

# Fort Buchanan comes clean *Earth Day 2008 celebrated by garrison*

By Marc McCormick

Individuals can make a difference. Those were the words of Rudy E. Stine, Chief, SERO Environmental Branch, IMCOM Southeast region. The trick is - sustainability.

Stein provided attendees of the Fort Buchanan's 2008 Earth Day celebration an insight to the effect of human population and their subsequent demands on the environment. The seven minute presentation he played started with the population growth and dispersion from the beginning of time to the projected outlook to year 2025. It was a dramatic visual demonstration of the load placed on global resources.



A display at Fort Buchanan's Earth Day event drew the attention of attendees with this creative use of "recycled" materials



The DPW Environmental Division of Fort Buchanan honors the guest speakers with an appreciation award

Speaking on behalf of Fort Buchanan, Command Sergeant Major David Davis, also said, "The new Army strategy for the environment — sustain the mission, secure the future— establishes a long-range vision that enables the Army to meet its mission today and into the future. Sustainability is the foundation for the strategy that focuses on our thinking to address both present and future needs while strengthening community partnerships that improve our ability to support our soldiers and the mission."

As a guardian of the natural resources of Fort Buchanan, CSM Davis spoke to the policies of the garrison saying:

- Strengthen the Army contribution to joint operational capability.
- Meet current and future training, testing, and other mission requirements.
- Improve our ability to operate installations, to include growing joint interdependency.
- Reduce costs and minimize impacts so the Army can do more, and do it better.
- Enhance human health, safety, and well-being.
- Be an active citizen within our communities and a good neighbor.

"The Army strategy for the environment does not pretend to dictate all the answers. It is only the starting point that commits Army leaders at all levels to certain goals and challenges them to develop innovative methods to achieve these goals," Davis said.

The 2008 celebration was held at Fort Buchanan's Community Club. Planned and coordinated by the garrison's DPW Environmental Office, the event featured many agencies from the garrison and the Puerto Rico community who are intimately involved with bringing attention, and remedies, to a



A woman attending Buchanan's Earth Day activity gets to hold a friendly snake

sustainable environment. Information and displays ranged from animals (snakes, turtles and birds) to artwork created from discarded materials.



Students from Antilles High School participated in a fashion show. The clothes they are wearing are made from recycled and used clothing as well as newspaper and plastic bag materials

There was also a lot of printed information attendees were encouraged to take with them that addressed the many facets of environmentalism. Earth Day is just not a single day reminder of what sustaining the environment means. It is the 365th day of a year long commitment by Fort Buchanan to practice the principles within the concept. The Army leads the way in demonstrating that it is possible to live in an earth friendly way.