

## LTC Drushal Commends Finishing Area for POP Improvements

RFAAP Commander LTC Jon Drushal recently met with Finishing Area employees to congratulate them on their implementation of cultural change concerning propellant out of place (POP). "The improvement from a year ago is unbelievable," stated LTC Drushal.

"Leadership is critical to driving change," said LTC Drushal. He pointed to Kaye Bland (Environmental) and Barry O'Neil (formerly of the Finishing Area) who were instrumental in making the change. "Kaye helped energize the Finishing Area and provided guidance in raising the bar. In addition, she actively participated in lending a hand in cleaning up several areas. Kay was really a key player in the success of the POP program," said LTC Drushal. He added, "Barry led by example, driving the Finishing Area to a new level of success by encouraging the culture change and by listening to and implementing ideas for continual improvement." Mr. O'Neil was not able to attend the ceremony.

"One key to the success of the Finishing Area has been participation and ownership by the entire department," said LTC Drushal, "I would like to recognize two employees in particular—Phil Rogers and John Harvey. These gentlemen were the front line of cleaning up the historical POP so that activities and processes generating POP could be identified and corrected."

Now that the Finishing Area culture change has begun, Area Manager Dean Long will lead the continual improvement effort in the future.



**Pictured (left to right) are Phil Rogers, John Harvey, LTC Drushal, Kaye Bland, and Dean Long. Not pictured is Barry O'Neil.**



**Commander's Coins were given out during the ceremony.**

## Freeze Protection Reminder

Keep building and bay doors—CLOSED and the heat—ON. Use JUST A TRICKLE of freeze protection water.



## Quick Action Minimizes Ether Release

On November 12, a malfunction in the solvent mix transfer system caused an ether spill in the C-Line Mix House in the Green Lines. It has been calculated that about 67 pounds of ether was lost. The Reportable Quantity for ether is 100 pounds. Because of the quick response of very alert and responsive production operators the spilled solvent was captured in sawdust. The operators anticipated the spill would occur and quickly dispersed sawdust throughout the immediate area of the incident prior to the spill. The Environmental Department thanks these operations for their fast action and environmental awareness.

**Photo: Green Lines / C-Line Operators react to the ether spill.**



## New Controls Net Huge Reduction in Oleum Use

The Nitrocellulose (NC) Process Engineering team has created a new acid mix calculation that has saved 3.8 million pounds of oleum (OV), so far this year (compared to the same timeframe last year). Engineers believe the total saving will be more than five million pounds at years end.

In the past, the calculation for creating the nitrating acid used in NC nitration involved using individual quantities for each ingredient—recycled spent acid, fresh nitric acid, fresh sulfuric acid, fresh oleum (OV), and water if necessary. Calculations were limited to production area knowledge instead of a true formula, which created a lot of unknowns. By setting limits in

the calculations, NC Process Engineering was able to create a new acid mix calculation that directly calculates the ingredient quantities from a known starting point and a known ending point, eliminating guesswork.

By initiating controls around the quantity of spent acid reused in fresh nitrating acid at NC Nitration, providing ongoing monitoring of key output data from NC nitration, and improving coordination between the NC and Acid Areas, the NC Process Engineering Team has decreased the OV use for NC by 60% and will provide an overall decrease in OV use for NC by 75%.

## Nicole Herschler Joins the Environmental Department

Nicole Herschler has joined the Environmental Department as an Environmental Engineer. Originally from Stuarts Draft, Virginia, Nicole graduated from Virginia Tech in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science degree Biological Systems Engineering (BSE), specializing in Bioprocess Engineering. After graduation, Nicole and her husband (Josh, who is also an ATK employee) moved to Wisconsin, where she worked with Abbott Labs in North Chicago on their environmental, health, and safety team. Nicole and Josh moved to Christiansburg in June of 2007. For the past year, Nicole worked with Techlab in the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center where she performed research and development engineering on medical diagnostic kits. Nicole and Josh are expecting their first child at the end of February.

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### Environmental Department Contacts

The Environmental on Call Cell Phone (24 hours a day) number is 230-8970. For environmental questions, contact the following environmental department personnel:

**Matt Alberts** (8722)

**Jeremy Flint** (7668)

**Paige Holt** (8658)

**Anne Greene** (7340)

**Kaye Bland** (8504)

**Matt Habersack** (7427)

**Phil Lockard** (8344)

**Shelley Tarbutton /**

**Marilyn Fields** (7520)

**Nicole Herschler** (8766)

**Lou Martin** (7514)

**Patsy Hosner** (7435)

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**Environmental Questions?** Check out the *Ask Kent* section on the ATK/RFAAP intranet.

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**Eyes on the Environment** is an employee newsletter aimed at communicating employee issues and raising awareness of environmental issues and requirements. The newsletter presents basic topics that are critical to protection of our environment, our public health and safety, and the success of our business.

**Please use the contents of this newsletter for 5 minute safety meetings.**

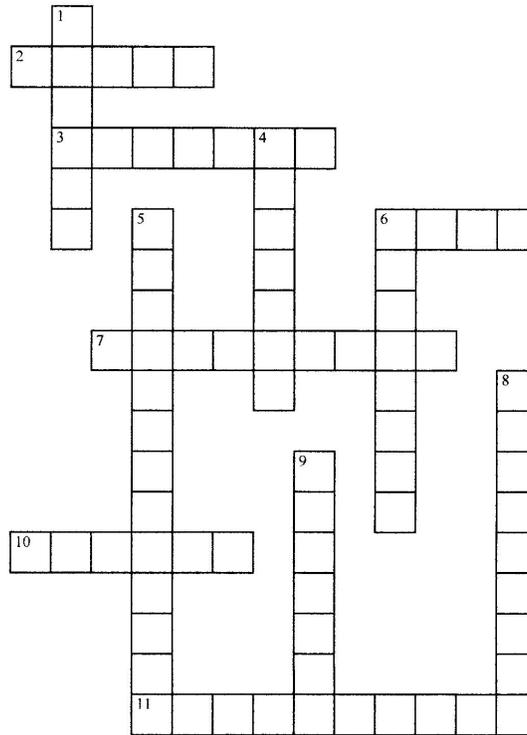
## And the winner is...

Connie Clark

The Environmental Department randomly selected **Connie Clark's** (NC) correct entry as the winner in the last puzzle contest. The Environmental Department presented Shirley with a **\$30 Wal Mart gift card**. Thanks to everyone who entered!

## Environmental Crossword Puzzle

Solve the environmental crossword puzzle and enter it in an Environmental Department drawing. One winner will be randomly selected from all correct entries to receive a **\$30 Wal Mart gift card** from the Environmental Department. The puzzle contest is open to all those who work at RFAAP. **Limit one entry per person.**



### ACROSS

2. A new acid mix calculation that has saved 3.8 million pounds of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. "Barry led by example, driving the Finishing Area to a new level of \_\_\_\_\_."
7. RFAAP Commander LTC Jon Drushal recently met with \_\_\_\_\_ Area employees.
10. Nicole Herschler worked with Abbott Labs in North Chicago on their environmental, health, and \_\_\_\_\_ team.
11. "\_\_\_\_\_ is critical to driving change," said LTC Drushal.

### DOWN

1. Keep building and bay doors \_\_\_\_\_ and the heat—ON.
4. Because of the quick response of very alert and responsive production operators the spilled solvent was captured in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Nicole Herschler has joined the \_\_\_\_\_ Department as an Environmental Engineer.
6. A malfunction in the solvent mix \_\_\_\_\_ system caused an ether spill.
8. LTC Drushal said that "One key to the success of the Finishing Area has been participation and \_\_\_\_\_ by the entire department.
9. Use JUST A \_\_\_\_\_ of freeze protection water.

Send this page to **Jeremy Flint, Environmental Department, Building 220**. Entries must be received by **December 22, 2008**. The winner will be announced in the next *Eyes on the Environment*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Area/Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Badge number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (if available): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Puzzle Answers

### Across

2. oleum / a new acid mix calculation that has saved 3.8 million pounds of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. success / "Barry led by example, driving the Finishing Area to a new level of \_\_\_\_\_."
6. Team / The NC Process Engineering \_\_\_\_\_ has decreased the oleum use for NC by 60% and will provide an overall decrease in OV use for NC by 75%.
7. Finishing / RFAAP Commander LTC Jon Drushal recently met with \_\_\_\_\_ Area employees.
10. safety / Nicole Herschler worked with Abbott Labs in North Chicago on their environmental, health, and \_\_\_\_\_ team.
11. Leadership / "\_\_\_\_\_ is critical to driving change," said LTC Drushal.

### Down

1. closed / Keep building and bay doors—\_\_\_\_\_ and the heat—ON.
4. sawdust / Because of the quick response of very alert and responsive production operators the spilled solvent was captured in \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Environmental / Nicole Herschler has joined the \_\_\_\_\_ Department as an Environmental Engineer.
6. Transfer / A malfunction in the solvent mix \_\_\_\_\_ system caused an ether spill.
8. ownership / LTC Drushal said that "One key to the success of the Finishing Area has been participation and \_\_\_\_\_ by the entire department.
9. trickle / Use JUST A \_\_\_\_\_ of freeze protection water.