

# Marine Corps in Step

# with CETEP

## Environmental Training Facilitates EMS Implementation

**T**he Comprehensive Environmental Training and Education Program (CETEP) keeps the implementation of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) at Marine Corps installations in step. Marine Corps installations also find it easier to implement a mission enhancing EMS thanks to the well-developed environmental training programs that already exist at their installations.

CETEP was established in 1992 to incorporate instructional development

and program management concepts into the development and management of environmental training at Marine Corps installations. The goal of CETEP is to ensure that appropriate environmental instruction and information are provided at all levels of the Marine Corps in the most effective and efficient manner to achieve full compliance with all environmental training requirements. CETEP has three components: job specific training, general awareness/public outreach, and training for senior leadership. As CETEP continues to mature at Marine Corps installations,

environmental training is being provided to the Marines Corps (both uniformed and civilian personnel) so they can perform their jobs in support of the Marine Corps mission with minimal impact on the environment.

Marine Corps EMS policy requires all active Marine Corps installations and Marine Forces Reserve to implement the Marine Corps EMS by 31 December 2005 as required by Executive Order (EO) 13148. The Marine Corps EMS parallels those used by other military services and federal agencies, and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001 standard—an international EMS standard. That framework of five interrelated components focuses on continual improvement through effective planning, implementation, checking and preventive/corrective action, and management review. Within the implementation component is the requirement for training awareness and competence. This is where Marine Corps installations find their CETEP giving their EMS the greatest boost. CETEP, with its senior leadership, general awareness and job specific environmental training components, is the training element of the Marine Corps EMS.

In early December, 2003, more than 50 Marine Corps installation and headquarters EMS and environmental training coordinators met at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Pendleton, CA to discuss EMS implementation in the Marine Corps and supporting CETEP

## The Basics About the ISO 14001 STANDARD

**t**he ISO 14001 standard provides a framework for the establishment of an EMS. The ISO 14001 standard was promulgated in 1996 and contains the guiding principles of commitment to the environment, tracking environmental performance, and a system of continual improvement. These standards are not specifically oriented to compliance, but rather outline requirements for achieving and maintaining control over environmental processes. The ISO 14001 system has five core components: Environmental Policy, Planning, Implementation and Operation, Checking and Corrective Action, and Management Review.

# CETEP ensures that instruction is provided to the Marine Corps in the most effective and efficient manner to achieve full compliance with all environmental training requirements.



efforts. This was the third in a series of Marine Corps EMS workshops, but it was the first where both training and EMS coordinators attended and shared challenges in their EMS implementation progress to date and discussed successes where training facilitated environmental compliance solutions.

During the session, Marine Corps installations already in the process of implementing an EMS gave briefings on their progress, successes and challenges they were facing during their implementation efforts. Several training coordinators then briefed successful training initiatives that they felt were key to improving the compliance of the operational units they support. A few common threads ran through these successful training and outreach programs:

1. **The training was short and sweet.**  
The training was short, straightforward and relevant to the specific job Marines were performing in support of mission operations. At MCB Hawaii and Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton this was achieved by developing the training content directly from noted deficiencies during compliance inspections.
2. **The training was convenient.**  
The training was convenient and scheduled to minimize time away

from the unit. Marine Forces Reserves structured their weeklong assist visits to reserve centers as two days of inspections followed by site-specific training on established environmental compliance standard operating procedures.

3. **The training was integrated.**  
Where possible, the environmental training was integrated into other training Marines were already receiving. Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command Twentynine Palms, CA found it both efficient and effective to incorporate environmental topics into pre-deployment Combined Arms Exercise (CAX) briefings and into their Corporal's course, ensuring each and every Marine understands their environmental responsibilities.

One of the more difficult training challenges when implementing an EMS is explaining EMS concepts and terminology to a variety of personnel so they can understand and perform their role in the EMS implementation. To meet this challenge, MCB Camp Pendleton, MCAS Beaufort and Headquarters Marine Corps collaborated to develop an on-line EMS awareness training module that would do just that. The short computer based training module uses common Marine Corps practices such

as maintenance operations and field training exercises to clearly and simply explain EMS concepts and terminology. The EMS awareness course is now available on MarineNet, the USMC web-training portal. It will also be available for distribution on CD-ROM.

Marine Corps EMS and environmental training coordinators are building on their strong installation compliance programs and training initiatives to integrate environmental considerations into their day-to-day operations. And CETEP is the training element that keeps the Marine Corps EMS in step. ⚓

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