Crane intern improves pollution prevention

By Tom Peske
Crane Public Affairs

CRANE, Ind. – With a fresh perspective and a desire to improve conditions for those who support the warfighter, Crane Army Ammunition Activity intern Fred Robinson provided key recommendations that will help the activity reduce waste, improve the environment and save money.

Robinson, a recent graduate from the University of Texas at El Paso, came to Crane Army through the Minority College Relations Program in January. His assignment was to complete two pollution prevention opportunity assessments. This is a study in which different options to reduce pollution are identified, evaluated technically and financially and then the best options are recommended for further study and implementation.

He specifically developed improvements for the plating line such as installing an Air Knife, using a wetting agent in the zinc plating baths and automating the plating process all intended to reduce drag out.

Reducing drag out reduces the pollutant loading and volume of rinse water requiring treatment, the usage rate for your process bath chemicals, wastewater generated, and associated costs.

"Reducing drag out, saves money in purchase of new plating solutions reduces the contamination in the waste water and thus not only makes it easier to treat but also increases volume capacity of the treatment plant. In addition, each time we ship hazardous waste, we certify that we have a program to reduce the generation of hazardous waste. So Fred's efforts support this program. Overall the benefits are significant," said Frank Mitchell, Crane Army physical scientist (environmental).

Robinson also developed a recommendation to implement computed radiography for the Crane Army X-ray Inspection. His recommendation suggested that implementation would result in 100 percent payback in approximately 13 to 14 months with second and consecutive year savings of approximately $70,000.

"I believe the digital X-ray project will definitely help Crane Army be more environmentally friendly as well as saving a lot of money in the future from not having to spend money on developing and processing film like the current machine does," Robinson said.

Robinson credited a team mentality by all the people in Crane Army's safety office as being crucial toward his success. It is an experience he will be able to put to use as he leaves college and looks for a future job.

"It was a very rewarding internship in many ways. I was lucky enough to find out what a government position consists of and all the advantages it has over other choices in the job market. I felt like a vital part of the safety office and was happy to work on projects that would have an impact on the future of Crane Army," said Robinson. JMC

Ammo LAR

continued from page 6

"Ammo LARs provide many functions. The ammo LAR provides technical assistance unique to ammunition, such as explosive safety during ammunition operations, technical guidance, inspection, accident/malfunction reporting, and a single point-of-contact for logistics assistance. This includes, but is not limited to range visits, providing data for specific ammunition items, providing guidance to transport ammunition, assistance with establishing safe ammunition storage and operating areas, and many other ammunition-related areas," she said.

Batchelor's story doesn't include military experience, but her respect for the work of a warfighter is evident.

"I never thought of myself as an ammunition expert -- I am an expert at finding information from a vast group of colleagues and pushing it forward to the Soldiers. Working one-on-one with Soldiers whether at home station or in a deployed environment is the most fulfilling experience I can have." JMC