

Pollution Prevention efforts wins 2009 White House Closing the Circle Award

By Christine Luciano

Fort Hood's Pollution Prevention team has earned first place in the 2009 White House Closing the Circle Awards. The annual award recognizes the achievements of federal employees and facilities that promote environmental stewardship. The awards focus on waste prevention, recycling, green purchasing activities, environmental management systems, and other conservation and preservation initiatives.

Fort Hood's Pollution Prevention team won in the military category, for waste and pollution prevention. Randy Doyle, supervisor for the Environmental Support Team, said this is the first time the Pollution Prevention team has won the White House Closing the Circle award.

"There were many things that went into winning this award from environmental operations and services to training and outreach," Doyle said. "The Pollution Prevention team worked extremely hard to enhance mission readiness and environmental excellence on the installation."

He said the biggest goal of any environmental program is ensuring that environmental stewardship is important at all levels. "The Fort Hood community works together to integrate environmental excellence into daily operations," Doyle said. "Soldiers, civilians, contractors, and their Families recognize that each of their actions have an impact on the environment."

Highlights of the Fort Hood pollution prevention program include emphasis on constructing sustainable buildings, the electronic recycling program, the environmental corner, and educating Soldiers and the Fort Hood community about the environment through training and outreach.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency more than 3.2 million tons of electronic waste ends up in landfills each year. At that rate, electronic waste is becoming one of the fastest growing waste streams in the country. An electronic recycling program was established at the Fort Hood Classification Unit to accept personal electronics. As a result, in fiscal year 2008, the program eliminated more than 320,000 pounds of electronic waste from entering the landfill and provided material for re-use.

While recycling electronic waste, Fort Hood is also recycling fuel, oil, and antifreeze waste at the environmental corner. During fiscal year 2008, Fort Hood recycled 78,400 gallons of JP-8 fuel, 83,800 gallons of used oil, and 22,200 gallons of antifreeze. The recycled products generated more than \$150,000 and avoided disposal costs while recycling valuable resources.

Water from the JP8/oil/antifreeze recycle center and other operations at the environmental corner is also recycled. The water enters a large containment vault,

cycles through an on-site pretreatment center, and enters the closed loop tactical vehicle wash facility for reuse. To date the system had cleaned more than 1,000,000 gallons of water.

The Pollution Prevention team's efforts to foster a sustainable installation saved significant funds, reduced environmental risks, and increased environmental stewardship. "On an installation that supports more than 245,000 people, it takes everyone's involvement to work towards a greener future," Doyle said.

The Environmental Compliance Assessment team was integral in spreading the word about environmental stewardship and helping Soldiers and civilians find solutions and achieve environmental success. "ECAT provides support and guidance to every unit on the Installation, and each member works individually with command support to increase leadership involvement and environmental awareness," Doyle said. "This ensures that today's and tomorrow's Soldiers have the resources to train."

The Pollution Prevention team and the winners of the White House Closing the Circle Award were recognized at a June 17 awards ceremony at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.