

'Pharmacy' provides products to get the job done

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DECAM

Military operations require numerous products to keep the mission wheels moving forward. Fort Carson has equipment and vehicle maintenance needs that require large amounts of products including paints, oil, solvents and more. These items can be costly and create significant amounts of waste.

Efficiently managing maintenance products to minimize cost and waste for Fort Carson is the job of the Directorate of Logistics staff at the Hazardous Material Control Center, otherwise known as the "Pharmacy". The HMCC houses materials to support the unit's maintenance mission, but has the additional function as a turn-in point for serviceable hazardous materials that have met the proper criteria.

This has a two-fold benefit. One benefit is that unit activities, such as motorpools, have readily available products. Also, by re-issuing the material before it expires, unit's can avoid the costly disposal of some of these items that are regulated as a hazardous waste. So, by storing and re-issuing material that would otherwise be thrown away, the Pharmacy is saving Fort Carson money and preventing pollution.

The HMCC at Fort Carson, a mandatory program, has been in operation since 1997, said Bob Gravelle, the site manager at the HMCC. It became the first such operation in the Army to incorporate the automated Standard Army Retail Supply System into a hazardous materials management operation.

The automated system, said Gravelle, allows the HMCC to manage the required amount of materials in stock to meet the needs of the maintenance, training and deployment missions while simplifying the process necessary to order materials, which includes paperwork and involvement from outside agency. The HMCC currently assists in establishing battalion-level hazardous materials management programs, in turn the battalion operations manages down to the company level. The HMCC provides a 15-day garrison stock for maintenance at the battalion and activity level and manages contingency stocks for 46 combat units.

Some of the materials managed by the HMCC include:

- Several grades of oils for vehicles and helicopters
- Recycled antifreeze
- Grease products
- Spray paints
- Adhesives and sealants
- Hydraulic fluids
- Gear oil
- Insecticides (limited)

- Various type of alcohols
- Vehicle starting fluids

Gravelle explained that units or activities automated within the Army supply system can order these products simply by requesting them through their system using a national stock number, quantity and document number. The request is filled and information is processed into the environmental database at the HMCC.

If the unit or activity is not automated, then a manual request form (Department of the Army Form 2765-1) needs to be prepared and brought to their major subordinate command supply support activity who will then process the request to the HMCC. All materials requested are issued and signed for at the HMCC.

If a unit wants to turn in overstocked products they would bring the **material unused** and **not expired** with a DA Form 2765-1 with document number and the HMCC will take the products.

Incorporating SARSS into the operation has been a tremendous asset, said Gravelle. The customer satisfaction of people requesting products has dramatically improved with the system onsite. Additionally, being automated also enhances the ability to capture demand data to assist in better managing what is needed to support the various maintenance missions.

Comprehensive management of the hazardous material shelf life has benefited Fort Carson. Since 1997, the HMCC has extended the shelf life of 30,071 items, providing a cost avoidance of over \$1.7 Million and avoided disposal of 174,892 pounds of material.

The HMCC also supports other installation pollution prevention efforts including the purchasing and issuing of recycled antifreeze and re-refined oils, low-VOC spray paints and cleaning products.

For more information, log on to the HMCC website at http://carsweb.carson.army.mil/hmcc/1024/hmcc_welcome.html or call the HMCC site manager at 526-4210.