Year In Review

December 2004

Anchor Lead:

Army Environmentalists covered a lot of ground this year from sustaining ranges to protecting endangered species. Jesse McGill, Environmental Correspondent is here with more on just what the Army has.

Jesse Mcgill/ Environmental Correspondent:

2004 was an impressive year for Army Environmentalists. They helped the recovery of endangered wildlife and used technology to streamline the development of tactical equipment. That's because the U.S. Army has a responsibility to our environment as it prepares our warfighters.

The Army's family of Strykers were modeled and analyzed using Virtual Reality, lessening the potential impact on the environment.

Grace M. Bochenek, Ph.D./ Grace Bochenek, Ph.D./ Tech. Director and Exec. Director of Research TARDEC (11sec):

We can now bring the testing crew logistics training, along with the contractors and designers upfront all at the same time, and they're all able to interact with the designs as they mature.

Co-operation between the Army and industry led to a car that runs purely on liquid or compressed hydrogen.

<u>Stanley Horky/ Business Development Manager- GM Fuel Cell Activities:</u>

"The efficiencies of operation of fuel cells are approximately double of what we see with conventional internal combustible engines, in terms of fuel economy improvements."

This baby packs quite a punch. It can accelerate to speeds of more than 90 miles per hour, it essentially has almost zero emissions and its by-product is something that you can actually drink….water.

Dirty boots aren't just for soldiers… Army environmentalists spend hours in mud soaked boots as they maintain Ft. Stewart's delicate ecosystem.

<u>Tom Bryce/ Head of Wildlife and Fisheries:</u>

"The successes that we have experienced here have come as a result of team effort. A team of professional fish and wildlife biologists, natural resource specialists that are committed to first the resource and committed to the Army and its mission here at Ft. Stewart."

Bryce and his team have covered every square inch of Fort Stewart. That includes more than 90 thousand acres of wetlands, 70 different fresh water fish and contains 30% of Georgia's plant species.

About six-hundred miles north Todd Beser is focused on saving the Chesapeake Bay with submerged aquatic vegetation….

<u>Todd Beser/ Environmental Scientist / USAEC:</u>

“What SAV does is it provides food and habitat for Bay organisms…

Basically SAV is underwater grasses, but it’s a crucial part of the bays ecosystem

<u>Todd Beser/ Environmental Scientist / USAEC:</u>

…It stabilizes sediments and helps keep the water clear… …In the freshwater systems, there is about 14 different species found up here. Today we’re going to use 4 different species for restoration.”

Besers team begins by harvesting the Submerged-aquatic grasses then transplants them to the Bay with the use of a “turf grid” system.

<u>(SOT) Todd Beser/ Environmental Scientist / USAEC:</u>

“We’re harvesting the plants from grow out tanks instead of taking it from existing beds in the Bay. Which doesn’t harm existing beds, and it actually just adds to the population of SAV out in the Bay.”

That’s because some locations around Aberdeen Proving Ground have sub-merged dangers due to years of military training and testing. The innovative turf grids not only help to stabilize the bay, it aids in the safety of the of the environmentalists.’

Anchor Tag:

And those are just some of the environmental stories topping this years list…

Mike—Eric---etc…