

# **Resource Recovery and Recycling Program**

U.S. military installations around the world defray the costs of various base activities by disposing of material through the Department of Defense Resource Recovery and Recycling Program (RRRP). Recyclable materials are collected by military activities and turned in to DRMS field offices, called Defense Reutilization and Marketing Offices (DRMOs). When sold, 100 percent of the proceeds are returned to the same military installations that generated the material.

## **How the program works**

Recyclable materials are first collected on U.S. military installations through facility-managed recycling programs, called Qualified Recycling Programs (QRP's). QRP's have two options: collect recyclables and sell via publicly advertised sale, or turn into the DRMO to be sold via the DRMS scrap sales program with the proceeds being returned to the QRP. The better the material is identified and sorted, the more marketable it becomes. Mixed or unsorted scrap often results in low bids.

## **Benefits of the program**

Facility commanders use the proceeds to defray the cost of a variety of programs: operating and improving recycling programs; financing pollution abatement and environmental programs; funding energy conservation improvements; improving occupational, safety and health programs; and funding morale, welfare and recreation programs.

## **DRMS employees have made the program a success**

Military facility commanders have chosen DRMS to coordinate this recycling effort. A DRMO can be a valuable partner to a QRP for selling recyclables. Some of advantages of utilizing a DRMO are: access to, and existing relationships with, market buyers; accumulation of large lots from multiple generators (better pricing); existing contracts and regular pickups; does not have to deform spent brass casings prior to sale; experience marketing many types of recyclables; auditable paper trail; higher contract warrants, in some situations. DRMS offers well-trained specialists who provide the critical link to program success. Because DRMS has also been successfully marketing scrap nationally for so many years, a large, well-established customer base supports the program.

## **Recyclable material comes in many forms**

Generally speaking, recyclable material includes goods that could be discarded, but that can be used as raw materials after undergoing some type of physical or chemical processing. This material comes in many forms: ferrous metals, such as iron or steel; non-ferrous metals, such as aluminum, bronze or copper; and numerous other products, such as cardboard, paper, used oil, batteries, plastic, glass and scrap rubber.

## **Examples of material excluded from the program**

Precious metal-bearing scrap is excluded from this program because it is recovered and reused separately. If an item can be reused as is, it is excluded; this includes property such as used vehicles, machine parts, or unopened containers of oil. If any item can be reused within DoD, transferred to another federal activity, sold to the public, donated to a state or local government or to a qualified nonprofit agency, the material is excluded. Excluded items also include materials provided for the State Department's Foreign Military Sales Program. Munitions List Items, Strategic List Items, Commerce Control List Items, ships, aircraft,

weapons, material requiring demilitarization, and scrap property resulting from demilitarization is excluded, with the exception of expended fired brass within certain size limits and mixed metal gleanings from firing range cleanup.

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