

Depaint Baseline Assessment

Background:

This project will build-on the CTIO 1995 ALC Baseline Study Project (see separate project summary) which included visits to the five Air Logistics Centers (ALC) then in operation within the USAF (Robins AFB, Tinker AFB, Hill AFB, Kelly AFB, and McClellan AFB.) The purpose of the survey was to gather data for a coatings problem identification study to assist in the development of CTIO's facilities and in the prioritization of future CTIO tasks/projects. It provided much needed information regarding pollution prevention (P2) issues and concerns involved in aircraft refinishing and produced a database of weapon specific coatings materials that has been an invaluable aid to CTIO integration activities.

In the years since the study, Kelly AFB and McClellan AFB have closed and their workloads have passed on to other ALCs and/or contractor facilities. In addition, the advent of the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) and the Clean Air Act (CAA) concomitant requirements for minimal release of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), are compelling depaint facilities to adopt more compliant paint stripping technology.

Project Sponsor/Customer: Air Force wide

Period of Performance: Mar 00 – Sep 01

Objectives:

This project will assess and document current coatings removal processes on aerospace weapons systems at depot and field level locations. During the assessment, travel to each location is performed to observe the operations. Observations include how the current system came into use, equipment used by manufacturer, and materials used by manufacturer and product number. Other areas observed are future plans for depaint strategies, current HAZMAT emissions, and the current process in actual use.

The project will produce a final report, and a searchable database of equipment, chemicals, and procedures currently in use within the Air Force depaint community. It is anticipated the results of this project will be used as basis for development of a

roadmap which will guide future coatings removal R&D, taking into account ESOH, production, and weapons system specific requirements.

The approach will use a survey team of individuals knowledgeable in depaint technologies, corrosion, environmental issues, and aircraft structures to document the equipment, materials, and processes being used to depaint aircraft. In addition, the team will, where appropriate, photo-document depaint equipment, facilities, and processes. Upon completion of the survey visits, the data will be compiled into a user searchable and updateable database in MS Access.

The survey team will accomplish the following activities;

- Document the depaint processes equipment and materials associated with the depainting of each weapon system at the location. The documentation will include still photography and motion picture documentation where appropriate.
- Identification of current depaint related issues facing each location, including weapons system specific issues.
- Identification of current or planned programs designed to resolve problem areas.

Status: A joint Air Force/Contractor team has completed surveys of the three ALCs.

Project Plan: Approved Jul 00

Final Report: Planned completion Jan 02

As of Date: Sep 01