

Directorate of Public Works-Environmental

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Fort Hood wins federal award By Christine Luciano

Fort Hood's solid waste and recycle programs were recently recognized at the federal level by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, with a 2007 White House Closing the Circle Award for Waste/Pollution Prevention in the military category.

The Closing the Circle Award recognizes outstanding achievements of Federal employees and their facilities for efforts that resulted in significant contributions to, or have made a significant positive impact regarding to environmental stewardship.

The installation's solid waste and recycle programs were cited for developing many diverse programs and reuse opportunities for waste that resulted in a cost avoidance of \$2.5 million in 2006.

"Solid waste generation was determined to be Fort Hood's most significant aspect," said Jeff Salmon, Solid Waste Program Manager. "Waste prevention became Fort Hood's greatest opportunity to improve on installation environmental performance." Fort Hood's special waste management, electronics waste recycling, compost, deconstruction, and qualified recycling programs contributed to the installation's environmental mission to excel in solid waste reduction and recycling.



Photo by Robert Turtill, Department of Veterans' Affairs

Jeff Salmon, DPW Environmental Solid Waste program manager, (second from left) accepts the 2007 White House Closing the Circle Award for Waste/Pollution Prevention for Fort Hood's solid waste and recycle programs at by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive.

Fort Hood processed over 7,500 tons of recyclable material, which generated over \$1.5 million in revenue, while avoiding over \$217,000 in disposal costs.

An example of Fort Hood's success is its unique compost program that sells Texas Department of Transportation and U.S. Composting Council standard compost and mulch through the QRP. The compost program diverted 2,874 tons of waste material from the landfill and saved over \$83,000 in disposal costs. Another example is the qualified recycling program (QRP), which is the largest in the United States Army. In 2006,

With the concept that every waste is an opportunity to excel, these programs proved to be successful in saving the installation money, diverting materials from the landfill, and promoting environmental stewardship.

“Leaders and Soldiers on Fort Hood have worked hard to integrate environmental concerns into their daily activities”, said Steve Burrow, Directorate of Public Works’ chief of Environmental Programs. “It takes everyone’s involvement and that’s the kind of commitment we have here.”

Part of Fort Hood’s success was increasing environmental awareness and stewardship through training, outreach, and assessments. Fort Hood’s Environmental Trainers and Environmental Compliance Assessment Team provided environmental awareness training to over 11,000 Fort Hood personnel. This demonstrates Fort Hood’s strong commitment to environmental management to get Soldiers, civilians, and contractors involved in waste and pollution prevention efforts.

“We need to recognize the efforts and performance of the civilians and the Soldiers who incorporate environmental compliance into their activities” said Randy Doyle, DPW’s Pollution Prevention program manager. “The environmental division provided the resources, tools and training, but if it was not for the leadership commitment and the involvement of the civilians and the Soldiers, Fort Hood would not have an effective environmental management system.”