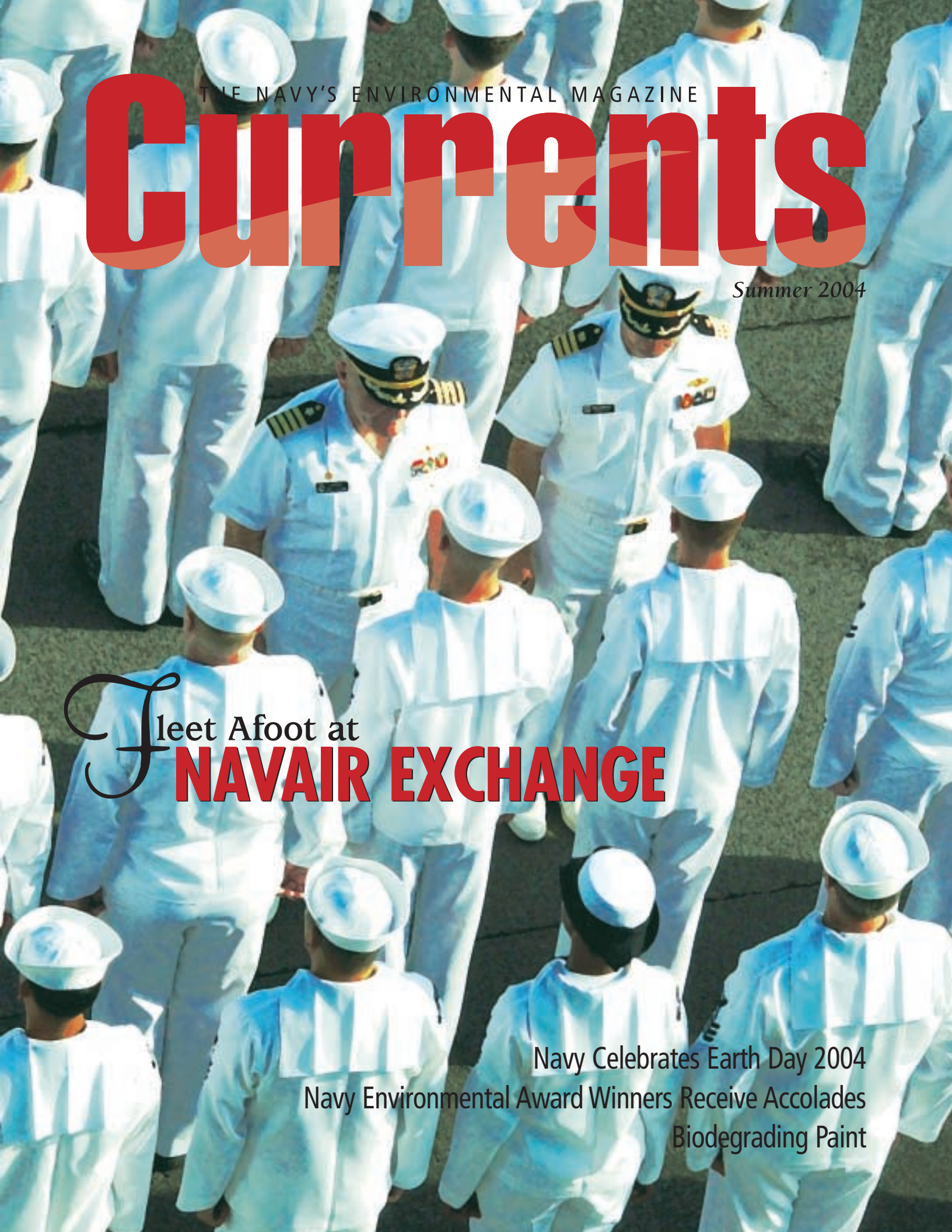

THE NAVY'S ENVIRONMENTAL MAGAZINE

Currents

Summer 2004

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Fleet Afoot at NAVAIR EXCHANGE

Over 140 Attend Sixth Annual Environmental Gathering

The Fleet was afoot at the Naval Air Systems Command's (NAVAIR) sixth annual Environmental Information Exchange (EIE) held at the Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, FL on 27–29 April 2004. In all, 78 uniformed sailors and Marines attended this year's event.

The first day of the EIE focused on obtaining the Fleet's perspective on a variety of environmental issues. The second day's schedule included practical environmental training and a number of technical sessions about maintenance technologies. The third day of the EIE consisted of a guided tour the Naval Air Depot (NADEP) Jacksonville and a tradeshow of innovative maintenance technologies.

Over 140 representatives from various Navy and Marine Corps hazardous material, supply, support equipment, ordnance and corrosion control programs attended this year's Exchange to discuss environmental maintenance-related issues with NAVAIR's environmental and acquisition experts. The Exchange also provided opportunities for sailors and Marines to learn about new and emerging technologies, network with the Navy's environmental experts and receive training credits.

The primary goal of every 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 are assigned to the appropriate NAVAIR subject-matter expert for follow-up action.

DAY ONE:
Fleet Perspectives

The first day of the EIE was dedicated to understanding the Fleet's perspective. What environmental and maintenance challenges was the Fleet still struggling with? How could NAVAIR help? What, in particular, could the assembled maintenance experts from NAVAIR (and other Commands) do to help? Herman Varmall from NAVAIR's Program Support Department (AIR-1.1) made sure that the Fleet understood that the EIE had been structured to address their issues. (Additional insights into Varmall's conversations with the Fleet can be found in "Spotlight on the Fleet: NAVAIR's Varmall Chats With Sailors & Marines At the 2004 EIE.")

AMC Billie Brownfield provided the first fleet perspective. Brownfield provided an overview of the proper maintenance procedures that he supports as maintenance coordinator at the Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL.

AM1(AW) Ken Ward provided an overview of maintenance activities at Naval Station (NS) Mayport, FL. In particular, Ward discussed some of the new technologies that have been instituted at NS Mayport via the Navy Environmental Leadership Program (NELP).

The third and final Fleet perspective concentrated on the powdercoating operations at NS Mayport and was provided by BM1 Kevin Brown and BM1 Al Rodriguez.

Later in the day, the assembled sailors and Marines identified over 50 action items for NAVAIR's environmental community to tackle. These items range from the availability of preferred maintenance equipment to the proper use of hazardous materials. (Our sidebar "Taking Action at the EIE" contains more insights into the specific issues that the Fleet raised at the 2004 EIE.)

A History of the
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE

NAVAIR has sponsored the EIE for the past six years. The following table contains a brief summary of all Exchanges held since September 1999.

NO.	WHERE	WHEN	ATTENDEES & ACTION ITEMS	DETAILS
1.	Jacksonville, FL	September 1999	12 attendees developed identified 28 action items.	Hurricane Floyd resulted in low attendance.
2.	New Orleans, LA	June 2000	40 Fleet representatives identified over 30 action items.	Evening trips to Bourbon Street added some color to the meeting.
3.	San Diego, CA	June 2001	Nearly 100 sailors identified 70 action items.	First EIE tradeshow exposed attendees to innovative maintenance technologies.
4.	Norfolk, VA	June 2002	Over 50 attendees including 24 sailors and Marines identified 47 action items.	Large contingent of Marines present.
5.	San Diego, CA	April 2003	Over 100 attendees identified several dozen action items.	Attendees received hazardous materials management training.
6.	Jacksonville, FL	April 2004	Over 140 attendees—more than half (78 in all) were uniformed maintenance personnel. 54 action items identified.	Attendees participated in tour of innovative maintenance technologies at the Naval Air Depot Jacksonville, FL.

TAKING ACTION AT THE EIE

During the 2004 EIE, sailors and Marines had the opportunity to submit questions/problems dealing with environmental, safety and health issues. These submissions were captured in a database and assigned for action to a team of maintenance experts including Dave Brock, Tom Doughty, Kevin Kovaleski, Wesley Lamb, Scott Mauro, and Cindy Webber. Of the 54 action items collected this year, many were answered during the course of the meeting. Another eleven have been answered since the meeting adjourned. Still others are being worked.

The majority of the actions had to do with acquiring information of one sort or another in categories including supply, cleaning, equipment, material substitution, hazardous waste disposal or management, shelf life, training, and maintenance instructions.

Training was also an issue that appeared many times in the actions submitted by the Fleet. In particular, the Fleet is concerned about training on the proper use of electronic particle counters. The Fleet is also concerned about the management of paperwork associated with respirator training. Although not an official training course, sailors are finding that course certificates or paperwork are not always transferable from one base to another. Many people were concerned about the (9595 NEC (Navy Enlisted Classification)) Hazardous Materials Control and Management (HMCM) class. The Fleet wanted more information about the availability of classes and wanted to ensure that the content of these courses was geared toward the aviation maintenance community.

The following are a few examples of the specific action items submitted by the Fleet at this year's EIE:

Patch Test

The patch test is used to measure contaminants in hydraulic fluid. A hydraulic fluid sample is poured through a "patch" that collects contaminants. The "patch" is then compared to standards for contaminant levels. The solvent used for the patch test is MIL-PRF-680. There was a concern that this solvent does not dry fast enough. After some initial research, NAVAIR's maintenance experts discovered that there is an ongoing investigation to find a replacement for the MIL-PRF-680 solvent. When the replacement is found and approved, it will be incorporated into the Hydraulic Fluid Contamination Analysis Kit P/N 57L414 Manual (NAVAIR 17-15E-52).

Skyflex Adhesive

The Fleet is finding that Skyflex adhesive tape turns to a gummy film after three weeks in high oil areas. After some discussion among NAVAIR's maintenance experts, a couple of options were proposed to the Fleet. Adhesive-free Skyflex can be used with Scotchgrip 1099 or 847. In addition, "Skyflex OP" can be used. Although it is not in the Aircraft Weapons Systems Cleaning & Corrosion Control Manual (NAVAIR 01-1A-509), "Skyflex OP" has worked very well on H-60 and H-53 floorboards, which have significant fluid attack. This material can either be used with the Scotchgrip or the acrylic adhesive. What makes it different is that it is not an open-celled foam so fluids cannot get to the adhesive (except around the edges) and attack it. The long-term fix is the "Skyflex OP" with Scotchgrip option. NAVAIR's materials engineering laboratories are working on better materials to remove the Skyflex acrylic adhesive.

Use of 3M 666 Contact Adhesive

The Fleet was wondering if 3M 666 contact adhesive is approved for use on the H-3 aircraft. The 666 contact adhesive is not approved for use on H-3 aircraft because there are some fluid compatibility issues with the current formulation.

ACF-50 Corrosion Preventive Compound

Although the EA-6B Fleet Support Team (FST) requires the ACF-50 corrosion preventative compound, the product did not meet military specification requirements. The original ACF-50 product did not pass the initial rag testing at the Aerospace Materials Laboratory at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, MD. The product was reformulated and the reformatted version passed laboratory tests. Scientists from the Aerospace Materials Laboratory required ACF to identify the new product version to differentiate from the original formulation. Until this marking/identification is completed, ACF-50 will not be added to the Qualified Products List (QPL). The FST can authorize the use of a product that is not listed on the QPL. Therefore, ACF-50 can be used on the EA-6B.

Replacement for Toluene-Containing Adhesive

The Fleet has a need to replace the toluene-containing adhesive, MMM-A-121. The team found that there is a promising replacement in the works, but it is still being formulated in NAVAIR laboratories.

Additional information about these and other action items collected at the 2004 EIE are available at www.enviro-navair.navy.mil/EIERegistration.nsf.

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As more and more sailors and Marines are drawn to the EIE each year, it takes more and more effort to pull off a successful event. Lynn Cahoon, the principal architect of the EIE, assembles a multidisciplinary "core team" to address the increasingly complex task of organizing and executing an impressive EIE.

This year, as in previous years, Lynn reached across NAVAIR and into the NAVFAC and NATEC communities and also tapped a professional facilitator to help him plan and implement the EIE.

The 2004 EIE core team. FRONT: Lynn Cahoon, Ebbie Crockett, Cindy Webber. BACK: Bruce McCaffrey, Scott Mauro, Jim Ganci. NOT SHOWN: Tom Cowherd and Mike Romanelli from NADEP Jacksonville were responsible for organizing this year's successful EIE tradeshow.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS
at the 2004 EIE Open Forum

The schedule for the second day of this year's EIE included a series of technical sessions. These sessions provided the assembled sailors and Marines with an opportunity to speak with a variety of experts about their ongoing maintenance (and environmental) challenges and find appropriate solutions.

LEAD MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY CENTER	REPRESENTATIVE
Adhesives, Bonding & Sealants Composite Repair	Bill Alexander
Aviation Hydraulics/Fluid Contamination	Megan Goold Jackie Grant
Corrosion Control	Kevin Kovaleski
Environmental Working Integrated Product Team	Dave Brock
Fuel Cells & Tanks	Tony Koonce
Joint Oil Analysis Program/Fuels & Lubricants	Betty Ann Lurton
Liquid Oxygen	David Schmidt
Material Substitutions	Cindy Webber Wesley Lamb
NATEC Web Site	Ebbie Crockett
Non-Destructive Inspection	Paul Kenny
Pollution Prevention & Support Equipment	Jim Ambrosino
Product Preservation	Steve Bevan Ron Sheets
Shelf Life	Debbie Trautman Blair Collins
Tires & Wheels	Keith Finch

DAY TWO:
Training & Technical Sessions

The morning of the second day of this year's EIE focused on training. In particular, attendees received a half-day refresher course on the proper management of hazardous materials from Odessa ("Odie") Newman-Staples, the hazardous materials manager from Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, CA. Odie and her presentation on "The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard" were very well received.

In addition, Dan Miller of NADEP Cherry Point, NC provided training on Environmental Management Systems (EMS). Miller explained the components of an EMS and provided some insights into what is involved in implementing an EMS in time for the upcoming 31 December 2005 deadline. Mike Crevier from NAS Jacksonville also gave a presentation on "Safety in the Workplace and Beyond" that concentrated on practical methods to employ to avoid workplace injuries.

The schedule for the afternoon of the second day consisted of a series of concurrent technical sessions that allowed attendees to receive short briefs and one-on-one attention on a wide range of topics. (For a complete listing of the topics covered in these technical sessions, see our sidebar entitled "Technical Sessions at the 2004 EIE Open Forum.")

Members of the Lead Maintenance Technology Center for the Environment (LMTCE) Working Integrated Product Team (WIPT). The LMTCE WIPT are the engineers behind the EIE and many of the products and services demonstrated to the Fleet during the meeting.

SUGGESTIONS
for Next Year's EIE

"It would be nice to know what was going to be on the agenda in advance."

"I would like to have more time to talk to more shops like the one I work in. Then, I could take back ideas or information that may help me do my job better."

"Continued exchange about the status of action items would be very helpful. Constant communication with participants and key personnel can help with faster results."

"You should find a better way to get information out there. Not enough Marines and sailors are aware of this very useful meeting."

"It would be nice to see more upper level command involvement in the next EIE."

"You should consider establishing and maintaining a website for the Fleet to submit actions throughout the year and obtain updates on the status of different programs and processes. Most importantly keep the lines of communication open."

"It would be nice to have some supply folks present (from the Naval Inventory Control Point) to handle logistics and supply-related questions."

"Keep up the great work and the word will be passed on around the fleet at how valuable these meetings are for the Fleet and Naval Air Systems Command personnel to continue to grow and excel into the rigorous challenges faced in the 21st century."

"Try to get more representatives from the Naval Air Technical Data and Engineering Service Command (NATEC) involved next year."

DAY THREE:
Depot Tour & Tradeshow

The third and final day of the 2004 EIE began with a tour of NADEP Jacksonville. EIE attendees had an opportunity to see the latest aviation maintenance technologies demonstrated in an actual working environment. Among the technologies included in the tour were a powder-coating application, a helium leak detection system, a bulk paint dispensing system and a high velocity oxygen fuel coating system.

That afternoon, EIE attendees benefited from hands-on demonstrations of new technologies at the Exchange's tradeshow.

2004 EIE Tradeshow Showcases Innovative
MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGIES

NAVAIR's aviation maintenance experts among others participated in the 2004 EIE tradeshow and demonstrated the following technologies and programs:

TECHNOLOGY/PROGRAM	EXPERT(S)
Aircraft Stenciling System	Brad Youngers
Aircraft Wash Pads	Kevin Kovaleski
Aviation Devices and Electronic Components (AvDec) Sealant	Tom Doughty
Composite Repair/Solution-Gelation (Sol-Gel) Bonding	Bill Alexander
Corrosion Control Improvements (Sealants & Adhesives)	Brad Youngers
Corrosion Control Kit	Tom Doughty
Magnesium Treatment Kit	Wesley Lamb
Naval Air Systems Command Environmental Web Site	Jim Ganci
Navy Environmental Leadership Program	Diane Lancaster Mike Davenport Mark Faircloth
Paint Gun Cleaning Station	Jim Cook
Particle Counters	Jim Ambrosino
PreVal™ Sprayer	Tom Doughty
Product Packaging & Preservation	Steve Bevan Ron Sheets
Propeller Oil Collection Device	Lynn Cahoon
Sealant & Mildew Removal Tools	Wesley Lamb
Steam Cleaning	Bill Pieton
Thermal Imagery	Clint Salter
Thermal Transfer Printing System	Mike Romanelli

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2005 EIE • WHEN: April 2005 • **WHERE:** West Coast • **WHO:** Anyone in the Fleet with environmental responsibilities

Demonstrations included the proper use of technologies already transitioned as well as those 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. This year's tradeshow included a number of corrosion control technologies as well as tools to assist in corrosion touch-up repairs, sealant and mildew removal tools as well as particle counters, paint gun cleaning technologies and new aircraft wash pads. (A complete listing of the technologies and programs in this year's tradeshow is included in our sidebar entitled, "2004 EIE Tradeshow Showcases Innovative Maintenance Technologies.")

Plans for the 2005 EIE Already Underway

As in past years, the Fleet will drive the agenda for the 2005 EIE. NAVAIR is already soliciting topics for the agenda and will ask a number of Fleet personnel to present their own perspectives and/or solutions to their environmental challenges. EIE organizers have already collected some constructive feedback to help guide their planning for next year's Exchange. (See our sidebar entitled, "Suggestions for Next Year's EIE.")

Keeping with the tradition of alternating the EIE from east to west coast each year, the 2005 EIE will be held on the west coast at a location that has yet to be determined. A Naval message will be distributed in January 2005 to officially announce the 2005 EIE and solicit topics for the agenda.

Visit www.enviro-navair.navy.mil/EIERegistration.nsf for more detailed information about this year's EIE. ⚓

EIE 2004 U.S. Navy photos by PH3 Johanna L. English, Regional Visual Information Support Center (RVISC), Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL.

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RAVES

About the 2004 EIE

"Overall, outstanding! A homerun! Great information and even greater contacts."

"This was by far one of the more productive conferences I have attended. There was a very good mixture of activities which kept you involved and interested."

"Overall I felt it was very informative and felt that there was something for everyone."

"Personally I had no idea what NAVAIR was until now. You really made it worthwhile for me. I now have a better understanding of the different types of support there is out there."

"Awesome gathering of environmental information."

"Professional staff and highly knowledgeable in all areas."

"A class act—please keep it going. Informative and enjoyable—two qualities that are not the norm at most conferences."

"Excellent! Great take-home knowledge and contacts."

"The EIE far exceeded my expectations! I'm leaving here in the know!"

"More individuals would be just as well informed as I am now if they were able to attend."

"Extremely informative, atmosphere was conducive to learning and comfortable. People in my areas of concern were available for questions and provided valuable insight."

"The format for the EIE went above and beyond what I expected of the typical presenter/speech/questions format. The EIE organizers put together a fulfilling session focused on the participants."

"The one-on-one communication was outstanding. I made many contacts to obtain any additional information that I may need."

"I got a much better understanding of Depot capability/processes. I would recommend my Command send someone every year."

"Matching a name to a face was something I wanted to accomplish and I did."

"Good information on what NAVAIR is doing to protect the environment."

"The EIE really helped me understand and how to use NAVAIR."

"I have new insights into the future environmental projects, technology, and military involvement in lessening our environmental impact."

"I was able to get the information I needed about shelf-life extensions for hazardous materials. We have been trying to get training on this for the last six months."