

MILITARY LOGISTICS FORUM  SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION



Readiness Sustainer
Maj. Gen. Polly A. Peyer
 Commander
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 Center



WARNER ROBINS AIR LOGISTICS CENTER 

plating process. Our high velocity oxygenated fuel [HVOF] initiative will reduce the use of hexavalent chromium in the plating shop through a new plating process using inert gases such as nitrogen and argon to apply a powder coating to parts. The C-130 and C-5 system program offices introduced a nonchromated pre-paint process within the corrosion control flight. The old process consisted of washing the aircraft and chemically removing the corrosion, followed by a hexavalent chromium conversion coating for corrosion protection and surface adhesion. This process produced a large hazardous liquid waste stream and required large amounts of personal protective equipment [PPE] to prevent injuries to the workers. The alodine replacement product called PreKote is a nonchromate conversion coating that eliminates hexavalent chromium in the waste stream and, most importantly, eliminates the hazardous chemical exposure to the work force. It's also saving the taxpayers in excess of \$1 million each year.

Indeed, purchasing less hazardous materials not only minimizes personnel exposure while in use, but saves taxpayers' dollars by avoiding hazardous waste disposal fees on the back end. With this in mind, we implemented a Green Procurement Program at Robins AFB. The presidential-driven program mandates that all acquisitions must consider the environmental impact of the material, product and service along with its performance. In 2008, Robins Air Force Base spent more than \$600,000 in green purchases from recycled paper to aircraft coatings. In 2008, we also purchased 173,000 gallons of biodiesel [B20], saving almost 35,000 gallons of fossil fuel consumption. Our Green Buys for Blue Skies Green Procurement Program is so successful that the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive will present Robins Air Force Base with the 2009 White House Closing the Circle Award.

Additionally, the wheat starch media blast project for depainting F-15 radomes is expected to reduce air emissions [VOCs, methylene chloride, methanol] by as much as 88,000 pounds per year. Chemical strippers are currently used for this process.

We also have our Advanced Power Technology Office, which is researching new and greener ways of doing business. In fact, we recently partnered with the City of Macon, Ga., to test a new hybrid garbage truck. We're all aware of hybrid cars, but now we're using hybrid technology in much larger vehicles. We have high hopes that this test will show that it's feasible, and that it will spread beyond the Air Force and into widespread use around the country. Our APTO is also researching possible uses of hydrogen fuel cells, solar power and other forms of renewable energy.

Q: I understand that the center is now involved in sustainment of several unmanned aerial systems. Are they handled much like any other system, or are they managed differently than other fixed wing platforms?



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