



Report to
STAKEHOLDERS

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**Taiwanese
native fulfills
career goal,
now manages
cleanup of
Main Base**

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Report to Stakeholders is a publication of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Installation Support Section at Edwards Air Force Base (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 4,500, including about 1,300 subscribers.

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Any comments or questions about the contents of the Report to Stakeholders may be directed to: Gary Hatch, 412 TW/PA, 305 E. Popson Ave., Edwards AFB, CA 93524, (661) 277-8707.

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WHAT'S ON THE COVER?

ON HOLIDAY DOWN UNDER — Environmental restoration program manager Julia Tseng stands in front of Uluru in Australia during a family trip. Tseng, pursuing a career in remediation, transferred to the Edwards program after serving 12 years as an environmental compliance program manager at Travis AFB in northern California.

Seasoned program manager takes over Main Base cleanup



BOOTS ON THE GROUND: Tseng (second from left) visits Site 31 to oversee field crew installing a piece of equipment (background) designed to enhance removal of petroleum product found above the water table.

A transplant from Taiwan, Julia Tseng has settled into her position as a program manager for the restoration team at Edwards Air Force Base, California, fulfilling a longtime career goal. Tseng's passion for environmental remediation motivated her to transfer to Edwards from Travis Air Force Base, California, where she was a program manager in the environmental compliance field for 12 years.

"I have always wanted to be in restoration," Tseng said. "To accomplish that, I knew I needed to go back to school." Before arriving in the United States, Tseng earned a bachelor of science degree in biology. She next aimed her focus on higher education by attending the University of Colorado, which led to a master's degree in civil engineering.

Tseng's determination and hard work paid off because she is now managing a multitude of cleanup projects at Edwards. Currently, Tseng oversees the cleanup of Operable Unit 1/8 Main Base, a group of emerging contaminants known as perfluorinated compounds and a petroleum site whose cleanup is funded by the Defense Logistics Agency.

Covering a significant footprint, OU1/8 Main Base includes nearly 200 occupied

buildings and 100 unoccupied buildings. "More than 900 groundwater monitoring wells have already been installed in OU1/8 to monitor the groundwater contamination," Tseng said.

Groundwater contamination at OU1/8 is a result of historical aircraft testing and maintenance activities that used fuels, oils, cleaning solvents, paints and other chemicals. Buildings and facilities include hangars and shops equipped for maintenance, repair, rebuilding and testing of engines, aircraft and all their components; administration buildings; hazardous waste storage; an aircraft paint booth; a photography laboratory; and an automotive hobby shop.

"My goal is to issue a draft Feasibility Study addendum for OU1/8 Main Base by 2022," Tseng said. "We have been working with the regulatory agencies since 2017 to address their concerns on different components that will feed the addendum. Taking the time now to resolve potential conflicts will ensure we have all the necessary pieces to gain regulatory concurrence on the Feasibility Study addendum."

In addition to OU1/8, Tseng manages a program for emerging contaminants that belong to a class of synthetic fluorinated

chemicals. Known as perfluorooctane sulfonate/ perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOS/PFOA for short, the contaminants were used in a variety of industrial and consumer products nationwide. One such application for PFOS/PFOA included legacy aqueous film forming foam or AFFF, commonly used in firefighting efforts. A Site Inspection phase at Edwards identified 24 AFFF sites, and two of the sites underwent an expanded SI to determine whether there were any complete pathways to drinking water receptors. A draft report on the expanded SI effort was submitted to the regulatory agencies for review and their comments are expected by the end of July. A total of 22 AFFF sites, including two expanded SI sites, will undergo a future Remedial Investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination.

Tseng also covers Site 31, a former bulk petroleum fuel storage facility located within OU1/8 Main Base. In 1996, a pipeline rupture resulted in leaking jet fuel, causing groundwater contamination at Site 31. Site 31 is handled separately from OU1/8 Main Base because it is a petroleum-only site and cleanup is funded by the Defense Logistics Agency.

For Tseng, one of the best aspects of her job is "being able to get out in the field and see my sites in person," she said. "When you are looking at maps all day, it's nice to leave the office and explore all that you have been working on. It's important to get out in the field and become familiar with your sites because it gives you a front row seat to the progress each site has been making."

Tseng's eagerness for hands-on management in the field is understandable given that she is a nature enthusiast. "I have a strong adoration for nature and being out in the wilderness," she said. "Sightseeing and hiking are among some of my favorite hobbies." In addition to taking opportunities to visit her cleanup sites, Tseng also enjoys walking many of the beautiful trails on Edwards during her personal time. An avid hiker, Tseng does not limit herself to the local area. Part of her extensive hiking background includes visiting a new state park every year. A goal-oriented person, she is already making plans for her next hiking trip — this time to Sequoia National Park, located in the southern Sierra Nevada and east of Visalia, California.

When she is not planning her next hiking venture, Tseng enjoys seeing the rest of the world. Most recently, she invited six family members from mainland China to join her and her husband on a tour excursion of Australia. Their adventure consisted of exploring the Great Barrier Reef, touring the Sydney Opera House and flying to the middle of the country to visit Uluru — a large sandstone rock formation sacred to the local Aboriginal people. "Visiting Uluru was my absolute favorite part of the trip to Australia," Tseng recalled. "Because we were in the Southern Hemisphere and there was no light pollution, the night sky was like a blanket of stars. It was truly a memorable experience."

It comes as no surprise that Tseng's passion lies in environmental remediation as she has a natural appreciation for the environment. Her drive to explore the earth and hike its natural beauty has motivated her to accomplish her goals by taking steps toward cleaning the environment.



MEASURING RAINFALL IN THE DESERT: As part of the base's ongoing groundwater monitoring efforts at Operable Unit 1/8 Main Base, a field member unlocks Monitoring Well 58-MW08 to check on an installed pressure transducer. The transducer was installed to record water levels in the groundwater monitoring well. Transducer data, along with information from the rain gauge secured to the top of Monitoring Well 58-MW08, will be analyzed to determine whether stormwater infiltration from a nearby unlined retention pond (background) is a significant recharge source that may be affecting groundwater flow direction. As a precaution against COVID-19 concerns, field members who work in groups of two or more wear cloth masks (as pictured here).

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. The Information Repositories are located at:

Edwards Air Force Base Main Library
5 W. Yeager Blvd.
Edwards AFB, California
(661) 275-2665
www.edwardsfss.com/wordpress/library

**Kern County Public Library
Wanda Kirk Branch**
3611 Rosamond Blvd.
Rosamond, California
(661) 256-3236
www.kerncountylibrary.org/rosamond-branch/

Los Angeles County Public Library
601 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, California
(661) 948-5029
www.colapublib.org/libs/lancaster/

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/



Restoration Advisory Board Information

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is made up of appointed representatives from communities on 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 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

Postponed due to COVID-19

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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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

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