



Guardian

America's First Choice for Environmental Restoration

A Publication of the Environmental Restoration Program

Travis Air Force Base, California

January 2013

INSIDE

Viewpoint:

It is hard to believe that the Travis AFB Environmental Restoration Program has been active for the past 30 years. The Travis Restoration Program Manager looks back on the birth of environmental restoration and offers a few thoughts about our progress made to date and the eventual completion of all cleanup requirements..... **2**

More than a Name Change:

Air Force Civil Engineering is in the middle of a major reorganization, and the latest change to its organizational structure involves more than just a new acronym..... **3**

Next RAB Meeting:

The next Restoration Advisory Board meeting will be held on April 18, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Office of the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors. The meeting agenda is forthcoming..... **4**

Acronyms

CAMU: A Corrective Action Management Unit is a designated area within a facility that is designed to carry out a corrective action, such as contaminated soil management. The Travis AFB CAMU is an on-base soil repository that is built on a closed landfill, located in the northeast corner of the base.



(Photo by Glenn Anderson)

Peeling the Plastic: A heavy equipment operator carefully removes a plastic liner to decommission a lysimeter in a Corrective Action Management Unit. The lysimeter was built to verify the CAMU's protectiveness but is no longer needed. This project will be discussed in the April 2013 Guardian.

Picking our Fantasy Team

Contractor Selection Key to Success of Base Cleanup

By Lonnie Duke

Travis Environmental Project Manager

Most sports fans have never actually owned a professional sports team, but they still feel the excitement of being an owner or general manager when they play fantasy sports. On their "team," they pick their favorite active players, and their success is based on how well their selected players perform each week. The more touchdowns their quarterback throws or the more catches their receivers make, the more points they earn. The winning teams compete against each other in playoffs during the final three games of the season, and the "owner" who earns the most points against his/her competitors wins.

Winning teams are often made up of good players who work well as a group, and this fact can be applied to other areas besides sports. At work, the most productive offices are made up of quality employees who work together as a team to get the job done right the first time. Successful musical groups contain talented singers whose voices blend to form a harmonious sound. In military operations, teamwork is not a luxury; it is an absolute necessity.

A successful Air Force Environmental Restoration team is no exception: it consists of experienced program and project managers who are committed to high standards of environmental stewardship, one or more groups of highly skilled contractor personnel that find

See **TEAM** page 3



Travis Air Force Base, California

Staff

Deputy Base Civil Engineer

Merlin Miller

Restoration Program Manager

Mark H. Smith

60th AMW Public Affairs

Merrie Schilter-Lowe

RAB Members

Lt Col. Daniel A. Guinan, *Air Force Co-Chair*

David Marianno, *Community Co-Chair*

Nadia Burke, *U.S. EPA*

Jim Dunbar, *City of Fairfield representative*

John Foster, *National Association for Uniformed Services*

Adriana Constantinescu, *Regional Water Quality Control Board*

Kate Wren Gavlak, *Travis Unified School District*

Michael Reagan, *City of Vacaville Representative*

Jose Salcedo, *CA Department of Toxic Substances Control*

Philip Velez, *Vacaville Ch. of Commerce*

The *Guardian* is published by the 60th Civil Engineer Squadron's Environmental Restoration Team. 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 web site at <http://www.travis.af.mil/enviro>. Questions and comments about the program may be sent to this address:

Merrie Schilter-Lowe
60th AMW Public Affairs
400 Brennan Circle
Travis AFB, CA 94535
(707) 424-2011
merrie.schilterlowe@us.af.mil

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

enviropa@travis.af.mil

Three Decades of Progress

When one reaches a major milestone, there is usually reason for celebration, or at least some sort of acknowledgement. Seniors who reach the century mark or celebrate a 50-year wedding anniversary are sometimes mentioned on morning television shows or written about in local newspapers. Anniversaries of historical events like the attack on Pearl Harbor and the 9/11 terrorist attack are remembered with solemn ceremonies to ensure that lost lives are not forgotten and to bring a sense of resolve and hope that history will not repeat itself. Whether positive or negative in nature, we often reflect back on the events or milestones that have shaped our lives.

This year, the Travis AFB Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) will complete its third decade of cleanup on areas of the base where, years ago, contaminants were released into the soil and/or the groundwater. This may not be the kind of milestone that deserves a celebration; however, it does deserve a quick look back at the progress that has been made and a look forward to when the environmental cleanup can be considered to be complete.

In the early 1980's, the Air Force established an Installation Restoration Program to comply with the new environmental law that Congress passed a few years prior: the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). This law (often referred to as the Superfund law) was written to deal with the kind of environmental disasters that took place at Love Canal in Niagara Falls, New York (a neighborhood built on a toxic waste dump) and the Cuyahoga River in Ohio (which caught fire 13 times). The law also applies to less serious contamination issues, such as those found at Travis.

Environmental restoration came to Travis AFB in 1983 when a record search identified sites with potential contamination resulting from past waste disposal practices. The list of sites included fire training areas, landfills, and chemical spill sites. Later, an assessment of industrial facilities added aircraft hangars, machine shops, fuel facilities, and sewer lines to the list.



VIEWPOINT

Mark H. Smith
Travis AFB Restoration
Program Manager

In 1986, Congress passed the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, which made a number of changes to CERCLA, including the establishment of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) for the investigation and cleanup of Department of Defense sites. DERP funding paved the way for a series of remedial investigations to characterize the nature and extent of contamination and select the remedies to clean it up.

Past *Guardian* articles have documented our progress in characterizing and cleaning up contamination in sediment, soil, and groundwater. As of this month, we have treated over 1.3 billion gallons of water, removing almost 6 tons of contaminants in the process. Over the last four years, we successfully tested a number of innovative technologies and partnered with EPA to improve groundwater cleanup, and we cleaned up our two sediment sites in 2010. Last year, we completed our last soil cleanup action and published a Proposed Plan that describes the Air Force preferred remedies to clean up the remaining amounts of groundwater contaminants. We will sign a Record of Decision (ROD) with three regulatory agencies this year to officially select the groundwater remedies. We definitely ended our 30th year with a flourish of activity.

What about the path forward? Well, the path begins with the selected groundwater remedies, and the April 2013 *Guardian* will report the progress on getting the ROD signed. Future articles will also focus on a number of changes to Air Force Civil Engineering (one big change is described on page 3) that will impact environmental cleanup.

It will be a while before we can publish a *Guardian* with a lead article titled "Mission Accomplished!", but we take steps toward that goal each and every day. As usual, I will keep you posted.



Team

■ From page 1

the right solutions to tough environmental challenges, regulatory representatives that streamline the decision-making process and support cleanup efforts, and a local community that stays informed of the team's progress and gets involved when needed.

Of the team members listed above, the critical ones that the Air Force picked are the contractors. Over the next two years, the Air Force will be matching its installations with the right contractors to continue and hopefully complete cleanup actions in a relatively short period of time. The contractor selection for Travis AFB is scheduled to be finished by the end of this fiscal year.

"Although it is a lot of work, the selection of the contractor with the best technical proposal is such an important contributor to the success of a cleanup program," said Mr. Mark Smith, Travis AFB Restoration Program Manager. "It ensures that the contractor understands the current site conditions, the cleanup technologies that are in place, and the regulatory climate here in California."

In October 2008, the Guardian described the selection of two contractors for Travis AFB; a small business contractor to manage the cleanup of soil and sediment sites, and a large business contractor to work on groundwater sites. Both contractors were signed up under Performance-Based Contracts (PBC) which were described in the January 2008 Guardian.

Because of the success that the Air Force has experienced with the PBC concept over the last 5 years, most of the environmental contractors will be managed under new multi-year PBCs. With the emphasis on getting the most govern-

is ongoing, and it will be a while before the results of the selection are announced. However, we can tell you a few differences between the new contract and the two current contracts.

First, the new contract will cover both soil and groundwater. In the past, we stated that the Travis AFB soil cleanup program was finished. However, the base still has a few soil sites that are managed with land use controls (LUCs). These small, low-risk sites are located in industrial areas and did not require large cleanup actions. However, the new Air Force policy on accelerating site cleanups and pushing for site closure (described in the April 2011 Guardian) allows the new contractor to take a second look at these small soil sites (and some of the groundwater sites) and determine what it will take to clean them to unrestricted use standards and close them.

Second, the new contractor will need to investigate and possibly clean up a set of oil/water separators (OWS). These areas of concern were originally managed under a Compliance Management Program, but the Air Force merged this program into the environmental restoration program. A typical OWS presents few environmental challenges, and most OWS cleanups are relatively small in scale and easy to conduct.

Finally, once a groundwater site has reached residential cleanup levels and no longer requires additional cleanup activity, the new contractor will remove the monitoring wells, extraction wells, and any other environmental infrastructure as a part of the site closure process.

Besides the paperwork, that is the final step in closing a site and returning

More Than a Name Change

Over the last 20 years, the Travis AFB Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) has received a lot of support from the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE) out of San Antonio, Texas. From program management to technology demonstrations, the AFCEE has played an important role in the successful cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater at all Air Force installations.

To continue to provide necessary base support under more challenging fiscal constraints, the Air Force took a major step late last year to improve the way that it supports its installations. It merged AFCEE and Air Force Real Property Agency, also based in San Antonio, with the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., to form a more than 1,600-person strong unit. The new larger organization is called the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC).

The unit is subordinate to Air Force Civil Engineer Major General Timothy Byers, who presided over the activation ceremony on October 1 at the former Kelly AFB in San Antonio.

"This ceremony is much more than an organizational change," Byers said. "This is the debut of the next generation of installation and expeditionary support capabilities that will help us build ready engineers, build great leaders and build sustainable installations. We're forging the future of Air Force civil engineering today."

The AFCEC is divided into 7 directorates and executes civil engineering functions in the areas of construction, energy, environment, housing, operations, planning, real property, and readiness and emergency management. The center conducts operations at more than 75 locations worldwide, oversees the annual execution of \$11.8 billion in contracts, and indirectly controls \$49 billion in contract vehicles. It is the one-stop shop to meet all infrastructure support needs.

The creation of the AFCEC represents a key aspect of the Air Force civil engineering transformation. It offers greater access to environmental technical assistance and contract expertise, allowing restoration programs like the Travis AFB ERP to obtain the resources needed to complete the cleanup of its groundwater sites.

ment work done with limited resources, this approach makes the most sense.

Contractor selection for Travis AFB

See **TEAM** page 4

Team

■ From page 3

the property to full unrestricted use.

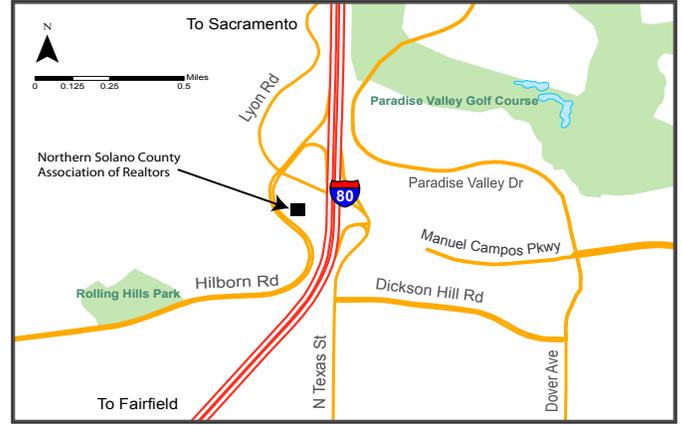
“This is an exciting time for us, because we are finally seeing the beginning of the end of the Travis AFB Environmental Restoration Program,” said Mr. Smith. “I look forward to working with the new team and seeing what it can accomplish.”



Travis AFB Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

April 18, 2013
7 p.m.

Northern Solano County Association of Realtors
3690 Hilborn Road
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://www.travis.af.mil/enviro>

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

Mark Smith
Restoration Program Manager
Travis AFB
(707) 424-3062
mark.smith.6@us.af.mil

Dawn Wright
Public Participation Specialist
Cal EPA/DTSC
(510) 540-3877
(866) 495-5651
Dawn.Wright@dtsc.ca.gov

Nadia Burke
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. EPA
(415) 972-3187
(800) 231-3075
Burke.NadiaHollam@epamail.epa.gov

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

