

## Directorate of Public Works-Environmental

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**Media Inquires:** Christine Luciano  
DPW Outreach Coordinator  
Phone: 254-286-6664

### **DPW Employees Recognized by the Department of the Army**

The Department of the Army recognized two Fort Hood Directorate of Public Works (DPW) employees for their managerial excellence. Award recipients were Nancy Niemann, Chief of the Environmental Division and John Burrow, Chief of Master Planning, Real Property Division. They were two of seven DPW employees throughout the Army to be recognized for their exceptional performance.

“Ms. Niemann is at the forefront of the most outstanding environmental program in the Army,” said Colonel Victoria Bruzese, Fort Hood Garrison Commander. “She leads and directs a team of passionate professionals who are dedicated to mission readiness and practice proactive environmental stewardship,” she said. “Her efforts with sustainability, environmental management systems, and partnering with other agencies resulted in recognition at the highest levels, including the White House,” Bruzese said.



Niemann was recognized as the DPW Support Executive of the Year. She is credited with planning and coordinating partnerships and cooperative projects with several federal and state agencies, Universities, and private organizations to promote sustainability.

“I couldn’t have received this award without the good work and dedication of the environmental staff,” Niemann said. She said, “our success is because of our staff’s innovative projects.” She said the passion and creative ability of the “folks in environmental” are what really won the award.

Niemann’s management strategy, efficient and cost effective tactics, and involvement in the Environmental Division distinguished Fort Hood as a leader. “Fort Hood has been recognized for integrating its sustainability program into the installation’s Environmental Management System”, Niemann said. “Fort Hood is involving everyone including industries and communities. The installation educates Soldiers, contractors, civilians, and the public about sustainable principles and practices,” she said.

Niemann said there are a couple of programs that stand out among Army installations. They are the household hazardous materials turn-in and reissue and our environmental training programs. “These innovative programs save time, money, and educate our personnel,” she said.

The household hazardous materials reuse program helps Soldiers, their families, and civilians working on Fort Hood. This free service allows for household hazardous materials like cleaners and batteries to be collected when people leave the installation and reissued, for free, to arriving

families. Soldiers can drop off or pick up household hazardous materials at the Classification Unit on North Avenue and 37<sup>th</sup> Street.



Burrow was recognized as the DPW Engineering, Plans, and Services Executive of the Year. Burrow's accomplished projects included the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division transformation, a North Fort Hood Master Plan, a centralized barracks management system, and other efforts to support Soldiers.

Burrow's team was approached with the challenge to support additional troops from the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on Fort Hood. "The Master Planning Division had to develop new construction methods to support 5000 additional troops," said Burrow. "Fort Hood did not have the capacity or the adequate facilities to support these troops," he said.

Burrow and his team had to think 'outside the box' to find a solution to shorten the construction timeline. Burrow said, "because of the innovation and dedication of the Master Planning Division, the staff completed the transformation in less than a year." "Our staff constructed temporary relocatable facilities, renovated existing facilities, and realigned existing occupants to support the additional troops," he said.

Burrow has addressed the challenge of frequent and rapid changes in troops with his "North Fort Hood Master Plan". His plan is to develop an area to support mobilizations, deployments, and redeployments of transient units that come to Fort Hood. "Fort Hood will now be poised to accept the next stationing challenge," Burrow said.

According to Burrow's nomination application, his hard work assisted the Army in transforming, deploying, and providing improved quality of life conditions at Fort Hood. Burrow's efforts lead the way in Army transformation and his work is now used as a template on other installations. The recovery and repair of vacated facilities, along with the housing of mobilizing units, lead directly to supporting the Global War on Terror.

Headquarters Installation Management Agency (IMA) established the DPW Annual Awards Program to recognize individuals for excellence in management and execution of installation public works directorates. IMA is the organization that applies a uniform business structure to manage installations worldwide, according to the IMA website.