

# PROACT CROSSTALK



An Environmental Resource sponsored by HQ Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence

## P2 Initiatives

### Pope AFB Recycling Initiative

Pope AFB has created an extremely successful solid waste and recycling program that has exceeded DoD established goals. Pope AFB generates 500 tons of refuse each quarter and is currently diverting 52.94% of this waste. This diversion rate is well above the DoD established recycling diversion rate goal of 38% for 2004. Pope AFB has accomplished this goal by being proactive and making recycling available for everyone. The installation receives support from the Wing Commander and has received positive findings during the External ECAMP of 2002.

The Solid Waste/Recycling Program at Pope AFB has evolved from a small program operated by "services" in the late 1980's to an expanded solid waste and multiple-item recycling program. In 1992, Pope AFB transferred the recycling program responsibility from Services to the Civil Engineering (CEV). CEV decided to utilize contract support in order to implement a curbside recycling program for 527 Military Family Housing (MFH) units on the base. The original contract provided recycling services for paper, glass, aluminum, plastic, newspapers, cardboard, and steel cans. Recycling pick-up was provided once a week at each residence.

In 1999, the contract was expanded to include 80 industrial and administrative facilities on the installation. In addition, the MFH units increased to 627 residences. In 2002, refuse collection and recycling was consolidated into one contract. Presently, this contract provides the following recycling services:

- Food waste – used for composting
- Cooking oils – used to make animal feeds
- Yard debris – used for composting
- Office paper, cardboard, aluminum, plastic, glass and other recyclable items

The base also outsources the recycling of various scrap metals to a company that sells the metal and efficiently provides revenue back to the base. The Defense Reutilization Marketing Service (DRMS) waived the requirement to use the local DRMO in selling scrap metal.

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<i>P2 Initiatives</i> .....	1
<i>Columbus AFB in Focus</i> .....	2
<i>New Tools and Guidance</i> .....	3
<i>Conference Corner</i> .....	4
<i>Regulatory Update</i> .....	5
<i>We Want Yuour Success Stories!!</i> .....	6
<i>"In Our Customer's Own Words"</i> .....	6

As part of their proactive initiatives, Pope AFB provides training and recycling awareness at monthly Facility Managers meetings. In addition, each new resident in MFH receives a recycling packet explaining all recycling requirements. Pope AFB provides stackable recycling containers to MFH residents, which have been instrumental in increasing the recycling rate. In addition to the stackable containers, the residents also receive 50-gallon containers for items like cardboard or yard debris. As part of the consolidated contract, the base receives quarterly recycling newsletters which provide helpful information to increase recycling rates.

### **AF Procures 40 Percent of Entire Federal Government's Renewable Energy**

The Air Force Renewable Energy Team took top honors at the 2004 Presidential Awards for Leadership in Federal Energy Management during a ceremony held recently at the U.S. Department of State.

The Air Force's program is responsible for approximately 40 percent of the entire federal government's renewable energy acquisition. By procuring 207 million kilowatt hours of renewable energy in 2003, the Air Force reduced harmful air emissions that equate to the removal of about 20,000 cars from the road for a full year.

"Our success in environmental and energy conservation and pollution prevention directly enhances

the capacity and availability of resources for the mission,” Maureen Koetz, Air Force Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health said during the ceremony’s closing remarks. “Former Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Thomas White was right on target when he said: the mission of the Department of Defense is more than aircraft, guns, and missiles. Part of the defense job is protecting the land, waters, timber and wildlife — the priceless natural resources that make this great nation of ours worth defending.”

## **Columbus AFB in Focus**

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Columbus AFB received the General Thomas D. White Environmental Quality Award for Natural Resources Conservation (Small Base). This annual award recognizes the installation conducting the best or most improved natural resources management program during the previous three fiscal years inclusive of the current fiscal year. They were nominated for their successes in each of the nine subject areas described in AFI 36-2817. This article will highlight their achievements in the following subject areas: Developing and Implementing Current Natural Resources Plans, Protecting Natural Resources in Installation Decision-Making, and Protecting Wetlands and Other Special Natural Areas.

Columbus AFB natural resources program team members believe their mission consists of two equally vital components – supporting the flight training mission while protecting the base’s natural resources. The base is recognized as the Air Force’s leader in natural resource conservation. Knowledgeable base staff members maximize their use of available resources and partnerships to achieve their mission goals.

### **Developing and Implementing Current Natural Resource Plans**

Columbus AFB staff revised the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) by tailoring it to be more base specific. They partnered with the Air Force forester to write and implement the plan, which guides management activities, inventories, resource planning, focuses on educational awareness and interagency coordination, partnership needs and

event participation for Fiscal Year 2002 through Fiscal Year 2006. The Columbus AFB staff also initiated team effort with the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE) to develop projects required by the plan.

The base accomplished several projects as a result of an on-going partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This partnership established control plans for beaver/nutria and coyotes that are currently being implemented by the USDA wildlife biologist. In overly populated stream areas, beavers were trapped and dams were extracted to reduce flooding and eliminate standing water that served as mosquito breeding grounds. Backwater from the beaver dams caused approximately \$10 thousand in damaged bottomland hardwood forests. Columbus applied the NRCS coyote control program, reducing the coyote population. The control program saved the base over \$75 thousand per year by eliminating damage by the coyotes to the runway barrier nets.

Columbus AFB provides a 60-acre recreation area, named the Timberlane Nature Trail Area, for use by base personnel. The area features three trails totaling five miles for walkers, bicyclists and horseback riders. A newly initiated nature trail renovation project provides numbered signs to guide base residents and visitors on a walking tour of the horticultural highlights.

### **Protecting Natural Resources in Installation Decision Making**

Columbus base personnel worked diligently to protect natural assets by ensuring the wing mission and the natural resource management policies did not conflict. They were extremely successful as is demonstrated in the following examples:

- Worked with the engineering flight to redesign a proposed parking lot, which prevented encroachment into wetlands.
- Performed on-site investigations for a Digital Airport Surveillance Radar system to ensure site meets all mission requirements while creating no significant impact to surrounding ecosystems or visual aesthetics.

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- Natural resource accomplishments improved the safety of the flight training environment and enhanced base planning. The USDA wildlife biologist in concert with Columbus AFB held bird shoots around the flight line areas to decrease the potential of bird strikes. Costs due to bird aircraft strike hazard (BASH) incidents averaged \$229 thousand each year for only T-1 aircraft.

Worked with AFCEE to contract an Airfield Aerodrome Tree Survey to mark trees for removal whose height penetrates the glide-slope requirements of aircraft operations.

### **Protecting Wetlands and Other Special Natural Areas**

Erosion control and water quality are the primary land use responsibilities for natural resource program managers. There is no agricultural out-leasing because potential intrusions into the airfield would conflict with the base mission. Columbus refined its partnerships to cost effectively complete necessary natural resources projects. A cooperative service agreement was developed with assistance of NRCS to remedy soil erosion problems at Shuqualak Auxiliary Airfield saving the Air Force more than \$250 thousand in construction costs. The NRCS developed an erosion prevention plan and Columbus AFB performed the work in-house resulting in cost savings and adverse erosion effects. All of these efforts ensured project sites did not intrude into protected areas while maintaining 100% mission readiness.

The 2003 Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment Management Program (ESOHCAMP) audit conducted at Columbus AFB revealed 11 positive findings for the environmental flight and three positive findings for the natural resources program. Columbus was the only AETC base with no high-vulnerability findings. Careful planning and development of cost-effective partnerships resulted in correction of deficiencies in budget resources and staffing. Planning and partnering ensured that 95 percent of the projects programmed for the last three fiscal years were completed. These projects produced positive results for both environmental protection and mission support. These results are a product of team member

dedication and clear environmental focus provided by wing leadership

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## **New Tools and Guidance**

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### **Soil Surveys - Valuable Tools for Natural Resource Management**

The following article, originally appearing in CrossTalk Edition 62, has been revised and updated:

Soil surveys are a crucial piece of information in determining the proper management of natural resources on Air Force (AF) property and in providing continuous compliance with federal, state, and local standards. The first soil surveys were conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), beginning in 1899, to find areas suitable for agricultural expansion. A soil survey includes the study of vegetation and land features. It identifies the different soil types by examining soil layers, usually to a depth of 2 meters. It also describes the slope, possible erosion hazards, color, acidity/alkalinity, and the proportions of sand, silt, clay, and organic matter of the soil. The areas encompassing the different soil types are delineated, the soil type is named according to a national classification system, and the area is outlined on an aerial map by a surveyor.

All updated soil surveys are now digitized and stored in publicly available electronic databases. Today, soil survey operations are conducted in partnership with universities, state agencies, local county governments, private consultants, and other federal agencies. Soil surveys are conducted on about 21 million acres per year and are mapped on a scale of 3 to 5 inches to the mile. More information about obtaining soil surveys in hard copy, or accessing the soil survey database, is found on the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil Survey Division WWW site located at <http://soils.usda.gov/>.

In addition, the NRCS has developed the Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP) guide to assess the basic level of stream health. Copies of this protocol can be downloaded at: <ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/downloads/wqam/svapfnl.pdf>, or via the website: <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wqam/wqam-docs.html>

Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7064, *Integrated Natural Resources Management*, 1 August 1997, requires the use of soil surveys during the preparation of Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMP). The INRMP is an essential tool for ensuring continued access to land and air space required to accomplish the AF mission by maintaining these resources in a healthy condition. The INRMP is tailored to each individual installation, but always includes the same general information about the physical environment including the history of the land; the current and intended land use; information about the surrounding community; a description of the climate, acreage, topography, geology and soils; and other characteristics such as possible wetlands, watersheds, floodplains or drainage patterns. Soil surveys can provide most, if not all, of this type of information as the INRMP is prepared. Headquarters Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Environmental Conservation and Planning Directorate (HQ/AFCEE/TDI), provides natural resources training, assists in the preparation of INRMPs for individual installations, and manages contracts for natural resource projects. Contact HQ AFCEE/TDI at DSN 240-4222, (210) 536-4222 or visit the AFCEE website at <http://www.afcee.brooks.af.mil/EC/echome.asp>.

## Conference Corner

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### **The Annual Conference on Soils, Sediments and Water October 18-21, 2004**

#### **Amherst, Massachusetts**

The Annual Conference on Soils, Sediments and Water has become the preeminent national conference in this important environmental area. The conference attracts 700-800 attendees annually which includes a wide variety of representation from state and federal agencies; military; academia; a number of industries; and the environmental engineering and consulting community. "Expediting and Economizing Cleanups" is this year's conference theme, which will be supported by the development of a strong and diverse technical program in concert with a variety of educational opportunities available to attendees. Live equipment demonstrations will augment the exhibition section, and focused workshops will pro-

vide attendees with practical application information. The conference promises to be an exciting opportunity for all those concerned with the challenge of developing creative, cost-effective assessments and solutions that can withstand the demands of regulatory requirements.

For more information, visit [www.umasssoils.com](http://www.umasssoils.com), call 413-545-1239, or email [info@UMassSoils.com](mailto:info@UMassSoils.com).

### **The Northwest Environmental Conference (NWECC)**

**November 16-17, 2004**

#### **Portland, Oregon**

The Northwest Environmental Conference (NWECC) is the largest, most comprehensive environmental conference and tradeshow in the Pacific Northwest. NWECC's goal is to provide low-cost environmental management training to a broad range of environmental professionals.

The 2004 Conference continues a 16-year tradition of providing a forum encouraging environmental professionals in the Pacific Northwest to achieve environmental excellence. The conference includes:

- NWECC tradeshow presented by the Northwest Environmental Business Council
- A pre-conference HAZWOPER training opportunity
- Table Talks - casual conversations about hot issues over breakfast

This year's conference will feature interactive sessions, relevant case studies, controversial roundtable discussions, facilitated breakfast conversations, and plenty of networking opportunities. Conference sessions are divided into four tracks that address the needs of a diverse audience. For additional information, visit the conference website at: <http://www.nwec.org/index.html>

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## Regulatory Update

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### SPCC Ruling Update: Modified Implementation Dates for Facilities

With respect to the new SPCC rule regarding oil pollution prevention regulations in Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 112, facilities in operation prior to August 16, 2002 must amend their SPCC plans to incorporate the new ruling by August 17, 2005. The items in the plan must be implemented as soon as possible but no later than February 18, 2006. Facilities in operation after August 16, 2002 must have the plan written and implemented before February 18, 2006. New facilities that begin operation after February 15, 2006 must have the plan written and implemented before starting operations.

For additional information regarding the ruling and any additional changes not reported here, visit <http://www.epa.gov/oilspill>.

### EPA Memo on Satellite Accumulation (adapted from HTIS Bulletin May-Jun 2004)

EPA's Office of Solid Waste (OSW) has been working on a Question and Answer set for satellite accumulation as requested by numerous generators. On March 17, 2004, EPA issued this memorandum. The memo from OSW Director Robert Springer to the ten EPA Regional RCRA Directors consists of a set of 14 Questions and Answers and a table showing container compliance regulations for Satellite, Large Quantity generator, and Small Quantity generator container areas.

The concept of accumulating waste in a container "at or near the point of generation" and "under the control of the operator" provides flexibility to hazardous waste generators. Satellite waste accumulation is strictly limited to 55 gallons (or one quart if acutely toxic). The memo makes it clear that your installations can have numerous satellite areas and that each area can accumulate multiple wastes as long as the sum total of all hazardous wastes at each satellite area do not exceed 55 gallons.

The nine-page memo is available on the EPA RCRA Online web site at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/osw/rcra.nsf/Documents/8C9F6DC8B378A2F585256E9900723A8B>

### First Five Chemicals Under Executive Order 13148 Set for Federal Reduction (adapted from HTIS Bulletin May-Jun 2004)

After four years of deliberation, the first five chemicals set for targeted reduction by the Federal Government under Executive Order 13148 have been announced: The five substances are:

Cadmium  
Lead  
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)  
Mercury  
Naphthalene

The goal is for the Federal community to reduce the usage of these substances by 50% by December 31, 2006. The later half of 2004 will be used to develop the baseline usage against which the reduction goals will be measured. The announcement of the five chemicals is on the web site of the Federal Environmental Executive at <http://www.ofee.gov/wpr/chemical.htm>

On April 21, 2000 former President Clinton signed Executive Order 13148 "Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management." That Executive Order directed the EPA to develop a list of substances that are harmful to human health and the environment and for which there are readily available substitutes that are less harmful. EO 13148 is essentially an extension of EO 12856 from 1993, which called for Federal Facilities to first report under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and called for an initial target of a 50% reduction in toxic releases from 1994-1999. That goal was exceeded ahead of time. The initial goal of EO 13148 was to designate 15 priority chemicals for reduction.

There are known alternatives to the five priority chemicals or products containing them. For example, electronic thermostats can be used in place of mercury-bearing switches. Solders containing copper or

silver can substitute for solder containing lead. And integrated pest management can be used in place of naphthalene. The website listed above will provide information on more alternatives as they become available.

## We Want Your Success Stories!!

If your installation has achieved an environmental success that you would like to share with other installations, please send your story and contact information to [pro-act@brooks.af.mil](mailto:pro-act@brooks.af.mil) or contact PROACT at DSN 240-4240. Use the following as a guideline in preparing your information:

- What is the environmental success?
  - How was the success implemented?
  - How much money/time was saved as a result of the effort?
  - What was the timeline for implementation and realized results?
  - How can other installations create the same or similar success?
- Provide the point of contact name, phone number and email to be published in CrossTalk

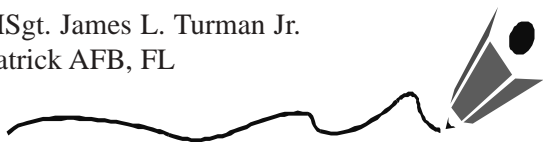
### “In Our Customer’s Own Words”...

*“Thanks for your assistance! I am glad I discovered PROACT. You've saved me a lot of time and money!”*

Elizabeth Moyer-Durham  
Ellsworth AFB, SD

*“This was a very thorough answer and I appreciate all of the effort. This is a great program!”*

MSgt. James L. Turman Jr.  
Patrick AFB, FL



## CROSSTALK

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