



GOTCHA

Issue #54

An Unscheduled Pest Control Newsletter for Navy and Marine Corps Activities

Engineering Field Activity Northeast, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Spring 2002

STEVE'S NEW POSSE

Welcome to Gotcha issue number 54. Quite a bit has changed since the last issue but two of the biggest changes have been additional staff, and a new organization identity.

You probably notice from our picture that we have gotten younger and better looking. Everyone knows Steve Kincaid, Biological Sciences Program Manager and Jeff Davis, senior entomologist, who like a fine wine just get better with age. If you can't get enough of Jeff and Steve, you will love our latest entomological vintages, Christine Eisner and Christopher Harding.

Christine Eisner is far from brand new. In fact, she has been with us for more than two years. Hailing from Boston, Christine is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where she majored in biology. (You would have thought we would have known better than to hire her, considering Harvey Shultz, resident NAVFAC HQ Applied Biology Program Manager is a product of that same school. But we figured we'd give UMass one more chance). Before coming down to Philadelphia, Christine worked for the Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project so she had a good background in vector control. Christine is heading up our West Nile Virus program working with BUMED to assist Public Works and Environmental Departments. She is also coordinating our Integrated Pest Management Information System (IPMIS) implementation record keeping project.

Christopher Harding has been on board one year. He earned his undergraduate degree from Delaware Valley College and his Masters in entomology from the Pennsylvania State University. We had no qualms about a Penn State grad since Steve is also from that great institution. Chris previously worked for Rohm and Hass and Penn State. He has a background in



"Steve's Posse, from left to right Chris (skim milk) Harding; Steve (red marker) Kincaid; Christine (reds) Eisner" and Jeff (nozzlehead) Davis.

computers and education and is currently coordinating our training courses. With the two new go-getters on board, Jeff and Steve should be able to put their feet on their desks and relax a little (slim chance).

The second new thing is our name. NORTHDIV has been reinvented as the Engineering Field Activity Northeast. EFANE for short. Some pronounce it EE' FANE. We're not so sure that sounds like a good place to work, but it is. We are still a component of Atlantic Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command (which sounds OK to us).



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is an unscheduled publication of the
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Our primary target audience consists of Navy and Marine Corps people at activities in the Atlantic Division area of responsibility (LANTOPS, EFA Northeast, EFA CHES, EFA Med and OICC Portsmouth Naval Hospital) who are involved with pest control management. These include, but are not limited to, activity public works personnel including pest controllers, grounds personnel and pest control quality assurance evaluators, personnel who oversee pesticide use on golf courses or natural resources programs including agricultural outleashes and forestry operations; personnel responsible for pesticide distribution (retail sales and self help) and personnel who inspect incoming preservative-treated wood products. The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Navy. We invite your contributions, comments and questions. The EFA Northeast Environmental Department does not endorse the companies or products mentioned.



Diana McPherson-Bartlett
1967-2001

Diana McPherson-Bartlett passed away on August 27, 2001 after a long illness. Diana came to EFANE (then NorthDiv) after earning her Masters degree in Entomology from the University of Delaware.

Diana started her Navy career as an entomologist in the Biological Sciences Branch when the offices were still located at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. After seven years of distinguished service in entomology, She switched her focus to environmental risk assessment in support of remedial projects.

Diana used her excellent cross-training to become an effective member on tri-service professional work groups and served as a leader for the natural resource injury and implementation guide.

Diana was instrumental in developing the program of instruction for the Navy Ecological Risk Assessment Course. Although recently she worked in Risk Assessment, she was never far, both literally and figuratively, from the entomology group.

In celebration of Diana's life, an oak tree was planted in Celebration Forest, Bear Butte Grove, located in Northern Idaho. She is missed by her family, husband Charles, and many friends.

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 in full color, visit our website at
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Click on the Business Lines box under masthead. Scroll down and click on Environmental. Click on the Environmental Newsletters tab; Locate the EFA Northeast section and click to open the issue.



On The Road... In Bahrain With Jeff Davis

If someone had told me 10 years ago that I would someday teach a pest management training course in the Middle East, I would have responded, "When camels fly". Well, camels apparently can fly. On 16 - 17 April 2001, Steve Kincaid and I had the pleasure of conducting a two-day pest management training course at the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain. We had excellent assistance from

LT Mike Smith (medical entomologist) at the time stationed at the Navy Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit No. 7, Sigonella. The course was hosted and supported by Mr. Awni Almasri, Head of the Environmental Division at NSA Bahrain.

The purpose of the course was to provide on-site training for NSA personnel who are involved with pest management. Over 30 people attended from the base's Environmental, Safety, Contracting, and Supply Departments, as well as from Army's Veterinary Services. We also had the honor of hosting five officials from the State of Bahrain Ministries of Health and Agriculture. The contractor personnel who provide pest control services at the base also attended.

Our group has taken training courses on the road many times in the States. However, this is the first time we conducted training outside of the U.S. In Bahrain we found people who were eager to learn all they could about pesticide safety, environmental protection, proper application technique, calibration, personal protection, and control techniques. And learn a lot they did. Cost and disruption to the Activity was kept to a minimum.

Our experiences taught us that two-day, on-the-road courses in the Middle East and Europe are an excellent value for all, providing quality pest management training at installations that would not be able to afford to send so many people to stateside courses. Considering that U.S. civilians rotate at OCONUS installations on a 3 - 5 year regularly scheduled cycle, on-site, affordable, effective pesticide management training is an excellent way to maintain effective, economical programs.

If you wish to discuss OCONUS training in your area, contact us. We are also available to swap camel stories (we did ride them) and to discuss the excellent shopping opportunities at the Souq.

Tick Testing - Free!

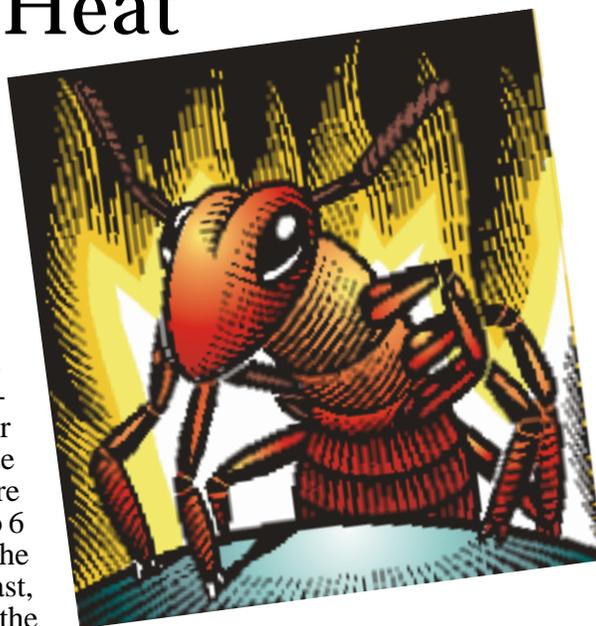
In an effort to combat the threat of tick-borne disease, the Entomological Sciences Program (ESP) of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (CHPPM) will identify and test ticks received from DoD health clinics in CONUS. ESP provides Tick Test Kits to DoD clinics upon request. Questionable critters may be submitted to your health clinic with the request that they be submitted through this program. CHPPM will identify the ticks and tell you if it was carrying any of the tick-borne diseases. To obtain more information on this program and find out how to get a kit, contact Ms. Sandra Evans, DSN 584-3613; Commercial (410) 436-3613; Sandra.Evans@apg.amedd.army.mil.



Turning Down The Heat From Fire Ants

Managing fire ants is always a hot topic. Although present in the deep Southeast for many years, fire ants have recently established their range as far north as the Norfolk, Tidewater area.

Chipco TopChoice, a new fire ant bait recently introduced by Aventis E.S. may be one way to cool down this pest. This product contains the active ingredient fipronil, the same material found in Maxforce cockroach bait stations and Termidor termiticide. Fipronil works because the ants don't recognize it as a poison before its delayed activity does the job. Fire ants that have eaten fipronil won't die for approximately 4 to 6 weeks, which provides ample time for most of the ants in the colony including the queen to eat some of the bait. By contrast, materials that work too quickly are not consumed by most of the colony members and fail to provide effective control.



Although no pesticide will eradicate fire ants, Aventis claims that one broadcast application of TopChoice provides up to 95% control in 4-6 weeks for existing fire ant populations and also prevents new colonies from being established for up to a year.

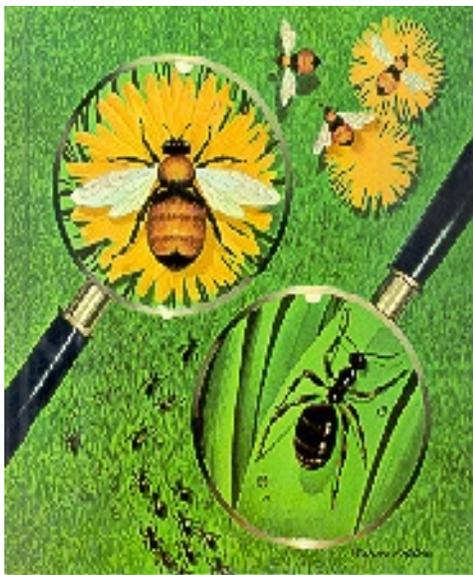
Harvey's New Hat

With the retirement of Bill Gebhart, Harvey Shultz has taken over the responsibilities of NAVFAC Applied Biology Program Manager in addition to his current job as head of EFANE's Environmental Services Division.

Harvey spends most of his time on Applied Biology. Everyone agrees that Bill has left some very big shoes to fill. No need to worry though, because Harvey has some very big feet.

That's Harvey Shultz in the photo wearing one of his many hats demonstrating his ecologically suspect fillet and release system on a Niagra River, rainbow trout. Says Harv, "A man's gotta eat."



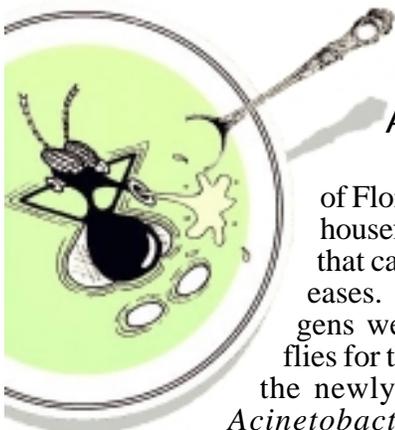


Ants and Bees Stick Around

Did you ever wonder how ants and bees seem able to effortlessly climb up vertical surfaces? Well, at least one biologist, Dr. Elizabeth Brainerd at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, has also wondered. She was so curious in fact that she actually spent hours videotaping ants and bees walking on glass plates to discover just how they can “stick” to surfaces. (Christine Eisner can attest that there really isn’t much to do out in western Massachusetts!)

What she found was that the feet of these insects have both a pair of “claws” and a sticky foot pad. Depending on the situation, the claws can grasp a surface (e.g., the side of a tree) or the foot pad can inflate to stick on a surface (e.g., glass window). For more information on this study visit:

<http://www.umass.edu/newsoffice/archive/2001/092701brainerd.html>



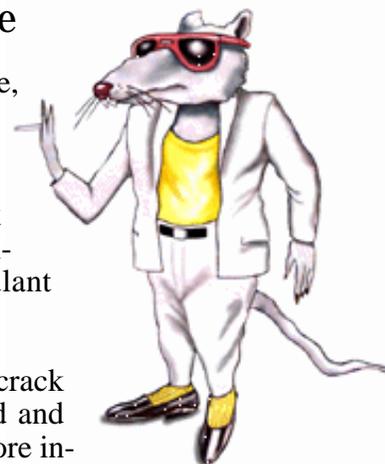
Houseflies and Food: A Bad Combo

A recent University of Florida study found that houseflies carry pathogens that cause nine human diseases. Three of the pathogens were found in houseflies for the first time. One of the newly-detected bacteria, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, has been linked to meningitis. Others have been linked to a variety of ailments including food poisoning, peritonitis, urinary tract infections and bacillary dysentery. Research leader Dr. Jerry Butler, said, “We confirmed that flies spread bacteria to surfaces, where the pathogens continue to grow. We don’t know yet what the human health implications are, but it reinforces the importance of sanitation and keeping flies out of food establishments.”

The flies were collected from dumpsters at four restaurants in the University of Florida area. Three of the four dumpsters had been emptied and cleaned the previous day. The study authors felt that the restaurant dumpsters were “typical” in the number of flies and variety of pathogens found. During their one-month life span, the strong-flying housefly feeds by spitting saliva onto its food, then lapping up the food-saliva mix with specialized sponge-like mouthparts. This combination of mobility and feeding mechanism provides the potential for houseflies to spread pathogens over a wide area.

Smoking Rat Poison Not All Its Cracked Up To Be

A recent Reuters article, *Rat Poison-Laced Crack Causes Severe Bleeding*, August 30, 2001 reported a new trend: smoking crack cocaine laced with rodenticides (e.g., the anticoagulant brodifacoum).



Adding rat poisons to crack apparently thins the blood and “results in a longer and more intense high”, but can also cause uncontrolled bleeding. The August 30th issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine* detailed a case study of a man who ended up in the emergency room with a severe nosebleed.

Several months later he returned to the same hospital with internal bleeding and finally admitted to knowingly smoking crack cocaine laced with rat poison. The report did not state whether the man intended to continue to smoke this “special” crack cocaine. What will they think of next?

[The editor would like to note that smoking crack with or without rat poison is bad for your health, not to mention illegal.]



Hosed

Our favorite guest writer, Jersey Joe Nozzlehead, takes a moment for a facetious question and answer session

Dear Jersey Joe,

I am a pest controller at Camp Swampy who never gets repeat business with ants. I use baits, seal up the entry points to the building from the outdoors, repair leaky pipes and instill in the occupants the need for good sanitation. My approach works, the only problem is it works so well I never get any repeat business. How can I increase the number of callbacks, please help.

Stan
Camp Swampy

Dear Stan,

Let me tell you, I love ants. Whenever I spray for them they just come back, generally in about a month and I go out and spray again. I don't know why you are not getting any repeat business. I get lots. In fact, my customers never stop calling me. Let me tell you how I handle ant problems and maybe you can learn a thing or two.

Whenever I spray I usually like to use the worst smelling stuff I have so that they know that I'm doing something. Then, I tell em to go look, and within half an hour there are all these dead ants, just laying there. Hey, customers like to see fast results.

Sometimes the customers ask what I'm using. I say "I can't tell yuz, cause it's a trade secret." I don't want my secret formula getting used by my competitors, even you Stan. I mean, if those other guys knew what I was using, then they would use it too. One time, this customer asks me for a MSDS. I didn't mist or dust anything, and I didn't even have any mist or dust on the truck.

Now let's talk technique. I usually like to leave pesticide puddles in the corners because ants like to come out at night and drink. I also insert the nozzle in the ant mounts and spray in there. Of course, lotsa times the nozzle gets clogged, and I have to take it off, wrap my lips around it like a trombone, and blow it out. And remember, the best way to keep from getting ants running up your legs is to spray your pants and shoes before each job.

Well, that's all for now, I hope this has helped you, Stan, and remember next time you need advice from the "old school", you write to Joe Nozzlehead.

Joe Nozzlehead

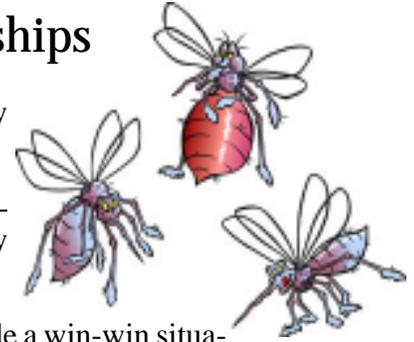
[Editor's note: Actually, if you do the exact opposite of what Joe recommends, you'll do fine. Any certified reader who failed to identify Joe's comments as satire is hereby de-certified]

Managing Mosquitoes Through New Partnerships

Throughout 2001, West Nile virus (WNV) was detected in mosquitoes, birds, humans and other animals (such as horses). As a result, public awareness of mosquito-borne diseases increased substantially. To manage the mosquitoes that vector WNV and other diseases, Navy and Marine Corps installations have worked hard on survey-based control. For most installations, preparation included updating contracts and servicing mosquito light traps and ULV machines.

WNV mosquito control plans should be included in each installation's Emergency Vector Control Plan (EVCP), which your preventive medicine group is required to develop and maintain.

A newer strategy used successfully by many installations is developing cooperative relationships with nearby mosquito control districts. The goal of these agreements is to provide a win-win situation for both parties: the installation receives inexpensive mosquito surveillance and control while the county is able to conduct surveys and manage part of the county not previously serviced. Please contact us if you would like more information on how your installation could set up such an agreement with a local abatement district. We'll network with BUMED entomologists to recommend a winning strategy.



So What Is Attractive To You, If You Are A Mosquito?



Have you ever gone to the beach with your friends and while most of them were enjoying a cold drink on a warm night, others felt they were pin cushions.... mosquito pin cushions to be exact? While everyone knows that some people are more attractive to mosquitoes than others, scientists are just now starting to understand exactly what makes them attractive. While it has been known for a decade that mosquitoes are attracted to cues such as colors, body heat and CO₂, each of these when artificially produced lost out to actual humans in mosquito "taste tests".

Recent evidence suggests that the correct combination of lactic acid, acetone and dimethyl disulfide may be extremely attractive to mosquitoes. Alone, these compounds are only mildly attractive to mosquitoes, but in the correct combination the cocktail is extremely attractive, in some cases as attractive as humans. People naturally produce each of these compounds in widely varying amounts during their daily activities such as walking and sweating. The degree to which a person produces the ideal mix of mosquito attracting compounds may strongly influence the attraction of mosquitoes to that person.

But, "attracting mosquitoes is only half of the research plan", says the United States Department of Agriculture's Ulrich Bernier, a chemist with the Mosquito and Fly Research Unit. The other half is to develop natural repellents designed to interfere

with the receptors used by mosquitoes to locate hosts. A mosquito-free day at the beach, now that's worth a whole round of cold drinks.

[Editor's note: a mosquito "taste test" consists of offering live mosquitoes the choice of feeding on a human or on another food source with an artificial attractant. Until now the human has almost always "won". If anyone is looking for a job, mosquito taste testers are always in demand.]

Calling All Sports Fans



Any sports fan knows that John Elway was the first NFL draft pick in 1983, but how many sports fans can tell you about Simone Accardo? Give up? Simone Accardo organized Lomellina Valley's annual mosquito-killing contest. The people of the valley, located just south of Milan, Italy, host the contest, which currently, is the only known one of its kind in the world. Contestants have 5 minutes to kill as many mosquitoes as possible using only their hands. To get credit, each squashed insect must be collected and presented to the judges. While the draw of this event is currently unknown, Joe Nozzlehead is rumored to be training at a secret facility in the New Jersey salt marshes to prepare for next year's contest.

Pesticide Label Change for Household Pesticides



Current guidance requires consumers to dispose of used pesticide containers by wrapping them in newspaper and discarding them in regular trash. But in a September 7, 2001 notice, the Environmental Protection Agency revised guidance for the disposal of many household pesticides.

New guidance requires pesticide labels that instruct consumers to discard containers through their local solid waste agency or call a toll free number for nearby disposal sites.

The effected products whose disposal instructions will change are non-microbial pesticides with an intended end use in or around a residence by a resident or for products regularly available to household consumers and of practical household use.

Agricultural and commercial use products are not affected by the label change. Full compliance is required by October 1, 2003.

The label change will impact disposal practices of pesticide containers at military installations especially those with onsite housing and pesticide self help programs. EFANE is currently evaluating the new disposal instructions and will issue guidance on implementation.

The full text of the new guidance (Pesticide Registration (PR) Notice 2001-6) can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/opppmsd1/PR_Notices/pr2001-6.pdf

Where Does Policy Come From Anyway?

If you ever wondered how policy regarding pesticide regulations is written this is your chance to find out. Over the next year, DODI 4150.7, OPNAV 5090.1 CH-1 and OPNAV 6250.4B are being revised. A copy of each of these documents should be enclosed in your Pest Management Plan. If you have suggestions on how to improve these documents, please contact us.

Support A Zoo; Sponsor A Cockroach

Many of you have probably gone to a zoo or animal park and noticed that exhibits and animals are often sponsored by a benevolent patron. You may have considered making a donation yourself but didn't see much personal connection to a collared peccary or an armadillo.

But we have wonderful news for those of us in the pest management fraternity. At the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens outside Palm Desert, California, you can adopt an American cockroach for "only" \$20 a year. Each adoption comes with a personalized adoption certificate and photograph of your roach.

The Living Desert is a very nice place and we highly recommend it. But if you can't picture a cockroach as a member of your family, for the same \$20 you can adopt a stinkbug.



Did You Know That...

on May 23, 2001, the United States signed the Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) at a conference in Stockholm, Sweden? Under the Convention, countries commit to reduce and/or eliminate the production, use, and/or release of the 12 POPs of greatest concern to the global community including DDT. (WWF Newsroom, 21 May 2001)

the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently initiated the largest case ever for pesticide-related illegal conduct against Micro Flo Company, a subsidiary of BASF Corporation, for allegedly importing illegal pesticides into the U.S.? The EPA is seeking a penalty over \$ 3.7 million. (<http://www.pesticide.net/enforce/2001/microflo.html>)

many home fires of "suspicious origin" occur when rodents gnawing on electrical wiring, cause short circuits? (PR Newswire, National Fire Protection Agency, 1 October 2001)?

University of California scientists are researching techniques that will allow them to insert genes into mosquitoes to prevent malaria transmission? (The Guardian, 3 September 2001)

between 1982 and 2000 there were 21 reported cases of civilian aircraft striking cattle and horses during take off and landing? (An Analysis of Deer Strikes with Civil Aircraft, Presented Paper, Bird Strike Conference 2001)

Navy Pest Management Pioneer Retires



Bill Gebhart, one of the pioneers of the modern Navy pest management program, retired in June 2000 from his position as the NAVFAC Applied Biology Program Manager. Bill

started as a trainee in Boston in 1966. During his 35-year tenure, mostly at NAVFAC HQ in DC, he published numerous technical documents and championed wood protection as an integral part of the applied biology program, saving the Navy millions of dollars. He was very active on the Armed Forces Pest Management Board serving as Chairman at one time.

Bill had a good word for everyone and everyone liked Bill. His warm smile is well known through both his professional and personal circles. Bill's retirement luncheon was heavily attended by a who's who cast from DASD(ES), ASN, CNO, NAVFAC and many other offices. Bill resides in Falls Church, VA with his wife Nancy and is slowly getting the kids out of the house.

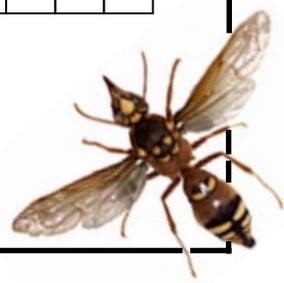
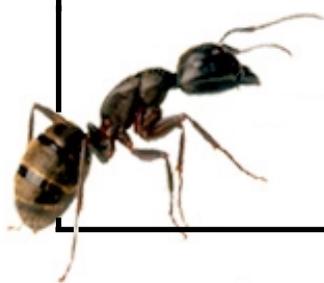
PEST MANAGEMENT CROSSWORD

Across

1. The number of antennae found on a spider.
2. Bees and butterflies play a major role in the _____ of many plant species.
3. Insects primary sensory organs.
4. This should be carried in all vehicles that may be used to transport pesticides.
5. Prefix for one trillion.
6. The beetle *Scarabaeus sacer* was an important part of the religious culture of the people who lived along this river.
7. Mosquito light traps are a method of performing _____ for mosquito populations.
8. General term for insect growth stage.
9. The larval form of a butterfly.
10. Many insects are nocturnal or active at _____.
11. _____ communication is the art of conducting a dialogue on the hazards of a situation while minimizing potential outrage.

Down

1. A beetle may also know as a _____.
2. Author of "The Sphinx" (1850) a story in which the narrator mistakes an insect for a terrible monster and goes horribly insane.
3. Insect that may be mistaken for a termite.
4. An IPM technique that involves denying pests food by keeping areas extremely clean.
5. The _____ is the law.
6. Nostrils are to a person as _____ are to an insect.
7. Number of pairs of antennae on insects.
8. A _____ of all stored pesticides should always be kept on site.
9. Pesticides should only be used when pest populations exceed a _____.
10. Number of legs on a spider minus the number of legs on an insect.



UPCOMING TRAINING



Pesticide Applicator Initial Certification

9 - 16 Sep 2002	DOD Core	Jacksonville, Florida
17 - 20 Sep 2002	DOD Phase II	Jacksonville, Florida
23 Sep - 2 Oct 2002	DOD Phase III	Jacksonville, Florida
3 - 10 Mar 2003	DOD Core	Jacksonville, Florida
11 - 14 Mar 2003	DOD Phase II	Jacksonville, Florida
17 - 26 Mar 2003	DOD Phase III	Jacksonville, Florida

Contact: Dave Wolfert (904) 542 2424, dnwolfert@dveccjax.med.navy.mil

Pest Control Quality Assurance Evaluator and Pest Management Coordinator Initial Training

Spring 2002 Virginia Beach, Virginia

Contact: Chris Harding (610) 595-0567 ext. 131, hardingcl@efane.navfac.navy.mil

Pesticide Applicator Recertification and Pest Control Quality Assurance Evaluator Retraining



November 2002 Jacksonville, Florida

Contact: Amy M. Brannon-Quale (843) 820-7101, brannonam@efdsouth.navfac.navy.mil

Aerial Spray Certification (category 11)

6 - 10 May 2002 Youngstown, Ohio

Contact: June Brewer (330) 609-1111, June.Brewer@youngstown.af.mil

15 - 19 April 2002 Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

Contact: Mark Pomerinke 011 49-6371-47-6482, mark.pomerinke@Ramstein.af.mil

