



# Environmental Times

A newsletter for Coast Guard environmental management and compliance

## Coast Guard Participates in America Recycles Day

Submitted by Shari Tavel, G-SEC

On November 15, 2002, Secretary of Interior Gale Norton kicked off the sixth annual America Recycles Day, which encourages people to recycle and buy recycled products. Coast Guard Headquarters participated in the Washington, D.C. metro area planning and equipment collection of this nationwide awareness event.

Federal agencies, the D.C. government, and corporate partners sponsored the 2-day electronics recycling event at the Washington Monument. Volunteers from various federal and local governments and organizations staffed drop-off points for electronic equipment including computers, monitors, cell phones, televisions, printers, and VCRs. UNICOR Federal Prison Industries, a government corporation, will recycle the items. Approximately 400 people brought equipment to be recycled. Volunteers filled three semi-trailers with 30 tons of recyclable equipment. *(Continued on page 2)*



Mr. John Howard, White House Federal Environmental Executive, and Department of Interior Secretary Gail Norton at the reading of Presidential Proclamation for America Recycles Day at the Washington Monument recycling drop-off site.

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## Environmental Alternatives for Small Arms Firing Ranges

The U.S. military forces operate nearly 2,000 small arms ranges combined. Each year the military shoots approximately 400 million rounds of small caliber bullets during training exercises. On most ranges, shooters fire small arms into earthen berms. This deposits lead and other metals into the soil. In some cases, these materials become mobile and migrate to surface or ground water. Over time this could lead to environmental conditions that require regulatory restrictions or even closure of the range.

The U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC) and the U.S. Army Training Support Center have conducted extensive research to identify measures to prevent and mitigate pollution generated by activities on small arms firing ranges. Their report, *Prevention of Lead Migration and Erosion from Small Arms Ranges* (1998), identifies innovative, cost-effective, and environmentally smart ways to operate and maintain ranges and to manage small arms training. The report discusses potential lead management programs that incorporate measures such as re-contouring backstops to provide greater slope stability, grading the range floor to direct runoff, vegetating backstops and range floors to control erosion, and modifying the soil to inhibit vertical movement of lead into groundwater. *(Continued on page 2)*

## More News You Can Use

### Coast Guard Participates in America Recycles Day

*(Continued from page 1)*

During the opening ceremonies, Secretary Norton read President George W. Bush's America Recycles Day Proclamation. James Connaughton, Chairman, White House Council on Environmental Quality, John Howard, Federal Environmental Executive and Chairman of the White House task force on waste prevention, and Herbert Tillery, Deputy Mayor, District of Columbia, also attended the event.

Christine Degliumberto, G-SEC-3 student intern from Indiana University, and Dr. Ken Malmberg of G-SEC-3 created a poster commemorating the event, which was displayed throughout Coast Guard Headquarters. Assisting Ms. Degliumberto at the recycling drop-off points were LTJG Kevin Wallace of G-SEC-2 and T. J. Granito of G-SEC-3.

### Environmental Alternatives for Small Arms Firing Ranges

*(Continued from page 1)*

The report also advocates the practice of physically removing lead from backstops regularly, and states that this is one of the best methods to reduce lead migration problems.

The report identifies myriad pollution mitigation measures, but underscores the need for pollution prevention. Over the past few years, the Army has tested various preventative methods including redesigned bullet traps and the use of "green" bullets.

Bullet traps use deceleration, impact, or friction to slow a bullet and bring it to a stop within a defined distance. Traditionally, bullet traps were designed for indoor applications; however, environmental concerns and demands of the marketplace have encouraged manufacturers to modify their traps for outdoor use.

Not all redesigned bullet traps are created equal when it comes to environmental protection. Some traps cause a greater level of bullet fragmentation than others, which retards the recovery of fired bullet materials and limits recycling. Some traps have

problems with leakage, while others require frequent and costly maintenance to achieve environmental benefits. Additionally, the Army has found that the redesigned bullet traps have significant maintenance, durability, and operational limitations.

The Army also is exploring the use of green bullets as a preventive method for addressing lead contamination on small arms firing ranges. The bullets are made out of tungsten, a resilient metal used in light bulbs and cutting tools. A tungsten-tin or tungsten-nylon core replaces the lead core typically used for the copper-jacketed 5.56mm bullets that are standard for the m-16 rifle. The green bullet poses no environmental threats and is identical in performance as the lead-core rounds. The cost to produce these bullets is less expensive than production of traditional ammunition.

Currently, the Army is testing green bullets in hopes that it will be the technological solution to the environmental problems on small arms ranges. The Coast Guard awaits the results of these tests.

Check the following websites for more information on the Army's small arms firing range management studies and initiatives:

- *Prevention of Lead Migration and Erosion from Small Arms Range:*  
<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/technology/leadmigration.pdf>
- Prevention of lead migration and erosion:  
<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/technology/rangexxi03d.html>
- Bullet traps:  
<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/technology/rangexxi03a.html>
- Green bullets:  
<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/technology/rangexxi00a01.html>

The Coast Guard also provides study results and information on environmental measures for small arms ranges on the following websites:

- Testing and Evaluation of Treatment Technologies for U.S. Coast Guard Small Arms Ranges:  
<http://www.uscg.mil/systems/gse/testin~1.htm>
- Environmental Guidelines for Coast Guard Small Arms Ranges:  
<http://www.uscg.mil/systems/gse/armsguid.htm>

## **The United States Coast Guard and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act: Compliance with Executive Order 13186**

*Submitted by LT Martha Rodriguez, G-LEL*

Since 1918, the United States has recognized the ecological and economic importance of migratory birds. Nearly a century ago, Congress ratified the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the domestic law that affirms or implements the United States' commitment to four international conventions (with Mexico, Japan and Great Britain (on behalf of Canada)) for the protection of shared migratory bird resources. Since that time, the United States has implemented the international convention, which protects migratory birds and their habitats. The President emphasized the importance of the MBTA by imposing migratory bird conservation obligations, Executive Order (EO) 13186 (2001), which requires all Federal agencies taking actions that have or are likely to have a "measurable negative effect on migratory bird populations" to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to "promote the conservation of migratory bird populations."

To comply with this EO, the U.S. Coast Guard is formulating a general (Coast Guard-wide) MOU with FWS that should meet our EO 13186 obligations. This MOU covers everything that the EO requires us to do and states that we will look into our programs and determine if additional MOUs for specific programs are needed. The Coast Guard has evaluated its activities to determine what mission areas trigger the EO requirement to develop an MOU. After reviewing our many missions, some areas of concern have emerged. One involves the "Rescue 21" project. Rescue 21 seeks to improve search and rescue, homeland security, and intelligence coverage by ensuring that 100% of the United States coastline has radio coverage. The Coast Guard will build a system of communication towers along the coastline in the migratory path of many bird species. While scientists are by no means certain, they believe that towers can cause deaths among migratory bird populations because the birds are attracted to tower lighting, crash into guy wires, and the towers interfere with flight paths.

The Coast Guard is formulating an MOU with FWS for Rescue 21 and other activities. The Rescue 21 MOU will focus mainly on new tower construction.

Congress' goal of initiating the Rescue 21 project by early 2003 makes the timing of this MOU critical. The MOU will further the study of towers as a threat to migratory birds and will ensure compliance with the MBTA and EO 13186.

The Coast Guard will sign both MOUs in the near future. **All** Coast Guard activities are at risk so other Coast Guard mission areas will require further study/assessment to ensure they comply with the MBTA. Recent amendments to the MBTA exempt combat training activities, but specifically do not exempt normal operations. Currently, the Coast Guard activities affecting migratory birds are considered normal operations and are not excluded as combat training activities; therefore, we continue to work towards compliance with the MBTA and EO 13186.

## **More Green Meetings, Please!**

*Submitted by Christine Degliumberto, G-SEC Intern*

Visualize a workshop where you arrive via public transportation, and your hotel reminds you to turn off the lights upon leaving your room to conserve energy. All of your materials for the workshop are printed double-sided with soy or vegetable-based ink. Your nametag is your own business card in a reusable holder, which will be collected at the end of the conference. Coffee is served in complimentary mugs with the workshop's name and sponsors embossed upon it. Fresh fruit is served on reusable plates, and you are asked to discard your unwanted food in a composting bin.

Does this sound too environmentally friendly to be true? Is it a little too futuristic? This actual workshop took place 11 years ago in April 1992, in Montgomery County, Maryland. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the Montgomery County Department of Environment invited approximately 50 state and local waste management specialists to attend a workshop on waste prevention. The meeting planners went to great lengths to conserve materials and reduce waste.

The key to planning a green meeting is to set environmental priorities. The above meeting was formatted to reduce material waste. Another priority could be to reduce energy loss or to conserve water. *(Continued on page 4)*

## Green Meetings

(Continued from page 3)

These prioritized goals can be met by tailoring meeting location, lodging, transportation, and refreshments. Every little bit helps. In fiscal year 2000, the Federal government spent more than \$9 billion on travel for mission-related business around the world. In addition, federal travelers use 24 million hotel rooms annually. Hence, there is a definite need for green thinking.

EPA has a website that can help you plan a greener meeting ([www.epa.gov/oppt/greenmeetings](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/greenmeetings)). The website breaks down the key players in meetings and provides guidelines on how meeting hosts, planners, suppliers, and attendees can make the meeting green. From EPA's site you can link to [www.bluegreenmeetings.org](http://www.bluegreenmeetings.org), which lists 10 tips to make any meeting more environmentally responsible.

Achieving moderate levels of green meetings, travel, and rooms just takes a little thought and creativity. Ideas include reusable nametags and sending meeting information electronically instead of providing handouts. Likewise, requesting fuel-efficient rental cars or using public transportation is a step towards being green. Also, you can request that the hotel not change your bedding and towels during your stay. Most hotels and car rental companies offer green options like these, but they are not publicized due to low demand. Once people begin to request green options and increase the demand, the supply will increase. So pass the word along!

## What to Do with Your Old PC?

Millions of new computers were purchased as holiday gifts last year. Many of these machines replaced older, slower computers. Even though 90% of computer contents can be reused, less than 10% of abandoned computers get recycled. The National Safety Council projects that over 315 million computers will become obsolete by the year 2004 and that simply throwing these machines away would add an estimated 8.5 million tons of waste to America's landfills. There is an increasing concern because literally hundreds of the materials—including chlorinated and brominated substances, metals, gases, acids and plastic additives—are highly toxic.

There are a growing number of computer recycling and donation programs that make it easy to find a "green" home for your old, unused personal computer.

- To find a home for your personal computer with a national nonprofit group, go to: [www.usedcomputer.com/nonprof.html](http://www.usedcomputer.com/nonprof.html).
- To find a state-by-state listing of organizations that recycle computers, go to: [www.microweb.com/pepsite/Recycle/recycle\\_index.html](http://www.microweb.com/pepsite/Recycle/recycle_index.html).
- For information on passing your computer along to a charity or school, go to: <http://sharetechnology.org/>.
- To use your ZIP Code to find local recycling options, go to: [www.1800cleanup.org/](http://www.1800cleanup.org/).

Also Dell, Hewlett-Packard (HP), and Gateway have programs to facilitate computer donations, recycling, and trade-ins. See their websites for more information:

- Dell: [www.dellexchange.com](http://www.dellexchange.com).
- HP: [www.hp.com/go/recycle](http://www.hp.com/go/recycle).
- Gateway: [www.gateway.tradeups.com](http://www.gateway.tradeups.com).

Off the web? You can look up "Recycling Services" in your local yellow pages. In many communities, you will find listings for computer recycling services.

## "You Have the Power" Energy Champion for Spring 2003

Mr. Richard Ker, Supervisor, Pipe / HVAC Shop, Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, NJ, is the Department of Transportation / U.S. Coast Guard "You Have the Power" Energy Champion for Spring 2003. The "You Have the Power" campaign is sponsored by the Department of Energy (DOE) to honor Federal employees who have made extraordinary contributions to the energy savings effort by developing and advocating innovative practices that save energy and money and improve the efficiency of the government.

The following Coast Guard personnel also were nominated for the award and deserve recognition:

INDIVIDUAL	UNIT
Shannon Ferral Ray Gallinger	USCG Group Port Angeles, Facilities Maintenance Support Port Angeles, WA
LT Jeff Burke	FDCC Pacific, Seattle, WA
Glen Yanagi	USCG CEU, Honolulu HI

Find out more about the "You Have the Power" campaign at: <http://www.eren.doe.gov/femp/yhttp/energychamps.html>.



## Coast Guard / DOT Environmental Achievement Award Winners for 2002

With each passing year, members of the Coast Guard community reach greater levels of achievement as stewards of the environment. For 2002, the Coast Guard and DOT recognized nine Coast Guard individuals, teams, and units who demonstrated long-term achievement, commitment, and outstanding performance in these endeavors. DOT awarded Environmental Achievement Awards to four Coast Guard facilities.

The Coast Guard Environmental Award honors contributions in 10 areas of environmental excellence: source reduction, recycling, affirmative procurement, natural resource protection and management, pollution prevention, compliance, environmental planning (e.g., NEPA), historic and cultural resource management, prevention/remediation of environmental damage, and overall environmental excellence. The winners are—

COAST GUARD ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS	
Individual	Category
MST1 Jeff Yunker Activities NY	Natural Resources Protection and Management
Marsha F. Levy CEU Providence	Historic and Cultural Resource Management
CWO Jay Menze ISC Kodiak	Recycling
Team	
G-MOR	Prevention / Remediation of Environmental Damage
Vessel Disposal Environmental Planning Team	Historic and Cultural Resource Management
Unit (Large)	
ATC Mobile	Overall Environmental Excellence
ISC Miami	Pollution Prevention
A/S Borinquen	Source Reduction and Pollution Prevention
ISC Kodiak	Recycling

The DOT Environmental Achievement Award recognizes excellence and leadership in eight categories: waste prevention, model facility, environmental management systems, education and outreach, bio-based products, environmental preferability, recycling, and affirmative procurement.

Coast Guard units were awarded four of the eight DOT Environmental Awards for 2002. Two units

that won DOT awards also won Coast Guard Environmental Awards. Congratulations go to the following units:

DOT ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS	
Model Facility Demonstrations (Tie)	
ATC Mobile	Model Facility Demonstration
ISC Miami	Model Facility Demonstration
Education and Outreach	
Auxiliary Flotilla 14-19 East China, MI	Impact of Household Refuse on the Environment Recycling
Environmental Management Systems	
USCG Yard Baltimore, MD	Environmental Management System ISO 14001 Certified for 3 Years

## Coast Guard Energy Stakeholders

The new Coast Guard Energy Management Oversight Committee (EMOC) met for the first time in October 2002. The purpose of the EMOC is to provide ongoing review of the Coast Guard's National Energy Program.

Paul Fennewald is the Coast Guard's new Energy Program Manager and leads the EMOC. The establishment of the EMOC is the fulfillment of Fennewald's first goal to enhance Coast Guard energy leadership. Fennewald's other goals for FY03 include—

- Enable and recognize energy successes.
- Improve energy performance reporting systems.
- Issue guidance on energy performance contracts.
- Facilitate greater understanding of fuel purchasing methods.
- Identify training for energy stakeholders.

This year's energy awareness campaign is "A Secure Energy Future: Conserve Energy to Ensure Affordable, Reliable Power Supplies." The campaign encourages us all to protect our national energy supply by using energy efficiently.

For more information on the EMOC or the Coast Guard's energy initiatives, contact Paul Fennewald at [pfennewald@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:pfennewald@comdt.uscg.mil) or (202) 267-2671.



## Untangling the Web

### Environmental Times Back Issues Now on the Web

As requested by our readers, back issues of the Environmental Times (from the year of 2000) can now be accessed via the web from the U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Management Division's website at <http://www.uscg.mil/systems/gse/gsec-3H.htm>. Just click on our beloved logo, the Dolphin, and voila...all the back issues will be available for your reading pleasure. (Back issues prior to 2000 are still under construction.)

### Joint Service Pollution Prevention (P2) Technical Library: A Great Resource Available to the Coast Guard

Submitted by T. J. Granito, G-SEC

Most of us are on the lookout for ways to improve our efficiency and to get our jobs done in a manner that is both effective and environmentally safe. It's important that we work together to share our information. An excellent example of mutual cooperation is the *Joint Service Pollution Prevention (P2) Technical Library*. The P2 Library, managed by the Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center (NFESC), is backed and funded by all four DOD services, the Coast Guard, and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). The library is a

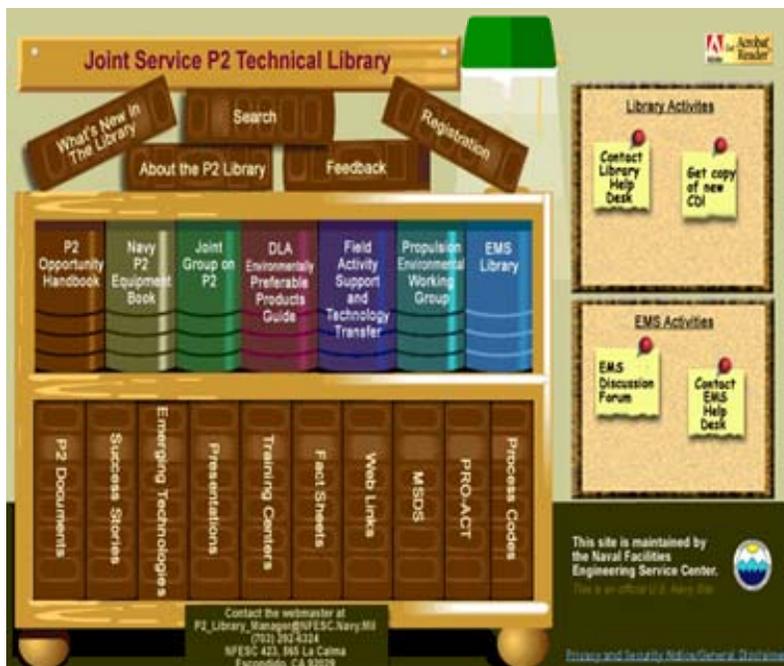
single comprehensive resource for information on equipment, technologies, and management practices that reduce or eliminate the generation, disposal, and release of pollutants at joint service installations. It is an excellent source for lessons learned and success stories throughout the joint services, and is useful for researching pollution prevention opportunities during pollution prevention plan development and other projects. The library is available through the Internet at <http://p2library.nfesc.navy.mil/> or on CD-ROM. The library can also be accessed from the Coast Guard's Environmental website at <http://www.uscg.mil/systems/gse/p2&recyc.htm>.

The P2 Technical Library is continually being updated to keep pace with emerging issues and new technologies. Included within the library are five major joint service resources:

- *P2 Opportunity Handbook* identifies available off-the-shelf P2 technologies, management practices, and process changes to reduce hazardous waste and solid waste generated at joint service industrial facilities.
- *Navy P2 Equipment Book* identifies commercially available P2 equipment and provides eligible participants with information on items already under contract by the Navy. The contracts are open to the other services.
- *Joint Group on P2 (JG-PP) Technical Documents* was established to eliminate the duplication of efforts in changing military specifications/standards, overcome budget constraints for pollution prevention, and establish common test protocol acceptance of alternatives.
- *DLA Environmentally Preferable Products Guide* promotes the purchase of environmentally preferable products that meet environmental agency standards.
- *Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Library* is a clearinghouse for Joint Service EMS policies and directives, general, organizational, and practice specific information, working documents and templates, training modules, and other EMS resources.

For a copy of the CD-ROM or to submit documents to the Coast Guard's P2 website, contact Mr. T.J. Granito, G-SEC-3, at [tgranito@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:tgranito@comdt.uscg.mil) or (202) 267-1941.

For further information about the P2 Technical Library or to be placed on the distribution list for future copies, contact Mr. Larry Hill at [lhill@nfesc.navy.mil](mailto:lhill@nfesc.navy.mil).



## EPA National Environmental Compliance Assistance Clearinghouse Reestablished

EPA's National Environmental Compliance Assistance Clearinghouse, referred to as the Clearinghouse, makes it even easier to find environmental compliance assistance tools and resources through improved navigational features.

The Clearinghouse is being reestablished, after first being launched in 2000, and provides links to more than 5,000 tools and resources developed by EPA, states, trade associations, and other assistance providers. In addition to serving as a national repository of compliance assistance tools, interactive features allow visitors to exchange ideas and results with colleagues on a topic-specific bulletin board. EPA and state project planning and initiative information is also available. An easy-to-use online form enables Clearinghouse compliance assistance providers to quickly link the Clearinghouse to their compliance assistance tools and resources. Compliance assistance providers and the regulated community alike will find the Clearinghouse a valuable resource.

The Clearinghouse can be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov/clearinghouse>.

## Mark Your Calendars

### ASNE/SNAME Marine Environmental Engineering Technical Symposium (MEETS 03)

*Submitted by Hari Bindal, P.E., U.S. Coast Guard Yard.*

The Coast Guard Headquarters Office of Naval Engineering (G-SEN) is partnering with American Society of Naval Engineers / Society of Naval Architect and Marine Engineers (ASNE/SNAME) Joint Environmental Engineering Committee to hold its third Marine Environmental Engineering Technology Symposium (MEETS 03). The symposium will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington, VA, on August 21-22, 2003. The theme of the symposium this year is "In Pursuit of Cleaner Seas."

The date for accepting technical papers for the symposium is still open. If you would like to present your ideas on subjects related to the marine environment,

contact Bob Merckle, Chairman of the Technical Papers Committee, at [rmerkle@gibbscox.com](mailto:rmerkle@gibbscox.com). G-SEN encourages Coast Guard environmental staff to contribute papers or participate in the symposium in any way they find appropriate.

For more information contact David Breslin at [BreslinDA@navsea.navy.mil](mailto:BreslinDA@navsea.navy.mil) or (202) 781-3433.



*Submitted by LT Alexis Tune, G-MOR*

This year's International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, April 6 –10, 2003, and co-hosted by the Canadian Coast Guard and Environment Canada. The conference theme is *Global Strategies for the Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration of Oil Spills*. The conference will feature scientists, contractors, and government representatives in oil spill response from around the world.

Conference highlights will include on-water demonstrations and the presentations on two papers: *Oil Spill Prevention - A Pro-Active Approach* and *Global Challenges to Preparedness and Response Regimes*, which addresses the successes and failures in oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response. Both presentations will offer ideas on where future efforts in pollution prevention and response should be directed and are guaranteed to lead to extensive discussions at future conferences. There also will be a panel discussion on the Canadian response regime and its role in working with both the government and industry to protect the Canadian marine environment.

The conference keynote speaker is Admiral James Watkins, USN (Ret.), Chairman, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policies. Other featured speakers include Vice Admiral Thad Allen, the U.S. Coast Guard's Chief of Staff, and Mr. Johnson Crosbie, author of the autobiography, *No Holds Barred*, and counsel to Patterson Palmer Hunt Murphy, a firm of Atlantic Canada Lawyers.

This year's conference also will feature a film festival and exhibits featuring a variety of response methods and technologies.

For additional information on the conference, please visit the IOSC web site at [www.iosc.org](http://www.iosc.org).

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*In support of our environmental mission and goals for a paperless office, if you are currently receiving a paper copy of the publication and are capable of receiving it electronically, please notify Martin Nguyen.*

*The Environmental Times is a quarterly publication designed to help keep Coast Guard personnel apprised of environmental issues impacting Coast Guard facilities, operations, planning, and policy making. The Environmental Times supports the U.S. Coast Guard Commandant's soon to be released revised Environmental Statement. We encourage you to write the editor with questions, comments, or input for this publication.*