

Pollution Prevention in the Air Force

The United States Air Force recognizes the importance of pollution prevention (P2) in protecting the environment, achieving compliance objectives, and reducing waste disposal costs. Successful P2 programs, including recycling, waste minimization, product substitution, and process changes, among other strategies, are planned or underway at Air Force installations worldwide. The Air Force's environmental programs must do more today than ever before, and do it with increased cost-effectiveness.

The Air Force is a leader in fostering environmental awareness and education within its workforce and communities, thereby extending environmental stewardship from a management concept to an individual responsibility. In response to executive orders, regulations, and policies, successful P2 strategies and technologies are continuously being developed, applied, and improved at Air Force bases around the world. As new ways emerge to eliminate compliance burdens, save money, and minimize chemical exposures, the Air Force is committed to collecting these P2 success stories and making them available to Air Force activities everywhere.

Spotlight On: Seymour Johnson Air Force Base

Seymour Johnson AFB occupies 3,233 acres along the southern boundary of the city of Goldsboro in Wayne County, North Carolina. The base is also responsible for maintaining more than 46,000 additional acres of outlying parcels including the Fort Fisher Air Force Recreation Area and the Dare County Bombing Range. The base is named in honor of Goldsboro native Navy Lieutenant Seymour Andrew Johnson, who was killed in an aircraft crash in Maryland in 1941, giving it the distinction of being the only Air Force base named in honor of a Naval officer. Activated in June 1942, Seymour Johnson Field conducted technical training and prepared soldiers for overseas duty throughout World War II, as well as performing basic training of P-47 pilots. Seymour Johnson Field was inactivated in May 1946 and reopened in April 1956, becoming host to the 83rd Fighter Wing, later replaced by the 4th Fighter Wing, which proudly proclaims "Fourth but First" as its motto. The 4th Fighter Wing has remained at Seymour Johnson AFB since 1957 and is one of the most distinguished fighter units in the world. The Fighter Wing currently consists of two operational squadrons and two training squadrons equipped with the F-15E Strike Eagle. Strategic Air Command (SAC) B-52 bombers, Air Force Reserve KC-135 and KC-10 tankers, and Air National Guard (ANG) F-4 and F-16 fighters have also operated from the base.

Aside from its role as host to an outstanding fighter wing, Seymour Johnson AFB is also home to many successful and innovative P2 programs that are coordinated and managed by the 4th Civil Engineer Squadron's Environmental Flight (4 CES/CEV). By involving the entire installation and the local community as stakeholder partners, the Environmental Flight has created an atmosphere where environmental stewardship is a primary consideration in all activities conducted on Seymour Johnson AFB. This atmosphere is key to the overall success of the installation's environmental programs, and is a primary factor in their having been selected to receive four prestigious environmental awards in the past three years including the 1997 North Carolina Governor's Award for Excellence in Waste Reduction; the 1998 Carolinas Recycling Association's Spotlight Award for Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Buying Recycled; the 1998 Commander-in-chief's Installation Excellence Award for Special Recognition (Mr. John Hudson and the "YOU CALL, WE HAUL" program); and the 1999 OFEE (Office of the Federal Environmental Executive) White House Closing the Circle Award in the Model Facility, Non-hazardous Waste Category - DOD.

Absorbent Industrial Centrifuge

Prior to 1997, Seymour Johnson AFB generated and disposed of approximately 20,000 pounds per year of absorbents used in JP-8 spill and recovery cleanup operations. This single waste stream represented about one third of the total hazardous waste generated on the installation. The Environmental Flight researched several possible options for eliminating this waste stream and decided upon an industrial centrifuge manufactured by **N.S. Engineered Products**. The centrifuge is capable of removing 95-98% of the JP-8 from the absorbents. Because all free liquids are removed from the absorbents, they are no longer classified as hazardous and can either be reused or discarded as solid waste if they are no longer serviceable. The off-specification fuel is shipped to a commercial vendor to burn for energy recovery. The Environmental Flight estimates that elimination of this waste stream saves the installation approximately \$9,300 annually in waste disposal costs.



Loading JP-8 soaked absorbents into the industrial centrifuge

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