

There's an Owl in the Ballroom

NSA Monterey Environmental Staff Dance with Winged Intruder Until Its Capture

THE URGENT THURSDAY morning call wasn't for 'Bats in the Belfry' but for an 'Owl in the Ballroom.'

While preparing for a formal dinner at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Monterey, CA with 400 guests expected, workers setting up tables watched in astonishment as a barn owl flew through the open ballroom doors and proceeded to fly laps around the ceiling before roosting on top of one of the huge chandeliers.

NSA Monterey environmental staff responded to the call at the Del Monte Hotel. The historic 1920's Spanish

Mediterranean Revival style hotel remains the architectural focal point of NSA Monterey and the Naval Postgraduate School. The massive, formal ballroom with 30-foot ceilings is used for numerous functions including, on this day, bird watching.

Installation Natural Resources Specialist Vicki Taber arrived on site and received the word from on high that the owl would not be in the ballroom for the evening dinner event. Looking up at the owl perched on the ornate chandelier 30 feet above, Taber wondered how she was going to make that happen.

The first plan was to open all the ballroom doors and let the owl fly out on its own. When that failed, Taber put a call into the county Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, who agreed to come out and help.

Upon arrival, two SPCA staffers conferred on a game plan and began the process of trying to bag the bird with nets secured on long poles. For two hours, these two dedicated people ran tirelessly and almost comically from one end of the ballroom to the other, trying to catch the bird as it made laps around the ballroom, occasionally landing on a chandelier to rest.

Watching the bird fly around the expansive ballroom was fascinating, and many folks were able to see an owl in the "wild" for the first time. Not to miss an opportunity, environmental staff used this chance to educate the curious about owls. Some spectators were worried that the bird might get hurt and thought that the bird should be left alone, adding that it would make the evening event memorable for the attendees. Others were concerned that the owl might attack dinner guests or pose a health risk while food was served.

Eventually, the owl landed on a corner speaker and an intrepid SPCA staffer was able to corner the bird and get it into the net—exhausted from holding the 25-foot poles aloft for over two hours. The owl was lowered to the floor, extricated from the net and released at an open door, flying effortlessly to the nearest tree to finally rest and await its evening hunt. 📍



A barn owl roosts on a ballroom chandelier at NSA Monterey.
Todd Wills

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New Aircraft Spot Cleaners Now Available

DLA & NAVAIR Certify New Environmentally Preferred Alternatives

EXECUTIVE ORDER 13514 required 95 percent of most new contracts contain green products. To help the military aviation community meet that goal, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) now offers environmentally responsible and easy to use aircraft spot cleaners that meet the requirements of MIL-PRF-85570 (Cleaning Compounds, Aircraft, Exterior). These field-tested products are on a Qualified Products List and can be used to clean weapon systems across Department of Defense (DoD) maintenance facilities. The new products are supplied ready-to-use in pre-diluted form, aerosol and pre-saturated wipes by the DLA Aviation Supply Chain in Richmond, VA.

The Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) in Patuxent River, MD, partnered with the DLA Aviation Supply Chain to evaluate MIL-PRF-85570 cleaners and qualify more environmentally sustainable versions for Type I (General purpose, aromatic solvent base) and Type II (General purpose, non-solvent). Type I was qualified in aerosol and pre-saturated wipes while Type II was qualified pre-diluted and ready-to-use.

The saturated wipes packaging conveniently portions out the cleaner in discrete amounts, reducing chemical use, waste and disposal concerns.

The new Type I cleaning compounds in aerosol and pre-saturated wipes provide the warfighter approved products that meet corrosion control maintenance requirements while deployed anywhere in the world.

Previously, maintainers were experiencing a lack of acceptable, qualified aircraft spot cleaners and were using unauthorized products with high solvent content creating health, safety and corrosion concerns. When tested on aircraft, the cleaning effectiveness of the new aerosol product was identical to the unauthorized but still widely-used MIL-C-43616 aerosol. In addition, the saturated wipes packaging conveniently portions out the cleaner in discrete amounts, reducing chemical use, waste and disposal concerns.



The new ready-to-use Type II cleaners are effective and easy to use across multiple weapon systems anywhere in the world. Previously, these cleaners were purchased in bulk concentrated form. Aircraft maintainers then had to dilute the solution to the appropriate concentration. This presented numerous safety, environmental and logistical challenges, especially in remote, dry regions of the world where clean water was not always available.

Field testing the new products involved gauging the cleaning performance of the candidates at various military bases including Naval Air Stations Oceana, North Island, Norfolk and Key West and Andrews Joint Reserve Base.

Both Types I and II passed all tests and were found to provide environmental and logistical benefits to the user. National Stock Numbers (NSN) have been assigned and the Qualified Products Database has been updated with these new products.

	PRODUCT	MANUFACTURER
Type I	PENAIR M5571	Penetone Corporation Carlstadt, NJ 07072-2407
	CEE-BEE R-681	McGean-Rohco, Inc. Cleveland, OH 44105-3010
Type II	PENAIR C-5572	Penetone Corporation Carlstadt, NJ 07072-2407
	NAV-II	ZEP Sales & Service Atlanta, GA 30318-2825
	MA 102-RTU	JAD Chemical Co., Inc. San Pedro, CA 90731-1132

The NAVAIR 01-1A-509 Cleaning and Corrosion Control Manual and the MIL-PRF-85570 specification have been revised to include the newly qualified products. The four NSNs are available through DoD E-Mail or via military standard requisitioning systems.

- Type I /Aerosol: 6850-01-578-4978
- Type I /Pre-saturated wipes: 6850-01-587-3779
- Type II /Trigger spray (32-ounce): 6850-01-581-9413
- Type II /5-gallon can: 6850-01-582-3708

For additional information on these products, contact:

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BE PART OF OUR SUMMER ISSUE

Submissions Are Due by 20 April

We're already planning our summer 2012 issue. And you can be a part of it! If you have a story that you want us to consider, you need to submit your final text and images by 20 April 2012.

The power of your experiences is even greater when you share them with our readers.

Your chances of being published in *Currents* are dramatically increased if you follow our article template. Simply request this easy-to-use template by sending an email to Bruce McCaffrey, our Managing Editor, at brucemccaffrey@sbcglobal.net. Bruce is available at 773-376-6200 if you have any questions or would like to discuss your story ideas.

We look forward to reading your stories about all the great work you're doing to optimize the Navy's energy use and serve as good stewards of the environment.

Currents Deadlines

- Summer 2012 Issue: Friday, 20 April 2012
- Fall 2012 Issue: Friday, 20 July 2012
- Winter 2013 Issue: Friday, 19 October 2012
- Spring 2013 Issue: Friday, 18 January 2013

You can also refer to your *Currents* calendar for reminders about these deadlines.