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# Report to **STAKEHOLDERS**

Volume 15 No. 11

**DAY KIT**

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*Report to Stakeholders* is a publication of Edwards Air Force Base, 95th Air Base Wing, Civil Engineer Division, 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.

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Any comments or questions about the contents of the *Report to Stakeholders* may be directed to: Gary Hatch, 95 ABW/PAO, 305 E. Popson Ave., Edwards AFB, CA 93524-8060, (661) 277-4127.

E-mail: [95abw.pae@edwards.af.mil](mailto:95abw.pae@edwards.af.mil)



**Commander of the 95th Air Base Wing**  
Col. Gregory E. Schwab

**Base Civil Engineer**  
James E. Judkins

**Chief of Environmental Management**  
Robert Wood

**Section Chief of Environmental Restoration**  
Ai Duong

**Section Chief of Environmental Conservation**  
Thomas Rademacher

**Section Chief of Environmental Quality**  
Herb Roraback

## STAKEHOLDERS STAFF

### EDITOR

Vanessa Green

### CONTRIBUTORS

Heidi Gesirich

Carla Fucich

Patti Kumazawa

Leilani Richardson

Paul Rogers

## WHAT'S ON THE COVER?

*This day kit is one way Hazardous Distribution Support Center 3 is simplifying hazardous material checkout on the flightline. See article on page 4.*



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## Volunteer Opportunities at Environmental Management

Interested in learning new skills? Do you need community service hours? Are you environmentally conscientious? The Environmental Management Volunteer Program is looking for volunteers with base access. If you are interested, you may contact the Environmental Management Customer Service Desk at: [95abw.cev.customer.service.helpdesk@edwards.af.mil](mailto:95abw.cev.customer.service.helpdesk@edwards.af.mil) for more information. Or you may obtain an application at <https://bsx.edwards.af.mil>, after clicking on "Edwards Air Force Base — Environmental Management," and then "Volunteering Opportunities at EM."



## Would YOU Like to be MY Human Parent?

The Edwards Air Force Base Desert Tortoise Adoption Program is looking for base residents who would like to become parents of a captive desert tortoise. Temporary and permanent homes with safe and secure backyards are needed to join the program's waiting list. Desert tortoises are harmless and spend the winter months hibernating in underground burrows. Biologists will conduct a home assessment and provide care instructions. To add your name to the waiting list, or for more information, contact Environmental Management at (661) 277-1401.



# New cleanup program manager uses knowledge from past experiences at Edwards

**W**ith 22 years of experience in the environmental business, both on and off base, Joseph Dunwoody has become one of the newest additions to the Environmental Restoration Program at Edwards Air Force Base. He is now using his experience and expertise as a program manager, tackling 15 petroleum-contaminated sites.

The Environmental Restoration Program team manages the remediation, or cleanup, of sites that were contaminated during past military activities and may now present a risk to human health or the environment. At Edwards, the cleanup sites are divided into operable units (OUs), and a program manager is assigned to monitor the progress of remediation for the sites within their operable unit.

Before Dunwoody's new role with the restoration program, the physical scientist worked with the OU1 and OU7 program managers on miscellaneous site cleanup activities, and in the Environmental Compliance Program.

"Previously, the petroleum sites were handled by each individual OU program manager and whichever sites fell into their territory," Dunwoody said. "Now, they all fall into one group and are being managed by one program manager."

"Having the petroleum sites managed under one person can allow for better management and efficiency," Dunwoody said.

There are 461 cleanup sites at Edwards, most of which are managed by following the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980* process. However, the petroleum-contaminated sites are managed following a different set of regulations, including the *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976*.

"When I was a contractor for the Department of Energy, I was responsible for environmental issues at the Elk Hills and Buena Vista Hills Naval Petroleum Reserves, which included abandoned drill sites within the residential limits of Ford City, California.," Dunwoody said.

"During that time, I successfully completed emergency cleanup of lead-impacted soil in a residential area of Ford City that involved the temporary relocation of residents and removal of contaminated soil from the areas around their homes," Dunwoody said. "While many of the petroleum sites at Edwards are extensive and complex, they all are in an industrial setting; that is much different from dealing with residential cleanups and disrupting people's lives."

That's an example of the experience Dunwoody brings to his management of the petroleum sites. In addition, he is a California Professional Geologist, a Certified Hydrogeologist and a Registered Environmental Assessor II.



**REPORT** – Environmental Restoration program manager, Joseph Dunwoody, discusses the cleanup status of Edwards petroleum-contaminated sites at the Aug. 19 Restoration Advisory Board meeting in Rosamond, Calif.

When he was asked what he thought was most important in environmental cleanup, Dunwoody said, "Safeguarding human health and the environment, performing the remedial actions in a timely and effective manner, and getting site closure, if possible."

The Bakersfield native received a bachelor's degree in geology from San Diego State University and served in the Army from 1973 through 1976.



**PHARMACY 3** — Employees set up a day kit at Hazardous Distribution Support Center 3, also known as a hazardous materials pharmacy. The pharmacies exist on base to maintain compliance with federal, state and local regulations regarding the control of hazardous materials. Organizations use the pharmacies like libraries, to check out and return materials for a shift, day or other period of time.

## Flightline pharmacy simplifies hazardous materials processes for Marine Corps squadron at Edwards

*Providing environmental support for most organizations on base is just one of many tasks in which environmental resource specialists excel. Recently, the specialists worked with the Marine Corps squadron to improve the way their hazardous materials pharmacy assists customers — a stride that visiting Navy inspectors applauded during a compliance assessment.*

**M**aintaining a 30-year-old aircraft is no easy feat. Marine Corps mechanics must rely on knowledge, skill and quality products to keep aging helicopters in optimal running condition.

For the maintainers at Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764 stationed at Edwards Air Force Base, this means relying on the Hazardous Distribution Support Center (HDSC) 3 pharmacy for any chemical-related maintenance material — such as oil, sealant or lubricant.

“The pharmacy takes care of everything for us related to hazardous materials,” said Sgt. Matthew Fish, hazardous mate-

rial (HM) control and management supervisor for the squadron. “They make it very easy for us. The pharmacy procures the items we need, stores them and ensures the shelf life is current.”

Not having to worry about an item’s shelf life means Sgt. Fish, an airframes mechanic for the CH-46 Sea Knight, can spend more time tending to the aircraft.

“Every item has a shelf life or expiration date,” said HM pharmacy supervisor, Michael Hunter. “Regulations state that we cannot use an expired hazardous material on an aircraft. This is why we closely monitor the shelf life of every item. Other agencies may be able to use the material, but it cannot be used on an aircraft.”

Monitoring the quality of hazardous materials being checked out is one of the many services provided by the HM pharmacy. The pharmacy also makes checkout simpler and faster by grouping items together into an HM kit, which is assembled for customers who require the same items on a routine basis. The customer can request changes to their kits if different items are needed.

“When a customer checks out a kit, we only have to scan one of the items in the kit,” Hunter said. “The items are grouped together, so if you scan any of the items, it checks out all of the

other items in the kit at the same time. This really saves time in the morning when we have approximately 10 to 15 customers that arrive around the same time.”

Every hazardous item in the pharmacy is labeled with a bar code, manufacturer’s name, Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and the shelf-life expiration date. The MSDS advises workers on the safe use and potential hazards of an item. The bar codes help the pharmacy track each item and enable items to be grouped together into HM kits.

The kits can be made up of any selection of two or more hazardous items requested by a customer. The Marines check out their 30-item kit daily because they do not have an approved regulation storage locker.

“We can check out anything from the pharmacy as long as we have a license for it,” Fish said. “Right now, the pharmacy provides us with kits that contain oil, lubricants and sealants we would normally need for flight maintenance.”

Customers with proper storage lockers and kit storage approval may check out HM kits on a weekly or monthly basis, depending on their needs. When items or kits are returned, the pharmacy checks them to see if any containers need to be refilled, replaced or changed out due to expiration dates.

“This helps us ensure the best product

is available for our customers,” Hunter said, “and that no one runs out of a product while they are on the flightline fixing a plane. It also helps us control and track our inventory. We have more than 3,000 line items to track.”

The HDSC 3 pharmacy takes care of 67 percent of the HM business on base. Being responsible for a large portion of hazardous items means Hunter and his team must run a tight ship. Every item is weighed to the nearest kilogram so that at any one time, pharmacy personnel can tell you exactly how much of any HM is available. They can also tell you who checked out an item, how much was checked out and when the item is due back.

“If we don’t receive an item back, it becomes a concern,” Hunter said. “We have to treat it like a lost-tool item because it can become a safety hazard on the flightline.”

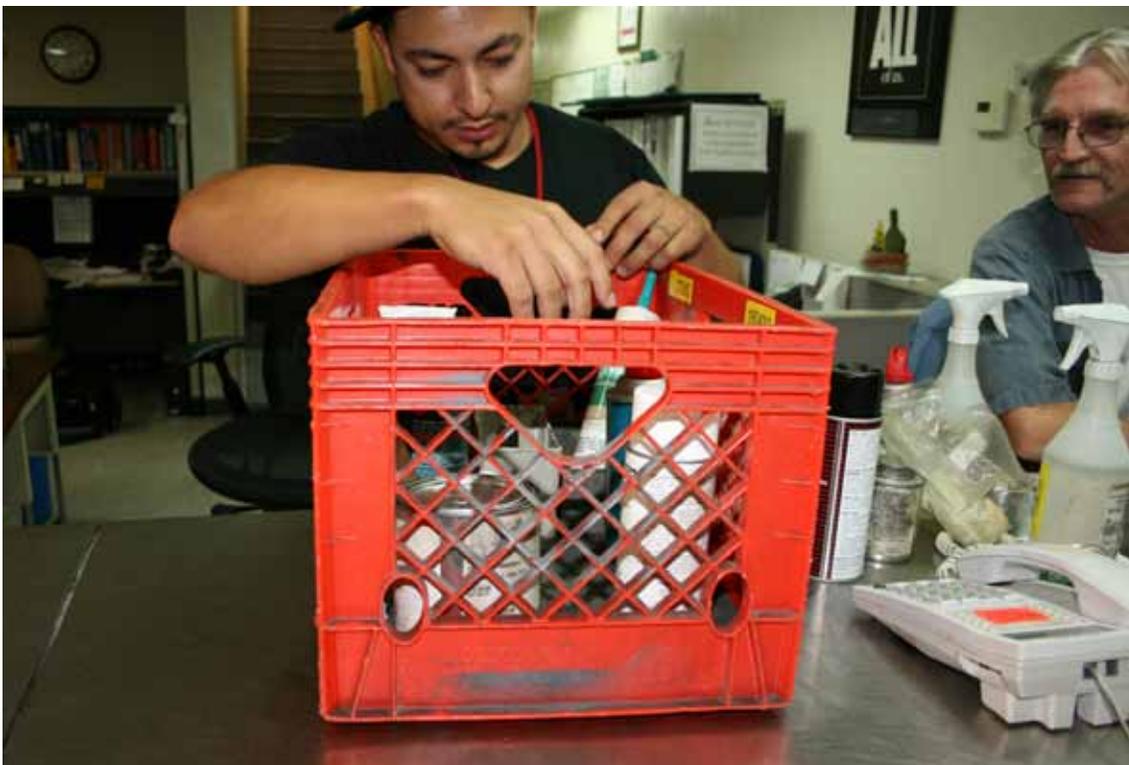


**DAY KIT** — This day kit contains hazardous materials that have been grouped together as a single check-out item. This technique streamlines the process for groups that want to check out the same set of items each day.

The HM pharmacy’s level of service has caught the attention of others. Michael Hanna, an environmental resource specialist with Environmental Management, recalled a summer visit from Navy personnel who inspected the Marine Corps squadron at Edwards.

“The inspection team saw how Edwards supports the Marine mission here,” Hanna said, “and they expressed their appreciation for that support.”

RTS



**INSPECTION**  
Pharmacy employees take inventory of a day kit they received from a flightline organization. They make sure items are well-stocked, not expired and in working condition, which takes away the headache of managing hazardous materials for many base organizations.

# When birds nest in all the *wrong* places

**A**nimals are everywhere. Be it a squirrel stealing food or a coyote crossing the street, they are always a part of human life. For this reason, regulations must be followed for the protection of these animals and the people at Edwards Air Force Base. When birds nest in all the wrong places, Environmental Management workers step up to the plate.

The lawful protection of animals must be enforced, even if it conflicts with other procedures. Ron Czarnecki, an asbestos and lead specialist at Environmental Management, experienced such a conflict when a normal waste load inspection turned into a feathery mess.

On a spring morning, Czarnecki found a bird's nest inside a 40-cubic-yard trash bin designated for hazardous asbestos disposal. He was phoned by the demolition contractor to inspect the load before it was to be hauled off base for proper disposal, which is the standard procedure. During the inspection, he heard chirping and went to investigate. What he found was very unexpected — propped in the corner of the sliding lid was a small nest.

"I went in to inspect all the packaging, labeling, and everything on it [the bin] and while I was in there, I heard birds chirping," Czarnecki said, "when I looked up there was a nest in the corner with these fuzzy little heads poking out, making all kinds of noise."

Since the baby birds were making lots of noise, he assumed they were scared from taking a ride in the trash bin earlier that morning when it was transported to be weighed. Had it not been for the loud chirping, Czarnecki said he would not have noticed the nest.

Immediately, Czarnecki told the contractor the trash bin could not be moved until the situation was resolved. Misty Hailstone, a biologist at Environmental Management, was consulted on the matter. She told Czarnecki the species of the birds needed to be identified before



**SQUIRMY** — Baby house finches fidget during an inspection of the large, hazardous asbestos waste load they nested in. They were discovered during what was supposed to be a final inspection of the load before it would be taken off base for disposal. After the surprise, Environmental Management workers coordinated the task to harmonize protection of the birds with compliance of asbestos disposal regulations.

going any further. They needed to know the species of the bird, to find out whether it is protected under the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA)*.

Birds identified under the MBTA are protected from being taken, collected, harmed or moved. Their active nests, feathers and eggs, are also protected from those actions. In other words, if the nest is occupied with eggs or the bird's offspring, it cannot be taken down until the young have fledged or a biologist confirms the nest to be inactive.

"An inactive nest is an empty nest, with no birds in or around it," said Shannon Collis, another biologist at Environmental Management. "If the nest is inactive, you can remove it, but if the nest has eggs or young in it, it's considered active and you have to leave it alone."

Czarnecki and Matt South, a former biologist at Environmental Management, identified the birds the next day. After taking a close look at both parents, South recognized them as the common house finch. House finches are protected under the MBTA and for that reason, the asbestos load could not leave the area or be disturbed until the birds left. South said the baby birds looked very young, which meant it could take up to several

weeks for the birds to leave the nest.

At that point, the asbestos load would be past the maximum onsite accumulation time. Normally, hazardous waste must be properly disposed of after a certain amount of time, but this situation was not normal. The state hazardous waste regulator granted a time extension to keep the bin at the site until the birds fledged. The regulator found it to be an unusual and amusing situation, yet worthy of the time extension.

With the teamwork of Environmental Management departments, the confusion was cleared, the birds remained safe until they fledged and the hazardous asbestos load was disposed of.

This is not the first time birds have nested in unwanted places. According to Czarnecki, during the base housing demolition project, many birds were nesting and raising their young in and around vacant houses ready to be demolished. Yet, because of the MBTA, the birds were protected. This law has saved many birds and will continue to do so during nesting season.

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# Do you know that's hazardous waste?

**B**efore throwing something away, think for a minute about whether it belongs in the trash. Many people have become used to tossing items into a nearby trash bin without even thinking about whether it could be hazardous waste. Cameras, computers and television sets are a few of the many products that are classified as hazardous. From now on, pause for a second, and consider the possibility that not every item should be thrown into the trash.

Recycling has become widespread within the last decade, thanks to public awareness and robust recycling programs locally. Yet, there are many products besides aluminum, glass, plastic and paper that people should avoid throwing into trash bins. These products are known as hazardous and universal waste.

Many people think of cleaning chemicals and paints as hazardous waste, but that's not all. There remains a huge portion of materials that many people don't realize are classified as hazardous. Many household, office and day-to-day items are considered harmful to the environment and eventually human health, if disposed of in the trash. These hazardous and universal waste items contain lead, mercury, copper, or other metals and poisons. People need to recognize these products and dispose of them properly.

Below is a list of some waste items that should be kept out of the trash, provided by David Parker, an environmental protection specialist at Edwards. These items are separated into two categories — universal waste and hazardous waste. However, universal waste is simply a more common type of hazardous waste, hence the name “universal,” but is still hazardous waste nonetheless.

## Hazardous Waste

- Cooking grease
- Motor oil
- Old diesel or gasoline fuel
- Glues (including super glue)
- Pesticides
- Photographic chemicals
- Car batteries
- Cans of cooking fuel (i.e., the cans that may be used under a buffet tray to keep food warm)



**UNCOMMON** — Nail polish remover and children's light-up shoes are some of the uncommon hazardous waste items that should not be thrown into your trash bins, but rather taken to collection centers on base.

- Pool chemicals
- Lighter fluid
- Brake or transmission fluid
- Propane cylinders
- Solvents (e.g., paint thinner, nail polish remover and solvent-based furniture polish)

## Universal Waste

- Tilt switches
- Aerosol cans (e.g., shaving cream, deodorants, hairspray)
- Children's light-up shoes
- Electronic toys and games
- Cell phones
- Keyboards
- Alarm clocks
- Portable personal electronics (e.g., radios and music players)
- Security alarms

- Musical greeting cards
- Cell phone chargers
- Thermometers
- Thermostats containing mercury
- Speakers
- Batteries
- Flashlights
- Cameras
- Anything containing lead (e.g., old television sets or monitors)

Any of these items can be taken to local hazardous and universal waste collection centers or to the nearest drop-off event for proper disposal. Collection centers for Edwards Air Force Base residents include the U-Fix-It Store at 1897 Payne Ave., and the Consolidation Recycling and Universal Waste Facility, located at 446 N. Rosamond Blvd.

For Kern County residents, the Mojave Airport hosts drop-off events for hazardous and universal waste and will be open to the public on April 2, 2011. Los Angeles County residents can use the Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center, located at 1200 W. City Ranch Road in Palmdale, Calif., on the first and third Saturday of every month. For more information, contact Environmental Management at (661) 277-1401.

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# Where to find more INFORMATION

Published data and documents relating to Environmental Management are available for public review at three information repositories. They are updated when new documents are released. Here is a list of our current information repositories:

## Edwards Air Force Base Library

5 W. Yeager Blvd.  
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: Wed 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Fri-Sat 9 a.m. – 5 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.

For questions about information in the repositories, you may contact Gary Hatch, Public Affairs chief of current operations, at (661) 277-4127 or by e-mail at [95abw.pae@edwards.af.mil](mailto:95abw.pae@edwards.af.mil).

For general information about Edwards or other documents of public interest, you may visit the following link:  
[www.edwards.af.mil/library/environment](http://www.edwards.af.mil/library/environment).



# Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Information

The RAB is made up of appointed 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 the community 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. Those who have questions

or concerns about cleanup activities at Edwards may contact any RAB member or Gary Hatch, Public Affairs chief of current operations, at (661) 277-4127.

## NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING

Date: February 2011  
Time: 5:30 p.m.  
Location: Mojave, Calif.  
Venue to be determined

## RAB Members

### OFF-BASE COMMUNITIES

**Boron**  
Julie English (760) 762-6208 Home  
[brontesisters2003@yahoo.com](mailto:brontesisters2003@yahoo.com)

**California City**  
Bob Smith (760) 373-4317 Home  
[bsmith@ccis.com](mailto:bsmith@ccis.com)

**Lancaster**  
Peter Zorba (661) 945-6896 Work  
[pzorba@cityofflancasterca.org](mailto:pzorba@cityofflancasterca.org)  
ALTERNATE: Marvin Crist (661) 723-6019 Work  
[mcrist@cityofflancasterca.org](mailto:mcrist@cityofflancasterca.org)

**Mojave**  
Victor Yaw (661) 824-2886 Home  
[vicyaw@yahoo.com](mailto:vicyaw@yahoo.com) (661) 275-4296 Work

**North Edwards**  
Bruce Davies (760) 769-4104 Home  
[bruce.h.davies@boeing.com](mailto:bruce.h.davies@boeing.com) (661) 275-7671 Work

**Rosamond**  
Vacant  
ALTERNATE: Leslie Uhazy (661) 256-8209 Home  
[luhazy@avc.edu](mailto:luhazy@avc.edu) (661) 722-6417 Work

### ON-BASE COMMUNITIES

**Housing**  
Vacant  
**Main Base Air Base Wing**  
Nancy Zimmerman (661) 277-3489 Work  
[nancy.zimmerman@edwards.af.mil](mailto:nancy.zimmerman@edwards.af.mil)

**Main Base Test Wing**  
Richard Salazar (661) 275-3275 Work  
[richard.j.salazar@lmco.com](mailto:richard.j.salazar@lmco.com)

**NASA Dryden**  
Vacant

**North Base**  
Vacant

**South Base**  
Brenda Weems-Hunter (661) 275-0456 Work  
[brenda.weems-hunter.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:brenda.weems-hunter.ctr@us.af.mil)

**AF Research Laboratory and Propulsion Directorate**  
Milton McKay (661) 275-5191 Work  
[milton.mckay@us.af.mil](mailto:milton.mckay@us.af.mil)

## Remedial Project Managers

**California Department of Toxic Substances Control**  
Kevin Depies (916) 255-6547 Work  
[KDepies@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:KDepies@dtsc.ca.gov)

**Edwards AFB**  
Ai Duong (661) 277-1474 Work  
[ai.duong@edwards.af.mil](mailto:ai.duong@edwards.af.mil)

**Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board**  
Tim Post (760) 241-4942 Work  
[tpost@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:tpost@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (continued)**  
John Steude (530) 542-5571 Work  
[jsteude@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jsteude@waterboards.ca.gov)

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
James Ricks (415) 972-3023 Work  
[ricks.james@epa.gov](mailto:ricks.james@epa.gov)

Joseph Healy (415) 972-3269 Work  
[healy.joseph@epa.gov](mailto:healy.joseph@epa.gov)

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