



Guardian

America's First Choice for Environmental Restoration

A Publication of the Environmental Restoration Program

Travis Air Force Base, California

October 2008

INSIDE

Viewpoint:

Dr. Javier Santillan is one of the Air Force's subject matter experts when it comes to Remedial Process Optimization. Last spring, he published some of his thoughts on the topic, and we thought you might want to read what is being said about it along San Antonio's River Walk..... **2**

Photographs from the Field:

Last quarter, we described our assessment of indoor air quality. Here are a few more photographs of this important environmental study..... **3**

Next RAB Meeting:

The next Restoration Advisory Board meeting will be held on October 23, 2008 at 7 p.m. at the Office of the Northern Solano County Assn. of Realtors..... **4**

Acronyms

AFCEE: *The Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment provides Air Force leaders with the expertise and professional services needed to protect, preserve, restore, develop and sustain the nation's environmental and installation resources.*

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 built on a closed landfill.*



(Photo by Cheryl Ulrich [Noblis])

Seeing the Sites: Travis AFB environmental project managers take a team of visiting experts around the base to look for ways to improve groundwater cleanup actions. The team consisted of reps from the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment and several environmental contractors .

Picking the A Team

Final Soil and Groundwater Contractors are Selected

By Glenn Anderson

Travis Environmental Project Manager

Generally, our lives are filled with choices. Whether it involves the family doctor or dentist or building contractor, we try our best to pick the person or organization that best meets our needs at the price we are willing to pay for their services. If we put enough time and effort into the selection process, we hope that the relationship will benefit both parties.

At Travis AFB, this reasoning can apply to the selection of environmental contractors that carry out cleanup work, except the selection process is normally managed by the organization that provides the contracting services,

such as the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE). When this happens, the base relies on AFCEE experience with the pool of available contractors to make the right choice.

In all fairness, almost all of the environmental contracting firms that do business with the Air Force have large pools of talented environmental professionals that have successfully managed cleanup projects of all sizes or levels of complexity. However, similar to a marriage, there are times when philosophical or personality differences can create undue stress for either one or both parties.

At the same time, the Air Force is looking for the most cost-effective ways to carry out cleanup work. For example, the January edi-

See **TEAM** page 3

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



Guardian

Travis Air Force Base, California

Staff

Chief, Asset Management Flight

Dave Musselwhite

Restoration Program Manager

Mark H. Smith

60th AMW Public Affairs

Shaun Emery

RAB Members

Lt Col. D. Wade Lawrence, *Air Force Co-Chair*

David Marianno, *Community Co-Chair*

James Chang, *U.S. EPA*

Jim Dunbar, *City of Fairfield representative*

John Foster, *National Association for Uniformed Services*

Alan Friedman, *Regional Water Quality Control Board*

Kate Wren Gavlak, *Travis Unified School District*

Michael Reagan, *County Supervisor 5th District*

Jose Salcedo, *Cal. Department of Toxic Substances Control*

Philip Velez, *Vacaville Ch. of Commerce*

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.af.mil/enviro>. Questions and comments about the program may be sent to this address:

Shaun Emery
60th AMW Public Affairs
400 Brennan Circle
Travis AFB, CA 94535
(707) 424-2011
shaun.emery-02@travis.af.mil

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

enviropa@travis.af.mil

RPO: An Air Force Perspective

The Air Force's goal to have cleanup remedies in place, or RIP, at all bases by 2012 has been and remains a key guidepost for driving base cleanup actions. As Maj. Gen. Del Eulberg, the Air Force Civil Engineer, announced in 2006, "We are committed to having remedies in place at all cleanup sites by fiscal year 2012."

As 2012 nears and the major command remediation programs shift this year to the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment (AFCEE), cleanup experts are beginning to look for post-2012 guideposts and resources, with priorities shifting from site cleanup to site closure and optimizing the Air Force's long-term management costs.

One such resource is information gleaned during Remedial Process Optimization reviews conducted at bases around the country over the last decade. These intensive, week-long evaluations bring together a team of experts with diverse specializations to review the performance of remediation systems in place, as well as examine the basis for the choice of remediation strategies.

Team members walk the sites, interview responsible personnel and review defining documents and performance data on cleanup strategies and goals. RPO evaluations present also an opportunity to incorporate new technologies, regulations or acquisition strategies that may have emerged since the implementation of the original remediation plans. Additionally, valuable information and analysis is often brought forward in the RPO process, such as questions about whether some remedial actions are still warranted and where others may need to be buttressed.

On the last day of the RPO the team presents a briefing summarizing their findings to base environmental officials and often to state and local regulators. The team's recommendations often reinforce the base's use of best practices and point to other practices that could optimize cleanup efforts.

The RPO team is a mix of chemical and environmental engineers, chemists, toxicologists, hydrogeologists and other scientists. It includes also participants



VIEWPOINT

Dr. Javier Santillan
AFCEE Restoration
Project Manager

who specialize in policy and regulatory affairs since cleanup efforts are driven by federal, state and local statutes.

Cleanup activities may be closely monitored by community and public stakeholders, which can make public debate around environmental safety and cleanup issues at bases highly visible and contentious.

RPO teams make themselves available for interaction with the community, and RPO reviews can increase public confidence when it is learned that independent teams are evaluating cleanup activities.

According to the EPA Region 10's Maryjane Nearman, "The Eielson Air Force Base (Alaska) environmental program would not be where it is today without the invaluable assistance of the AFCEE team over these many years. The meetings with the RPO team reviewing Eielson were, in my opinion, extremely valuable and fruitful."

In addition to site closure and long-term monitoring optimization, the Air Force and the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council are focusing on remediation risk management, or RRM, to establish a balance between the multiple risks associated with performing remediation versus the intended outcomes. ITRC has recently initiated a new RRM team to examine alternatives when cleanups fall short or have unintended consequences. These alternatives can be important to consider as base cleanup officials move toward preparing for site closure.

Since many bases have multiple contaminated sites, RPO teams have included in their recommendations to base officials at least one sample exit strategy that can serve as a template for such strategies at other sites.

As AFCEE assumes management of environmental restoration, the transfer will go much smoother and the Center will be

See **VIEWPOINT** page 3

Team

■ From page 1

tion of the Guardian described the concept of the Performance-Based Contract. This contract requires the achievement of certain milestones that meet established standards, such as the publishing of a report that has Air Force and regulatory approval or the successful cleanup of a fuel spill. However, the Air Force does not tell the contractor how to meet the milestones. The contractor reviews the milestones and then submits a written technical and cost proposal that will best meet them. This encourages the contractor to come up with the most logical and cost effective way to get the job done. Most future Air Force environmental contracts will be performance-based.

A side benefit of Performance-Based Contracting is that the base gets to evaluate the way that each contractor would meet its milestones and then picks the contractor with the best technical approach at a reasonable price. In August of this year, the Travis AFB environmental restoration

team participated in a review of technical proposals at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office in Omaha, Nebraska.

Known as a Source Selection Evaluation Board, the Travis AFB and Corps representatives evaluated written proposals from both small and large businesses. Because most of the remaining cleanup work involves groundwater, large businesses with significant resources and expertise were invited to bid on the groundwater work at 23 sites. Small businesses were invited to bid on the remaining soil and sediment work at 3 sites.

"It took six work days to review and rate the proposals," said Mr. Mark Smith, Travis AFB Remedial Program Manager. "We read a lot of great cleanup ideas that offered a lot of value to the base, and it took a while to identify the two contractors that offered the best value. But, in the end, Travis AFB will benefit from this work."

Now that the two contractors have been selected, they will use their technical proposals to lay out an overall plan to the base and the regulatory agencies

that describes how the milestones will be achieved. For the groundwater contractor, the plan will contain a schedule for the development of a legally-binding decision document that will select cleanup remedies for each site. It will also state when the remedies will be carried out.

The soil and sediment plan will contain a schedule for the cleanup of two sediment sites, the investigation and cleanup of a soil site, and the maintenance of and reporting on the condition of the base Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU). A CAMU 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 contains most of the contaminated soil from other on-base soil sites and is treated like a closed landfill.

"After all of these years of investigation and cleanup, the selection of the final two contractors to finish the job represents the light at the end of the tunnel, the beginning of the end of the Travis AFB restoration program," stated Mr. Smith. "I look forward to working with our A Team."

Photographs from the Field



(Photo by Lonnie Duke)

A remote-controlled Geoprobe rig moves into position to install soil vapor sampling probes above a plume of solvent-contaminated groundwater.



(Photo by Lonnie Duke)

Soil gas sampling ports are used to collect gas samples above solvent plumes to determine if there is a potential for contaminated vapor to enter buildings.



(Photo by Lonnie Duke)

Environmental field members collect vapor samples from a network of soil gas ports around buildings as part of a vapor intrusion assessment.



(Photo by Glenn Anderson)

The EPA also participated in the Travis AFB Vapor Intrusion Assessment. These Summa canisters are collecting air samples from within an office building.

Viewpoint

■ From page 2

able to establish better objectives when it issues contracts for the cleanup work if the commands and bases provide information about the locations and concentrations of contaminants, the most recent interpretations of regulatory mandates and well-articulated exit strategies.

These and other resources are part of the toolbox which will enable base officials to continue to drive toward protective, efficient and timely cleanups with regulatory decision-makers and ensure that the Air Force goal of reaching RIP by 2012 is achieved.

To ask for copies of RPO briefing documents for individual Air Force bases, contact the RPO Outreach Office (210) 536-5294, afcee.td.awag@brooks.af.mil.

Dr. Santillan is a project manager with the Environmental Restoration Branch of AFCEE's Technical Division. An unedited version of this viewpoint first appeared in the Spring 2008 edition of CenterViews, the quarterly AFCEE newspaper.

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**
 - Sustainable Remediation
 - Second Five-Year Review
- V. **Cleanup Program Status**
 - Performance-Based Contractor Selection
- 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

October 23, 2008
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.afm.af.mil/enviro>

David Cooper
Community Involvement,
Program Coordinator, U.S. EPA
(415) 972-3245
(800) 231-3075
cooper.david@epa.gov

Marcus Simpson
Public Participation Specialist
Cal EPA/DTSC
(916) 255-6683
msimpson@dtsc.ca.gov

Mark Smith
Restoration Program Manager
Travis AFB
(707) 424-3062
mark.smith2@travis.af.mil

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

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

