

Award: 2012 GreenGov Presidential Awards

Award Category: Building the Future Award

Nominee Team Name: Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield

Title of Nomination: Building the Future - Sustaining the Mission and the Environment

Nomination Narrative:

a. Describe the project, including how the project (for the Sustainability Hero Award please reference the scope and body of the work) was conceived and has been implemented, what strategies and technologies were deployed, who was involved, and an appropriate project timeline.

As a power projection platform, the mission of Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield (FS/HAAF) is to train and rapidly deploy heavy armored forces as well as elite light fighters by air, land, and sea to conduct mobile, combined arms offensive and defensive operations worldwide. FS/HAAF is committed to supporting national security objectives while sustaining the training platform and our environmental resources - critical to ongoing mission readiness and building the future.

Integrating sustainability principles into daily operations is emphasized at all levels, in much the same way that safety has become an integral part of day-to-day activities. To achieve this, FS/HAAF's International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001 conformant Environmental Management System (EMS) has developed and implemented processes that seamlessly integrate into the Installation's Strategic Plan as aligned with the Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Management Campaign Plan's (IMCP's) six Lines of Effort (LOE). The underlying thread between them all is sustainability. As such, FS/HAAF's EMS is our Sustainability Management System (SMS) with major objectives of sustaining the mission, as well as natural and fiscal resources.

FS/HAAF's commitment to sustainability began by achieving conformance with the ISO standards four years ahead of the required 2009 Army deadline. With a policy that promotes sustainability and continuous improvement, FS/HAAF is a five time winner of the Army Communities of Excellence Award (2004, 2005, 2006, 2009, & 2012). However, it is Command emphasis that is the cornerstone of FS/HAAF's sustainability success, as conveyed by the FS/HAAF Garrison Commander's Intent to "inculcate Sustainable Army Communities of Excellence principles throughout our business processes and procedures."

FS/HAAF accomplished this through an established cross-functional sustainability team which is broken into four Process Actions Teams (PATs). The SMS PATs target processes/activities which may have problematic environmental conditions. The PATs elevate issues needing a higher level of attention and help to disseminate sustainability requirements across the Installation through the Installation's strategic planning process. Consisting of six Quality Management Boards (QMBs) chartered to manage the six IMCP LOEs, each QMB focuses on short, mid- and long-term requirements that are directly linked to improving our performance and capability to meet the needs of our Soldiers, Family Members, and Civilians while sustaining our resources.

For example, the objective of the FS/HAAF Energy and Water Efficiency and Security QMB (ENQMB) is to create an energy and water efficient Installation by holding users accountable, modernizing facilities, installing new technologies, and leveraging partnerships that will provide Senior Commanders an increased level of energy and water security leading to sustainable and resilient infrastructure and mission assurance. FS/HAAF is minimizing and controlling irrigation times, replacing equipment with newer high efficiency models and technologies, using biomass as an energy source, and developing/using alternate water sources.

Similarly, the Installation Readiness QMB effects good stewardship of resources to provide FS/HAAF with the infrastructure and support services it needs to remain highly effective today and in the future. It includes objectives for solid waste reduction, and partnering with local communities to reduce impacts on regional landfills by recycling. Focusing also on protection of natural resources, FS/HAAF's SMS and QMB monitors threatened and endangered species recovery through habitat management actions as well as land conservation through the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program. An invaluable tool to sustain the viability of training lands on the Installation, ACUB encourages continued management and compatible use of lands neighboring the Installation boundary.

Closing the loop on sustainability is awareness, outreach, and training – at all levels, to include project planners. Specifically, FS/HAAF identifies and addresses concerns for all projects proposed on the Installation through the National Environmental Policy Act review process. By using this methodology, sustainability is fully integrated in every aspect of the Installation's decision making process, reminding proponents and designers of the need to protect and sustain our environment and incorporate required local, state, and Federal requirements into design, construction, and implementation of those projects.

The full integration of the FS/HAAF SMS into Installation planning has greatly enhanced mission capabilities. A testament to the success of this process is that by the end of FY11, FS/HAAF was one of only three large Army installations that had met all three Executive Order 13514 reduction standards for energy, potable water intensity, and solid waste diversion. To anyone in the Army, the word transformation truly has a comprehensive meaning. The challenge to make a smooth transition to a 21st Century security environment must build on our enduring Army values and rich traditions, but still preserve the best of the past, while changing, improving and building for the future.

b. Describe the project results and achievements to-date, focusing not only on outputs but also on intermediate and long-term outcomes, and anticipated future outcomes.

A. Water Conservation - Reduced water intensity by 20.27% from FY07 baseline.[EO 13514-2(d)(i,iii)]

1. Partnered with City of Hinesville for Purple Pipe development.
 - 63 million gallons (MG) of reuse water has been used for FS golf course
 - 41 MG of reuse water used for cooling towers at Central Energy Plant
 - Continued expansion of reuse water at Central Energy Plant and design work ongoing to expand to other industrial areas.
2. Expanded on-post stormwater retention basin partnership to develop a 38 MG/yr HAAF golf course alternate irrigation source.

B. Recycling – Increased diversion from 20% in FY07 to 44% in FY11 (FY11 Non-Hazardous Solid Waste diversion was 43.7%, Construction & Demolition was 52.8%).[EO 13514-2(e)(ii,iii)]

1. 11 convenience centers at popular locations, 560 recycling dumpsters, and a processing station for comingled recyclables, recycling approximately 9,000 tons/year.
2. Recycling construction & demolition debris reduces the cost of construction projects (approx 9,000 tons recycled in FY11)
3. Personal Identifiable Information Shred-it events open to local communities (17.4 tons were shredded in 2011)

C. Energy Conservation – Reduced Energy Intensity by 22.4% from 2003.[EO 13514-2(a)(i,ii)]

1. Realized a 3.3% reduction in energy intensity during FY11, staying under the glide path set to ensure the Installation meets the Executive Order requirement to reduce energy intensity by 30% by the end of fiscal year 2015, relative to the baseline of the agency's energy use in fiscal year 2003.
2. Collecting/processing residual biomass to fuel wood-fired boiler at Central Energy Plant. During 2011, 6,288 tons of this renewable fuel source were utilized.

D. Threatened & Endangered Species Management – Grew Red Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) population from 306 Potential Breeding Groups (PBG) in 2010 to 319 in 2011.[EO 13514-2(f)(v)]

1. To date, monitoring has confirmed the 350 PBG recovery goal is expected to be met in CY12, exceeding the 2014/2015 projection.
2. Recovery efforts demonstrated training is not detrimental to RCW habitat.
3. Donated 22 RCWs to areas with critically small populations to help their recovery efforts.

E. ACUB Program – 5,949 acres protected in 2011.[EO 13514-2(f)(v)]

1. Over 28,000 acres permanently protected since 2002.
2. Total target acreage for FS/HAAF ACUB is 127,000 acres.

F. Outreach

FS/HAAF's outreach efforts target the Army and neighboring off-post communities. Awareness is a continuous effort from in-processing, mandatory annual training, Professional Development Programs to weekly reminders. Conservation tips for energy, recycling, and water are disseminated through social media, on-post newspaper, directorate newsletters, and door-to-door. Conservation videos appear on the public television, website and during training sessions. Information is presented at quarterly Environmental Quality Control Committee meetings, Strategic Planning forums, community showcases, Earth Day Festivals, and school events. Through such events and tours, the FS/HAAF sustainability message reaches an audience far beyond the Installation's boundaries.

G. Awards

1. 2011 Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Award for Water Conservation.
2. Keep America Beautiful Certification for the ninth consecutive year partnering with KAB affiliates.
3. Army Community of Excellence Award (a record fifth time).

c. Explain how the project has been replicated or has a high potential to be replicated within the Federal Government, and has been shared with colleagues in other organizations/agencies.

FS/HAAF is actively changing a culture through an SMS and strategic planning process that works together with stakeholder buy-in from project proponents to end users. Sustainability concepts have command emphasis, are incorporated in project development, reiterated in all forums, and reinforced through mandatory training, incentives and discipline. FS/HAAF encourages and educates partners and local community members regarding our sustainability efforts. Through our Professional Development Program, the workforce sees firsthand how they impact and contribute to our success through tours of facilities and project sites, reinforcing and internalizing sustainability.

FS/HAAF emphasizes an SMS where everyone has a role and responsibility toward sustaining the mission, as embodied by the Installation's SMS Policy, ROCK (Resources, Optimize, Compliance, and Keep Improving) of the Marne. The Installation's SMS is a strategy for change, in which synergistic effects are gained when a Garrison functions more organically as a whole, rather than as stove-piped organizations with competing interests. FS/HAAF has succeeded in designing, developing and implementing goals and metrics tied to sustainability.

The key ingredient of FS/HAAF's 5-time Army Community of Excellence Award achievement is our processes. With a strategic planning process aligned with the IMCP LOE, focused on sustainability and implemented through QMBs and PATs, FS/HAAF is the model for the Army. This practice is readily transferable and adaptable to other Garrisons where benefits would be gained by designing processes and solutions to suit their individual organization's mission, needs and environment. As such, our processes have significant replication potential Army and DoD-wide.