



DPW, FHFH, and the City of Killeen join efforts for Earth Day Celebration

By Christine Luciano

Dinosaur bones, high-tech electric cars, snakes, Native American dances and more were at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center on April 23rd-24th.



Fort Hood expanded its Earth Day celebration and partnered with Fort Hood Family Housing and the City of Killeen to host the 2007 Fort Hood-CenTex Earth Day Spectacular.

In the past Fort Hood has celebrated Earth Day on the installation, but decided this year to expand its reach to Soldiers and families that live on and off the installation, Central Texas communities, and elementary students in the local school districts.



“This was an opportunity to reach out to military families on and off the installation and Central Texas residents that help support our Soldiers,” said Steve Burrow, Directorate of Public Works’ chief of environmental programs. “It is important that our communities work together to sustain the environment for a secure future.”



The Fort Hood DPW Environmental Division provided a two day school event that attracted over 1500 3rd-5th grade students from eight different school districts. The students went through a number of environmental stations, and then concluded with a mini-dinosaur exhibit and presentation by Dinosaur George Blasing. By the end of the presentations, the students were pumped, jumping up and down wanting more. The energy continued until late Tuesday evening when the Fort Hood-CenTex Earth Day Spectacular event was opened to the general public.

Over 800 families showed up to the event and learned about the local environmental services and programs, and how they can be proactive in their environment. Families were entertained throughout the evening with Native American Dances, Dinosaur presentations, door prizes given away every 30 minutes, and other environmental presentations.



Over 20 state and local environmental organizations such as Fort Hood DPW Environmental, City of Killeen Code Enforcement, Texas Forest Service, Baylor University, City of Copperas Cove-Recycle, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Austin Energy, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, Central Texas College Mayborn Planetarium and Space Theater, and many more were at the Fort Hood-CenTex Earth Day Spectacular to give presentations, pass out materials and increase environmental awareness.



Fort Hood also celebrated its recognition as a Tree City U.S.A. for the second year. To support the City of Killeen in their efforts of becoming a Tree City U.S.A., Fort Hood donated its Cedar Elm tree to the City of Killeen. Fort Hood Garrison Commander Colonel Victoria Bruzese, City of Killeen Council, and 4th graders from Pebbles Elementary School planted the tree to support their joint efforts to protect the environment.

This year's Earth Day event was a tremendous success in educating and communicating to communities about sustainability and protecting our environment for our Soldiers, their families, and future generations. The Fort Hood-CenTex Earth Day Spectacular could have not been possible without the continue support of environmental agencies and groups that have helped with our past Earth Day efforts and the sponsorship by Fort Hood Family Housing, Embarq, and the City of Killeen.

“Fort Hood Family Housing and Embarq are committed to working with DPW Environmental in increasing environmental awareness and helping teach our Soldiers, their families and Central Texans what they can do at home, work and in the community to help preserve our environment for future generations,” said Jolene Brindle, Fort Hood Family Housing director of community service.