



Guardian

America's First Choice for Environmental Restoration

A Publication of the Environmental Restoration Program

Travis Air Force Base, California

April 2016

April 22 is Earth Day!

INSIDE

Viewpoint:

After almost 14 years of managing a successful environmental cleanup program and over 35 years of federal service, the Travis AFB Restoration Program Manager is putting away his clipboard and calling it a career. You can read his parting thoughts on his career and the direction of the cleanup program in his final Viewpoint..... **2**

Next RAB Meeting:

The next Restoration Advisory Board meeting will be held on April 21, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the Office of the Northern Solano County Assn. of Realtors..... **4**

Editor's Corner

End of an ERA!

This edition of the Guardian is devoted to Mr. Mark Smith, the former Travis AFB Environmental Restoration Program Manager (RPM). Thanks to his leadership and personal commitment, his team accomplished more work and cleaned up more soil and groundwater than in any previous contractual period. In April 2010, his successful program was showcased in front of every Air Force RPM during the key note address of the Air Force Restoration and Technology Transfer Workshop in San Antonio, Texas. This was only the second time that a base had received this honor.

Happy Trails, Partner!



(Photo by Glenn Anderson)

Adios Amigo!! Mark Smith (shown describing sediment cleanup work to community members during a base tour) had managed the Travis AFB Environmental Restoration Program for over thirteen years. From putting into place multi-million dollar contracts to overseeing extensive cleanup efforts, Mark has been involved with every detail. True to his nature, he retired on 1 April.

Goodbye, Mr. Smith

Restoration Program Manager
Retires to Wave of Accolades

By Merrie Schilter-Lowe

Travis Environmental Public Affairs

It's difficult to say goodbye to quality people who make a huge difference in our lives. For me and many others, Mark Smith is one of those people.

For the past eight years, I've come not only to respect Mark, but admire him, appreciate him, laugh at his jokes and even love him – not PC, I know.

Mark has taught me far more about environmental public affairs than I could have ever imagined. He explains

technical issues on my level. Yet, he's intelligent enough to speak the language of engineers, biologists, hydrologists, lawyers and even regulators, who have a special code that only Mark seemed to understand.

I'm not the only one who admired Mark though.

"Mark has been a true pleasure to work with. He has made the act of 'conducting business' fun and entertaining while keeping things professional to get the job done," said Tricia Carter, public affairs specialist with CH2M HILL, the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) contractor.

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Visit our Environmental Restoration Program web site at <http://www.travis.af.mil/enviro>



Travis Air Force Base, California

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Restoration Program Manager

Mark H. Smith/Lonnie Duke (acting)

60th AMW Public Affairs

Merrie Schilter-Lowe

RAB Members

Col. George Dietrich, *Air Force Co-Chair*

David Marianno, *Community Co-Chair*

Mayrene Bates, *Education Board Trustee*

Nadia Burke, *U.S. EPA*

Adriana Constantinescu, *RWQCB*

Jim Dunbar, *Fairfield Representative*

John Foster, *National Assn for Uniformed Services*

David Feinstein, *FF Principal Planner*

Ben Fries, *CA DTSC*

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Thomas Randall, *VV Museum Board*

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The *Guardian* is published by the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's Western Region Restoration Support Team, located at Travis Air Force Base. The newsletter is designed to inform and educate the public about the ongoing environmental cleanup program at Travis Air Force Base. 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:

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

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"What, Me Worry.....?"

By the time you read this, if all has gone according to plan, I will no longer be the Restoration Program Manager (RPM) for Travis Air Force Base (AFB) nor a member of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC). I'll be retired from Federal Civil Service, outside gardening, woodworking in the shop or giving a guitar lesson. I can do my own thing, because the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) will be in good hands. I'm in the best possible position to not have to worry.

My career started as a Design Engineer on Submarines, transitioned to coordinating the design and shop efforts on small submersibles and even spanned computer technology and the testing of high explosives. The computer technology work was separate from testing of high explosives, although there were plenty of times when I really wanted to combine the two.

Since my career took the turn to environmental work in 2003, the Travis ERP Team and I have built on the legacy of my predecessors and accomplished some rather amazing objectives. Reaching agreement with the Regulatory Agencies on all of our soil and groundwater cleanup actions was huge. We took risks by bringing in unproven cleanup technologies, demonstrating that they could be effective, and were able to implement many of these green and sustainable technologies into everyday actions. Travis AFB, along with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, has selected the soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater remedies that have



VIEWPOINT

Mark H. Smith **Outgoing**
Travis AFB Restoration
Program Manager

either been implemented by now, or are almost in place.

Cleanup is progressing which reduces the potential risk to people, animals and plants! I not only feel great about that, but I reflect on the fact that I've had the opportunity to work with subject matter experts, PhD's, Civic Leaders, Restoration Advisory Board Members, Community Representatives and Air Force Leadership at all levels. I even had the opportunity, in 2009, to represent Travis at Scott AFB and accept the General Thomas D. White Award for Environmental Excellence.

We awarded a contract in 2013 that continues through to the end of 2021. Knowledgeable and committed subject matter experts in the field and behind the scenes are making sure our documents are of the highest quality and that cleanup progresses per our agreements with the Regulatory Agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Everything is progressing as it should, work is planned years in advance, and our Performance Based Contract, which is over 90% funded, is about to reach many of the Proposed Performance Objectives!

The ERP staff at Travis is knowledgeable, capable and experienced. They are there to not only make sure cleanup goes according to plan, but are there for you, the public, should you have any questions or concerns.

The Travis Public Affairs Officer,
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Viewpoint


■ From page 2

Ms. Merrie Schilter-Lowe is there also. You can always reach her by calling (707) 424-0135. My work number, (707) 424-3062, will be forwarded to Mr. Lonnie Duke, who will be the acting RPM. These and other contacts, listed in the blue column on page 2 of this newsletter, are there if you want to reach out and ask questions, tell your concerns or if you want to help.

The US Army Corps, Omaha District, provides technical support, oversight and contract execution. AFCEC's Program Management Office assists with technical reviews, funding, policy and program management expertise.

The title of this viewpoint was written tongue-in-cheek to capture your attention. The ERP (thanks to many that helped) is well planned out, in good hands and will continue to perform at a high level after I leave. I know that Travis employees and residents, as well as Base neighbors, will be protected from past contamination as the ERP Staff continues to clean up soil and groundwater.

I'm happy with the opportunities I've had and the support I've received. I wish I had time to continue to contribute my experience toward the work remaining at Travis, but I have to let this program go. I no longer need to focus on Travis and will shift my efforts from career to myself, family and friends. Cleanup will continue in the environmental program that I care about so much, by the folks I care so much about. If everyone were more like the folks I worked with... pulled their own weight, cared about the world around them and did what was right, the better off we'd all be. Thank you and take care!



Goodbye

■ From page 1

Glenn Anderson and Lonnie Duke, the two environmental restoration project managers, knew Mark best, so I wanted to know their first impressions of Mark and if they turned out to be true.

Lonnie: "I first met him while visiting the base when I was stationed in Aviano (Italy). I remember how personable he seemed to be and, yes, it turned out to be very true."

Glenn: "Soon after we met, I underwent major surgery. A few days after I left the hospital and began my recovery, he showed up unannounced at my doorstep with a gift basket to wish me a quick recovery. That unexpected expression of compassion and encouragement was just the first of many examples of his humanity throughout his tenure as the Travis ERP manager."

Glenn and Lonnie also told me how working with Mark changed them personally and professionally.

Lonnie: "I try to be more inclusive of others' feelings, but it doesn't always work for me."

Glenn: "His encouragement to take on more responsibility within the program has made me a more productive team member. When I think about our accomplishments over the last dozen years, I feel pride and a strong sense of belonging as a member of his team."

Indulging in a moment of levity, Mark recently recalled how he came to lead the Travis ERP team. "They asked if I wanted to be the restoration program manager and I said, ah, OK," he said.

Though he easily pokes fun at himself, Mark is never casual about the ERP and people noticed.

"Not only is he the leader of a very hard-working and high-quality

support team, he is amazing to work with," said Mike Wray, CH2M HILL project manager. "We could not get our work done without Mark's support and leadership. He goes out of his way to make sure our work goes as smoothly as possible."

Jeannette Cumberland, administrative assistant with CH2M HILL, agrees.

"Mark is hands down the best client I have ever had the privilege of working with (of course, that goes for Lonnie and Glenn, too). It was a pleasure and a privilege working with Mark – highlight of my career."

Dezso Linbrunner, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers project manager and contract officer's representative from the Omaha, Nebraska District was equally impressed with Mark and his team.


"It's been a pleasure working with you since 2008," Dezso said at the March ERP meeting. "The team you put together has been great to work with. They have an incredible attitude to get the work done."

Mike Wray summed it up best when he proposed this toast to Mark at a farewell luncheon:

"Thanks Mark for an incredible 14 years working together at Travis AFB. You have raised the bar for managing performance-based remediation work and providing support the entire team needed to accomplish the lofty goals of such projects.

Your leadership has jelled the team of Air Force project managers, regulators, and contractors to set the standard for cooperation and combined effort to make this project a huge success."

Mark, this may be corny, but you will appreciate it: You have definitely left a "mark" of excellence on us all. We will definitely miss you.



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.

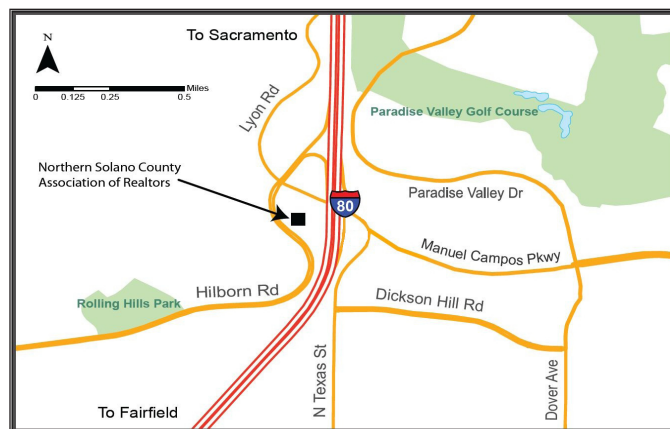
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. RAB General Meeting

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
- II. **Approval of Minutes**
- III. **Additional Agenda Items and Questions**
- IV. **Discussion Topics**
 - Innovative Technology Discussion
 - Community Involvement*Break*
- V. **Cleanup Program Status**
 - Performance Based Contract Progress
- VI. **Regulatory Agency Reports**
 - California Drought Update
- VII. **Focus Group Reports**
- VIII. **RAB/Public Questions**
- IX. **Set Time and Place for Next RAB Meeting**
Adjourn

Travis AFB Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

April 21, 2016
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.

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If you would like more information or need special accommodations for the RAB meeting, please contact Lonnie Duke, (707) 424-3062.

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

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