

# Powder Press

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Radford Army Ammunition Plant • ATK Energetic Systems • Summer Edition 2008 • Volume 61 No.1



*A Summer day at Radford Army Ammunition Plant.*





B-Ann Porterfield with Mark DeYoung.

# Congratulations

## to ATK Employees reaching years of service milestones.

Beatrice (B-Ann) Porterfield	56	4/1/1952	Ronnie Bostic	20	5/1/1987
Robert Dillon	41	5/1/1966	Darrell Ervin	20	5/1/1987
Jeffrey Osborne	41	5/1/1966	Virginia Fisher	20	5/1/1987
Johnny Dixon	41	6/1/1966	Valerie Anderson	20	6/1/1987
Arlie Davis	40	6/1/1967	Earlie Freeman	20	6/1/1987
Earl Parsons	40	4/1/1968	Donal Hall	20	6/1/1987
Robert Tinley	30	5/1/1977	Steven Nicewonder	20	6/1/1987
James Bowden Jr	30	6/1/1977	Keith Ferrell	20	4/1/1988
Linda Duncan	30	4/1/1978	Randy Boyd	15	5/1/1992
Judy Sarver	30	4/1/1978	Terri Wylie	15	5/1/1992
James Holt Jr.	25	5/1/1982	Veronica Harris	15	6/1/1992
Phyllis Meadows	25	5/1/1982	Chucky Williams	15	6/1/1992
James Patterson	25	5/1/1982	Richard Sowers	15	4/1/1993
Herman Blankenship Jr.	25	6/1/1982	Anthony Allison	10	5/1/1997
Alfred Day	25	6/1/1982	Christopher Mabry	10	6/1/1997
Shannon McGrady	25	6/1/1982	James Haga	10	4/1/1998
Edwin Hollie	25	4/1/1983	Eileen Langowsky	10	4/1/1998
William Worrell Jr.	25	4/1/1983	Troy Levison	10	4/1/1998
Michael Beasley	20	5/1/1987	William Webb	10	4/1/1998

### PLANT WINS TOP-LEVEL ARMY UNIT AWARD

Plant employees watched as Brigadier General James Rogers, Commanding General of the Joint Munitions Command, Rock Island, Illinois, presented the plant with a top-level Army Unit Award.

The award, which is one of the Army's highest unit awards, consists of a streamer for the installation's colors, a certificate and citation. Rogers said the award can be presented to a unit during peacetime or outside a war zone for outstanding meritorious performance of a difficult and challenging mission carried out under extraordinary circumstances.

"The work done here is critical to protecting lives everyday," Rogers said.

"You set the standard when it comes to providing outstanding support to the men and women serving at installations around the world."

The Superior Unit Award recognized work accomplished from December 2004 to December 2006. This significant military honor reflects organizational excellence, unrelenting mission focus and superior team effort.



Brigadier General James Rogers, J.R. Drushal  
LTC, CM, Commanding Officer, Kent Holiday  
Vice President and General Manager  
ATK Energetic Systems



**FROM  
KENT HOLIDAY**  
Vice President and  
General Manager  
ATK Energetic Systems

**AES is moving towards  
our vision to be the  
World Class supplier of  
Nitrocellulose**

During the first half of this decade, AES (Radford) Nitrocellulose (NC) had taken on a reputation within the industry as low quality and high priced. Also, our customers couldn't rely on AES to deliver the NC on time. One customer, GD-Valleyfield, Canada, pulled all their NC business out of Radford, relying instead on lower cost, higher quality NC from foreign suppliers.

In April 2007, a World Class NC (WCNC) AES Steering Committee was formed to drive and guide the AES NC manufacturing process from where we were at that time towards the long-term goal of becoming "THE" world-class supplier of NC. This cross-functional team is defining and implementing the actions that need to be taken to achieve this vision.

The vision developed by the committee for AES Radford NC is:

- AES Radford NC is the best practices benchmark for all customers and competitors.
- Quality: Our NC consistently meets our customers' specifications and desires.
- Price: Our NC is always competitively priced providing the best value to our customers.
- Delivery Speed: We are agile and responsive to our customers' requests.
- Delivery Reliability: Our NC is always delivered when promised.
- Flexibility: We are agile and responsive to changes in our customers' needs.
- Innovation: Our technical understanding of NC, and of our manufacturing processes, is regarded by our customers as superior to all other suppliers, enabling us to provide creative solutions to our customers' needs.

When this vision was shared with some of our customers, it was met with doubt and disbelief. Indeed, we

*Continued on page 8*



**FROM  
THE COMMANDER**

I wanted to start this edition of the Powder Press off by saying how impressed I am with all of you. There is really a "Team Radford" mentality out there exemplified by the fact that when something needs

done around here, people will just pull up their boot straps and get it done. No arguing or complaining, just doing the right thing. I have witnessed several acts of selfless service that are typical of ATK employees and exemplify the best that America has to offer.

Summer is upon us and I wanted to spend just a moment talking about safety. The time between the Memorial Day and the Labor Day weekends mark the period when we and our families are traditionally exposed to the year's greatest risk from accidental mishaps and fatalities. These 101 Critical Days of Summer are when more of us are traveling, participating in water sports and enjoying the numerous outdoor activities and thus, increasing our exposure to potential tragedies. The Army as a whole has made strides in decreasing accidents through proactive leader engagement and the continual use of safety tools and awareness programs. We here at RFAAP need to do the same. I need all supervisors to ensure they are working to protect all employees, either while on or off the plant. I know all of you have put a tremendous amount of effort into safety but now is the time to continue to make an impact as the summer months approach. Dust off the hot weather procedures and ensure employees are taking care.

RFAAP continues to enjoy a very good reputation in the Ammunition Industrial Base. Joint Munitions Command has complete confidence in all of you, your leadership, and our products. Keep up the fine work and I want everyone to enjoy the summer months in the sun. Please drink responsibly – you are too important not to.

J.R. Drushal  
LTC, CM  
Commanding Officer

# Environmental Clean Up Activities at Building 4343

## Background

The Building 4343 parcel is located in the west central portion of the Horseshoe Area near the rocket area office. It was established in 1956 to perform Cadmium plating activities in support of the NIKE missile program. Treated process water was discharged to an unlined ditch north of the site. RFAAP identified it as an Area of Concern (AOC) that had the potential to pose a threat, or potential threat, to human health and the environment. RFAAP worked with stakeholders within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and US Army Environmental Command (USAEC) to develop an overall strategy to sample the site, assess the data and evaluate clean up options. Samples were taken in 1999 and 2002 and revealed that metals (mainly cadmium) had contaminated soil around the building and in the discharge ditch. The contamination was mostly confined to the top two feet of soil and two sumps. Since one of these sumps was located inside the building there was the potential for contaminated soil underneath the building. This completed the investigation and the next phase began. The next phase, called a Corrective Measures Study (CMS), was completed to evaluate and recommend clean up options and clean up goals. The selected clean up option was to excavate the soil, demolish the sumps and the building, and take the material off site to appropriate landfills. This action allowed clean



closure of this site, was less expensive than other options, protected the groundwater, and restored the land for reuse. Detailed information is contained in the Building 4343 RFI/CMS Report, Final, February 2004.

## Clean up Action

Prior to executing the clean up, another document had to be prepared called the Interim Measures Work Plan (IMWP). This work plan provided specific details on how the clean up action would proceed and was submitted to EPA and DEQ for concurrence. Once the work plan was

approved, the remediation effort was started in the summer of 2006.

Per the agreed upon plan, additional samples were taken to break out the different waste streams (i.e. soil, building debris, sumps, asbestos) for disposal at the appropriate landfills. Following this, cadmium containing soil was excavated using a 20-ton track mounted excavator and direct loaded into dump trucks for disposal in an approved hazardous waste landfill. Approximately 715 tons of soil were removed during the course of the remediation.

Prior to the demolition of Building 4343, the asbestos containing material was removed (and disposed of) by a Virginia licensed Asbestos Abatement



Contractor. Then the building was demolished and the two sumps were removed. Approximately 360 tons of building/sump debris were shipped off site and disposed of as non-hazardous waste. Six tons of metal debris were segregated from the building debris and sent separately to a metal recycling facility.

Confirmation samples were collected to verify that the clean up goals were achieved. Once confirmation sampling indicated that soil removal was completed, the land surface was restored to its natural grade by bringing in clean fill to backfill the excavation.

## Conclusion

The removal and clean up of Building 4343 is a good example of how RFAAP personnel identified a potential environmental problem, notified the proper authorities, and then cleaned the area to protect the environment. The clean up program at RFAAP is a public program. Copies of the Building 4343 documents are located in the RFAAP information repository and can also be found on the Radford IRP website at <http://www.radfordaapirp.org/inforepo/online-index.htm>

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## RFAAP Adopts-a-Highway

On April 19, about 25 volunteers from both ATK and the ACO staff participated in the statewide Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) spring litter pick-up. The clean-up was a part of VDOT's Adopt-a-Highway program. RFAAP has adopted the section of highway from the New River Bridge on Route 114 to the intersection of Price's Fork (approximately 2.2 miles).

LTC J.R. Drushal thanked those who participated in the clean-up. "It was truly a success and obvious it had



*D.A. Worrell (left) and Glenn Pratt work on the median strip*



*Volunteers, Terry (left) and Madi Drushal clean up along Rt. 114.*

not been done in quite a while given the age of some of the trash I was picking up. Everyone who participated certainly exhibited the "Team Radford" approach to business and I really appreciate their efforts. We will do this again and hope to see even more of you out there making our plant and our community look better." The next clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, September 13.

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## Recycling Plastic Bottles and Aluminum Cans

Plastic bottles can now be recycled with aluminum drink cans. Place the bottles in the container with aluminum cans. They will be gathered from collection points all over the plant, accumulated in a roll-off box, and picked up for delivery to the recycle facility.



## General Benjamin Griffin tours RFAAP

General Benjamin Griffin, Commanding General U.S. Army Materiel Command, toured RFAAP on June 18<sup>th</sup> to view the Modernization efforts and improvements around the plant. Escorting General Griffin was plant Commander LTC Jon Drushal, AES Vice President and General Manager Kent Holiday, and AES Vice President Operations Mark Matusевич.



## Cellular Phones

Just a reminder to all persons operating a vehicle on Radford Army Ammunition Plant, the use of cell phones while driving on Radford Army Ammunition Plant or any DoD Installation is prohibited unless the driver is using a hands free device or the vehicle is safely parked.

Violators of this policy- first offense will be given a warning. A second violation will result in the suspension of plant driving privileges for two days. A third violation will result in the suspension of plant driving privileges for an indefinite period of time.

The wearing of any other portable headphones, earphones or other listening device (except for hands free cellular phones) while operating a motor vehicle is prohibited. This does not extend to medical assistance devices.

## HOUSING

In 1941, 377 houses were constructed to provide housing for the military and civilian employees at Radford. During this time, Radford's plant manager as well as some production area supervisors resided in housing. Over the course of the next 60 years, the local community greatly expanded from the farm community to what it is today. However, the need for housing soldiers in this area remain strong with occupancy ratings in excess of 90 percent. The Army's focus on improving the quality of life for soldiers is being shown on a daily basis at Radford. Funding of several projects in 2007, such as installing new roofs/guttering, replacing windows, repair chimneys, remodeling kitchens, and removing oil tanks to outside of quarters ensures that quality housing will be provided to the soldier. Plans for the future include the conversion of two bedroom duplexes into four bedroom quarters to help meet family needs. It is the desire of the Radford Team to continue to support the Army soldier and their families by providing quality housing .

**Safety is a full-time job.  
Don't make it a part-time  
practice.**

*Always wear your Personal Protective Equipment!*

## ARMAMENT SYSTEMS NEWS



Watch the newest edition at: <http://asgweb.atk.com/report.asp>

## AES Recommended for ISO 9001:2000 Re-certification

BSI has recommended Commercial Powder, Medium Caliber LAP and Propellant and Energetics for ISO 9001:2000 re-certification following our 3-year assessment audit that concluded May 9, 2008. Two BSI auditors reviewed our quality management system for compliance to the international standard over a two week period. There were several minor findings and opportunities for improvement identified through the audit process but no major findings (which are findings indicative of a system failure). Our minor findings were in the areas of document control, control of measurement devices, process monitoring and control of records. The quality department will work with Product Center Teams and functional areas to address these minor findings and implement corrective action. While our Quality system was found to be adequate for certification, we are only as good as we apply our Quality systems each day.

In our assessment report, BSI specifically recognized AES in the areas of internal audit, calibration, continuous improvement (PES) and visual factory.

Our certification to this international standard is an important commitment to our many customers to manufacture quality products. Please thank your staff for their support in making our three-year assessment audit successful!

### Upcoming product/quality system audits by our Customers:

**October 6-9**

ISO 9001:2000 six month assessment audit.

*“Coming together is a beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success.”*

*Henry Ford*

## Safety Awards

RFAAP recently received two safety awards from the National Safety Council, the Significant Improvement Award, and the Occupational Excellence Achievement Award.



To qualify for the Occupational Excellence Achievement Award, an organization's lost workday incident rate needs to be equal to or less than 50% of the Bureau of Labor Statistic's rating.

“The National Safety Council commends you and your employees on this outstanding achievement. As a member, we encourage you to take advantage of the many benefits

that NCS membership has to offer. Members and their employees have access to valuable information on pertinent safety issues, practical solutions to key safety challenges, and essential tools for making safety work

in your organization and

your community. You also have the opportunity to connect and share insight with safety and industry leaders. Visit the Members-Only website, <http://members.nsc.org> for a complete list of all member-exclusive benefits.”



“The National Safety Council's Recognition of Significant Improvement Award acknowledges NSC member companies, units and/or facilities that have maintained or reduced the number of occupational fatalities and injuries and illnesses that involved days away from work within their operation, based on a comparison of previous year performance.”

The Safety Department would like to commend all employees for working together to complete an excellent safety year.

recognized that it was a lofty vision to achieve and deeds, not words, were required to change reality and perceptions. To that end, the WCNC Steering Committee, the Energetics Product Center and many others committed themselves to taking action.

Over the past year, the AES team has been working closely with GD-Valleyfield to improve our manufacturing processes and better understand the science of nitrocellulose performance. This has been a tough road requiring us to listen closely to our customer's criticisms and learn from their suggestions. Mario Paquet, a senior scientist for GD and the recognized world expert on NC, recently gave a presentation to AES on progress to-date. Mr. Paquet said *"All this is great work and there is reason to be proud of the work done in the last 8 months on improving NC quality. GD-Valleyfield truly appreciates all the effort and hard work made so far by the technical and process people of ATK-Radford on quality improvement."*

His presentation noted the following achievements:

- ATK's and GD's testing/analysis are now synched up.
- Successful set-up of new lab analysis at Radford.
- Successful set-up of new process conditions.
- Radford has reduced bundles content from "very high" to "moderate".
- Eight months ago Radford NC was out of GD's specification in Nitrogen, EA and AI. Now all are within specification.
- The Radford NC:
  - Is not dusty anymore
  - Very easy to dehydrate with alcohol
  - Produces a very good colloid with all single base propellants tested
  - Has resulted in preliminary ballistics that are all very good
  - Shows a significant improvement on agglomerates in propellant
  - Has a broad fiber distribution

Although AES Radford still has more work to accomplish to become the World Class supplier of NC, this customer feedback indicates we are making significant progress towards our vision. It also means at least 1 million additional pounds of NC business per year from GD-Valleyfield.



## **ATK MEDIA supports GATR Rocket at Farnborough Air Show with 3D Animation.**

### **POWDER PRESS** Volume 61, No. 4

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