

# Holloman's hazardous waste at HAZMART's disposal

by Airman 1st Class Martha Whipple  
49th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A 10-person team is the heart of the 49th Logistics Readiness Squadron Hazardous Materials section that serves six flying units, 331 work centers and 37 tenant units.

HAZMART's mission is to minimize, re-utilize and centralize all hazardous material from the 49th Fighter Wing and German air force, according to Staff Sgt. Joseph Trumble, HAZMART NCO.

"Simply, we provide over 13,000 hazardous materials, store them in 15 units, and dispose them when they're no longer serviceable," he said. "These materials include everything from spray paint and fluorescent bulbs to the adhesives used on

the F-117A stealth fighters."

Holloman's HAZMART is a unique facility in Air Combat Command because it manages an initial accumulation point that allows 90 days to dispose of oil and fluorescent bulbs.

For example the mercury in fluorescent bulbs must be disposed of safely for the environment, so the section, one-by-one puts the bulbs through the bulb crusher that separates the mercury out of the glass.

"No other HAZMART has these two assets," Trumble said. "Most bases use the civil engineer squadron's environmental flight to dispose of these materials."

The section also has three other areas of business: customer service, storage and waste, and the free issue area.

"Customer service is an important part

of our job," Trumble said. "We receive more than 300 calls each week, and we try to accommodate the needs of the base and keep the mission going because without proper materials, units can't complete their job."

To keep the units working, HAZMART stores assets and hazardous wastes in the storage and waste area.

Materials are segregated to ensure items are compatible with other materials in storage. While materials are in storage, they are inspected monthly and checked for serviceability.

More than 2,600 items are checked every month to ensure shelf-life and expiration dates are current.

The free-issue area is the HAZMART storage facility is for returned disposable

items that can be used by other units. The reusable items are free to squadron because ultimately the free-issue saves the wing money by reducing disposal costs.

Saving the wing money also means being ready for inspections because violations often result in a heavy fine. Some fines can be up to \$27,500 each day for improper storage or improper labeling of materials.

"With a team of 5 military and 5 contracted personnel with Chugach Development Corporation, each person plays a crucial role in our section's mission," Trumble said. "Each person is a big part of the team and everyone of them has stepped up and played more than one role in the section. We are a small team that together accomplish a big mission."



Photos by Airman 1st Class Martha Whipple

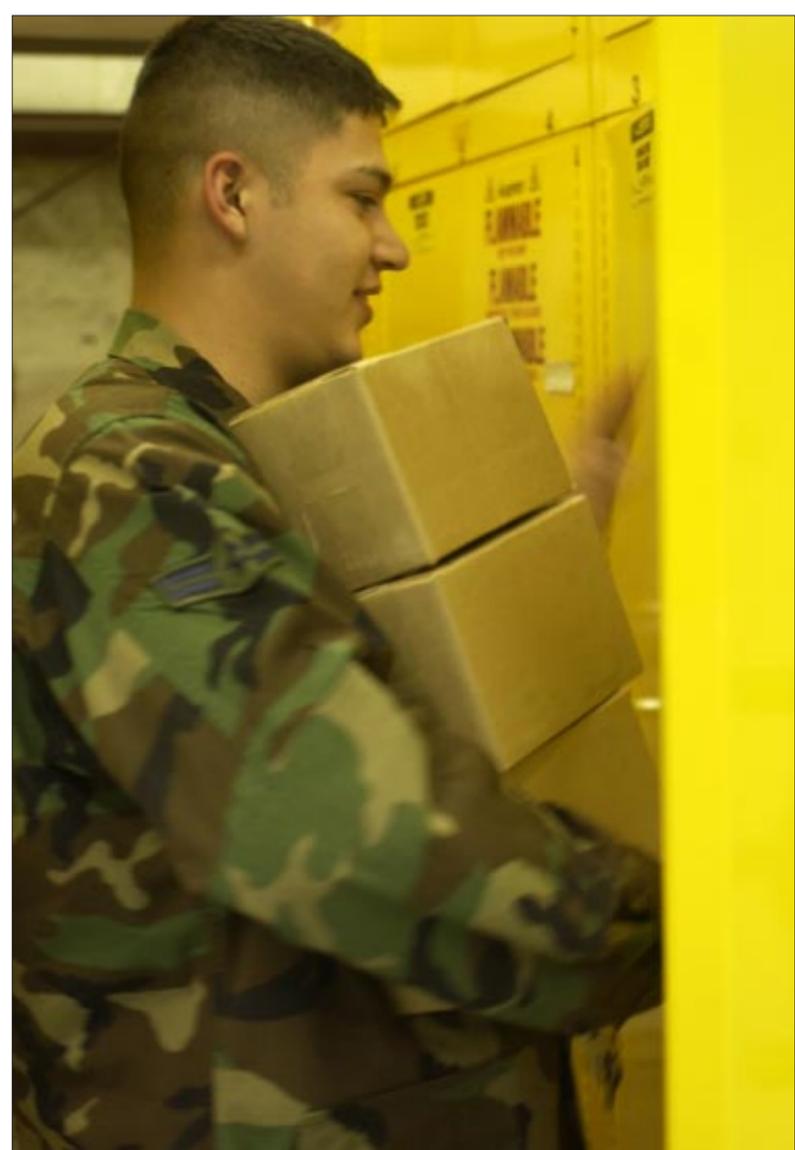
Herb Jones punctures a spray paint can to safely dispose of the hazardous materials inside.



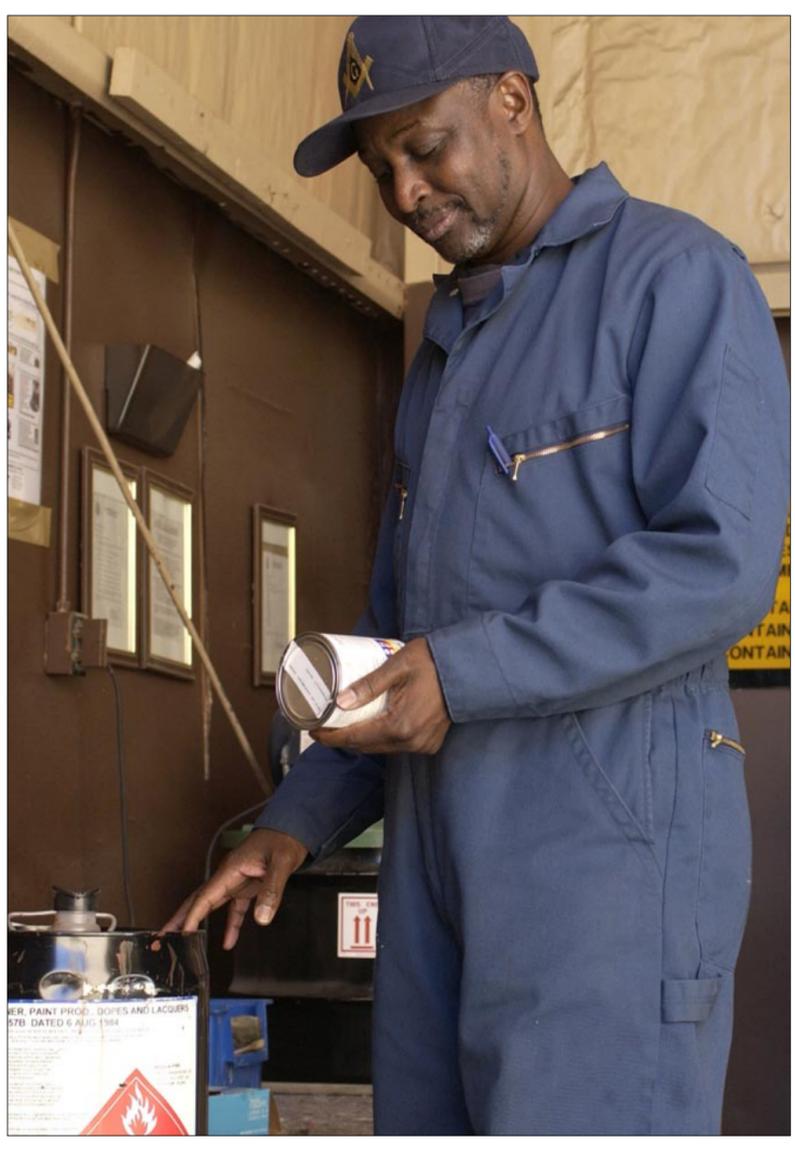
Herb Jones secures the lid of a hazardous waste barrel.



Staff Sgt. Joseph Trumble inspects a hazardous spill kit.



Airman 1st Class Richard Rodriguez pulls hazardous material from a storage bin.



Herb Jones separates hazardous waste materials on a spill control pallet. Chugach Development Corporation took over the waste portion of HAZMART in January.