



Report to STAKEHOLDERS

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TEAM EFFORT

Desert tortoise fence comes down at the Edwards Air Force Base bombing range

page 4

Base ranks fifth for highest weight of reused, donated or recycled computers and other electronics

page 6

Report to STAKEHOLDERS

Report to Stakeholders is a publication of Edwards Air Force Base, 95th Air Base Wing, Environmental Management. Its purpose is to inform and educate the public, base workers and residents about continuing environmental and safety efforts on base. It currently has a circulation of 6,000, including about 2,000 subscribers.

Contents of the *Report to Stakeholders* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

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in this issue

Safety Day	2
All-terrain vehicle safety	3
Volunteer efforts to remove desert tortoise fence will continue in the fall	4
Base weighs in big with effort to reuse, recycle electronics	6
Information	8



SAFETY DAY — The Green Knights Motorcycle Club at Edwards Air Force Base set up a display in front of the National Save a Life Tour trailer. Safety Day was a two-day event to promote safety in the desert, safe driving and natural resources awareness on base. Demonstrations on military working dogs and Krav Maga — a type of self-defense — were conducted by Security Forces.



What's on the cover?

TEAM EFFORT — Volunteers, Chief Master Sgt. Luis Drummond, left, and 1st Lt. Carsten Stahr work together to remove desert tortoise fence at the Precision Impact Range Area. See article on page 4.



RIDING SAFE — Natural Resources biologist Becky Moores rides an all-terrain vehicle. Moores was trained on how to ride an ATV last spring through the Security Forces squadron at Edwards Air Force Base.

Flying rocks and road rash can be painful. Losing off-road vehicle driving privileges on base may cause pain as well.

According to the Edwards Air Force Base Off-Road Vehicle Operation Instruction, all-terrain vehicle (ATV) owners who ride on base are required to follow safety instructions, such as wearing proper riding gear and obtaining a license from the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA).

Wearing protective gear can help prevent scrapes, bruises and maybe even save your life. While protective gear may not always be comfortable, it's more comfortable than wearing a cast.

"All-terrain vehicle riders need to know and practice safe riding habits," said Master Sgt. Jon Camplin, an ATV instructor at Edwards. "Always make sure you wear the proper protective gear while operating an ATV."

Required protective gear for base riders includes a Department of Transportation approved helmet, full-fingered gloves,

boots that cover the ankle, long-sleeved shirt and long pants. According to the SVIA, not only will protective gear ensure safety, but knowing the area also can help.

"Know the terrain or ride with someone who knows it," Camplin said. "If it is your first time on the trail, ride at a slow enough speed to get to know the area. Never ride outside your capabilities or limitations.

"In our particular environment, washouts and jagged rocks are the biggest riding hazards. Washouts are a huge issue because people have a false sense that there are none in the desert environment. Also rocks are a huge problem because they can literally pop up anywhere."

The SVIA describes an ATV as a motorized vehicle with oversized, low-pressure tires, designed for uneven surfaces and off-highway work and recreation. Most ATV models have three or four wheels, can weigh up to 600 pounds and reach speeds up to 75 mph. Four-wheeled ATVs are also called "quads," or "four-wheelers." For more information about practicing

safe ATV habits contact Environmental Management at (661) 277-1401 or visit www.atvsafety.org.

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Tips on ATV safety from the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America:

- Travel responsibly on designated roads and trails or in permitted areas. ATVs are meant for single person use. Riding with another person on the back can cause uneven weight, distribution resulting in serious injury or death.
- Respect the rights of others including private property owners and all recreational trail users, campers and others to allow them to enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.
- Educate yourself by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies, planning for your trip, taking recreation skills classes, and knowing how to use and operate your equipment safely.
- Avoid sensitive areas such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands and streams, unless on designated routes. This protects wildlife habitat and sensitive soils from damage.
- Do your part by leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species, restoring degraded areas and joining a local enthusiast organization.

Volunteer efforts to remove desert tortoise fence will continue in the fall

Environmental Management (EM) volunteers spent two weeks in May and June to assist in taking down plastic desert tortoise fencing at the Precision Impact Range Area (PIRA) at Edwards Air Force Base. The cost savings to EM so far using the volunteer program is \$45,000.

The plastic fencing is being removed because it has deteriorated much more rapidly than anticipated in the harsh desert climate. There are miles of metal desert tortoise fencing on the PIRA that will remain in place.

“The lifespan of the tortoise fencing wasn’t up to par against high winds and other extreme desert conditions,” said Mark Bratton, who is an EM biologist. “It is down in many sections and would require a large amount of repair about every five years or less to remain effective. The cost for fence maintenance is too high — which is one reason why it is being removed.”

This particular type of fencing was placed to keep desert tortoises off of unpaved roads, and active bombing targets. However, there are sections on the PIRA where the fencing is staying up. “The stuff coming down is the plastic fencing that isn’t standing up to the weather and is too costly to maintain,” Bratton said. “The metal fencing is staying up because it doesn’t need to be repaired regularly.”

In the first week of removing desert tortoise fencing, volunteers used shovels, tin snips, and even a bow saw to take down the fence. The effort resulted in 1.5 miles of fence coming down. With 18.5 miles of fence left, and a week to work on it, new ideas were stirring up.

With the help of the 95th Air Base Wing Civil Engineer and Transportation Directorate, a John Deere® tractor with a grader attached to it sped up the process in the second week.

The tractor knocked down more desert tortoise fencing at the PIRA than any shoveling could do. “Using the grader was a great and innovative idea,” said Chief Master Sgt. Luis Drummond, who is the 412th Operations Group superintendent and a volunteer for EM. “After the first full day of working to remove the fence by hand, it was clear that a mechanical means of removing it was needed.”

“Initially I thought a Bobcat® would be perfect for removing the fence, but Mike Anderson from Civil Engineering recommended the use of a full-size grader — which definitely has the horsepower to do the job,” Drummond said.

A meeting with EM Director Robert Wood, Mike Anderson from the 95th Air Base Wing Civil Engineer and Transportation Directorate, EM biologists, Volunteer Program Coordinator Cheryl Smith and Drummond occurred prior to the second week of work, to coordinate and approve the plan.

DIG, DIG, DIG — Chief Master Sgt. Luis Drummond, front, prepares to dig out a wooden post. The section of the desert tortoise fence pictured was on the first day of the removal project.



Biologists were on hand every day during the two weeks volunteers were at the PIRA. “We’re out there to make sure a desert tortoise isn’t harmed or injured when the fence is being taken down,” Bratton said. “If a tortoise needs to be moved out of the way during this project, a United States Fish and Wildlife Service authorized biologist will already be out there to move it.”

“Removing 20 miles of fencing using volunteer effort alone in challenging weather conditions and terrain is a daunting task,” Drummond added. “With seven to eight volunteers a day, at most, we could remove three-quarters to a mile of fencing... at that rate, it would take volunteers nearly a month to remove all of the fencing.”

In the second week of tortoise fence removal, volunteers were able to complete the last portion of East PB-8 Road. The overall teardown, as of the second week of June, was 6 miles.

“This was due to the heat, working half days and not as much participation,” said Master Sgt. Wayne Taylor, who is the 412th Operations Support Squadron Aircrew Flight Equipment superintendent and a volunteer for EM. “I think if we had more volunteers in the first week, we could’ve knocked out a lot more.”



ROLLING FENCE — Master Sgt. Wayne Taylor rolls up part of the desert tortoise fence at the bombing range before throwing it on to the stake-bed truck.

“Because of the rising summer temperatures, we were only working half days and progress was down to half a mile a day,” Drummond added.

The number of volunteers for each day ranged anywhere from two to eight.

The fence removal crew used a few trucks and some bins in the process. Volunteers picked up the fencing that was torn down, dug up the posts — if they hadn’t been stripped from the ground by the grader — and loaded them in the back of a stake-bed truck to take the material to bins located at the Downfall area, where the items would be picked up by base landfill workers.

“The plastic fencing is a number two plastic,” said Gary Schafer, a solid waste and recycling specialist for EM. “It cannot be reused because it is getting destroyed with removal. It is placed in a bin and taken to the base recycling center at the landfill, where the plastic is bailed and prepared for sale to a plastics buyer.”

“The wood stakes were pulled out of the ground and placed in a separate bin and taken to the landfill compost area,” Schafer added. “The stakes will be made available for a period of time to those who live and work on base, and then they will be ground up and used as alternate daily

cover on the landfill.”

Plans to remove the rest of the desert tortoise fencing will resume in the fall when the weather is cooler and volunteers can put in longer days.

“The project went well overall,” Smith said. “It was certainly a learning experience as we did not know the best means for removing the fence when we started, but we learned!”

“Those at Civil Engineering were great in helping us with the grader they provided,” she said. “We will certainly be using this piece of equipment in the fall. The key will be to have more volunteers so we can get this project done!”

Preparations and briefings allowed the volunteers to work at the bomb range.

“We will still recruit more volunteers for the project when it resumes in the fall. Therefore, more PIRA training will be provided for those individuals who are interested.”

“I look forward to continuing to help out with the fence removal efforts in the fall and possibly some other EM volunteer projects,” Drummond said. “Hopefully more people will learn about the [desert tortoise fence removal] project and join in the task.”

For more information on how to get involved with this project or the EM Volunteer Program, you may contact EM at (661) 277-1401.

RTS



COST SAVINGS — Volunteers hold up a cost-savings check at an appreciation barbecue. Standing from left are Information Services Supervisor Cheryl Herbert, Staff Sgt. Justin Woldridge, Airman William Dunn, Master Sgt. Wayne Taylor, 1st Lt. Carsten Stahr, Chief Master Sgt. Luis Drummond, Tech Sgt. Anthony Accurso, Senior Airman Arden Roldan and Environmental Management Director Robert Wood. The amount of \$45,000 is what has been saved so far.

Base ranks fifth in ongoing campaign to rack up the **WEIGHT**

In the third quarter of the ongoing federal Electronics Reuse and Recycling Campaign (ERRC), Edwards ranked fifth out of 53 competitors for the highest weight of reused, donated or recycled electronics.

The base added literally tons of muscle to its recycle and reuse program, totaling 157,748 pounds of computers and other electronics so far this year.

Several programs — including Computers for Learning, Federal Prison Industries and the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office — assist federal agencies in the effort to find new homes for their used electronics.

While this year's effort has been successful, Environmental Management (EM) workers hope to generate more excitement and participation in the coming year.

"We plan to increase awareness and provide education to the base populace to excite more reuse, donation or recycling," said Brian Stone, a pollution prevention specialist at EM.

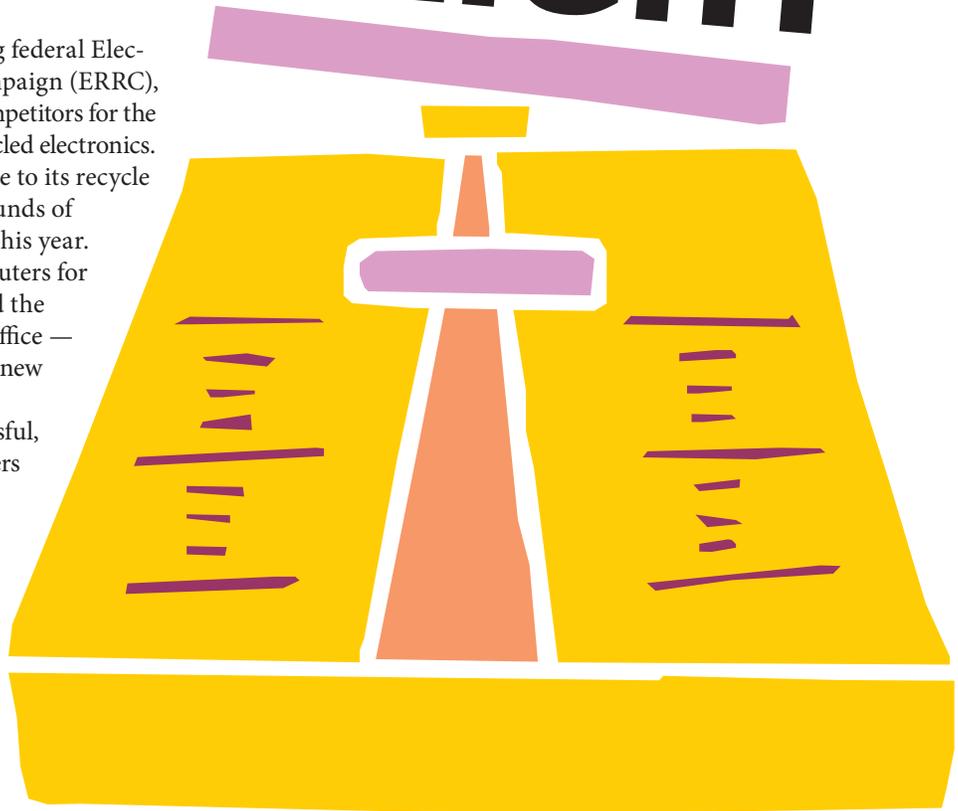
"Edwards has established a policy and guidance requiring environmentally sound electronic equipment tracking and disposition at the end of the product's lifecycle.

"Residents can take pride in the fact that they are being good stewards of the environment by turning in their computers and other electronics for reuse and recycling," Stone said. "Taking ownership for what each of us can do will help eliminate materials that can be hazardous to our health from reaching the landfill.

"The bulk of what has been weighed in for the ERRC is from base organizations, but we've had approximately 9,560 pounds of used computers and other electronics reused, donated or recycled from residents."

In addition to turning in used computers and other electronics, Stone encourages residents to spread the word about the turn-in center at Building 4904 and the household hazardous waste roundups that happen during the third week of April and September each year.

According to the Federal Electronics Challenge Web site, the ERRC is a challenge for federal facilities to reuse, donate or



recycle used computers and other electronics and was created to recognize agency efforts toward becoming good stewards at the end-of-life for surplus electronics. The number of total pounds recorded this year from participating federal agencies has surpassed 1 million pounds, according to Cate Berard at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics.

At the end of this campaign, federal facilities with the highest weight of reused, donated or recycled electronics will be nationally recognized at a White House ceremony. The campaign period started Nov. 15, 2007, and will end on the same day this year.

How can base workers or residents get involved?

For base workers, this is easy. The Communications Group and Assets Management usually take care of the process to make sure that used electronic equipment is reused or refurbished, transferred to another federal agency, recycled or disposed of. To ensure that organizations on base are participating Michael Smith can be contacted at (661) 275-6400.

Residents can drop off used computers or other electronic devices to Building 4904, also known as the Consolidated Recycling and Universal Waste facility, throughout the year. In addition, Environmental Management hosts two roundup events each year where residents are welcome to bring unwanted electronics to be reused, donated or recycled.

For more information, you may call Environmental Management at (661) 277-1401.

Interesting Facts

- The federal government is one of the world's largest purchasers of information technology products and services, according to Ed Pinero, of the Federal Environmental Executive Office.
- In 2005, the U.S. undersecretary of defense for environmental, safety and occupational health said that the Department of Defense discards an estimated 10,000 computers weekly.

EXCESS — Computers are excessed and stored in a warehouse at Edwards Air Force Base. Information technology specialists test the computers, below, to find out if they can be reused at other offices on base. If the computers are not reusable per Air Force requirements (not enough memory, etc.) they get packed and donated, right.



Edwards earns a bronze award

During its first year participating in the Federal Electronics Challenge, Edwards Air Force Base (AFB) earned a bronze award for its end-of-life management for used electronics. It was the only Department of Defense facility to earn an award this year.

The award, given by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, recognizes achievement and success in reducing environmental impacts of electronics during their lifecycle.

“Edwards demonstrated its commitment as a responsible steward to the environment through donating, reusing and recycling its electronics,” said Brian Stone, a pollution prevention specialist at Environmental Management on base. “We’re providing a quality example to the Antelope Valley on how to manage materials wisely at the end of their life.

When the base applied for this award

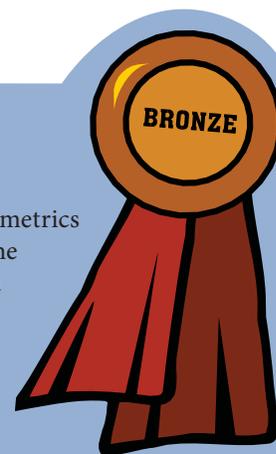
it involved precise recording of the journey a piece of electronic equipment travels after it has served its purpose at a given location. Upon maintaining proper documentation and recording of where used electronics go, Environmental Management employees made sure that the requirements for earning a bronze award were met.

Each year, the Federal Electronics Challenge honors federal facilities that record one to three of the phases in the lifecycle of electronics — acquisition and procurement, operation and maintenance, and end-of-life management. Facilities that manage one phase in the lifecycle can apply for a bronze level award, while facilities that manage two phases of the lifecycle can apply for a silver level award and facilities that manage the three phases of the lifecycle can apply for a gold level award.

“Earning the bronze award is great, given this is our first year participating,” Stone said. “Next year, our goal is to achieve the silver award through

improving our metrics for recording the acquisition and procurement phase of the lifecycle. I think we’re close and just have to tweak a few things with contracting to ensure that we are purchasing the more environmentally sound electronics,” Stone said.

According to the Federal Electronics Challenge Web site, the federal government purchases approximately \$66 billion worth of information technology equipment and services each year. The challenge is in showing leadership in environmentally sound and cost effective management of electronics through the lifecycle.



Where to Find More INFORMATION



Published data and documents relating to Environmental Management are available for public review in information repositories at three locations. The current information repositories are located in the cities of Lancaster and Rosamond, as well as Edwards Air Force Base. They are updated when new documents are released.

For questions about information in the repositories, you may contact Gary Hatch, Environmental Public Affairs at (661) 277-1454 or by e-mail at 95abw.pae@edwards.af.mil. Here is a list of our current information repositories:

Edwards Air Force Base Library

5 W. Yeager Blvd.
Building 2665
Edwards AFB, Calif.
(661) 275-2665
Hours of operation: Mon-Thu 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Fri 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sat-Sun 10:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Kern County Public Library

Wanda Kirk Branch
3611 Rosamond Blvd.
Rosamond, Calif.
(661) 256-3236
Hours of operation: Tue-Wed 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Thu-Sat 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Los Angeles County Public Library

601 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 948-5029
Hours of operation: Mon-Wed 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Thu-Fri 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sat 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Information

The RAB is made up of elected representatives from communities in and around Edwards Air Force Base, regulators from federal and state agencies and base officials. The board's purpose is to provide a forum for two-way communication among base restoration officials, regulators and representatives regarding the cleanup of contamination from past military activities.

The board meets quarterly, rotating meeting locations in communities surrounding the base. The public is welcome to attend. If you have any questions or concerns about the cleanup activities going on at Edwards, you

may contact your community's RAB member or Gary Hatch, Environmental Public Affairs, at (661) 277-1454.

Next Quarterly Meeting

Date: Aug. 21, 2008
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Community Center
10400 Heather Avenue
California City, Calif.

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