



Report to **STAKEHOLDERS**

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South Pacific voyager returns to restore desert environment

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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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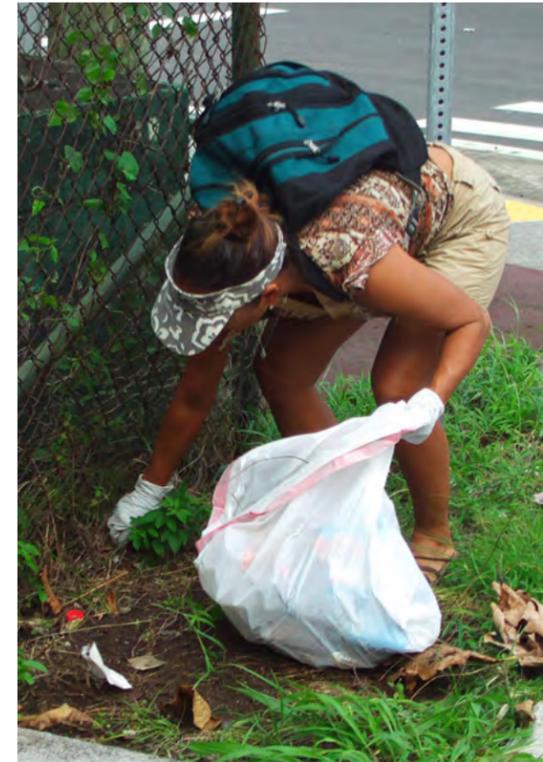
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WHAT'S ON THE COVER?

MOBILE TREATMENT —
New environmental restoration program manager Claudia Basura stands next to one of the Compliance Restoration Program treatment systems she oversees at Edwards. The system is built on a mobile platform so that it can be repurposed at different cleanup sites.

New base PM advocates for the environment through cleanup



SAILING THROUGH PARADISE:
Far left — Base environmental restoration program manager Claudia Basura steers the ship while husband Brian waves from the deck. The Basuras sailed from Long Beach, California, and through the South Pacific for two years, stopping at several islands, including Fiji and American Samoa.

Left — Basura bends down to pick up a piece of plastic left at a walkway intersection in American Samoa. Growing up in Hawaii gave Basura an appreciation for the environment, which drove her to volunteer to clean up any trash she came across during her South Pacific voyage. Basura even organized a cleanup crew to dispose of trash that had accumulated on the windward side of Suvarrow, one of the Cook Islands.

A veteran member of the environmental restoration team at Edwards Air Force Base, California, Claudia Basura is paving the way toward a cleaner and greener environment with passion and determination. Basura applies her own experience with eco-friendly living to make a difference as a new program manager overseeing the cleanup of munitions and chemical contamination from past military activities.

When asked about the importance of her work, Basura said, “I believe we all share the same concerns, and one of them is to ensure that the Air Force has done their job and the public is protected.” She said that her contribution toward environmental restoration “is not only significant on a personal level but essential to the overall goal of protecting the public. That’s why I work closely with the regulatory agencies to help our restoration program move forward,” she said.

Having grown up in the tropical paradise of Hawaii, Basura understands the value of taking care of the land. That is why, after earning a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Northwestern State University in Louisiana, Basura moved to California in the hopes of pursuing a career in the environmental field. Her first job,

although interesting, did not quite satisfy her professional goals.

“I accepted a job with a vitamin company for about two years, testing vitamins in a quality control laboratory,” she said. “However, as soon as I found an advertised position to work in an environmental laboratory at Edwards, I jumped on it.”

At the Base Environmental and Analytical Laboratory, Basura worked as a chemist for six years, performing soil and groundwater analyses. She transitioned into the environmental restoration section in 1999, where she worked closely with the underground storage tank — or UST — program manager and the Kern County Department of Environmental Health Services to address closures of former USTs.

Basura also spent time working on the former base soil farm located near South Base where excavated fuel-contaminated soils from the UST program were brought. “Soil contaminated with fuel from leaking USTs were remediated with the treatment of water and air, which stimulated the growth of bacteria that broke down the contaminants,” Basura explained. “The soils continued to be treated until analytical results returned as non-detect, thereby demonstrating complete remediation of the soil.” The remediated soil was then transported to the Main Base landfill,

where it was used as material to cover landfill debris.

Although Basura was excited to broaden her experience in the environmental restoration field, it did not stop her from taking personal time off to sail the ocean with her (now) husband, Brian. “We sailed from Long Beach and through the South Pacific on a two-year journey to Australia,” she recalled.

During the voyage, Basura still found ways to incorporate her passion for environmental cleanup into everyday life. For example, before setting up camp in preparation for cyclone season, Basura and her husband found themselves in Suvarrow, Cook Islands, a remote coral atoll. With the aid of other boaters and the local island warden, Basura helped organize a beach cleanup on the windward side of the atoll where the team gathered a skiff-load of plastic debris. The debris was then collected in a location where the island warden was able to properly dispose of the trash.

When Basura made her way back to Edwards, she continued to build on her experience in the restoration field. Then, in 2019, she accepted the role of environmental restoration program manager for multiple cleanup areas on base. Currently, Basura oversees the Military Munitions Response Program, which handles historical bombing activities that occurred at Edwards. She also manages the Compliance Restoration Program that addresses historical petroleum contamination to the soil and groundwater from leaking USTs, pipelines, oil-and-water separators and spills.

“The CRP is basewide and includes locations that were used daily, such as the former Army and Air Force Exchange Service gas station,” Basura said. “Today there is a treatment system at the location of the former gas station to address remaining petroleum contamination. The location is known as CRP Site 297.”

In addition to MMRP and CRP, Basura also manages the environmental cleanup of North Base, known as Operable Unit 5/10, which includes the former NASA Jet Propulsion

Laboratory — which operated from 1945 to 1995 — and the North Base complex. Basura said that “the cleanup sites were established because of past practices during rocket fuel testing, accidental spills, wash-downs of equipment, leaking tanks or drain lines that may have leaked solvents.”

In addition to restoring the environment, Basura has expanded her personal environmental stewardship to making her home and the office more eco-friendly. “I want to do my part because throughout our journey through the South Pacific, I noted I was not the only one concerned about global warming,” she said. “Several islanders expressed concern about global warming because they were experiencing increasingly violent tropical storms and hurricanes that threatened their islands.”

Basura also encourages those around her to be consciously aware of how they take care of the environment. Leading by example, Basura practices minimalism and works toward creating a waste-free environment. “I am very committed to reducing my carbon footprint on this earth,” she said.

As an environmental advocate, Basura encourages the reuse of products and the elimination of single-use plastics. “I think zero waste is important and something we all should be thinking about. What we put into the landfill will be there forever. Zero waste is difficult; it’s a learning process and a continuous goal,” she said.

Additionally, Basura sustains a vegan lifestyle that consists of a whole-food, plant-based diet. “I started for environmental reasons — trying to reduce the impact my living has on this planet— and I learned many other reasons that only strengthened my belief in living a vegan lifestyle,” she said.

Basura’s personal goals of creating a cleaner, more sustainable environment is something she hopes will contribute to her success in the Environmental Restoration Program at Edwards.

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.

California City

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info@californiacitychamber.com

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Raj Malhi (661) 723-6019
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Mojave

Victor Yaw (661) 754-1641
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North Edwards

Vacant—If you live or work in North Edwards, 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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Report to STAKEHOLDERS

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