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Report to STAKEHOLDERS

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**Edwards Remedial Project
Manager recognized for
exemplary civilian service** page 2

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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WHAT'S ON THE COVER?

Edwards Installation Support Section Chief Ai Duong (right) presents Base Remedial Project Manager Paul Schiff with the 2023 Exemplary Civilian Service Award for distinguished service to the Air Force.

RPM receives Exemplary Civilian Service Award

Edwards AFB Remedial Project Manager Paul Schiff recently received the 2023 Exemplary Civilian Service Award from the Air Force Civil Engineer Center recognizing excellence in his role managing the environmental cleanup of the base.

The announcement came as no surprise to Edwards Installation Support Section Chief Ai Duong. “Paul manages a large and complex environmental restoration program with diverse hydrogeology, several emerging contaminants and various geographical locations,” Duong said. “He is one of the best remedial project managers. He has a strong technical background and the type of leadership skills that works well with others to find solutions.”

For over two decades, Schiff has dedicated himself to environmental management and restoration efforts. From supporting community engagement by facilitating the Restoration Advisory Board meetings, to advocating for cleanup funds and managing multi-million-dollar contracts, he continues prioritizing the protection of human health and the environment, Duong said.

Schiff’s work and dedication extends outside of Edwards. For two years, he led the ERP programs for Neills AFB and Creech AFB – he managed a portfolio of site investigation and cleanup efforts including a performance based remediation contract, and organized and briefed at the Nellis AFB RAB meetings. He also supports the March Air Reserve Base ERP, attends RPM and RAB meetings and coordinates with regulatory agencies. As the RPM for Los Angeles Space Force Base, he successfully closed the last ERP site there in 2017.

Schiff said he did not always know what he would pursue as a career, but he knew he wanted to find solutions to problems. After high school, Schiff enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and was stationed in San Diego, California on board the guided missile cruiser USS Jouett. He recalled pondering about environmental cleanup and better ways to manage waste while he was on the Jouett. After four years in the Navy, he returned home to study environmental engineering at Montana Technological University.

In 1997, Schiff landed a job at Edwards Environmental Management where he gained experience with environmental compliance managing the solid waste, pollution prevention, water and wastewater programs and supporting the air quality program. Five years later, in 2002, he transitioned into the environmental restoration program primarily managing cleanup. One of his first restoration projects was to fund a successful large-scale treatability study at North Base Site 285 that installed a selective ion exchange system to treat perchlorate contamination in groundwater. By 2005, the Site 285 groundwater extraction and treatment system had treated over 18.5 million gallons of groundwater and removed 54 pounds of perchlorate.

With more than a dozen years of experience as an ERP manager, Schiff accepted the position to lead the base’s cleanup program as a remedial project manager in 2016. He has found working with the U.S. EPA and



FROM PAST TO PRESENT: (Left) In 2005, Schiff explains how perchlorate is removed from groundwater with the Site 285 interim treatment system that continues to operate today. (Right) Schiff, center, talks with environmental restoration program manager Joe Dunwoody during a 2023 resiliency team building event.

state regulatory agencies to be both challenging and rewarding. “Moving the cleanup program forward is a complex process where cooperation and communication are vital,” he said. “We need to understand each other’s viewpoints and positions in order to reach a resolution. Working jointly with the regulatory agencies has proven essential for addressing high-visibility issues, such as emerging contaminants and resolving disagreements to finalize a Record of Decision for the Air Force Research Laboratory Arroyos,” Schiff said.

In addition to working with seven other remedial project managers from U.S. EPA and state regulatory agencies to move the base’s cleanup program forward, Schiff also leads a team of six ERP managers from the Air Force who oversee the various cleanup areas throughout the base. Through collaboration and mentoring, he has been able to build a cohesive team. “Paul is very supportive and his team enjoys him being the lead,” Duong said. Schiff said he is thrilled to see the program managers take full control and ownership of their programs from start to finish as he guides them to overcome challenges and maintain progress.

Throughout his career Schiff has followed the important principles of remaining adaptive and keeping the big picture in mind to evolve and find success in every position he has held.

“Not only in our individual development, but also from a project or site management perspective, we are better off if we can flex and adapt,” he said. “It is sometimes easier to focus on the granular aspects of a situation and lose sight of the overall goal. I find it helpful to look at the bigger picture and understand the framework in order to find a solution.” Schiff’s dedication and pursuit of growth gears him to willingly and confidently take on new challenges. One of his newest challenges is to pursue a master’s degree in Military Operational Art and Science through the Air Command and Staff College starting in January.

“Making progress and solving problems is rewarding,” said Schiff. “With the master’s program I’m looking forward to learning key military planning and operations concepts and applying them to make me a more effective communicator and problem solver for the Air Force.”

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.afcec-cloud.af.mil>. The Information Repositories are located at:

Edwards AFB Main Library

5 W. Yeager Blvd.
Edwards AFB, California
(661) 275-2665
www.edwardsfss.com/library

Kern County Public Library Wanda Kirk Branch

3611 Rosamond Blvd.
Rosamond, California
(661) 256-3236
www.kerncountylibrary.org/find-hours-locations

Los Angeles County Public Library

601 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, California
(661) 948-5029
www.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.

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

www.edwards.af.mil/About/Environment
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: www.facebook.com/RAB.Edwards. "Like" us on Facebook today!

NEXT BOARD MEETING
MAY 16, 2024
5:30 p.m.
Mojave, California

RAB Members

OFF-BASE COMMUNITIES

Boron

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

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Main Base Test Wing

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NASA Armstrong

Vacant — If you work at NASA Armstrong, you may apply to be a public representative.

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.

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