

Hottest Technology
Paul Fritz, Naval Air Warfare Center Pax River
Navclean

In many geographic areas and in a variety of applications, the unwanted growth of mold and mildew is a serious problem. Growth of mildew on military aircraft frames has been found to cause corrosion and operational damage, in addition to creating potential health hazards to flight crews and maintenance personnel. Traditional products for addressing fungal growth on metal surfaces are corrosive themselves, as well as environmentally hazardous. These problems prompted a need for an extremely and non-corrosive solution to addressing fungal growth in the U.S. Military. A novel composition to address mildew problems was developed by NAWCAD personnel and optimized at NAWCAD in Patuxent River, Maryland. A formulation of three components for use in removing an inhibiting mildew and fungus growth on military aircraft structures is patented and has passed evaluation requirements. It not only cleans and removes the mildew and fungus, but also inhibits future growth and passivates metal surfaces to help prevent corrosion.

NAVCLEAN has been tested and packaged for companies to obtain samples through an LP-CRADA. NAWCAD PAX River presently has 4 LP-CRADAS. One of the LP-CRADAs resulted in a license agreement. NAVCLEAN is presently being used on army and navy Helos. The licensee has plans to have NAVCLEAN on the commercial market by end of 2006. NAVCLEAN will be environmentally friendly/non-corrosive replacement for existing mold/mildew cleaners.

As a non-corrosive, environmentally friendly cleaner for aviation use, the licensee is exploring the use of NAVCLEAN for cleaning all fields of use, such as areas flooded by storms.

For more information, contact Paul Fritz at paul.fritz@navy.mil.