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Environmental Services:

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- Energy conservation training and material
- Hazardous material/ hazardous waste management
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For any question please contact us at 354-6795 or environmental-usag-schweinfurt-dpw@eur.army.mil or visit our webpage at www.schweinfurt.army.mil/sites/dpw/
We can assist you with any occurring environmental problem!

External EPAS in April 2009

An external Environmental Performance Assessment System (EPAS) was conducted at the USAG Schweinfurt from 20 through 24 April 2009. The Garrison's environmental performance was assessed against the Final Governing Standards (FGS) for Germany, DoD Army regulations and policies, and other applicable Host Nation requirements. Simultaneously, a full external Environmental Management System (EMS) audit was performed in accordance with ISO 14001:2004. The results can be summarized as follows:

- 67 negative findings were identified, mostly related to improper management of Hazardous Material, Hazardous Waste, and Medical Waste.
- 9 EMS findings were identified.
- No negative findings were identified for Environmental Program Management, Air Emissions, Environmental Noise, Cultural Resources, Natural Resources, PCB/PCTs, or Lead-Based Paint.



- One positive finding related to the proactive natural resource program was identified!

The Garrison has until 29 June 2009 to submit any review comments to the Draft EPAS Report (EPAR). All findings closed before that date will be incorporated into the final version of the EPAR but marked as complete. All POCs for identified negative findings will be contacted and informed about the findings within their responsibilities and encouraged to take action as soon as possible.



Improper solid waste management



Improper HM storage



Improper bulky waste accumulation

Environmental Awareness Days 2009



From 12 until 14 May 2009, the Garrison celebrated the annual Environmental Awareness Days in Conn Barracks. About 350 children from the elementary and middle school walked down to the former Hawk Site to participate. Up to seven stalls were available each day where children could learn about a number of environmental topics. The Environmental Division organized the Environmental Awareness Day and invited the City of Schweinfurt, Schweinfurt County, Federal Forestry Office, and the City of Schweinfurt Forestry Office Wildlife Park. The Fire Department, the SORT Coordinator, Wilbur's Green Team from the Elementary School, and the company AMEC also had one stall each.

Children had the opportunity to come face to face with goats and sheep from the Schweinfurt Wildlife Park's children's zoo. The Federal Forestry Office explained the functions of the forest ecosystem and Schweinfurt County helped the pupils to plant flowers to take home. Children could also learn about recycling, with the Garrison SORT Coordinator giving many practical examples and tips. The County of Schweinfurt manufactured



paper from used paper. The Fire Department offered a practical exercise and children had great fun in putting out a real fire on their own. At the school's own stall, the kids calculated how many earths they need compared to the amount of their energy consumption. To learn about the benefits of wind energy using a very practical example, the kids created paper windmills. The Middle School also learned about energy saving measures and the use of another renewable energy: solar energy.





Since 1.1.2008...

Since 1 January 2005, the European Commission has set limits for particulate matter present in the air, to ensure air quality. Particulate matter must not exceed a yearly average of 40 micrograms per cubic meter; a daily average of 50 micrograms per cubic meter may only be exceeded on 35 days per calendar year.

Selected German cities, which have a high load of particulate matter, have designated since 1 January 2008 "Umweltzonen" (environmental zones) to improve the air quality in these zones and to protect human health. These "Umweltzonen" are marked with a special sign (c.f. picture on the right). Only vehicles which emit low quantities of particulate matter are permitted to enter these "Umweltzonen". This also applies to foreign vehicles. All vehicles, which drive in a "Umweltzonen", must be labeled with a special red, orange, or green sticker on the front window. The sticker can be purchased from the Regulatory Authorities, Technical Inspection Agencies, or garages according to the emission standard which is indicated in the registration document (costs: between 5 and 10 Euro).



Cities with "Umweltzonen" in Germany:

München, Frankfurt am Main, Mannheim, Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Berlin, Bremen, Köln, and Hannover. Moreover cities in North Rhine-Westphalia (Bochum, Bottrop, Dortmund, Düsseldorf, Duisburg, Essen, Gelsenkirchen, Mülheim a.d. Ruhr, Oberhausen, Recklinghausen, Wuppertal) and in Baden-Württemberg (Heilbronn, Herrenberg, Ilsfeld, Leonberg, Ludwigsburg, Mühlacker, Pforzheim, Pleidelsheim, Reutlingen, Schwäbisch-Gmünd, Tübingen, Ulm).

What is particulate matter? - Particulate matter are small and not visible to the naked eye. These can not be filtered by the human body and can therefore expand into the pulmonary alveoli. Particulate matter can cause cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

How does particulate matter arise? - Particulate matter can originate from natural sources, but is also released by industry and private households. Particulate matter may also arise from vehicles, e.g. tire abrasion, dust, and from exhaust gas—especially from vehicles with non-filtered diesel engines. It is possible to refit cars with a diesel particulate filter, which is a device designed to remove diesel particulate matter from the exhaust gas of a diesel engine.

Hay fever



general, is highest from mid-spring to early summer.

Eliminating exposure to allergens is the most effective preventive measure. Many people with pollen allergies reduce their exposure by remaining indoors during hay fever season, particularly in the morning and evening, when outdoor pollen levels are at their highest. Air conditioners are reasonably effective filters, and special pollen filters can be fitted to both home and vehicle air conditioning systems. Several antagonistic drugs are used to block the action of allergic mediators. More severe cases of allergic rhinitis require immunotherapy.

Allergic rhinitis triggered by the pollens of specific seasonal plants is commonly known as "hay fever", because it is most prevalent during haying season. It causes itching, swelling, mucus production, or rashes. Symptoms vary in severity from person to person. The pollen which causes hay fever varies from person to person and from region to region. The tiny, barely visible pollens of wind-pollinated plants are the predominant cause. The amount of pollen in the air is the main factor determining whether hay fever symptoms develop. Hot, dry, windy days are more likely to have increased amounts of pollen in the air than cool, damp, rainy days when most pollen is washed to the ground. The time of year at which hay fever symptoms manifest themselves varies from person to person depending upon the specific pollens to which they have an allergy. The pollen count, in

Examples of plants responsible for hay fever include:

Trees: Birch, alder, hazel, hornbeam, horse chestnut, willow, poplar, plane, linden/lime. In northern latitudes birch is considered to be the most important allergenic tree pollen, with an estimated 15–20% of hay fever sufferers sensitive to birch pollen grains (c.f. picture on the left).

Grasses: Especially ryegrass and timothy grass. An estimated 90% of hay fever sufferers are allergic to grass pollen.