

# 2004 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards

## *Pollution Prevention- Non-Industrial Installation, Individual*



***Ms. Kathleen Stiles  
Marine Corps Recruit Depot  
Parris Island, South Carolina***

**Installation Background**

The Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island (MCRDPI) is located in historic Beaufort, directly in the heart of the South Carolina Low Country. MCRDPI proudly serves as the training site for approximately 20,000 young men and women entering the United States Marine Corps every year. Simply stated, the Depot's mission is to make Marines. However, the training process is far from simple. For thirteen weeks, select young men and women undergo strenuous



"Simply stated, the Depot's mission is to make Marines." MCRDPI is home to 20,000 recruits annually.

physical training and a litany of intense mental exercises developed to instill Marine Corps traditions and standards of excellence. MCRDPI is also home to the Drill Instructor School and is Headquarters for the Eastern Recruiting Region Command. The Depot also operates rifle and pistol ranges for Marines throughout the Southeast and for other service groups as requested.

In order to accomplish our distinguished mission, MCRDPI maintains a contingent of 1,500 active duty Marines and approximately 480 civilian employees. Every year,

MCRDPI is visited by more than 55,000 tourists and relatives of Marines and recruits, providing an estimated \$2.5 million boost to the local economy.

**Individual Nominee Background**

Ms. Kathleen Stiles has been the Pollution Prevention (P2) Manager at MCRDPI for the past ten years. Ms. Stiles also manages the Solid Waste and Recycle Program, Hazardous Materials/EPCRA Program, Title V Program, EMS Initiative, and the Affirmative Procurement Program. During the past decade, the concept of



Ms. Stiles routinely collects field data to validate information reported.

P2 has evolved dramatically. Ms. Stiles' overall approach to the program has expanded and evolved to keep pace with the rapidly expanding scope of national P2 initiatives.

**Program Successes**

Ms. Stiles has been the key driver in MCRDPI's outstanding successes in the P2 arena during the past decade, and in particular during the past several years. A few of the initiatives she has championed recently are presented below.

➤ **Getting the mercury out through a rigorous and planned program!**

Ms. Stiles has spearheaded a proactive program targeting mercury and its removal. She has conducted mercury identification & reduction audits, identifying mercury-containing items at retail outlets, hobby shop, wastewater treatment plants and electrical shops. She has continued to follow up and is currently working with various organizations to eliminate those items. Additionally, the medical and dental clinics, known sources of mercury usage, are being audited.

Our completed Phase 1 audit, conducted at the retail outlets, revealed that these organizations are not selling items containing liquid mercury. Phase 2 will be conducted soon at the wastewater treatment plant. Ms. Stiles has worked closely with the facilities maintenance shops to schedule the change-out of old mercury thermostats throughout the Depot. This project demonstrates Ms. Stiles' proactive management style and her determination to work collaboratively with many organizations throughout the Depot.

➤ **Successfully diverting C&D material from disposal... saving money and putting resources back to work in local communities!**

During 2004, Ms. Stiles has been involved in a project linking the Navy/Marine Corps, Actus Lend Lease, and the Beaufort community. Military housing on the Depot is managed by a public private venture (PPV) between the Navy/Marine Corps and Actus Lend Lease. This partnership is providing new home construction and renovation projects, new

community centers and recreational facilities. To make land available, some



The PPV for military family housing is diverting 5,000 tons of construction debris, saving \$160,000

older homes have been demolished, creating opportunities for recycling and re-use initiatives.

A key initiative is the planned relocation of more than fifty existing military housing units, in conjunction with a local housing consortium, in order to provide housing for middle and low-income families in the area. By the end of December 2004, four houses had been moved into local Beaufort neighborhoods. The homes are stripped of all appliances, plumbing, doors, windows, roof and chimneys. Fixtures and materials recovered have been used or donated throughout the Beaufort community. The houses are then literally *sawed* into three sections and each section is placed on a truck for their journey off Parris Island. Each house, when readied for relocation, weighs approximately 75 tons.

When completed, an estimated 5000 tons of construction debris will have been diverted from local landfills, saving approximately \$160K in disposal costs and providing affordable housing to the area. This project shows outstanding program management, technical merit, orientation to mission, transferability, and a high level of stakeholder interaction.

Ms. Stiles has worked closely with the members of this partnership and has documented the diversion of construction and demolition material from disposal, saving money and putting resources back to work in the local community.

➤ *Keeping the Air Clean for All.*

MCRDPI operates as a major source of air pollutants under the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Part 70 Permit (Title V). Ms. Stiles' responsibilities as Air Program Manager include planning, organizing and managing all aspects of the Depot's complex air quality program. Ms. Stiles oversees the quarterly inventory updates, documenting the pollutants emitted into the air as a result of Depot operations; she also prepares guidelines or instructions to ensure compliance with the Title V Air Permit limits. Ms. Stiles reviews the Depot's upcoming operations and building plans, in order to inform the state and EPA of any additions or changes to the permit. This past year, Ms. Stiles oversaw the first renewal of the Depot's Title V Permit.

Additionally, Ms. Stiles established a program to conduct radon surveys on the Depot. A Navy Radon Assessment and Mitigation Program (NAVRAMP) sampling program was conducted at the Depot in 1990 establishing baseline measurements for selected buildings, such as those used for office space and living quarters. In order to establish baseline measurements for the buildings built after 1991, radon detectors were again deployed at these selected buildings for a three-month period. The radon sampling program has now become a permanent part of the Air Compliance program and will be conducted on an annual basis.

➤ *Maximizing Recycle, Maximizing Savings!*

Ms. Stiles manages the Depot's Recycle program with a positive enthusiastic attitude. The recycle program at Parris Island is completely self-sufficient. All revenues generated from the sale of recycled materials are applied to the following year's budget. Ms. Stiles' proactive manner ensures that the program is highly visible and accommodating to Marines and civilians onboard the Depot. Several specific examples presented later attest to her proactive management of the P2 program and careful and effective use of the recycle funds.



Ms. Stiles' management of the P2 and recycle programs has resulted in the generation of significant recycle funds to MCRDPI. Two of the most profitable commodities are cardboard (shown here baled for ease of transport) and wooden pallets.

In the most recent two year time span, combining revenues from the materials recycled and the cost avoidance for landfill tipping fees, the Recycle Center has saved the Depot an astonishing \$530,000. Highlights over the past two years include: over 1600 tons of cardboard and paper recycled, 50 tons of post-consumer textiles recovered and sent to a local processor, and a 27% increase in the number of fluorescent light bulbs collected and recycled through a universal waste contractor. This project is a hallmark of outstanding program management, demonstrates superlative

technical merit, shows our orientation to mission and transferability, and focuses on stakeholder interaction.

➤ **Outstanding Leadership in Information Exchange.**

Ms. Stiles spends much of her time in the field talking to civilians and Marines. It is through this type of contact that she ensures her projects achieve maximum success. Through such day-to-day contact she focuses on new P2 measures by listening in depth to the concerns and interests of shop personnel. Ms. Stiles established a series of training classes through the Comprehensive Environmental Training and Education Program (CETEP), for programs such as Affirmative Procurement and Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know. Through these classes the Depot community now recognizes the correlation of recycled materials to purchasing recycled content materials. Additionally, hazardous material purchases and disposal issues have been the focus of the EPCRA classes. Annual AP and EPCRA training classes are now mandatory for all credit card users and hazardous material coordinators.

➤ **P2 generates sweet music!**

In one of Ms. Stiles' routine visits around the installation, she identified in the Parris Island Depot Band an opportunity to effectively use recycle funds to improve the cleaning of band instruments. As a result, she coordinated and spearheaded the purchase of a 90-gallon portable, self-contained ultrasonic cleaner that uses an environmentally-friendly citrus-based cleaner. The new system replaced a series of dip tanks containing more



Cleaning of band instruments has improved dramatically with increased safety as a result of Ms. Stiles' championing and funding purchase of two ultrasonic citrus-based cleaning systems using recycle funds.

traditional hazardous cleaning agents, including chromic acid, muriatic acid, and phosphoric acid. The success of the initial 90-gallon tank system led to Ms. Stiles' championing the recent purchase of a smaller ultrasonic system for cleaning smaller instruments, saving time and energy as well.

➤ **EMS Success Assured as MCRDPI Development Stays on Schedule**

Even while managing and championing numerous other programs at MCRDPI, Ms. Stiles has taken decisive leadership in assuring that the Depot meets the December 2005 DoD requirement of having a functional Environmental Management System (EMS) in place. She has been the EMS lead through gap analysis, process inventory, aspects and impacts determinations, and putting in place the Plan of Action and Milestones for the initial phase of the EMS. She has designed, coordinated and led various parts of five Depot-wide workshops that have directly provided awareness training to more than 60 personnel. In planning these sessions, true to her usual thoroughness and personnel involvement, she included in the planning phase various groups, including power plant

personnel, wastewater treatment plant staff, bulk fuels operators, as well as the environmental group. At present, MCRDPI estimates that Ms. Stiles' efforts already have achieved 75 percent of the goals of the December 2005 requirement.

➤ **Using Recycle Funds to Improve Boat Fueling Safety**

On another routine installation tour, Ms. Stiles inquired about the method of fueling of boats used to patrol coastal waters during range exercises. When informed that a fuel truck supplied portable fuel tanks several times each week, she spearheaded the purchase and



Ms. Stiles used recycle funds to upgrade and improve safety at the boat refueling station serving the coastline safety patrol at MCRDPI.

installation of a centralized 250-gallon fuel tank and associated infrastructure. Now boats are driven to the fueling station, where they are placed on a paved apron and fueled from the 250-gallon tank. This project was accomplished using recycle funds.

➤ **Working with all Stakeholders!**

Ms. Stiles is past president of the Beaufort Chapter of Keep America Beautiful. During her five year tenure, she volunteered hundreds of hours supporting

such projects as Grinding of the Greens, Earth Day, and Beach sweeps. Local Parris Island celebrations such as America Recycles Day, Pollution Prevention Week, and Earth Day also came to fruition through Ms. Stiles' hard work and dedication.

Ms. Stiles is a charter member of, and constant contributor to, the South Carolina Department of Defense Pollution Prevention Alliance. This partnership addresses DoD, state, and regional issues in P2 in a coordinated way. As a reflection of the esteem with which P2 Alliance members hold her, Ms. Stiles was selected to participate in a small-group review forum for disbursement of one-time regional P2 grant funding made available through DoD. Also, she is a member of the Depot NEPA workgroup involved in review and planning for optimizing natural and cultural resource conservation during new facility construction.

It is due to Ms. Stiles' constant efforts in the P2 arena that MCRDPI was awarded the 2004 South Carolina Governor's Pollution Prevention Honorable Mention Award. As a capstone to recognition of her achievements, Ms. Stiles' P2 program was recognized with a White House Closing the Circle Honorable Mention in the 2004 awards ceremony.

➤ **Summary**

For the past decade, as the concept and application of P2 have expanded, so have Kathleen Stiles' efforts in planning, collaborative consultation, implementation, measurement, and education in a wide variety of topics. Her attention and persistence have generated the overall outstanding Depot successes seen in the P2 arena.