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Environmental Services:

- Environmental Management System
- Environmental compliance training and assistance
- Hazardous Material/ Hazardous Waste management
- Natural and cultural resources management

If you have any questions, please contact us at 354-6795 or

environmental-usag-schweinfurt-dpw@eur.army.mil

We can assist you with any occurring environmental problem!

Animal of the Year 2010: The Badger

The German Association for the Protection of Game (Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsches Wild) has declared the European badger “Wild Animal of 2010”. Due to a rabies outbreak, a mass cull of foxes was conducted in the 1970s by the gassing of their dens. Since badger often use foxes burrows (setts) as breeding dens, the fox cull also brought badgers to the brink of extinction in Germany.

The European badger is a shy animal, grey with a distinctive black and white head bars. It is indigenous to most of Europe, the Middle East, Russia, China and Japan. It is 80-90 cm long from head to tail and weighs between 15-20 kg. This nocturnal animal eats everything from berries and insects to eggs and even young rabbits. Badgers do not hibernate, but rest in the winter. They live in large family communities in huge underground setts, which are up to 30 m long and have many entrances. Don't confuse the raccoon, a common wild animal in the continental United States, with the badger, although the two animals are fairly closely related.



Bird of the Year 2010: The Cormorant

The German Conservation Association (Naturschutzbund Deutschland) and the Bavarian Association for the Protection of Birds (Landesverband Vogelschutz Bayern) have declared the Cormorant “Bird of 2010”.



Cormorants are 80 - 100 cm high and about 2-3 kg in weight. They are fish eaters, preferring fish of 10-20 cm in length, and dive from the surface to hunt for their meal using their long, sharply hooked and ungainly bill. They are colonial nesters, using trees, rocky islets, or cliffs for their nests. Many fishermen see the Great Cormorant as a competitor for fish. As a result it was nearly hunted to extinction in the past.

Thanks to conservation efforts its numbers have increased. Currently there are about 1.2 million birds in Europe. However, increasing populations have once again brought the cormorant into conflict with fisheries. This is despite the fact that Cormorants prefer roach, bream and chub, fish which are economically unimportant to the fish industry and cormorants have little influence on fish populations. The amount of fish in lakes, rivers and seas depends on the nutrients in the water.

40hr Environmental Officer Training

All organizations within United States Army Garrison (USAG) Schweinfurt are required to appoint an Environmental Officer (EO) and send appropriate staff to EO Training. In 2010 the Environmental Division (ED) is offering a 40-hour Training Class to all EOs and other interested parties (e.g. mechanics; personnel handling Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants (POL); etc.). This Hazardous Waste, Hazardous Material, and Spill Response Course will take place from **8-12 March 2010** in Conn Barracks, Building #1170 (subject to change).



The 40-hour course will particularly focus on understanding the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), chemical hazards, spill and accident response as well as labeling and correct storage procedures. It will also include some practical exercises and a walkabout. The training certificate qualifies EOs to carry out short training sessions for other unit personnel. To remain qualified, all personnel handling hazardous material and waste must receive refresher training annually. The refresher is offered as an online course (contact the ED to get assigned).

Please submit nominations to the ED including the nominee's telephone number and email address as well as the supervisor's name and telephone number. For any questions please contact the ED at DSN 354-6795 or environmental-usag-schweinfurt-dpw@eur.army.mil.



Environmental Management System (EMS) at USAG SW

What is an EMS?

Structured and ongoing approach to environmental management.

Based on International Standard ISO 14001.

Proactive approach! Prevent pollution before it occurs and achieve continual improvement in your environmental performance!

EMS is like a game. You need training, you need a strategy, but most of all, **you need a team!**

Rules = Follow legal and other requirements to protect the environment!

Team/Court = The rules apply to all Garrison members on all installations! You are the key players!

Tactics = The EMS Policy is the basis of the EMS!

Defense = USAG Schweinfurt meets all legal and other requirements and US Army goals!

Offense = Prevent pollution before it occurs!

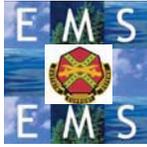


Game Analysis = The Garrison assesses its performance and identifies those activities with the greatest impact on the environment!

Score and Win = Stick to the rules, follow the strategy and help the Garrison to meet its objectives!

Now the ball is in your court! Play your part in the team!

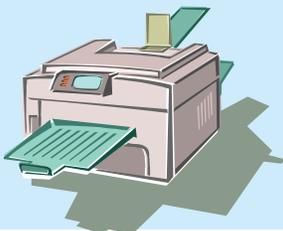
You can make a difference: Start environment friendly initiatives and encourage friends and family to join in.



Recycling of Empty Printer / Copier Cartridges

Bring your empty or excess cartridges from home or work to the recycling centers at Askren Manor, Ledward or Conn Barracks. Cartridges can easily be refilled and reused. USAG Schweinfurt contributes cartridges to Caritas (a charity organization). By doing this, the Garrison avoids expensive disposal costs and we help conserve the environment.

If you would like to participate, wrap the cartridges in their original packaging. When replacing empty cartridges just put the old one in the packaging (plastic/carton) of the replacement cartridge.



Correct Handling of Batteries

Batteries are a common power source for vehicles and also have many household or industrial applications. Nevertheless, batteries are a Hazardous Material and when handling them in your workplace you have to consider the following rules:

- **Never** store Hazardous Material (HM), including batteries, in your workplace or recreation room!
- **Always** have access to the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for the HM/batteries you work with or store!
- Have a current Red Plan available at the workplace!
- Send an inventory of all hazardous material stored to the Environmental Division **once a year!**
- Personal protective equipment **must be used** when handling batteries that show signs of leaking, bulging, swelling, or deformity!
- **Do not** package any battery if it is hot/warm (only when cool to the touch)!
- All spent or excess batteries **must be turned in** at Conn Barracks, Building #147 on Tuesdays from 0900 to 1500 hrs! Sort the batteries according to type and composition!
- Excess or spent tactical vehicle batteries (wet and gel [HAWKER]) **must be** turned in at Conn Barracks, building # 1166 on Thursdays from 0900 to 1100 hrs!



Lithium batteries are especially dangerous. For them additional rules apply:

- Keep lithium batteries away from water or humidity. In case of a fire, **do not** use water-based fire extinguishers!
 - Lithium batteries **must be vented** prior to transportation or turn-in!
 - Always follow the instructions (warning label) on the battery or packaging!
 - Remove strip/tag completely and/or depress button until click is heard. Some lithium batteries (Li-SO₂) have an LED as a Complete Discharge Device (CDD) indicator!
 - Discharge in well ventilated area for at least 5 days!
 - Make sure all batteries are placed at least 2 inches (5 cm) apart in all directions!
- All lithium batteries **must be protected** against external short circuiting (short circuited batteries develop extreme heat)!
- Tape the exposed contacts or place the battery in a small individual plastic bag or cardboard box (e.g. original packaging)!

