

## NAWTEC13-3145

### *NAWTEC 13 Speaker Abstract*

## **Converting Army Waste to Fuel: Mobile Integrated Sustainable Energy Recovery**

Lisa Marie Powell  
LMI Government Consulting  
2000 Corporate Ridge,  
McLean, VA 22102  
phone, 703-917-7126; fax, 703-917-7511  
lpowell@lmi.org

This technology could change the logistics of solid waste management in the Army. Successful completion of the Mobile Integrated Sustainable Energy Recovery (MISER) project will lead to dramatic logistics changes. Where petroleum is now used to fuel generators, waste may be used in the future, substantially reducing solid waste disposal and transportation requirements.

This technology may be relevant for other services and civil agencies. Many of the specifications of the technology being developed may also suit the civilian sector. For example, MISER will be relatively lightweight, small, simple, and easy to operate. These specifications should be useful for anyone wanting to convert waste to fuel—in remote areas, in small businesses, and in municipalities.

In 2003, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and Natick Soldier Center initiated the MISER project to explore waste-to-energy conversion technologies in the Army. This project seeks a viable method for converting Army waste to energy in the operational environment. Although available technologies convert waste materials into energy, this project hinges on designing those that meet the specific needs of the Army, such as portability, efficiency, operability, and durability. The project focuses on the Army, but it has widespread potential: waste-to-energy conversion technology may be viable in other military services, as well as in the civilian world.

The first part of our research consisted of analyzing the typical waste in an operational environment, evaluating five proposed waste-to-energy conversion technologies, and recommending the most viable. The second was developing an economic model that can be used to determine the relative payoff of converting waste to fuel in the operational environment, taking into account the various costs. The third, and most recent, is developing an acquisition strategy for MISER and working to publicize the current status of the project. Successful completion of this project will likely yield exciting developments in the field of solid waste management, and it is vital to keep the solid waste community informed of MISER developments.