



NEWS RELEASE
Defense Logistics Agency
Strategic Communications
8725 John J. Kingman Road, Suite 2545
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-6221
(703) 767-6200
www.dla.mil
www.facebook.com/dla.mil
<http://twitter.com/dlamil>

For Immediate Release: March 16, 2010

DLA11-16

Media Contact: Trinace Johnson, (804) 279-4108, trinace.johnson@dla.mil

Defense Logistics Agency helps customers go green

By Trinace Johnson
DLA Aviation Public Affairs

RICHMOND, Va. – Chemical engineers and scientists at Defense Logistics Agency Aviation have successfully introduced a new family of bio-based lubricant products into the federal supply system.

Engineers in the Hazardous Minimization and Green Products Branch here collaborated with Aviation Supplier Operations' Chemicals, Petroleum, Oils and Lubricants and Gases Integrated Supplier team to provide qualified, less hazardous products for everyday use by DLA military customers.

“DLA Aviation is the integrated material manager for chemicals, petroleum and industrial gases and is responsible for supplying these commodities to the entire federal government,” said Stephen Perez, management analyst, Hazardous Minimization and Green Products Branch.

Last July, DLA Aviation joined with the National Defense Center for Energy and Environment and initiated dialogue with Fort Jackson, S.C., and Joint Base Charleston, S.C., to demonstrate the effectiveness of a bio-based alternative to petroleum-based penetrating lubricants.

“Penetrating lubricants are chemicals designed to lubricate moving parts on equipment susceptible to rusting,” said Calvin Lee, chief of the Hazardous Minimization and Green Products Branch. “Petroleum-based products commercially available include WD-40 and Liquid Wrench. Although bio-based alternatives are also available commercially, none had been tested and demonstrated for Department of Defense use until now.”

Several Executive Orders and the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 mandate that federal agencies use green or bio-based products in an effort to reduce our country's dependence on petroleum-based products. Bio-based products are made from U.S.-grown renewable feedstock such as soybean, corn and sunflower oils that can be made into a variety of products such as lubricants and industrial fluids, Lee said.

--more--

DLA Aviation and NDCEE performed an in-depth comparative analysis of bio-based items to determine if they would meet DoD performance requirements. The examination showed that two commercial bio-based products met the specification requirements on paper.

Using a petroleum-based product as a baseline, the two bio-based products' performance results were compared on latches, hood access pins, bolts and tow hooks on Light Armored vehicles, road graders, dump trucks, Humvees and equipment at Joint Base Charleston, S.C.

Lee said that members of the U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command at Fort Jackson, S.C. and the U.S. Air Force 628th Logistics Readiness Squadron and 437th Maintenance Group – Aircraft Ground Equipment at Joint Base Charleston, S.C., agreed to participate in the demonstration of the two products. The tests were conducted for approximately 90 days at both locations. Measures of merit included whether the product loosened rusted bolts; appeared to provide protection from corrosion; the amount of product used and ease of use.

In almost every case, the bio-based products performed as well or better than the baseline petroleum-based product. Following military service users' recommendations, in late 2010 DLA Aviation requested National Stock Numbers for the bio-based products. The NSNs were granted in January 2011 and bio-based penetrating lubricant NSNs 9150-01-591-4213/4274/4281/4247 are now readily available.

“New item demonstration projects such as bio-based penetrating lubricants illustrate clearly how the branch is implementing DLA Aviation’s vision for ‘Greening DoD,’” Lee said. “Our mission is to increase the availability and ease of ordering green products in the Aviation demand and supply chain and by that barometer we are well on our way.”

Defense Logistics Agency Aviation serves within the Department of Defense as the primary source for more than 1.3 million repair parts and operating supply items, supporting more than 1,300 major weapons systems. More than 444,000 of the items managed are aviation parts.

As a Department of Defense combat support agency, DLA provides the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, other federal agencies, and joint and allied forces with a variety of logistics, acquisition and technical services. The agency sources and provides nearly 100 percent of the consumable items America’s military forces need to operate, from food, fuel and energy, to uniforms, medical supplies, and construction and barrier equipment. DLA also supplies more than 80 percent of the military’s spare parts.

Headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., DLA has about 27,000 employees worldwide and supports about 1,900 weapon systems. DLA’s business revenues were nearly \$41 billion in Fiscal Year 2010. For more information about DLA, go to www.dla.mil, www.facebook.com/dla.mil or <http://twitter.com/dlamil>.