Sixth Annual Fleet Environmental Exchange Set for Jacksonville in April 2004

NAVAIR to Host Annual Gathering for Sailors & Marines

Planning is underway for the Naval Air Systems Command's (NAVAIR) sixth annual Fleet Environmental Information Exchange (EIE) scheduled for Jacksonville, FL in April 2004.

Fleet representatives from various Navy and Marine Corps hazardous material, supply, support equipment, ordnance and corrosion control programs have attended past Exchanges to discuss environmental aviation-related issues with NAVAIR's environmental and acquisition experts. Like other Exchanges, there will be plenty of opportunities at the 2004 EIE to learn about new and emerging technologies, network with the Navy's environmental experts and receive training credits.

The primary goal of the EIE is to identify unresolved Fleet environmental needs and provide solutions in real time at the meeting. Needs that cannot, for whatever reason, be resolved at the EIE will be assigned to the appropriate NAVAIR subject-matter expert for action.

EIE attendees also benefit from hands-on demonstrations of new technologies at the EIE's tradeshow. Demonstrations will include the proper use of technologies already transitioned as well as those that are emerging from the Navy's laboratories. NAVAIR wants to make sure the Fleet has the latest and greatest technology and the knowledge to properly apply it.

At the 2003 EIE, sailors and Marines received a half-day refresher course on the proper management of hazardous materials from the hazardous materials manager from Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, CA. Representatives from the Civil Engineering Corps Officers School (CECOS) also provided an overview of CECOS's classroom and web-based training services.

As in past years, this year's agenda will be Fleet-driven. NAVAIR is soliciting topics for the agenda and is also interested in having Fleet personnel present their own perspectives on and solutions to today's environmental challenges. A Naval message will be distributed in January 2004 to officially announce the 2004 EIE and solicit topics for the agenda. ⚓

EIE Tradeshow Showcases Innovative Maintenance Technologies

NAVAIR's aviation maintenance experts demonstrate an array of technologies at EIE tradeshows including:

- Support Equipment Stenciling Equipment
- Particle Counters
- Thermal Imagery Technology
- Self-Contained Corrosion Control Kit
- Radial Bristle Discs
- A Sealant Removal Tool
- A Mildew Removal Kit
- Aircraft Wash Pads
- "Sol-Gel" Surface Preparation
- Paint Gun Cleaning Systems
- Digital Radiography

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SERDP Solicitation for Proposals Released

ESTCP Solicitation To Follow in January

The Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) and the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP) have released or are in the process of releasing their solicitations for proposals from the federal and non-federal (industry and academia) sectors.

SERDP is the Department of Defense's (DoD) corporate environmental research and development program, planned and executed in partnership with the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency, with participation by other federal and non-federal organizations. The program focuses on Cleanup, Compliance, Conservation, Pollution Prevention, and Unexploded Ordnance technologies. To address the highest priority issues confronting the Services, SERDP focuses on cross-service requirements and pursues high-risk/high-payoff solutions to the Department's most pressing environmental problems.

This year, SERDP is issuing both a Core and a SERDP Exploratory Development, also known as SEED, solicitation to select projects to be funded in the next federal fiscal year. SERDP released its Broad Agency Announcement in early November 2003, and pre-proposals are due 8 January 2004. The federal Call for Proposals also was released in early November 2003, and federal proposals are due 4 March 2004.

ESTCP is DoD's environmental technology demonstration and validation program. ESTCP's goal is to identify, demonstrate, and transfer technologies that address DoD's highest priority environmental requirements. The Program promotes innovative, cost-effective environmental technologies in Cleanup, Compliance, Pollution Prevention, and Unexploded Ordnance through demonstrations at DoD facilities and sites. ESTCP will release its Broad Agency Announcement on or about 8 January 2004, and pre-proposals will be due around 11 March 2004. The federal Call for Proposals also will be released in early January 2004, and pre-proposals will be due in early April 2004.

More information about the SERDP solicitations can be found at www.serdp.org under the Funding & Opportunities link. Details about the upcoming ESTCP solicitation will be available in early January 2004 at www.estcp.org under the Opportunities link. ⚓

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New Course Offered on Quality Assurance Project Plans

DoD & EPA Join Forces to Develop Course Offered by CECOS

The Civil Engineering Corps Officers School (CECOS) is now offering a brand new course on the development and review of Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP). This three-day course trains personnel in the Uniform Federal Policy (UFP) governing the preparation and review of QAPPs. The course will train personnel in the use of the Strategic Planning Process (SPP) graded approach to project planning. In particular, course attendees will learn how to prepare and to review Quality Assurance Project Plans that support the generation/collection of defensible environmental data that is appropriate for its intended use. Curriculum materials are presented through a combination of lectures, group projects, and computer exercises.

Target Audience

Personnel from the Department of Defense (all services), Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), state environmental regulatory agencies, and other Federal government agencies are welcomed to enroll. This course is geared toward personnel who develop, review, implement, or use QAPPs including the following:

- Remedial Project Managers (RPM)
- On-Scene Coordinators
- Site Assessment Managers
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Managers
- EPA Enforcement Personnel
- Contractors
- State Regulators
- Quality Assurance Personnel
- DOE Program and Field Managers
- DOE Contractors and Oversight Officers
- Field Task Managers
- Laboratory Personnel

Course Schedule

Start Date	End Date	Location
1/13/2004	1/15/2004	Fort Meade, MD
2/24/2004	2/26/2004	San Francisco, CA
3/23/2004	3/25/2004	Atlanta, GA
4/20/2004	4/23/2004	Chicago, IL

To register for any of these course offerings, visit the CECOS web site at https://www.cecos.navy.mil/. Click on 'Academic Divisions' under 'Course Information', then click on 'Environmental Restoration' to find the course entitled "Achieving Data Quality—Development and Review of Quality Assurance Project Plans." ⚓

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Take Charge of Your Batteries

Optima Battery Finds Wide Acceptance Across Navy

Transportation vehicles, trucks, boats and a host of other power equipment at a wide array of military activities rely on batteries for operational performance. And sound charging procedures are critical to the ongoing maintenance of those batteries.

One battery that has found wide acceptance across the Navy is the Optima battery. The Optima battery is being used more often because of its superior vibration resistance, longer life and non-spillable and maintenance free design. The Optima battery is regarded as a lead acid battery (not a Gel type) and is based on SPIRALCELL technology (Absorbed Glass Mat). The SPIRALCELL design provides for closer plate spacing, plate surface area resulting in superior vibration resistance.

The Field Activity Support and Technology Transfer (FASTT) Team discovered that Optima batteries were being "cooked" or damaged during the recharging process.

Proper Maintenance of Aviation Support Equipment Batteries

to support the conversion to the maintenance free Optima batteries in aviation support equipment, the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) Lakehurst, NJ has addressed the proper charging of the batteries in the following ways:

1. Change 1 to technical manual NAVAIR 17-15BAD-1 entitled, "Operation and Maintenance Instructions With Illustrated Parts Breakdown Naval Aircraft and Naval Aircraft Support Equipment Storage Batteries" was issued on 1 June 2001. This change addresses the proper charging of the Optima batteries used in support equipment in note A to table A-1.

2. The Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane, IN (the Cognizant Field Activity for battery chargers) released message 301210 Jul 03. This message addresses new battery chargers available to fleet activities. The Optima charging requirements are pre-programmed in the chargers easing the demands of field charging.

Questions concerning the use and charging of batteries in aviation support equipment should be addressed to Jerry Bennett (in service engineer) and Diane Pullen (logistics).

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The manufacturer revealed that recharging Optima batteries must be performed properly with voltage limited to a range of 14.2 to 15 volts with the amperage tapering down during recharging (i.e., not constant current).

The manufacturer recommends that chargers should have an automatic shut off capability and the means to remove sulfation from battery plates. Also, the user must allow the battery to be fully charged. Usually when the current tapers down to one ampere, the battery is about 90 percent charged. The remaining 10 percent of charging may take a couple of hours or more to complete. Battery maintenance and charger systems are available as off-the-shelf items from a variety of suppliers.

Proper battery charging will reduce the volume of Optima batteries procured and disposed of as hazardous waste, reduce equipment downtime while increasing the functional reliability of the Optima battery and the starting system. Finally, proper recharging will save money with all associated costs of procurement, disposal, and battery replacement labor hours. ⚓

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