



# Report to **STAKEHOLDERS**

March 2011

Volume 16 No. 2

## Mobile lab cuts time for defining plume at Site 231

page 2



# Mobile laboratory cuts time

While the Army took a break from its Sky Warrior Program at Edwards, base restoration workers seized the opportunity to study soil gas at Site 231.

In fall 2010, Edwards Air Force Base restoration officials cut weeks of analysis time using a mobile lab to process active soil gas samples at North Base. They took advantage of a lull in a new Army project located at the site to identify potential source areas for underground chemical contamination and assess the risk for vapors coming to the surface.

## On-site saves time

“Using the mobile lab really helps cut down on analysis time,” said environmental restoration program manager, Bruce Oshita. “The analysis is done on-site, which means we don’t have to ship samples to a lab. This saves us a 2-week waiting period for each batch of samples we send off to the laboratory.”

Obtaining the analytical results within minutes allowed the restoration team to adjust where soil gas samples were taken based on where contaminant concentrations dropped. “By using the mobile lab, we were able to make on-the-spot decisions to install more vapor wells based on the daily analytical data,” said Phil Saxton, a civil engineer and field manager for Site 231. “This eliminated lag time normally seen between sampling, off-site analysis, and remobilization to collect additional samples.” As a result, the outer edge of the soil gas plume was determined within weeks, rather than months.

As Saxton explained, “Having a mobile lab makes sense if you’re sampling lots of soil gas points. Here, we’re sampling 75 individual points and each point has two depth intervals — at 5.5 feet and 14.5 feet. So we’re taking 150 samples total.”

The ability to analyze 150 samples on-site made the mobile lab an obvious solution to Oshita. Currently, the North Base area — referred to as Operable Unit (OU) 5/10 — is still in the evaluation stage of the *Comprehensive Environmental*



**TAKE A SAMPLE** — Field manager Phil Saxton (left) watches chemist Russ Kikkert take a soil gas sample at Site 231. Each tube protruding from the sampling well is at a different sample depth.

*Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 process.*

The evaluation stage is known as the feasibility study. After the study is complete, Oshita will be able to prepare a proposed plan that presents different cleanup approaches to address the contamination at North Base. One of those proposed approaches will be chosen as the final remedy and presented in the Record of Decision (ROD) document.

Oshita wanted the mobile lab at North Base because “OU5/10 is playing catch-up with the Air Force schedule,” he said. “The other OUs are in the proposed plan and ROD stages; we’re on the feasibility study. The mobile lab may cost a little bit more, but it is well worth the time benefits.” Mobile labs have been used two other times at Edwards, at South Base and potential chemical warfare material sites. Oshita plans to use this approach at other North Base areas, including Sites 282, 285 and 240/241.

## Vapor concerns trigger a closer look at soil

The main contaminants identified in the groundwater at Site 231 include the

solvent tetrachloroethene, and the fuel components benzene and 1,2-dichloroethane. Because of their nature, contaminant vapors may travel from the soil and enter the air at the ground surface. For that reason, the soil gas sampling is necessary for the restoration team to identify where, if any, vapor intrusion pathways exist.

“Vapor intrusion pathways could be a concern for building occupants,” Saxton said. “One would want to know of these risks before building a new facility.” If necessary, restrictions called land use controls are placed on the site and identified when someone tries to get permission to build or even dig in the area.

Edwards officials also took soil samples in specific areas where suspected releases occurred in the past. “We’re taking a look at the soil for potential release areas from past spills and to help further identify any groundwater plumes,” Oshita said.

According to environmental scientist and project manager Robert Kohlhardt, the site’s contamination originated in the soil and ended up in the groundwater.

“Site 231 once housed a vehicle maintenance facility,” Kohlhardt said. “It



had a fueling stand and underground storage tanks that leaked. The tanks and fuel stand were removed long ago, but past spilled material may still reside in the soil or, in some cases, already have reached groundwater.”

“In the past, a leaking storage tank would be removed and the area back-filled,” Oshita said. “Our program needs to check and make sure nothing was left

**ANALYZE THIS** — Robert Kohlhardt (right), takes notes as Russ Kikkert (left) injects a soil gas sample into an auto sampler, which prepares a sample for analysis.

behind in terms of contaminated soils or groundwater areas, which require cleanup.”

# Report to STAKEHOLDERS

*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.

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.

All photos are property of the Air Force, unless otherwise identified.

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, (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**  
Patti Kumazawa  
Leilani Richardson  
Paul Rogers

## WHAT'S ON THE COVER?



Operable Unit 5/10 program manager Bruce Oshita is shown here recording soil information with geologist Loriel Holmes during the soil gas sampling at Site 231.

# Say hello to paperless.

**RTS is going electronic!**

To continue getting the latest on environmental news at Edwards AFB, subscribe to our e-newsletter.

**E-mail us at**  
**[rts@edwards.af.mil](mailto:rts@edwards.af.mil)**  
**to subscribe today!**  
(Hard copies will no longer be mailed).



# 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: May 2011

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: City TBD

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@cityoflancasterca.org](mailto:pzorba@cityoflancasterca.org)  
ALTERNATE: Marvin Crist (661) 723-6019 Work  
[mcrist@cityoflancasterca.org](mailto:mcrist@cityoflancasterca.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

William Gaddis (661) 382-8570 Home  
[wr.gaddis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wr.gaddis@sbcglobal.net) (661) 277-3387 Work  
ALTERNATE: Leslie Uhazy (661) 256-8209 Home  
[luhazy@avc.edu](mailto:luhazy@avc.edu) (661) 722-6417 Work

### ON-BASE COMMUNITIES

#### Housing

Patrick Morris (989) 525-6469 Cell  
[morrisprj@hotmail.com](mailto:morrisprj@hotmail.com)

#### 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) 275-5786 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)

## Report to STAKEHOLDERS

Subscribe  Modify  Cancel

### By mail

Mail this form to:  
95 ABW/PAE  
RTS Subscription  
305 E. Popson Ave.  
Edwards AFB, Calif., 93524

OR

### By e-mail

Send request to  
[rts@edwards.af.mil](mailto:rts@edwards.af.mil)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_



95 ABW/CEV  
5 E. Popson Ave., Bldg. 2650A  
Edwards AFB, CA 93524-8060  
Official Business



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Presorted  
First Class  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 294  
Tucker, GA

SUBSCRIPTIONS