

## DLA field activities partner to conserve oil, save money

Innovative employees from DDRV, DES-Richmond, and DRMS find solution for disposal of hydraulic fluid

By Jessica Walter, APR, DDC Public Affairs

Thanks to the collaboration of innovative employees from three Defense Logistics Agency organizations, the disposal of 33,000 gallons of hydraulic fluid stored in Richmond, Va., was completed at a savings of more than \$12,000.

Sixty drums of hydraulic fluid typically used on equipment like machine tools and forklifts were identified for disposal earlier this year due to the age of the product and the condition of the containers.

“Surface rust was starting to form on the drums, so we would not have been able to ship them out and still meet Department of Transportation requirements,” explained Chuck Willard, environmental specialist at Defense Distribution Depot Richmond, Va.

Since the product couldn’t be moved from DDRV’s storage sheds without transferring thousands of gallons of hydraulic fluid into new containers, Willard worked with his comrades at DLA Enterprise Support-Richmond, the host installation, and DLA’s disposal organization, the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service, to find another solution.

DRMS Environmental Operation Monitor Joseph Jones decided to advertise the hydraulic fluid for purchase with the stipulation that the company buying the oil would be responsible for repackaging it.

A Massachusetts fuel company answered the bid, came to Richmond to collect the fluid, and plans to reprocess it for future use.

Valerie Dingle-Smith, Joe Krouse, and Bob Thompson from DLA Enterprise Support-Richmond supervised the process to ensure spills were avoided.

According to Willard, the ideas generated by this group of innovative DLA employees resulted from a shared concern



*In Richmond, Va., a representative from the Massachusetts fuel company that purchased the hydraulic fluid transfers the oil into a tanker. The company plans to reprocess the hydraulic fluid for future use.*

for preserving natural resources and the current cost of fuel and petroleum.

And it paid off. Cost avoidance for the disposal of the hydraulic fluid is estimated at more than \$12,000.

“We were glad to find a solution that not only allowed DLA to save money on the cost of new containers and transportation but also prevented the oil from being

discarded in a way that would cause pollution,” said Willard.

Willard also hopes to make this process a permanent option for the disposal of petroleum products from Defense Distribution Depot Richmond, Va.

You can learn more about environmental initiatives at the Defense Distribution Center by visiting [www.ddc.dla.mil/enviro-safety](http://www.ddc.dla.mil/enviro-safety).



## Leadership

includes developing employees,

motivating your team, and

providing *direction*