

## Joint effort clears space, increases recycling fund

*By Jacqueline R. Boucher, Tobyhanna Army Depot Public Affairs*

Profits from recycling scrap steel increased nearly \$10,000 after Tobyhanna Army Depot and Defense Distribution Depot Tobyhanna, Pa., employees joined forces to clear space in and around eight buildings.

Workers salvaged 1,040 stackable steel storage racks during a four-day clean up effort. The 137,210 pounds of scrap steel were sold to a local contractor yielding \$9,604.70 destined for the installation's recycling fund.

The recycling fund is used for several things like reimbursement of program costs, funding occupational safety and health projects, and purchases such as recycled-plastic picnic tables for use around the installation.

"What is more significant is that this was an excellent example of 6S methodology at its best," said John Heuberger, DDTP's deputy commander. "Lauren (Pond) and John (Huber) worked under some horrendous weather conditions to sort, straighten and sweep with a keen eye on the safety aspect."

Pond is the recycling coordinator, Environmental Management Division, and Huber is DDTP's safety specialist.

So far, the project has freed 7,680 square feet of storage space.

DDTP replaced the decades-old nested storage racks with newer ones shipped from Defense Distribution Depot Columbus, Ohio, which no longer needed them and had tagged them as excess. About 6,000 racks are earmarked for replacement as the newer model becomes available.

DDTP has more than 1.7 million square feet of storage space available on the Tobyhanna installation: 10 general-purpose heated warehouses, seven three-sided/other buildings, ramp storage, and more than 1 million square feet of open storage space.

Officials said safety, as well as age, played a part in replacing the outdated storage aids.



*Truck drivers guide Tobyhanna Army Depot's Robert Rosencrance, operating a forklift, as he loads scrap steel racks onto a flatbed truck during a four-day clean up effort. Employees from Tobyhanna Army Depot and Defense Distribution Depot Tobyhanna, Pa., teamed up to get rid of old, worn out steel racks, selling them to a local contractor and reaping nearly \$10,000 for the installation's recycling fund. (Photo by Tony Medici)*

"Safety is our top priority," Huber said. "Plus, we needed to get rid of the old, damaged, bent, buckled and broken items."

Warehouse workers discovered the new storage racks offered a multi-level storage capability that was easier and safer to stack. The stacks are safer because the corners of each rack feature a cup and ball configuration that allows them to fit together and lock into place.

"It's difficult to stack the older racks," Huber said, explaining that they have to be lined up perfectly using slide rails. "We also realized that most people in our business no longer use that style storage aid anymore," he said.

Once the replacement storage aids were on the installation, Huber approached Pond with ideas on how to dispose of the scrap steel in July.

"We're always looking for a way to recycle scrap items on the installation," Pond said. "This was definitely a good opportunity to recycle something and allow the money to stay on the

installation."

Pond is also pleased with the progress of the program. "Everyone did a wonderful job," she said, expressing her thanks to the workers from the Tobyhanna Army Depot Material Movement Branch who helped load the scrap metal onto 20 flatbed trucks. Branch employees loaded trucks and crushed residual scrap steel not delivered to the contractor.

"Absolutely phenomenal team effort between Tobyhanna Army Depot and DDTP," said Lt. Col. Michael Talley, DDTP's commander. "Special thanks to John and Lauren for planning, coordinating, and safely executing much of the heavy lifting throughout the duration of the project—including several inclement weather days."

He continued, "Safety was paramount in every aspect of this operation and I commend their diligent efforts. The successful completion of the project epitomizes the DDTP motto: One team, one focus—let's roll!"