

SUBMITTAL FOR  
2006 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE - NAVY  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY - INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATION AWARD  
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT

## INTRODUCTION

a. **Mission:** Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point maintains and operates facilities and provides services and material to meet the operational requirements of the assigned tenants and commands. The missions of the major tenants that the Air Station hosts are as follows:

(1) The Second Marine Aircraft Wing (2d MAW). The supporting air component of Marine Forces, Atlantic, the mission of the aircraft wing is to conduct air operations to include offensive air support, antiair warfare, assault support, aerial reconnaissance including active and passive electronic countermeasures (EMC), and control of aircraft and missiles. As a collateral function, the wing may participate as an integral component of Naval aviation in the execution of such other Navy functions as the fleet commander may direct.

(2) The Naval Aviation Depot (NAVAVNDEPOT). Performs a complete range of depot level rework operations on designated weapons systems, accessories, and equipment. It manufactures parts and assemblies as required, provides engineering services in the development of changes in hardware design, and furnishes technical and other professional services on aircraft maintenance and logistics problems. This is the largest single-sited industry in eastern North Carolina, employing over 4,100 personnel.

(3) The Naval Hospital (NAVHOSP). Provides general clinical and hospitalization services to all armed services active duty and dependents, and other authorized persons. The hospital cooperates with military and civilian authorities in matters pertaining to health, sanitation, local disasters, and other emergencies.

b. **Environmental and Geographical Setting:** MCAS Cherry Point encompasses 11,485 acres and is located in the Coastal Plains area of eastern North Carolina, Craven County, approximately midway between New Bern and Morehead City. U.S. Highway 70 and NC Highway 101 provide highway access. The Air Station proper is located on a peninsula bounded on the north by the Neuse River, on the east by Hancock Creek, and on the west by Slocum Creek. The southern boundary borders on NC Highway 101. The Croatan National Forest is located adjacent to the Air Station boundary. In addition, the Air Station maintains three outlying airfields and two target complexes totaling 15,732 acres. The Air Station, 2d MAW, and its industrial tenant command, the NAVAVNDEPOT, have continued for more than a half-century to carve their places in history as service/industrial organizations that support the training and maintenance of our nation's sophisticated national defense machine. One might think of MCAS Cherry Point as being comparable to a small city with a large industry and an international airport (120,000 operations per year) populated by 10,000 marines and sailors, their 13,500 dependents, and more than 6,500 civilian employees for a total population of approximately 30,000.

## BACKGROUND

a. **Environmental Challenges at MCAS Cherry Point:** Enactment of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) in 1976, followed by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) or "Superfund" of 1980, and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) of 1984 provided impetus to clean up federal facilities, preserve the natural environment, and improve quality of life. Prior to passing RCRA, CERCLA, and HSWA Congress had passed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Those laws and their amendments, together with additional state and federal environmental laws and Executive Orders, resulted in a mammoth

undertaking by the Air Station to properly manage environmental resources and properly respect the environment in the planning and execution of new projects. Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC) incorporated the environmental management requirements set forth in current law in the USMC Environmental Compliance and Protection Manual, Marine Corps Order (MCO) P5090.2A dated 10 Jul 98. This Order and other environmental directives required U. S. Marine Corps commands to comply with federal, state, and local environmental and natural resource laws and regulations. Guidelines were thus established for a Marine Corps-wide policy to address environmental concerns.

(1) The three Marine Air Groups of the 2d MAW, located aboard MCAS Cherry Point, operate facilities and maintain aircraft in support of the wing mission. Aircraft currently based at MCAS Cherry Point, in squadron strength, include the AV-8B Harrier II, EA-6B Prowler, and C-130 Hercules. Marine Aircraft Group-14 operates maintenance and repair facilities for 145 aircraft currently assigned. Marine Wing Support Group-27 operates engineering support and construction equipment. Marine Air Control Group-28 operates electronic support equipment, air defense operations, and facilities in support of the 2d MAW. These groups operate maintenance and repair facilities for the wide variety of equipment assigned to each unit.

(2) The Air Station maintains support and maintenance facilities for two C-9B aircraft, two C-12 aircraft, and three CH-46 search and rescue helicopters. More than 1,000 items of garrison mobile equipment are in use by the Air Station in support of the 2d MAW and tenant commands. The Air Station operates two equipment maintenance facilities for mobile garrison equipment.

b. **Organization, Staffing and Management Approach:** The Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) of the Air Station Facilities Directorate manages all environmental matters for MCAS Cherry Point; Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field (MCALF), Bogue; Marine Corps Outlying Landing Field (MCOLF), Atlantic; Marine Corps Outlying Field, Oak Grove; and tenant commands. The department has oversight for and advises the Commander, Marine Corps Air Bases, Eastern Area on environmental matters for MCAS Beaufort; MCAS New River; and Marine Corps Air Field, Quantico. An environmental staff of thirty-two professional and technical personnel, distributed within the Environmental Compliance Division, Restoration & Recycling Division, and Natural Resources Division, carries out these tasks.

## **PROGRAM SUMMARY**

a. **Objectives of the Environmental Management Program:** MCAS Cherry Point is committed to sustain and enhance mission readiness through compliance with relevant laws and regulations, prevention of pollution, and continual program improvement through an environmental management system (EMS). In January 2004 the initial EMS was implemented at MCAS Cherry Point which consisted of four pilot organizations aboard the Air Station. During the period of February to November 2004, an inventory of practices and aspects was conducted at all four pilot organizations. Then the EMS Core Team conducted a risk ranking exercise to prioritize those aspects that represent a risk to the Air Station mission. Once EMS training was provided to Air Station personnel in November 2004, the Chief of Staff endorsed the EMS Core Team Charter in January 2005. In February and March 2005 objectives and targets (O/T) were developed for significant aspects. The O/Ts were developed by the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) personnel.

In April 2005 the Installation Commander endorsed the Environmental Policy Statement. Environmental management procedures (EMPs) and EMS manual are finalized. During May to August 2005, the process of developing and monitoring environmental action plans to achieve O/Ts was implemented. In September 2005 EAD conducted EMS Policy training at different organizations, units, and departments aboard the Air Station. A plan was developed to expand the EMS across the entire installation. The Naval Aviation Depot and Naval Hospital are required to implement EMS at the organizational level per Navy guidance. These organizations have chosen to develop and implement EMS independently of the Air Station's EMS. However, they participate at the Air Station's EMS Team meetings and vice versa.

Additionally, an EMS conformance status report was submitted to Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC) on September 30, 2005. HQMC recognized MCAS Cherry Point for completing all seven USMC EMS implementation criteria before December 31, 2005. Cherry Point was one of three Marine Corps installations recognized by HQMC for achieving the implementation criteria.

Accomplishments of the environmental quality programs have largely resulted from following the management objectives set forth in the Air Station Environmental Strategic Plan adopted in 1993 and updated annually. The objectives and significant overall achievements relative to each are detailed below:

(1) Awareness: Awareness is provided through effective interaction with appropriate national, state, regional, and local agencies; education of ourselves, our customers, and our suppliers on the proper care of the environment and natural resources and through training of our team to meet and surpass established environmental performance standards.

(2) Planning: In concert with existing regulations and in anticipation of projected changes, we work closely with responsible agencies to plan for our development and that of our surrounding communities and region. Furthermore, established cooperative agreements and plans with surrounding county governments have positioned the Air Station as a leader in addressing regional environmental issues.

(3) Prevention: We implement changes to our processes to prevent pollution. We comply with existing regulations; monitor all processes to ensure compliance; and seek ways to improve. During the past two years, as documented by our Environmental Compliance Evaluation (ECE), the Air Station is shifting the environmental management emphasis to issues dealing with prevention rather than compliance.

(4) Reduction: We are actively working to reduce the amount of waste generated, both hazardous and otherwise, by careful selection of material and using closed loop systems and recycling. As indicated by our achievements in pollution prevention, it is possible to achieve significant waste reduction through changing the status quo relative to process modification and solid waste management.

(5) Remediation: We actively seek and identify hazardous waste sites. We remediate sites by cutting edge and proactive cleanup procedures in keeping with regulatory standards. All historic hazardous waste chemical release sites aboard the Air Station have been identified and programmed for remediation.

**b. Overview of Outstanding Program Features and Accomplishments:** Recognition of past achievements in environmental stewardship is evidenced through receipt of the following awards during 2005 and 2006. This record is evidence of our commitment to environmental excellence and demonstrates our innovative management approach.

<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Award</b>
2005	2004 Secretary of the Navy Environmental Quality Award - Industrial Installation
2006	2005 Secretary of the Navy Pollution Prevention Award - Industrial Installation
2006	2005 Secretary of the Navy Environmental Cleanup Award - Installation

MCAS Cherry Point has excelled among DoD facilities by winning the Commander in Chief's Installation Excellence Award on seven occasions over the past 19 years since the award has been given, 1988, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000 and 2003. This award is unique in that it provides a monetary award of \$200,000 which has been used for quality of life programs for the Marine and civilian work force. The \$1,400,000 received from this source has been utilized to improve the working and living environment aboard the Air



Station. This prestigious award designation was the result of Cherry Point's sustained commitments in innovative recycling, pollution prevention, and hazardous waste (HW) management programs. Furthermore, the EAD staff has received seven prestigious Commander in Chief's Awards for outstanding achievements by individuals. This record of previous achievement sets the stage for continuing efforts toward environmental quality.

c. **Reducing Solid Waste by Education:** Education is the key to the success of an environmental program. With this idea as the corner stone, the Environmental Affairs Department started a comprehensive education program. The program includes a quarterly environmental newsletter featuring articles about various environmental subjects, pamphlets describing environmental activities and environmentally friendly tips, and outreach awareness training to various school groups. The program has been an overwhelming success with the military and civilian personnel aboard the Air Station becoming proactive in recycling plastics, aluminum cans and cardboard.

d. **Recharging Non-facility Fire Extinguishers:** The Air Station disposes of a large number of non-facility fire extinguishers. These fire extinguishers must meet the DRMO regulations for cylinder disposal (emptied of contents, valves removed and the container damaged to prevent reuse). This process is labor intensive, costly, may pose a health problem with exposure to dust, and when damaging the containers to prevent reuse. The Environmental Affairs Department and the Hazardous Materials Control Center has implemented a program to recharge, service and reissue fire extinguishers.

e. **Blending Facility for Burning Used Oil at the Central Heating Plant:** Blending of the recyclable petroleum required the construction and operation of a blending facility. The construction phase of the blending facility began in FY 2001 and was completed and a contract for the operation of the blending facility was awarded in FY 2003. By blending the recovered fuels, used oil, and used fuels, which amounts to 270,000 gallons per year, will save the Air Station \$237,600 per year.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### a. Waste Management and Resource Recovery:

(1) **Resource Recovery:** A Recycling Program was initiated at MCAS, Cherry Point in 1988, with the development of an infrastructure for an Industrial Qualified Recycling Program (QRP) to recycle commodities on a value priority basis. The Air Station has developed a recycling program for items such as steel, white and yellow metals, fired brass, high temperature alloys, waste oil, JP-4/JP-5 fuel, tires, batteries, and HM. By recycling more than 44 million pounds through the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, the QRP has generated over \$2.9 million in revenue for the Air Station since the programs inception. During FY05/06, over 7.3 million pounds were recovered and recycled, producing over \$867,216 in income for the Air Station. From March 1994 to August 1998, over \$845,000 has been provided to the MCCA Directorate for quality of life projects. The following projects are among some of what the QRP proceeds were used for: the purchase of a large tour bus, a recreational addition to Hancock Boating Marina, an outdoor entertainment stage, the purchase of carpet cleaners with cleaning fluids, locks, medicine cabinets for the troops in their new barracks, and picnic shelters.

The following is a summary of the more outstanding recycling savings and income achieved in the past 2 years:

**Qualified Recycling Program.** The recycling of steel, white and yellow metals, fired brass, high temperature alloys, tires, batteries, and miscellaneous items.

Pounds	Income	Cost avoidance
7,387,260	\$867,216.11	N/A

**Waste Oil Wealth Program.** The sale/donation of waste oil as a result of adoption of a program to source segregate chlorinated solvents from waste oil and resource recovery by burning waste oil in the central heating plant.

Gallons	Income	Cost avoidance
343,944	\$87,232.07	\$644,895.00

**Used Fuel.** The recycling of jet fuels and supplying fuels for burning at the Air Station main heating plant and training for Crash Crew.

Gallons	Income	Cost avoidance
319,308	N/A	\$1,269,710.49

**Used Solvent Elimination.** The removal and recycling of spent solvent from parts cleaning machines.

Gallons	Income	Cost avoidance
17,392	N/A	\$104,352.00

**Household Recycling Program.** The recycling of aluminum and steel beverage cans, glass and plastic containers, and newsprint; initially utilizing a drop-off type program and then adopting a curbside collection for 2840 base housing units.

Pounds	Income	Cost avoidance
568,620	N/A	\$42,646.50

**Wood Waste Recycling.** Wood wastes deposited into the construction debris landfill aboard the Air Station.

Pounds	Income	Cost avoidance
8,038,000	N/A	\$136,646.00

**Total Income: \$954,448 Total Cost Avoided Savings: \$2,198,250**

(2) **Toxic and Hazardous Material Management:** The Air Station has made significant progress in improved material management by creating and maintaining a *hazardous materials control center* (HMCC), which provides hazardous material (HM) management at all levels. The Supply Directorate consolidates all HM aboard the Air Station into one central warehouse. This has allowed the Supply Directorate HMCC to have complete control over procurement, issue, delivery, stocking, and reclamation of unused material. Services provided by the HMCC include shelf-life management, just-in-time procurement, and delivery and pickup of HM. Operation costs are limited to manpower, with no direct implementation or maintenance costs. The organizations taking advantage of this program include not only Cherry Point, but other military installations, so that excess material collected at MCAS, Cherry Point is advertised for reuse at MCAS Beaufort, SC and MCAS New River, NC. Actual cost savings for FY 05 and FY 06, for the reuse program are:

HM reissued by HMCC.....	\$155,875.
HM disposal cost avoidance.....	\$219,116.
Total cost avoidance .....	\$374,991.

**b. Pollution Prevention Initiatives:**

(1) **Blending Facility:** The annual demand for oil-based fuel at the Central Heating Plant (CHP) is approximately 1.4 million gallons. Since the recyclable petroleum can be made suitable for use at the central heating plant and the production rate is less than the demand, a viable alternative for the recycling of the blended recyclable petroleum is to use it as a fuel at the central heating plant.



The construction phase of the blending facility began in FY 2001 and was completed and a contract for the operation of the blending facility was awarded in FY 2003. By blending the recovered fuels, used oil, and used fuels, which amounts to 270,000 gallons per year, will save the Air Station \$237,600 per year. At this savings level, the investment for construction of the blending facility will have a payback period of less than 23 months. The first shipments of recycled used oil to the Blending Facility began in January 2004. A total of 185,095 gallons were delivered to the CHP for burning during FY 2005-2006. Thus saving \$285,309 in purchasing virgin heating oil for the Air Station's CHP. There has been an increase from \$.87 per gallon cost for #2 heating oil in FY 2004 to \$1.84 per gallon in FY 2006. This blending facility is the only one of its kind in the Marine Corps and is also unique in that the operation and burning includes recovered remediated JP-5 jet fuels.

**(2) The Minimizer® Reduces Waste Solvents by Over 95%:** DynCorp International is using a solvent reclamation unit to reclaim solvents in their waste paint sludge aboard the Air Station. The Safety-Kleen Minimizers provide customers a proven approach to reducing paint waste and recycling thinner. This approach allows the user to save money on both product and compliance costs. Using a patented distillation process, the 18-Gallon Minimizer is ideal for commercial paint related markets such as automotive body shops as well as a variety of industrial solvent waste generators. It recycles lacquer thinner and paint waste as well as a variety of solvent that have a boiling point of less than 350 F, including Acetone, Xylene MEK, Toluene, Alcohol and many more. The waste removed in the process is reduced to a solid (referred to as a hockey puck) that is collected and picked up as part of the Safety-Kleen service. The Minimizer® Reduces Waste Solvents by Over 95%. Used paint thinner is automatically transferred to the Minimizer® and recycled from the paint. The fresh, clean thinner is transferred back to the Safety-Kleen Paint Gun Cleaner to be used again. The residue, consisting of paint solids, is a fraction of the original waste thinner volume which saves on thinner costs, waste costs, and significant waste minimization is achieved. At the current waste paint sludge generation rate by DynCorp, the Air Station will save approximately \$26,920 per year in sludge disposal and virgin solvent purchases.



**(3) Recharging Non-facility Fire Extinguishers:** The Air Station disposes of a large number of non-facility fire extinguishers. These fire extinguishers must meet the DRMO regulations for cylinder disposal (emptied of contents, valves removed and the container damaged to prevent reuse). This process is labor intensive, costly, may pose a health problem with exposure to dust, and when damaging the containers to prevent reuse. The Environmental Affairs Department and the Hazardous Materials Control Center has implemented a program to recharge, service and reissue fire extinguishers. The Air Station will avoid the disposal of used extinguishers and the need to purchase new replacements. As of to date the projected savings are approximately \$35,000 (Cost of recharging and servicing versus purchasing and disposal).



**(4) Installing Drop Inlet Spill Protection Devices:**

By installing drop inlet spill protection devices in the fuel pits along the flightline and providing spill response kits at each of the pits, MCAS Cherry Point has reduced the potential impact to the environment from spills and has improved the Marine's response time for spill cleanup. Safe Drain Inc. manufactures a device that seals to and mounts inside a drop inlet to regulate materials that would normally flow through. The Safe Drain™ device has a valve that can be closed to prevent drainage. For actuation, a "key" is inserted between the openings in the drain grate to open/close the valve. Our Safe Drain™ drop inlet spill protection devices are maintained in the closed position and hold back any rainwater/spills for collection in the pits. Collected rainwater is released following inspection for spills. The spill response kits located at each of the fuel pits have greatly improved the Marine's response time and are preventing spills from entering the environment.

(5) **F0606 Solvent to Replace Antiquated Methylene Chloride Dip Tank:** The Airframes Division of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron (MALS)-14 at MCAS Cherry Point is responsible for second-echelon (or intermediate) maintenance of all tactical aircraft within 2D-MAW, including AV-8B Harriers, EA-6B Prowlers, and KC-130 Hercules. As part of this maintenance, MALS-14 Airframes requires the use of a chemical paint stripper to remove paint from various aircraft parts. Prior to 2006, Airframes used a dip tank containing methylene chloride (also known as dichloromethane) and phenol, which are listed as federal HAPs, North Carolina TAPs, and EHSs. Additionally, these chemicals contribute to a significant source of hazardous waste generation and pose both OSHA and NFPA concerns. The actual dip tank was nothing more than three metal dip tanks welded together by shop personnel and was located outside to address OSHA ventilation concerns.



The Environmental Affairs Department recognized this concern and commissioned a study to evaluate less toxic paint strippers that still met MILSPEC standards. The results of this study allowed for the procurement of a Ramco AJA Kleen System with F0606 solvent for the squadron to replace the antiquated methylene chloride dip tank. Besides the clear benefit of elimination of methylene chloride and phenol, other benefits were recognized.

### **Summary Narrative:**

MCAS Cherry Point is proud of its environmental stewardship. Our management accomplishments emphasize the mutually beneficial relationship between the Air Station, the surrounding communities, and the natural environment we share. Emphasis for the 2005 and 2006 Environmental Quality Program was founded on the development of innovative pollution prevention and comprehensive waste minimization and recycling initiatives.

During 2005-2006, environmental innovations and recycling initiatives have produced a grand total of **\$3,874,918** in income and cost avoidance. These programs have proven to be effective pollution prevention resources and waste reduction mechanisms for Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point.

By implementing proper and timely environmental management practices into hazardous waste/material control, pollution prevention measures, and recycling goals along with community involvement, we have saved significant funds, reduced environmental risks, improved processes, and at the same time enhanced our environment.

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