Fairchild Air Force Base (AFB), Washington.



Colonel Tuck is the vice commander of the 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis AFB and serves as the assistant to the commander for the combined efforts of all operations and support activities associated with the worldwide air mobility mission. In the absence of the commander, Colonel Tuck is responsible for ensuring the readiness and well being of nearly 24,500 active duty, Reserve and civilian personnel and their families.

He also serves as the chairperson of the base's Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health (ESOH) Council. The ESOH Council ensures that the base follows environmental law and policy as mandated by the U.S. Congress, the State of California, and other local government agencies. As the ESOH Council chairperson, Colonel Tuck verifies that all military organizations on Travis AFB are complying with all legal requirements and meeting or exceeding environmen-

tal management goals.

"This summer, Travis AFB is conducting a number of soil restoration projects to clean up contaminants and use the restored property to meet base mission requirements," said Colonel Tuck. "These actions demonstrate the high priority that the Air Force places on its environmental responsibilities."

Colonel Tuck earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the Southwest Texas State University in 1987 and achieved Distinguished Graduate status while completing a Master of Arts degree in International Relations from Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri.

Before assuming his current position at Travis in June 2007, Colonel Tuck served as the Aide to the Deputy Commander of United States Transportation Command and commanded the 905th Air Refueling Squadron at Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota. He is a command pilot with more than 4,800 flying hours in a variety of aircraft, including the C-141 Starlifter, KC-10 Extender and KC-135 Strato-tanker.

"Travis AFB has attained a high standing in the regulatory and local community for maintaining high environmental standards while carrying out its global mission and supporting the war on terror. I look forward to working with base and community leaders, concerned citi-

Soil

■ From page 2

fully cleaned up a contaminated drainage ditch and a pesticide landfill in 2003.

“We were highly confident from the start that Shaw is the right contractor for this work,” said Mark Smith, Remedial Program Manager. “They have proven themselves in past soil actions by achieving residential cleanup levels, freeing up the sites for unrestricted use, and they’ve had the responsibility of monitoring the performance of the CAMU over the last four years.”

Before the first backhoe shovel touched the ground, the contractor needed to wrap up the remaining administrative requirements. Work plans had to be reviewed and approved by base and regulatory personnel, environmental impact analysis requests and excavation

permits had to be submitted to the Civil Engineers to meet base requirements, and wetlands identification and mapping had to be coordinated through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A team of wildlife biologists also walked the sites to verify that the upcoming field work would not disturb any burrowing owls. The State of California considers burrowing owls to be a special status species that warrants protective measures.

Heavy equipment started to arrive on the base by mid-June, along with temporary fencing and other supplies that the field team would need. Nearby water outlets to support the use of water trucks for dust suppression were identified, excavation areas were marked with flags and stakes, truck and personnel decontamination zones were established, safety briefings with all field team members were

conducted and final coordination with base operations and flight line personnel were completed.

Then, the digging commenced. Work is scheduled to continue through the middle of November. The first site to be cleaned up is a former small arms range that has high levels of lead, antimony, and copper in the soil.

“It is rewarding to see the results of years of researching, planning, meetings, negotiations, and coordination with base leaders, regulatory agency representatives, community members and environmental consultants,” Mr. Smith said. “We should have a good idea of what we have accomplished in the 2007 construction season by the time the October Guardian is published. It’s a chapter in Travis history that the Restoration staff and I have helped write. We look forward to reading it!”

AFCEE is now AFCEE

Name Change Reflects Expanded Mission and Capabilities

By Glenn Anderson

Travis Environmental Project Manager

On June 1, 2007, the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE) changed its name to the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE). Its acronym remains the same, but this organization is taking on more responsibility.

Formed in 1991, AFCEE has its headquarters at Brooks City-Base, Texas and serves as the field operating agency of the Air Force Civil Engineer. The center provides Air Force leaders with the comprehensive expertise they need to protect, preserve, restore, develop and sustain our nation’s environmental and installation resources.

Its new name “more accurately

reflects the organization’s increased scope of responsibilities,” Air Force officials said. The “increased scope” includes management of the service’s three capital investment programs: Military Construction, military family housing and Environmental Restoration.

The centralization of these programs is, in turn, being driven by the transformation taking place across the Air Force. “Reductions in both the military and civilian sides mean that commanders are not going to have the resources they need to manage their entire programs,” said Paul Parker, AFCEE director. “So many programs are being centralized in places where they can best be run.”

Today, AFCEE provides a com-

plete range of technical and professional services in environmental and installation planning and engineering, and military housing construction and privatization. The agency employs 370 civilians and 36 military members. In addition to its in-house staff, AFCEE partners with many of the nation’s most respected and capable contractors. Although created to support the Air Force’s environmental services, the center’s multibillion dollar contracting capacity covers the entire spectrum of environmental and construction management services.

“I think the challenge for all of us as we go down this path of centralizing the management of environmental restoration, military family housing construction and traditional design and construction at AFCEE is to remain accountable to the people we serve everyday,” said Mr. Parker.

From the Field

By Glenn Anderson

Travis Environmental Project Manager

Without a doubt, the Travis AFB soil cleanup projects described on page 1 are the biggest and most complex activities that the Environmental Flight will manage this summer. They represent a significant investment in the health and well-being of military and contractor personnel as well as the overall base mission.

To date, the cleanup of lead-contaminated soil at a former small arms range is almost complete, and the excavation of the first of three former fire training areas is well underway. Thanks to the cool delta

breezes from the Bay Area during the late spring and early summer, working conditions for both men and machinery had been excellent, allowing the field teams to work efficiently in relative comfort. However, once the afternoon temperatures reached triple digits, the pace of field work slowed and safety measures were taken to prevent dehydration and other heat-related health problems.

It would be easy to assume that these cleanup actions start when a backhoe and a truck show up at a contaminated site and end when all of the contaminated soil has been hauled away, leaving a big hole in the ground. However, that would be too simplistic and completely inaccurate. Each action

takes place in a way that protects nearby ecological habitats, base infrastructure, and the health and safety of both base personnel and contracted workers. Specific tasks are documented so that project managers from the base and three environmental regulatory agencies can verify that the cleanup actions were completed in accordance with federal and State of California environmental laws and legal agreements.

In the following series of photographs, various aspects of the first two soil actions are shown. From site set-up to soil stockpiling, they convey a lot more detail and hopefully a greater appreciation of the amount of work involved in carrying out a soil cleanup program. ✂



Heavy equipment and supplies arrive on base and are moved to a central staging area.



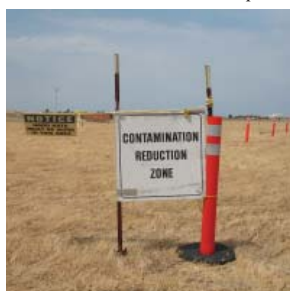
(Photos by Glenn Anderson)



Lonnie Duke from Travis AFB and Don Tillery from Shaw Environmental evaluate the North Treatment Plant as a potential source of dust suppression water.

(Photo by Glenn Anderson)

Warning signs along the fenced area allows only authorized personnel to enter the work zones.



(Photo by Lonnie Duke)



(Photo by Glenn Anderson)



A portable wash facility, a fire extinguisher, an eye wash station and other supplies are staged in the contaminant reduction zone at the former small arms range.

(Photo by Glenn Anderson)



(Photo by Lonnie Duke)

A family of four burrowing owls watch the activities near its nest. Biologists establish a zone around the nest to ensure that cleanup activities do not adversely impact nearby sensitive habitats.



(Photo by Glenn Anderson)

Dust monitoring equipment at several locations along the work area perimeter measures airborne contaminant concentrations.



(Photo by Lonnie Duke)

A front end loader gathers the vegetation cover from the Corrective Action Management Unit in the northeast corner of the base.



(Photo by Glenn Anderson)

A 2000-gallon capacity water truck sends a stream of water across a work zone to minimize the transport of contaminated airborne dust away from a cleanup site.



(Photo by Lonnie Duke)

Contaminated soil is placed on top of plastic sheeting in long rows and will be covered to prevent wind erosion.



(Photo by Lonnie Duke)

The heavy equipment operator carefully places contaminated soil on top of a soil pile to minimize the creation of airborne dust.



(Photo by Glenn Anderson)

Pallets of sand bags and plastic sheeting are staged along a work zone prior to soil excavation.



(Photo by Lonnie Duke)

Sand bags are placed on top of plastic sheeting that is covering piles of contaminated soil.

Intro

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zens, and federal and state agencies as a member of the Restoration Advisory Board to continue this track record of successful environmental stewardship," he said.



Travis AFB Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

October 25, 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.

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

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