



DDJC recycling program gives back to the Agency

By Annette Silva, DDJC Public Affairs

Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif., is doing its part in saving the agency money and protecting the environment with a new toner/ink cartridge recycling program.

Previous practices consisted of disposing of cartridges by throwing away the material, paying for hazardous waste, or returning a few at a time to the manufacture with no pay back. This process underwent a change when Brenda Mahan of Defense Enterprise Service San Joaquin- Environmental attended the Green Summit in Sacramento, Calif., and met with a vendor that buys all empty and surplus cartridges which are remanufactured or recycled.

“I approached a vendor in the exhibit hall and asked questions in regards to their process, knowing that this could be a new commodity for DDJC to recycle,” Mahan said.

The first load of toner cartridges, totaling 22 pallets, generated approximately \$1,700 in revenue versus paying approximately \$5,400 using the old process.

The revenue is placed into the recycling program and goes back to the depot after recycling expenses are paid. Any excess funds can be used up to 50 percent for the safety and/or environmental programs or up to 100 percent for Morale Welfare Recreation that serves the workforce of DDJC.

On top of cost savings, the environment is reaping the benefits as well. This process diverts waste from the landfills and the hazardous waste stream keeping it out of oceans.

“This is a win-win process for both the environment and the organization,” said Mahan.



Pictured are the first pallets of toner cartridges being shipped to a local vendor for remanufacturing.