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## Fort Hood wins Federal Electronics Challenge

By Christine Luciano



The Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) consortium recognized Fort Hood as the South Region Large Facilities/Military winner for the Electronics Recycling and Reuse Challenge (ERRC) - the only Army installation recognized for the North, South, East, and West Regions. A total of 14 winners were selected from 12 agencies and 124 facilities who participated in the FEC. Overall, the program successfully reused and recycled approximately 2.4 million pounds of electronics.

The FEC is managed by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. They, along with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Justice, the Department of Defense, and other Federal partners including Fort Hood, launched this electronic recycling campaign to encourage all Federal facilities to lead by example and recycle, or donate their used computers and other electronic equipment.

During the Electronics Reuse and Recycling Campaign which began on America Recycles Day (ARD) November 15, 2006 and ended on March 15, 2007, Fort Hood collected, processed, and shipped over 175,000 pounds of electronic waste destined for recycling.



Actually, Fort Hood's Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division organized its electronics recycle program in the summer of 2006 for Soldiers and retirees, their Families, contractors, and DoD personnel to take advantage of this free service and drop off "personal" electronic items to Fort Hood's Classification Unit. In late fall of 2006, Fort Hood expanded its household electronics recycle program to accept electronic items not on government property books.

"Normally electronic items not on the installation or organizational property book get stored in warehouses for years," said Jennifer Rawlings, DPW Environmental Pollution Prevention Coordinator. "DPW Environmental relieved some of the work load to help Soldiers, contractors,

and civilians take advantage of this opportunity to clear out their warehouses and turn in electronics to the DPW Classification Unit.”

To help Soldiers, civilians, and contractors save time and hassle from doing paper work, DPW Environmental personnel worked long hours to collect, pack, stack, unload, and load over 85 tons of electronic waste, and processed thousands of documents required for electronic turn-in.



“Being deployed made it challenging and time consuming to get electronic waste to our supply sergeant,” said Master Sergeant (MSG) Carrie Glover, Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, “but this process made it easy and convenient to turn in excess equipment.”

MSG Glover was one of hundreds of Soldiers who turned in computers, monitors, fax machines, speakers, and other electronic items that were not on government property books.

The FEC is a partnership program that encourages federal facilities and agencies to:

- Purchase greener electronic products.
- Reduce impacts of electronic products during use.
- Manage obsolete electronics in an environmentally safe way

The FEC provides Federal agencies and facilities Partners with resources and technical assistance for improving electronics management practices, and gives annual recognition to partners that have achieved specific goals. More information regarding FEC can be found at their website <http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/overview.htm>.