# POLLUTION PREVENTION SUCCESS STORIES AT TINKER AIR FORCE BASE

Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma

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#### TINKER AFB, OKLAHOMA Introduction



- Tinker AFB covers 5,031 acres
  - Only 200 acres are undeveloped
- 765 Facilities
  - 15.3M feet<sup>2</sup> of industrial operations
- Three Creek Systems
- 700-plus Air Emission Sources
- 200 Underground Storage Tanks
- 11-Miles Industrial Wastewater Lines
- Three Wastewater Treatment Plants
- 36 Restoration Sites
- Provides Logistics Support to USAF Weapon Systems
  - B-1, B-52, E-3 Sentry, C/KC-135 aircraft









"To reduce pollution at the Source through a Hierarchy of Actions including source reduction, chemical substitution, recycle, reuse, treatment, and disposal"

"To incorporate the Compliance Through Pollution Prevention [CTP2] process into all environmental compliance sites by generating a 5-year Management Action Plan [MAP] to address the top five percent sites annually via Process Specific Opportunity Assessments [PSOAs] to reduce ESOH cost and risk"





- Pollution Prevention Opportunities
  - Purchased 2.1 million pounds of targeted EPA toxic chemicals
  - Purchased 328,000 pounds of ozone depleting substances [ODSs]
  - Disposed of 12 million pounds of hazardous waste
  - Disposed of 35 million pounds of municipal solid waste
  - Hazardous material pharmacy tracked 5000+ hazardous materials
- Pollution Prevention Accomplishments
  - Reduced chemical purchases by 71% [1.5 million pounds]
  - Reduced ODS purchases by 99.7% [328,000 pounds]
  - Reduced hazardous waste discharges by 67% [8 million pounds]
  - Reduced municipal solid waste by 59% [20 million pounds]
  - Reduced number of chemicals tracked hazmaterial pharmacy
    Reduced number from 5000 to 800



#### **POLLUTION PREVENTION** Overview of Benefits



## Environmental Benefits

- Use hierarchy of actions including source reduction, chemical substitution, recycle, reuse, treatment, and disposal
- Eliminate / reduce EPA-listed chemicals
- Minimize waste generation
- Minimize water usage
- Robotic Technologies
- Increase Worker Safety
  - Isolate hazardous environment
- Shorten Process Flow Days
  - From days / weeks to minutes
- Cost Savings
  - Eliminated need for abatement control technologies





#### **POLLUTION PREVENTION** Alternative Fuel Efforts



- 153 CNG Vehicles
  - 50,000 gallons with two fill stations
  - Reduced gasoline consumption by approximately 141,000 gallons per year
  - Reduces tailpipe emissions by 80%
  - Fuel economy [cost per mile] equivalent to diesel
- 12 Electric NEV's
- 10 Segway units
- B20 Fuel for diesel
  - 700 vehicles converted to biodiesel
  - Use roughly 180,000 gallon per year
  - Reduces tailpipe emissions by 20%



**POLLUTION PREVENTION** Success Stories



- Aircraft Radome Chemical Depainting
  - MEK EPA-listed chemical solvent
- TAFB Searched for Alternative Process
  - High-pressure water blast
  - Dry media blast [wheat starch, BOSS]
  - Laser coating stripper
  - Xenon flashlamp / CO<sub>2</sub> pellet blast
  - Radome protective barrier coating
  - Chemical alternatives to MEK
- Chemical Alternative Tested
  - Compatible with the radome materials
  - Capable of removing the protective coatings
  - Solvent is a blend of dibasic esters [DBE]
    Low vapor pressure and low toxicity





- Benefits of Aircraft Radome Depainting with Dibasic Esters [DBE]
  - Ease of use
  - Goes further [less expensive to use]
  - Compatibility with radome materials
  - Not an EPA-listed material
  - Environmentally compliant
  - Lowers health risks to workforce
  - \$0 implementation cost
  - Allows for increased workload
  - Reduces operating costs by \$30K
  - Reduces HAP emissions by 78,000 lbs
  - Eliminates abatement requirements [\$2M]





- Alternative EA Chemical Depainting Agents
  - Prototyped EA two-part chemical strippers
    - ► Eliminated 800,000 lbs per year
    - Four-fold reduction in health risks
    - Saved \$245K annually
  - Prototyping EA one-part chemical strippers
    Projecting to save \$300K yearly
  - Eliminated abatement requirement [\$6M]





- Alternative Chemical Depaint Technology
  - Harsh EPA-listed chemical strippers
- Aircraft Component Subsystem [ACS]
  - Robotically controlled
  - 36,000 psi
  - Saves \$1.3 million
  - Eliminates 140,000 lbs of HAPs
    - >100,000 lbs waste [masking requirements]
    - 8.3 million gallons of wastewater
    - ▶76,000 lbs IWTP hazardous waste sludge
    - >330 gallons of ODCs
  - Removes personnel from hazardous work environment
  - Reduces worker turnover rate
  - Eliminated abatement requirement [\$20M]





- Alternative Electroplating Technology
  - Cadmium EPA-listed chemical
  - Cadmium plating most toxic operation
- Ion Vapor Deposition [IVD]
  - Erosion resistance and higher-temperature requirement
  - Temperatures up to 950 °F, whereas cadmium is limited to 450 °F
  - Applied to high-strength steel without the fear of hydrogen embrittlement
  - 45 minutes compared to over 48 hours
  - Removes personnel from hazardous work environment
  - Eliminates 400 lbs of cadmium
  - Eliminates cyanide products
  - Wastewater is eliminated





- Alternative Electroplating Technology
  - Chrome EPA-listed chemical
  - Chrome plating accounts for 60% workload
- High-Velocity Oxygen-Fuel Flame Spray
  - Robotically controlled technology
  - High-energy thermal spraying process
  - Wear / erosion coatings and thermal barriers
  - Produces very dense, hard coatings
  - 45 minutes compared to over 48 hours
  - Removes personnel from hazardous work environment
  - HVOF is very flexible
    - Capable of applying over 23 different coatings
  - Wastewater is eliminated because there are no rinse waters





- Alternative Cleaning Technology
  - Water Jet Knife
  - Used to remove all abradable thermal spray coatings
    - Rubberized coatings, stripping abradable thermal spray coatings, fiberglass, paint, sealants, and adhesives
  - Robotically controlled technology
  - Operates at 20,000 psi with a flow rate of 20 gpm
  - Eliminated the use of 2,360 gallons per year of methylene chloride
  - 20 minutes compared to days / weeks
  - Removes personnel from hazardous work environment





- Alternative Cleaning Technology
  - CO<sub>2</sub> abrasive blasting
  - Removes carbon, corrosion, and paint
  - Replacing solvents, acids, and caustics to chemically remove the material
  - Replaced traditional grit blasting
  - CO<sub>2</sub> blasting eliminates the need for masking, since the solid CO<sub>2</sub> sublimes to a gas upon impact
  - Eliminated the use of 1,700 gallons per year of hazardous chemicals
  - 30 minutes compared to days
  - Minimizes / eliminates hazardous waste generated by toxic chemicals





## Alternative Cleaning Technology

- Hot oil aqueous cleaning process
- Replaces perchloroethylene degreasers









### **PLATO's PROCESS PLANNER**



Computer model of plating processes, chemistries, water usage, energy utilization, chemicals consumption, etc.

## **SELECTED PSOAs**

- Condensate reboiler
  - rinses w/temp controls
- Microfiltration
  - alkaline cleaners
- Centralized electrodialysis
   Electroless Nickel line
- Fog rinsing hoist delays
- Conductivity meters
- Hoist enhancements
- Training





- Predictive Source Emission Model developed by EPA
  - Recommended for estimating emission rate from IWTP process units
  - Only GFM developed for industrial wastewater collection / treatment processes
  - Requires minimal amount of process unit information and wastewater influent properties
    - Constituent concentrations, flow rates, physical dimensions of process unit, operating conditions, detention times, biological activity, etc.
- Atmospheric Dispersion Model developed by EPA
  - Generates annual-average & 24-hour maximum concentrations
  - ISC dictated by state protocol for air dispersion modeling
  - Emission source data
    - >Need emission rate [factor] for individual process units
  - Meteorology data
    - *Wind speed, direction, surface conditions, mixing height, etc.*
  - Receptor data

> Determine impact region, develop grid system, grid spacing, etc.











- Sludge Dewatering Operation at IWTP
  - Accounted for 39% of AFMC hazardous waste stream
- Reduced hazardous waste sludge disposal by 6,764,420 pounds annually, [88 percent]
- Reduced hazardous waste sludge disposal costs by \$1,247,630 annually, [88 percent]





#### **POLLUTION PREVENTION** Proposed Technologies



- Air-Sparged Hydrocyclone [ASH] Technology
  - Demonstrated on-site
  - Relatively cheap technology
    - Projected payback < 2 years</p>
  - Pretreat chemical stripper waste stream
  - Removes 95+% of metals
  - Removes 25-90% of organics
  - AFFF removal of 86%





- Geothermal Heat Pump Applications
  - Identify opportunities for implementing geothermal heat pump technology by:
    - Recovering thermal energy from wastewater used in ground water treatment plant (GWTP)
    - and/or industrial wastewater treatment plant (IWTP) before it is reused or discharged.
  - Determine potential cost savings and payback using energy efficient technology
    - Energy recovery of 50-70 percent
    - Projected savings \$400K-\$500K annually
  - Incorporating radiant heat technology
  - Funded a more detailed investigation this summer





- Plasma Technology for Pollution Control
  - Low-temperature air toxics treatment
  - Destroying toxic chemical agents
  - Nitrous and sulfurous oxides [NO<sub>x</sub> & SO<sub>x</sub>]
  - Destroying VOC in paint / depaint processes
  - Military applications [destroying nerve gas]
- Bench-Scale Reactor: Single Reactor Design
  - Evaluate chemical system parameters: residence time, humidity, temperature, pressure, etc.
  - Evaluate electrical system parameters: electric field, power, electrode configuration, etc.





**POLLUTION PREVENTION** Summary & Conclusions



### Other Expected DOD Benefits

- Improve local air quality
- Develop durable paint systems
  - Extend operational life of coating system, less field maintenance, etc.
- Shorten depot maintenance flow days
- Reduce operating costs
- Better corrosion protection for weapon systems
  - Extend the operational life of weapon system
- Eliminate need to install expensive pollution abatement technology
- Enable the installation to increase workload

# POLLUTION PREVENTION SUCCESS STORIES AT TINKER AIR FORCE BASE

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