

Army Earth Day 2007

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“Deadeye Pride” continues to shine as the 96th Regional Readiness Command continues its role as good *“Stewards of the Environment”* celebrating Army Earth Day three years running.

On Friday, 20 April, soldiers from the 146th TRANS CO, 172 MED BN, and 321st EN BN participated together with **105** third grade students from the Mountain View Elementary School in a tree planting activity at the newly constructed/renovated *Frank M. Browning USARC* in Ogden, UT.



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As has become tradition, the activity began when students were met at the school by our soldiers and the local Community Forester. Students were taught the importance of preserving our earth's natural resources and allowed ample time to question our soldiers on topics of their choice.



Upon arrival at the facility, both the soldiers and students were instructed on proper tree planting by the Community Forester. Twenty trees of differing deciduous varieties were planted by the students and soldiers that day, followed by the traditional “yellow ribbon ceremony” honoring our soldiers in “harms way”.



On Monday, 23 April, soldiers from the 5502 USARH, followed suit and held their tree planting activity with approximately **30** Leadership Council students from the North Middle School at the William T. Fitzsimons USARC in Aurora, CO. Back by popular demand, Mr. Keith Wood with the Colorado State Forest Service was also available to provide assistance.



Nineteen Red Maple trees were planted this day, along with a few shrubs, and one special rose bush saved from a nearby demolition activity. This in turn was followed by “yellow ribbon ceremony”.



Also carrying on with last year’s tradition, each of the activities included an MRE lunch with our soldiers, and hands-on viewing of a staged “static” equipment area.



Even though there is much work to be done, there is always ample time for a little “fun in the sun.” As an innocent bystander of these activities I am always happy to see the one-on-one interaction that takes place between our soldiers and the students. I’ve witnessed first hand soldiers marching their students in formation, I’ve listened to the “G” rated versions of army cadence, and I’ve watched from a far the physical ritual of numbered push ups (usually done in “sound-off” mode).



In closing, Army Earth Day came and went this year with the usual hustle and bustle to “get the job done.” And once again, I found myself moved by the display of excitement shared by all during each of the activities. The 96th RRC has been blessed by the willing participation from our local communities, interested peers, and the dedication from our soldiers to make our Earth Day activities successful each year!!



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