

Directorate of Public Works-Environmental

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Fort Hood receives 'Clean Texas' recognition

By Christine Luciano



Fort Hood's DPW Environmental Division stands with TCEQ Chairman Kathleen Hartnett White, White House Council of Environmental Quality Chairman James Connaughton, and Commissioner Larry Soward.

Fort Hood has achieved the state of Texas' highest levels for environmental performance through the "Clean Texas" program.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality recognized Fort Hood as a Gold member in the program for its environmental management system and its performance beyond compliance at a ceremony at the Austin Convention Center May 10.

Clean Texas is the state's voluntary environmental leadership program. This program provides a platform to promote and recognize enhanced environmental performance throughout Texas.

Fort Hood was recognized as the first Department of the Defense installation in Texas to be inducted into the program. Other DOD installations have applied for the Clean Texas program but have not passed the audits and received the merit recognition that Fort Hood did, said TCEQ Commissioner Larry Soward.

"To attain Platinum and Gold levels in the Clean Texas program, these companies voluntarily invest in environmental measures that enhance their operations while helping protecting our natural resources in communities across Texas. The TCEQ commends their leadership," said TCEQ Chairman Kathleen Hartnett White.

"The installation's leadership has taken a very proactive approach to implementing its EMS program and stressing performance beyond compliance and incorporating the Army's Strategy for the Environment – Sustain the Mission, Secure the Future," said Brian Christian, TCEQ's manager of Pollution Prevention and Industry Assistance Section.

Leaders and Soldiers on Fort Hood have worked hard to integrate environmental issues into their daily activities, said Steve Burrow, Directorate of Public Works' chief of Environmental Programs. "It takes everyone's involvement and that's the kind of commitment we have here."

"With an Environmental Management System in place, you have command support for being good stewards of the environment," said Larissa Peter, Clean Texas program manager.

Peter came to Fort Hood in November 2005 to audit the installation's EMS program. TCEQ auditors identified no major non-conformances but found areas that Fort Hood could improve on, said Kimberly Hogan-Wood, DPW's EMS coordinator.

"When we did our out briefing to the garrison commander, she was surprised with some of the findings but was not afraid to say we are going to tackle these issues," Peter said. "She made a commitment as a leader and the environmental division helped make that commitment happen."

"The installation performed detailed root cause analyses and created and implemented corrective and preventive actions plans to address the minor problems," Hogan-Wood said. "The plans required people from many different organizations to work together and communicate to solve complex problems."

The TCEQ auditors returned to Fort Hood in March and inspected the minor problem areas. TCEQ recognized that Fort Hood has identified the issues and developed actions plans for needed areas. The recommendation was approved and Fort Hood was the first military installation to have its EMS receive approval to the TCEQ EMS standard and receive recognition as a Gold member.

"It's amazing when you have a large site like Fort Hood that everyone knows what they need to be doing," Peter said. "The interesting thing was that there's a really good relationship between the environmental division and organizations across the installation."

The installation reached its commitment to improve regional air quality, one of the objectives set with the EMS, through a reduction in hazardous air pollutants by switching to waterborne paint when maintaining aircraft. With the largest recycling program in the Army, the installation also reduced the amount of debris going to its landfill, diverting more than 70,000 tons from its landfill in 2005.

"We need to recognize the efforts and performance of the civilians and the Soldiers who incorporate environmental compliance into their daily activities" said Randy Doyle, DPW's Pollution Prevention program manager. "The environmental division provided the resources, tools and training, but if it was not for the leadership commitment and the involvement of the civilians and the Soldiers, Fort Hood would not have an effective EMS."

"EMS enables Soldiers and civilians to recognize that they have an impact on the environment and that they are empowered to do something about it," Peter said.

At the Clean Texas recognition ceremony, Fort Hood was also recognized as the first federal facility to participate in the Partners for Environmental Performance Program, the brainchild of Edwin Pinero, the federal environmental executive from the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive. Pinero believes that Federal Government can benefit from industry experience in implementing EMS.

Facilitated by the TCEQ, Fort Hood partnered with 3M Brownwood as a mentor to ensure that the installation developed a performance-based EMS.



Fort Hood stands on stage with 3M Brownwood, its mentor from the Partnership for Environmental Performance with their CLEAN TEXAS awards.

“The partnership was an evolution of our EMS program,” said Fred Kelly, 3M’s Brownwood senior environmental specialist. “We brought two entities together and both learned from experience. Not only did Fort Hood’s Environmental Division learn from us as a mentor, but we have learned from them.”

“What we have learned from each other is that an effective EMS pulls everyone together,” Kelly said. “When you are looking at ways to reduce waste, air emissions and become more efficient on energy, everyone has a role in that to make the plan successful.”

On behalf of Fort Hood’s recognition, Col. Victoria M. Bruzese, Fort Hood garrison commander, and Roderick Chisholm, director of Public Works, accepted the Clean Texas Gold member award.

“It’s a great honor to have been selected and recognized,” Bruzese said. “It also speaks to our appreciation of the partnership we have with 3M and the mentorship they have given us as they achieve their Platinum level and we achieve the Gold level.

“This is great recognition for the hard work the environmental personnel and the units and activities, in conjunction with the environmental division, have achieved,” Bruzese said.



Col Victoria Bruzese accepts the State of Texas Flag from Commissioner Larry Soward on behalf of Fort Hood and 4th ID.

A special presentation to the 4th Infantry Division followed the awards presentation. Soward presented Bruzese with the Texas flag that was flown over the state capitol.

“(This is) especially for the 4th Infantry Division which was deployed at the time of the installation’s EMS audit, they are being commended on their exceptional environmental performance,” Soward said. “More important, they are being commended and honored for their service and sacrifice for our country.”

Attendees bowed their heads for a moment of silence for the recent tragedy of three soldiers attached to the 4th Inf. Div. from Fort Hood who were killed in Baghdad. “In deep honor and respect for the ultimate sacrifices of these Soldiers, Colonel, I hope you can help us present these flags to Soldiers for recognition and appreciation for their commitments, their service, and their sacrifices,” Soward said.

“It’s a great honor to take back to the 4th (Inf. Div.),” Bruzese said. “The support from the communities and the state is why we are able to do what we do.”