

## **Spring is Here and With the Warm Weather Comes a Reminder to Conserve Water**

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The Old Farmer's Almanac, America's oldest continuous publication is predicting that 2008 will be one of the hottest summers on record across these United States. Hotter weather usually means people watering their lawns more often or filling up the swimming pool for the kids.

It has been estimated that central Texas will grow an estimated 60% over the next 25 years. "The population is growing in such a way that there will not be enough water for everyone," Gary Goodman, Fort Hood Drinking Water Specialist said. "Soldiers and residents need to take proactive measures to save water to ensure a reliable water supply for the future."

Water conservation is the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to reduce our demand for water. This stretches our supplies farther, and protects places like Belton Lake where Fort Hood gets its drinking water. As much as Soldiers and residents enjoy the comforts of living on Fort Hood, they must remember to do their part in water conservation to ensure that there is enough water for the future. "By taking a few quick and easy steps to save water like taking short showers and not letting the water run, we can all work together to help protect our resources," Goodman said.

Last year, Fort Hood used about 2 billion gallons of water. "We are challenging Soldiers and residents to be water wise and cut their water use by 2 percent each year, or about 10 gallons per person per day," Goodman said. "By making small changes, each of us can help make a big difference."

Here are some tips to help you conserve water:

- Water your lawn only when it needs it. Step on your grass. If it springs back, when you lift your foot, it doesn't need water.
- Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher.
- Don't run water while brushing your teeth or shaving and save three gallons of water every time.
- Fix leaky faucets. A faucet dripping at one drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons a year.
- Make sure your toilet tank isn't leaking. Just put a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl, your tank is leaking and you're wasting up to 200 gallons of water a day.
- Don't water the sidewalks, driveway or gutter. Adjust your sprinklers so that water lands on your lawn or garden where it belongs--and only there.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. This beats the wasteful habit of running tap water to cool it for drinking.
- Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Chunks of bark, peat moss or gravel slows down evaporation.

"Turn these tips into new habits and your household can save thousands of gallons of water each month," Goodman said. "To make an even bigger difference in water conservation share these tips with everyone you know."