

FACT SHEET

DPW
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3 Jun 04

AFZF-PW-ENV

SUBJECT: Environmental Programs

PURPOSE: To provide an update of the Environmental Programs at Fort Hood.

FACTS:

1. Conservation Easements - Fort Hood Environmental has organized a conservation easement working group that includes representatives from US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Texas Parks & Wildlife, State Agricultural Commissioner's office, The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense, Central Texas Cattleman's Association, and the Leon River program. Intent is to seek out and establish off-site endangered species easements through voluntary conservation and safe harbor agreements. Ultimate goal is to develop a new Endangered Species Management Plan that reduces training restrictions through a new Biological Opinion from USFWS followed by a new Installation Natural Resources Management Plan. Initial 300-acre easement being finalized by TNC with a private landowner south of Fort Hood. Funding of Leon River program includes agreements with additional private landowners through ongoing Texas Parks & Wildlife conservation programs.
2. Grazing Lease - Texas A&M (TAMU) has been contracted to conduct a forage inventory that will evaluate forage availability, erosion, and recommend Animal Unit (cattle) carrying capacities for the new 5-year lease with CTCA, results due 1 July 2004. Have negotiated lease terms and conditions, appraisal (lease value) is final remaining item to be completed. Goal is to sign new lease by 1 August 2004.
3. Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) – Document is in final form, has been reviewed by USFWS and Texas Parks & Wildlife. Expect approval and final signatures once new grazing lease is in place, August 2004.
4. Composting Study - TAMU continues to evaluate the ongoing composting project. Over 2,000 cubic yards have been applied to training lands this year. Vegetative response has been very good. Final results of the study will determine the cost benefits of composting vice use of commercial products.
5. TAMU Land Transfer - Draft Environmental Assessment and Biological Opinion are under review by Fort Hood and TAMU. TAMU Real Estate and Planning

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representatives were at Fort Hood on 24 May 2004 for an aerial overflight of the proposed site followed by meetings with the City of Killeen and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

6. Cultural Resources - In conjunction with the Army Environmental Center (AEC) Fort Hood continues to develop the Historic Properties Component of the Army Alternative Procedures. Texas State Historic Preservation Office (Tx SHPO) is involved in the development and review process. Final approved document will act as a programmatic agreement between Fort Hood and the Tx SHPO to streamline archaeological/cultural procedures.

7. Environmental Management System (EMS) - Installation is on track with directed milestones. Final Environmental Policy Statement has been developed, reviewed by the Environmental Quality Control Committee, and is in the process of receiving final signatures. Once implemented, EMS will allow the installation to focus on high impact areas and reduce both federal and state regulatory inspections.

8. Sustainability - New Installation Design Guide that incorporates sustainable designs, practices, and materials is under development. Contract is being awarded to an Environmental Engineering firm with significant experience in sustainable planning and construction techniques.

9. Training and Assessments - Over 2,400 soldiers and civilian employees have received formal environmental training this year. Thirty-eight environmental deployment briefings have been conducted. Unit Inspections included 36 courtesy assessments and 60 official assessments in the last 6 months.

10. Water Program - Resolution of one open Notice of Violation (NOV) from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for wastewater permit violations is currently being negotiated to correct deficiencies for final closeout. Fort Hood will be required to pay TCEQ administrative costs associated with this NOV (estimated at less than \$2,000). Water System Vulnerability Assessment is complete. Identified deficiencies are being addressed.

11. Air Program - Bell and Coryell counties have been designated attainment by Environmental Protection Agency. Fort Hood continues to study dust generation from training. The installation has recently switched to low volatile organic compound, non-hazardous, air-pollutant-free CARC paint for tactical vehicles and equipment.

12. Recycle - Currently collecting, processing, and selling over 400 tons per month. Sales year to date have exceeded \$400,000. Program remains the largest and best in Army. Landfill diversion rates continue to increase and should exceed Army goals

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because of improved procedures for controlling and weighing construction debris prior to entering the rubble pile. The NOV issued last year from TCEQ on the rubble pile has been rescinded. A Recyclone system will be installed to process material for re-use; estimated average savings is \$20,000 - \$25,000 by not having to purchase new/off-post material.

13. Utilities Privatization Concept - The Request for Proposals (RFP) for water, sewage wastewater, and natural gas is out for bid with a closing date of 12 July 2004. The RFP for the electrical system is scheduled to be released for bids in June 2004. The Energy Savings and Performance Contract component was awarded in September 2003. Scope of work includes HVAC controls, lighting, and vending machine misers.

14. Erosion - By far the most important long term environmental issue facing Fort Hood. The combination of intensive training, poor condition of tank trails, lack of proper management of cattle grazing, drought conditions, sporadic funding of re-vegetation programs, and inconsistent out area programs contribute to this issue. A combination of MCA programming, ITAM funding, and continued Environmental Conservation is required to make Fort Hood a sustainable installation for the future.

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