

Directorate of Public Works-Environmental

News Release
August 2007



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

Recycle center earns thousands by auctioning chicken coops by Jeff Salmon, DPW Solid Waste Program Manager



Fort Hood generated \$46,750 in revenue for the installation Directorate of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation funds by selling 137 sheet metal buildings at North Fort Hood on June 30. The buildings, which are commonly called chicken coops, were on the list for demolition for many years, but the cost for removal was too high, until now. The solution was to host an auction. “Auctions take items that are not useable and make them useable,” said Bobby Rosenbusch, owner of Rosenbusch Auctioneer Services.

The successful auction of the buildings began back in February 2007. Roderick Chisholm, the Director of Public Works, challenged the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) staff to find a way to remove the sheet metal buildings from North Fort Hood. “The cost to demolish them was around \$200,000,” Chisholm said, “and we always knew there had to be a way for them to serve a more beneficial purpose.” Chisholm assembled a process action team to embrace a new proactive approach to take down the buildings at little or no cost to the government.

The team decided to auction the buildings to the public. The plan was originally developed by Alex Kachura, DPW Environmental Protection Specialist, who found assistance with the Fort Hood Recycle Center. Fort Hood Recycle Operations Manager Jaycee Turnquist worked together with Kachura and others from DPW Environmental to organize an auction to sell the buildings. “Auctioning the buildings is right in line with the QRP (Qualified Recycling Program) guidance,” Turnquist said. “The purpose of the program is to keep material out of the Fort Hood landfill.”

“The buildings had about 50 cubic yards of re-usable and recyclable materials, mostly metal and wood flooring,” Kachura said. He explained that the metal on the buildings included corrugated metal roofing, siding, and brackets that provide support to the floor. He also said that each building had plywood sheet flooring that was still in very good condition, even after 40 years of use.



Chuck McDaniel and Craig McCoy bought 11 of the buildings. Both said they planned to do several things with the buildings. “We plan to use them for a shop, a barn, and for storage,” McDaniel said. Vernon Harrison, who also bought multiple buildings, took a more nostalgic view of the situation, and explained that he had stayed in the buildings when he was an active duty Soldier. “I feel like I own a piece of history,” Harrison said.

“The auction was a huge success and we had over 80 participants,” Rosenbush said. Interested parties were given a week to view the buildings before they went on auction. “All 139 buildings sold in 3 ½ short hours”, Turnquist said.

Overall the buildings generated \$46,750 in revenue, and avoided \$260,000 in demolition and disposal costs. Chisholm said that he was thrilled at the success of the project, and he was glad to finally find a good use for the infamous chicken coops.