



# *Report to* **STAKEHOLDERS**

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Report to Stakeholders is a publication of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Installation Support Section at Edwards AFB (AFCEC/CZOW). Its purpose is to inform and educate the public, base workers and residents about continuing Environmental Restoration Program efforts on base. It currently has a circulation of 4,000, including about 1,100 subscribers.

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Any comments or questions about the contents of the Report to Stakeholders may be directed to:

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#### WHAT'S ON THE COVER?

412th Maintenance Squadron Director Nathan Dixon Jr. (left) and senior enlisted leader Chief Master Sgt. Catherine Engel (right) present Tech. Sgt. David Soltis (center) with the Maintenance Professional of the Quarter award for the fourth quarter of 2023.

# Meet RAB housing representative Tech. Sgt. David Soltis

Tech. Sgt. David Soltis never imagined he would find himself intrigued by environmental cleanup efforts when a former supervisor encouraged him to apply as the alternate base housing public representative on the Edwards Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board. He joined the RAB in 2019, transitioning into the primary base housing representative in 2021. "I have learned many things over the years that I otherwise never would have been privy to," he said.



**CONGRATULATIONS AIRMAN:** Tech. Sgt. David Soltis (left) is pictured with one of his troops while attending an Airman Leadership School graduation ceremony.

Air Base, Japan, and then deployed twice to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. At Edwards, he has held various positions related to maintenance and technical order development. Soltis served as a technical order verification manager, aircraft structural maintenance noncommissioned officer in charge, and squadron production superintendent.

"My current position is the unit deployment manager for the 412th Maintenance Group," he said. "I am responsible for tracking and ensuring readiness training is current for all members within the group," he said. He was honored with the Maintenance Professional of the Quarter award from the 412th Maintenance Squadron and the 412th Maintenance Group for the fourth quarter of 2023.

When asked about his hobbies, Soltis said he loves electronics. "I enjoy building computers for myself, friends and family. I enjoy tinkering and

Soltis was born in Lajes, Terceira, which is one of nine Azorean islands belonging to Portugal. He lived there until he was six years old, then spent most of his childhood living on various bases throughout Europe because his father served in the U.S. Air Force. In 1997, Soltis and his family settled in Pensacola, Florida, where he graduated from high school and attended junior college. Soltis enlisted in the Air Force 19 years ago and has since earned an associate degree in aircraft structural maintenance technology through the Community College of the Air Force. Currently, he is in his senior year toward earning a bachelor of science degree in Cybersecurity through Waldorf University.

Before arriving at Edwards AFB in 2009, Soltis was assigned to Misawa

building things as well." He also appreciates and prioritizes spending time with his wife, Michelle and their two sons, Finn and Dominic.

Although school, work and family keep Soltis busy, he actively participates as a RAB member by attending the biannual RAB meetings and encourages his community to learn more about environmental cleanup. Soltis said he believes it is important to remain vigilant in identifying potential

hazards and their impact on the surrounding population, wildlife and plant life as well as preventing groundwater contamination. He is eager to further his understanding of environmental issues and cleanup efforts. "My goal is to continue my role as the base housing public representative and to observe employment of effective remediation and the discovery of new methods for future efforts," he said.

## Edwards AFB cleanup efforts highlighted at May 2024 RAB meeting

The Edwards AFB Restoration Advisory Board welcomed a new Air Force co-chair and two new state regulators at its May 16 meeting, which included a briefing on the environmental restoration activities that occurred during the previous six months.

Col. Joel Purcell, 412th Civil Engineer Group Commander, assumed his new role as Air Force co-chair. Two state regulators were also introduced: Bruce Lewis, California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control remedial project manager; and Mark Allen, Cal/EPA Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board RPM.

Base RPM Paul Schiff updated board members on the status of the cleanup program. He discussed the perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, program and the remedial investigation efforts underway for aqueous film-forming foam areas. Schiff said that the Phase I of the remedial investigation consists of three field events. Field Event #1 was completed in November 2021, Field Event #2 was completed in November 2023, and Field Event #3, which includes installing 39 new monitoring wells and sampling 97 soil borings and 435 groundwater monitoring wells, has been underway since January 2024.

For Operable Unit 4/9 Air Force Research Laboratory, Schiff said a 2024 groundwater monitoring event occurred in all four groundwater areas. The post-Record of Decision areas at South AFRL and AFRL Soil and Debris Sites have land use controls in place as part of their cleanup remedies. South AFRL also has a soil vapor extraction system that continues to operate near Building 8595 to mitigate potential vapor intrusion. The Air Force is collaborating with the regulators to address potential data gaps in the South AFRL monitoring well network at deeper depths. He also said the Air Force, regulatory staff and legal counsel meetings are ongoing to resolve remaining disagreements on the AFRL Arroyos ROD.

Schiff said that OU6 NASA plans to conduct its annual groundwater monitoring event from July through August 2024, sampling 98 monitoring



**FOSTERING COMMUNICATION:** During a break in the RAB meeting base remedial project manager Paul Schiff (left) chatted with public co-chair and Mojave public representative Victor Yaw (center) and Rosamond public representative William Gaddis (right).

wells. The data collected will evaluate contaminant concentration trends throughout the plume and in situ chemical oxidation performance in treatment areas. Schiff also said that NASA began its own agency-wide PFAS preliminary assessment and site inspection effort in 2019; the PA was completed in 2021 and the SI was completed in 2023. NASA is proceeding with a Phase I RI, with the first field event anticipated in summer or fall 2024 to sample 74 monitoring wells. A work plan has been submitted for regulatory review and the results will be used to update the conceptual site model.

For OU7 Site 3, Schiff reported the landfill cap was completed. Hydroseeding and fence installation occurred January through March 2024. Repairs to a portion of the cap are currently underway due to the damage caused by a significant rainfall in February 2024. A semiannual groundwater monitoring event, landfill gas sampling and a semiannual LUC inspection were completed in March 2024.

Schiff concluded by discussing the Military Munitions Response Program. In January 2024, the Air Force submitted responses to regulatory comments on the Draft ROD and is currently resolving regulatory comments for incorporation into the draft final ROD, anticipated for submittal to regulatory agencies in the summer of 2024.

The next RAB meeting was scheduled to occur in Lancaster, California on November 21, 2024. The venue details will be advertised in local newspapers and posted on the RAB's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/RAB.Edwards](http://www.facebook.com/RAB.Edwards).



**SCHOOL SPIRIT:** In August 2024, Tech. Sgt. David Soltis (second from right) volunteered at the annual Operation Homefront Back-to-School Brigade, which collects and distributes school supplies to eligible military children.



# Where to find more INFORMATION

Published data and documents related to the Environmental Restoration Program at Edwards are available for public review at three Information Repositories and online at <https://ar.cce.af.mil>. The Information Repositories are located at:

## Edwards AFB Main Library

5 W. Yeager Blvd.  
Edwards AFB, California  
(661) 275-2665  
<https://edwardsfss.com/library/>

## Kern County Public Library Wanda Kirk Branch

3611 Rosamond Blvd.  
Rosamond, California  
(661) 256-3236  
<https://kerncountylibrary.org/find-hours-locations/>

## Los Angeles County Public Library

601 W. Lancaster Blvd.  
Lancaster, California  
(661) 948-5029  
<https://lacountylibrary.org/lancaster-library/>

For questions about documents in the repositories, you may contact Gary Hatch, 412th Test Wing Public Affairs, at (661) 277-8707 or by e-mail at [412tw.pae@us.af.mil](mailto:412tw.pae@us.af.mil).

General information about the environmental program at Edwards can be found at the following websites:

<https://www.edwards.af.mil/About/Environment>  
<https://www.facebook.com/EdwardsEnvMgt>



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## Restoration Advisory Board Information

The RAB is made up of appointed representatives from communities on and around Edwards AFB, regulators from federal and state agencies and base officials. The board's purpose is to provide a forum for two-way communication between the public and those responsible for environmental cleanup at the base.

The board meets semiannually, rotating meeting locations among 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, 412th Test Wing Public Affairs,

at (661) 277-8707.

The RAB also has its own Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/RAB.Edwards/>. "Like" us on Facebook today!

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 21, 2024**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**Best Western Plus**  
**Lancaster, California**

## RAB Members

### OFF-BASE COMMUNITIES

#### Boron

Vacant — If you live or work in Boron, you may apply to be a public representative.

#### California City

Alexia Svejda (760) 373-8676  
[info@californiacitychamber.com](mailto:info@californiacitychamber.com)

#### Lancaster

Raj Malhi (661) 723-6019  
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Lauren Hughes-Leslie (alternate) (661) 723-6019  
[lhughes-leslie@cityoflancasterca.gov](mailto:lhughes-leslie@cityoflancasterca.gov)

#### Mojave

Victor Yaw (661) 754-1641  
[vicyaw@yahoo.com](mailto:vicyaw@yahoo.com)

#### North Edwards

Vacant — If you live or work in North Edwards, you may apply to be a public representative.

#### Rosamond

William Gaddis (661) 238-5389  
[wrgadjr@icloud.com](mailto:wrgadjr@icloud.com)

### ON-BASE COMMUNITIES

#### Housing

David Soltis (661) 277-3688  
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#### Main Base Test Wing

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[melody.couch@us.af.mil](mailto:melody.couch@us.af.mil)

#### NASA Armstrong

Alexis McCadney (661) 276-3392  
[alexis.n.mccadney@nasa.gov](mailto:alexis.n.mccadney@nasa.gov)

#### North Base

Vacant — If you work at North Base, you may apply to be a public representative.

#### South Base

Vacant — If you work at South Base, you may apply to be a public representative.

#### Air Force Research Laboratory

Joe Mabry (661) 857-6289  
[joseph.mabry@us.af.mil](mailto:joseph.mabry@us.af.mil)

## Remedial Project Managers

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Bruce Lewis (916) 255-6576  
[bruce.lewis@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:bruce.lewis@dtsc.ca.gov)

### California Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

Mark Allen (760) 241-7391  
[mark.allen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mark.allen@waterboards.ca.gov)

Toufic Zeidan (760) 241-6583  
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### Edwards AFB

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### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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