In 2012, a team of employees led by Dave Licher (now retired) set out to analyze how solid waste was generated and handled at the sector’s site in Palmdale, Calif.

Team members found that 91 percent of solid waste generated on-site was being sent to a landfill. The team recognized the inefficiencies, developed a request for information and sent it to waste haulers in the area. After receiving responses, team members crafted a request for proposal to select a hauler who would deliver on three goals: 1) decrease cost, 2) achieve the highest landfill diversion rate and 3) maintain the current level of effort by Northrop Grumman employees. Benz Sanitation Inc. was selected.

Now the Palmdale site is at an 85 percent diversion rate: 899 tons of waste over 11 months (August 2012–June 2013) are being reused or recycled. In addition, Licher and his team accomplished this with no additional employee resources and with a 32 percent cost reduction per month, translating into an annual savings of approximately $167,000.

Team members demonstrated that it pays to invest in zero waste-to-landfill strategies. Now the team is striving for more by moving into phase 2, which includes becoming the first site to obtain greater than 90 percent diversion from a landfill.

Congratulations to Licher and the team for leading the sector to a cleaner future. Fellow team members are Meli Calkins, Dave Parker, Alan Stone, Dave Kimbel, Kevin Tait, Katie Hamic, Jeff Kubli, George Jung, Jim Barnett, Larry Eisebraun, Vincent Custodio and Christina Kull-Martens.


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**NATO AGS ON COURSE AT MOSS POINT**

By Jessica Burtness

On Dec. 3, employees of Northrop Grumman’s Moss Point, Miss., Unmanned Systems Center made history by starting production on the first NATO Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) aircraft.

NATO representatives, community leaders and Northrop Grumman employees celebrated the start of production with a small ceremony.

The aircraft is the first of five enhanced Block 40 aircraft that will be delivered to NATO. The system will provide unprecedented near-real-time terrestrial and maritime situational awareness information throughout the full range of NATO military and civil-military missions, including peacekeeping and humanitarian relief operations.

“The variety of sensors and ability to support a wide range of missions will revolutionize how NATO collects intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance,” said Jim Edge, general manager, NATO AGS Management Agency.

“It was an honor to witness the start of production for the first NATO aircraft, and I’m excited at being one step closer to delivering the AGS system.”

The NATO AGS system also includes European-sourced ground assets that will provide in-theater support to commanders of deployed forces. Mission Operation Support, mobile and transportable ground stations will provide an interface between the AGS core system and a wide range of interoperable NATO and national command, control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems.

The NATO AGS unmanned aerial vehicles will be equipped with the multimode Multi-Platform Radar Technology Insertion Program airborne ground surveillance radar sensor to provide all-weather, day- or night intelligence to the NATO Alliance.

Moss Point Unmanned Systems Center is also home to Triton and Fire Scout production. The facility opened in 2006 with just 26 workers and has now grown to almost 70 employees.

“I’m very proud of this team,” said Jim Culmo, vice president, High-Altitude, Long-Endurance (HALE) Enterprise.

“The concepts of innovation, performance, affordability, collaboration and leadership are at the very heart of who the people are here at Moss Point Unmanned Systems. There isn’t a better team to build the first NATO AGS aircraft.”

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Jim Edge, general manager for NATO AGS Management Agency, signs part of the bulkhead of the first NATO AGS aircraft as Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant and Northrop Grumman HALE Enterprise Vice President Jim Culmo look on. Production of the first NATO AGS aircraft started Dec. 3 at Northrop Grumman’s Unmanned Systems Center in Moss Point, Miss.

Photo by Steve Potter