



Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (JBM-HH)

Environmental Update

Quarterly Newsletter
3rd FY 2011



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A Message from the Green Team

With the 4th FY Quarter around the corner, we look back proudly on the successful partnerships and milestones met, and we look forward to making more positive impacts for the JBM-HH community and our neighbors.

A recent success story is the collaborative efforts that took place during this year’s JBM-HH **Earth Day** celebration. The Directorate of Environmental Management (DEM) would like to thank the JBM-HH community, including our Service Members and volunteers, for their tremendous support and for doing their part to make this year’s festivities a success. Members of the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) and the Arlington Tree Stewards joined DEM to promote appreciation for our natural resources and to provide ways to minimize our environmental impacts. Attendees learned about the benefits of wind farms, environmentally-friendly approaches to home pest control, and tips to maintain a healthy garden. Other exhibits focused on water conservation, West Nile Virus awareness, and sustainability. The JBM-HH community also recycled over 11 tons of paper during this year’s **Earth Day** paper shredding event! Even JBM-HH’s youngest members from the Cody Child Development Center participated by planting flowers and creating a colorful Earth Day mural that was displayed during the **Earth Day** fair.

The successful Earth Day turnout demonstrates how much the JBM-HH community cares out about the environment and strives to minimize its ecological footprint. Thank you for doing your part to maintain a healthy environment and a sustainable Installation. **One Team!**

Very Respectfully,
Francis Douglas

Native Plants Save \$\$ and Water

The DEM, in partnership with DPW, completed the JBM-HH Sustainable Landscaping project on 8 June 2011. The project, which included native species at three sites on Fort Myer, was initiated in 2010 to reduce landscaping costs and water consumption. As a best management practice, the landscaping project also bolsters the Base Sustainability Plan’s water reduction initiatives.

The three planting sites were named in accordance with historic events that happened at those locations; the Buffalo Soldier Native Planting Site can be found along Marshall Drive near Wright Gate; the Pentagon Field Native Planting Site is near the Commissary next to the ballfield; and the Victory Garden Native Planting Site can be found along Lee Avenue near the playground. Each site will soon be complete with a map and reference depicting the new vegetation. The new native grasses, shrubs, and trees are expected to be fully grown by next year.



Fragrant Sumac, Ox-eye Sunflowers, and Butterfly Weed are some of the native species found at the Pentagon Field Native Planting Site pictured above. [Photo credit: Amy Fagan/JBM-HH DEM]

EARTH DAY 2011

As an Army, we have already done much to protect the natural environment on which we depend. Our installations are exploring ways to produce more energy while consuming less; to ensure that our water usage does not exceed its availability; and to promote recycling, repurposing and reuse.

As we commemorate Earth Day 2011, we encourage you to take an active role in sustaining the Earth's resources. Look for ways to minimize the Army footprint, as well as your personal footprint. Join us in our commitment to preserve a quality environment, ensure availability of needed resources for the future, and maximize the operational flexibility of our Soldiers.

Excerpt from Army Environmental Command's Earth Day 2011 Message



Children from the Cody Child Development Center (CDC) helped promote JBM-HH's mission to commit to "Excellence in Sustainability." As JBM-HH celebrated Earth Day 2011, DEM reached out to the CDC youth to help spread the word about simple things that people can do to prevent pollution and sustain the Earth's resources for future generations. The children planted flowers near the CDC facility and were reminded that plants not only beautify the Installation, but also play a role in sustainability through their photosynthetic capability. The children's thoughts and views about how the Earth should be treated were captured in creative, original artwork that was displayed at the Spates Community Center. Environmental outreach activities like these teach youth to be responsible, and fosters awareness and understanding of sustainable practices; these messages were clearly illustrated in their artwork. Through outreach, DEM hopes to augment the environmental literacy of CDC youth, empowering them to become environmentally mindful so that the needs of the JBM-HH community for clean air, water, and land, are met.

Help Make Every Day Earth Day

It is often the small changes that we can make every day that have the largest impact. What you toss on the ground, put on your lawn, the waste your pet leaves behind, and the fluids leaking from your car, can all end up in the storm drain and eventually into rivers and the ocean (see page 6 for more information about our local drinking water quality). Help prevent pollution by following these simple tips.

Eight Easy Ways to Help Prevent Storm Water Runoff Pollution

- Never dump anything down storm drains or into streams
- Use fertilizers and herbicides sparingly
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard
- Compost or bag your bulk yard waste to prevent materials from washing into storm drains
- Use the least toxic chemicals and follow label instructions carefully
- Direct downspouts away from impervious paved surfaces
- Take your car to a car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
- Check your car for leaks and recycle used motor oil

Get the Most From Your Insect Repellent

According to the Center for Disease Control, insect repellent helps reduce your exposure to mosquito bites that may carry the West Nile Virus (WNV). Repellents also allow you to continue to play, work, and enjoy the outdoors with a lower risk and incidence of disease.

There are a wide variety of insect repellent products available. Products containing DEET and Picaridin typically provide longer-lasting protection than others. Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus and IR3535 are also common ingredients in insect repellents.

The percentage of active ingredient in a product relates to protection time. In general, the more active ingredient (higher percentage) in a product, the longer a repellent will protect you from mosquitoes. For example, DEET products are available in many formulations. A product with 30% DEET will protect you longer than one with 5% DEET. However, you should not directly compare the percentage of one type of active ingredient to another.

As a precaution, always read labels carefully. For example, the label for products containing Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus specifies that it should not to be used on children under the age of three. Also, follow the directions on the product you are using to determine how often you should re-apply the repellent. Sweating or getting wet may mean that you need to re-apply more frequently.

~ Tip Box ~

Mosquito Repellents

- For extended time outdoors (over 3 hours) and/or where biting is very intense, look for a repellent containing between 20-50% DEET. Products with more than 50% DEET *do not* offer additional protection.
- For shorter periods of time, repellents containing less than 20% DEET, repellent with 7% Picaridin, or one of the products containing Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus may provide adequate protection.
- Use your common sense. Re-apply repellent if you start to get bitten and follow the label instructions.

West Nile Virus Update

WNV is an infectious disease commonly transmitted through the saliva of an infected mosquito. Last year there were 1,021 nation-wide cases of human WNV cases documented by the Center for Disease Control, including six in DC and five in VA (including two fatalities).

Fortunately, exposure to WNV is a risk that is easy to minimize. Protect yourself by preventing mosquito bites, mosquito-proofing your home and workplace, and eliminating mosquito breeding sites.

Eliminate mosquito breeding sites

- Properly dispose of containers and tires that can contain rainwater
- Repair leaky faucets and pipes, and eliminate puddles around air conditioning systems
- Maintain gutters, drains, and ditches clear of weeds and debris so that water can drain properly
- Empty and refill pet water dishes, horse watering troughs, and birdbaths at least twice a week, and remove standing water in potted plant saucers
- Turn over buckets, wading pools, and other unused containers

To mosquito proof your home, install or repair window screens and doors to keep out mosquitoes. To prevent mosquito bites, follow the suggestions in the Tip Box on this page.

This mosquito season, DPW pest control technicians will continue to set mosquito traps each week at nine sites on JBM-HH. The mosquitoes are retrieved from the traps weekly, and taken to the Pest Control Shop where they are sorted by sex, identified by species, and counted. The mosquitoes are then sent to U.S. Army Public Health Command (USAPHC) North for WNV analysis.

In 2010, one mosquito pool collected from Fort McNair tested positive for WNV. Other positive pools in the Military Mosquito Surveillance Program included: Pentagon, VA (eight); Walter Reed Army Medical Center, DC (two); and Bolling Air Force Base, DC (11).



DPW destroys potential mosquito breeding grounds by removing or treating pools of standing water. [Photo Credit: JBM-HH DEM]

Army Environmental Command to Audit JBM-HH



The Army Environmental Command (AEC) will be conducting an external Environmental Performance Assessment System (EPAS) audit during the week of 8 August 2011.

IMCOM installations are required to have an external EPAS audit at least once every three years and an internal EPAS every year. The purpose of these audits is to assist an installation in attaining, sustaining, and monitoring compliance with all federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations, as well as DoD compliance and performance requirements. EPAS audits also evaluate and ensure maintenance of an effective Environmental Management System (EMS).

AEC uses risk-based analyses to determine which media or program areas will be audited. When findings or discrepancies with compliance issues are found during an audit, each finding is identified as one of four categories:

- **Class I:** Indicates non-compliance with an existing federal, state or local regulation
- **Class II:** Indicates potential non-compliance with a future federal, state, or local regulatory requirement or deadline
- **Class III:** Indicates non-compliance with a DoD regulation, Standard Operating Procedure, or guidance
- **Positive:** Practices above and beyond good environmental management practices

During the 2008 external JBM-HH EPAS audit, AEC identified 73 findings: 45 Class I, three Class II, 24 Class III, and one Positive. In the August 2011 EPAS, the assessors will be examining eight media areas: Hazardous Waste/Hazardous Materials Storage; Water Quality; Air Emissions; Storage Tanks; Wastewater; EMS; Cultural Resources; and Toxic Substances.

In preparation for the upcoming audit, DEM may be requesting your assistance as DEM staff will be conducting a thorough examination of JBM-HH's compliance programs and EMS. DEM will perform an internal assessment to avoid repeat findings and close out any carry-over findings. DEM requests that EMS Cross Functional Team members act as the points of contact for the AEC audit and be available for coordinating issues within each area.

For additional information, please visit the EMS web site at <http://myera00205dm003/sms/default.aspx>.

Composting at Home

Composting allows decomposing plant matter and other materials to be recycled and used as fertilizer. In a few simple steps, yard and kitchen scraps can be turned into rich, healthy, nutrient-charged soil for plants and shrubs. In addition to providing fertilizer, composting also decreases your environmental footprint by minimizing the amount of household waste directed to the local landfill.

Materials that can be added to compost bins include:

- Grass clippings and dead leaves
- Shredded newspaper (except color print)
- Coffee grounds
- Food scraps (except meat or bones)
- Manure (e.g., horse, cow, sheep, chicken)
- Egg shells
- Fruit and vegetable peels
- Hay and straw
- Pine needles (in moderation)

Materials that should NOT be added to the compost bin include:

- Fats (e.g., meat and oils)
- Bones
- Pet droppings
- Animal products
- Weeds (perennial species)

Composting requires a balance between nitrogen and carbon. Nitrogen comes from green materials such as food scraps, manure, and grass clippings. Carbon comes from brown materials such as dead leaves, hay, wood chips and shredded newspaper. Healthy compost contains four portions of layered carbon to one portion of layered nitrogen-containing materials. As both elements are required for decomposition, an imbalance will inhibit the decay process and cause the compost to produce a strong odor. Healthy compost is nearly odorless.

Carbon and nitrogen-containing items should be alternately layered for quick decomposition and the compost should be turned at least once a week for aeration. The compost should remain damp, and may require watering during dry weather. If pests become a problem (e.g., raccoons, flies), try covering exposed food scraps with grass clippings. Follow these basic tips to reap the benefits of free, environmentally-friendly compost material in a few months' time.

As an alternative to composting at home, two community composters are available for use and are located near the garden plots off Jackson Ave on Fort Myer. Usage guidelines are posted on the composters.

Invasive Plant Spotlight: The English Ivy

What is an invasive plant?

Invasive plants are non-indigenous plants with the potential to cause widespread damage to their non-native environment. Often these plants are introduced without natural controls, which can result in swift domination of the habitat as the plants grow unchecked and choke out native species. English Ivy, one of the most invasive plants in this area, is often introduced innocently in gardens and landscapes for use as an aesthetically pleasing, quick-growing groundcover.

English Ivy at Fort Myer

According to Steve Campbell, a Fort Myer neighbor and ivy removal volunteer, the “US Park Service describes English Ivy as one of the most abundant and insidious invasive plants, as it threatens all vegetation levels of forested and open areas. English Ivy has been confirmed as a reservoir for bacterial leaf scorch, a harmful plant pathogen that affects a wide variety of trees such as elms, oaks and maples.”

Mr. Campbell also notes that as English Ivy grows into a dense groundcover, it becomes an ideal place for rats and pests to sequester, as well as habitat for mosquitoes to reproduce and shelter. According to the installation architect, Suzanne Hren, ivy is also very destructive to brick buildings. Ivy vines cling to the rough brick surfaces and send runners into the mortar cracks for support. In the growing season, the roots grow and small cracks widen. In the winter, rain and ice penetrate the brick walls cavities ruining the building insulation. These openings also become a dark and protected environment for insects, rodents, and birds. These intruders can leave behind food, droppings, and bacteria, which cause a serious safety concern.



Volunteers work to remove English Ivy

The English Ivy’s destructive influence can be seen along the fence enclosing the Officer’s Club swimming pool. Fort Myer, however, is fortunate to have a community of volunteers who not only undertake surveying trees, but removing ivy as well.

Through coordination with COL Coffman and DEM last winter, determined volunteers from the Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria and the Master Naturalists of Northern Virginia removed ivy from the wooded area bordering the Officer’s Club pool and from the cedars next to the Old Post Chapel. The volunteers, including Don Walsh, Neal Jones, Joan Grey, Erika Braddock and Steve Campbell, donated approximately 120 hours to cut down vines. The dying, brown ivy vines now evident in the forest area by the Officer’s Club swimming pool and other locations on Fort Myer is the result of these volunteers’ hard work and dedication.

DEM suggests the following native ground cover plants be planted in lieu of English Ivy to avoid not only the destruction of trees and plants, but also high maintenance costs.

Recommended native groundcover plants

- *Pacysandra procumbens* (Alleheny spurge)
- *Carex pensylvanica* (Pennsylvania sedge)
- *Dryopteris intermedia* (Evergreen woodfern)
- *Schizachyrium scoparium* (Little bluestem)
- *Tridens flavus* (Purpletop tridens)
- *Hypericum prolificum* (Shrubby St. John’s wort)



(Above) Dying English Ivy vines can be seen in forested area adjacent to the Officer’s Club swimming pool. [Kristie Lalire/JBM-HH DEM]

(Left) English Ivy requires constant maintenance, creating an unnecessary expense. [Kristie Lalire/JBM-HH DEM]

Meet the DEM Staff

Mark Luckers, Waste Specialist

Mark Luckers' career began in the U.S. Army, where he served proudly for 24 years. Throughout his military career, Mr. Luckers acquired experience in a variety of specialties, including Materiel Supply, Combat Engineer, and Recruiting Command. After retiring from the U.S. Army, Mr. Luckers became a chemical engineer at the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center in Edgewood, MD. Mr. Luckers joined the JBM-HH family as a hazardous/non-hazardous waste specialist in 2008. As program lead, Mr. Luckers oversees spill response, hazardous waste management, and is DEM's asbestos and lead-based paint liaison.

In his free time, Mr. Luckers enjoys working out at the gym, detailing cars, lawn work, and grilling. Mr. Luckers lives in Joppa, MD, with his wife, two sons, and daughter.



Reminiscent of his military career, Mr. Luckers stands to attention in front of DEM. [Photo credit: Amy Fagan/JBM-HH DEM]

Drinking Water Quality Update

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water) and Arlington County Department of Environmental Services have released their "Consumer Confidence Reports" (CCR). These annual drinking water reports summarize the quality of drinking water, informs the consumer from where their water originates, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by state and federal regulatory agencies. Each report provides valuable information to customers of community water systems, allows them to make personal health-related decisions regarding their drinking water consumption, and heightens consumer awareness of the need to protect their water resources.

Fort McNair consumers can review the DC Water CCR on their website:

http://www.dewater.com/news/listings/documents/DC%20Water%20Drinking%20Water%20Quality%20Report%202010_R01.pdf

Fort Myer and Henderson Hall consumers can review the Arlington County CCR on their website:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/uepd/wquality/images/file82103.pdf>

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Pest Management Coordinator/West Nile Virus/Tanks/Cleanup (Greg Olmsted)	-5680	gregory.k.olmsted
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