

# 'Bragg About Recycling'



Photos by Tim Nance/Environmental Compliance Branch

**Last year the Bragg About Recycling program** recycled over 5 million pounds of metals and mulched over 9,000 tons of tree and yard waste.

## Fort Bragg takes initiative to clean up post through recycling program

by Megan Magoon

Environmental Compliance Branch

The sound of weapons discharging on the ranges at Fort Bragg sounds more like pennies being dropped in a piggy bank to Fort Bragg recycling coordinator Tim Nance.

"That's because spent bullets and rounds are collected and sold as scrap metal and brass," Nance said.

Last year the Bragg About Recycling program processed and recycled over 552,000 pounds of fired brass from the ranges. The proceeds collected are then used to fund additional recycling programs, such as office paper and cardboard. Funds may also be used for Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

Nance sees dollar signs every time he walks past a dumpster. Fort Bragg generates almost 350,000 tons of solid waste annually, with one-third of that reclaimed in the recycling program.

"With the daily tasks it takes to run Fort Bragg, it is nearly impossible to cut down on

the use of the more commonly used items," Nance said. "But, often we can find a way to recycle those materials and put that money to work for the installation."

Fort Bragg has 75 locations across the installation to recycle cardboard. More than 2,343 tons of cardboard have been recycled this year, not counting the 217 tons of pallets most of the cardboard is shipped on.

The office paper recycling program has collected over 175 tons of paper over the past year. With the money they received for the paper, the program was able to triple the number of offices outfitted with collection bins and started a pick up service.

Newspapers and magazines are a valuable recyclable on the installation as well. Last year, 526,290 pounds of newspapers and magazines were recycled on the installation. Convenient drop-off bins are located on the installation. Picerne housing residents may also place these recyclables in their curb side recycling bins.

"Try to make the effort this year and read it and recycle it," Nance said. "Aside from

keeping waste out of the landfill, you just might help put some dollars back into the installation."

Fort Bragg's recycling program also is targeting larger items, such as buildings and roads. In addition to renovating outdated buildings on the installation, the Army Modularity and Base Realignment and Closure will continue to drive Fort Bragg's construction for the next five years. The new additions to the installation will be an exciting addition, but where do the materials of the old buildings go?

Right now, all old building materials go to the construction debris area of Fort Bragg's landfill. However the landfill is filling up faster than what planners expected.

"Once the landfill on post is full, we'll have to decide if we want to use training lands for waste disposal instead of preparing troops for combat, or pay premium rates to send waste to a regional facility," Nance said.

"I'm hoping we find a way to avoid either option. If we can find a home in the recycling program for waste materials, we save landfill

space and money."

Ways the installation is working to maximize the life and capacity of the existing landfill are through metal recycling, mulching tree and yard waste, and grinding excess concrete. Hundreds of thousands of tons of these materials are recycled and not buried each year.

Last year the program recycled over 5 million pounds of metals and mulched over 9,000 tons of tree and yard waste. Mulch was reused by Fort Bragg military and construction contractors.

The mulched tree and yard waste is available and free to anyone. In 2007 an estimated 75,000 tons of concrete will be ground and reused by the installation.

"We've started in the right direction but we'll need everyone's help," Nance said.

"Just think about what you throw away and remember if it is in the trash, it costs the Army money — but if you recycle it, it will save or make money for Fort Bragg."

For more information about recycling at Fort Bragg, please call 396-5323/3372/6873.

### Recycling History Flashback:

Until the 'modern era', recycling was a common household activity. Before the 1920's, 70 percent of American cities had recycling programs for certain materials. During World War II, industry recycled and reused 25 percent of the waste stream. The recycling rate slowly dropped to a low 7.7 percent. Because of environmental concerns recycling is on the up swing. From 7.7 percent in 1960 to 17 percent in 1990, the amount of waste stream being recycled continues to rise. Thirty percent of the waste stream in the United States is being recycled.

### Recycling Do's and Don'ts:

■ Cleanliness Counts: Please do not recycle soiled items. Only clean, segregated materials should be placed in recycling bins.

■ If supplied with a bin, pay attention what goes in: Different bins are for different materials. Make sure your magazines and newspapers are separated and placed in the correct containers.

Break down all your boxes before placing them in a cardboard container. That way we can fit more in. Only corrugated cardboard should be recycled. Please no pizza boxes, cereal type boxes, or Meals, Ready-to-Eat boxes.

■ Only place unclassified documents in the office paper recycling bins. All classified, secret, and top secret documents should be destroyed according to Army regulations.

■ Items such as paint cans, motor oil, antifreeze, car batteries, pesticides, pool chemicals etc. usually need to be disposed of separately. Check community guidelines on disposal of these items and recycling options.

■ Look for "made from recycled content" on packaging when shopping, the higher the percentage the better. Buy

products that can be recycled. For example, buy plastic or paper cups instead of Styrofoam. Check out the "GREEN ZONE" at the Self Service Supply Center and/or visit [www.recycledproducts.com](http://www.recycledproducts.com).

### Recycling Facts and Fun Tips:

■ In 2005, Americans recycled 51.4 billion aluminum cans. Those cans, placed end-to-end, could circle the earth 171 times.

■ Every day Americans recover more than two million pounds of paper. That's about 40 percent of the paper we use.

■ Each ton of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatts of energy and 7,000 gallons of water.

■ One tree can filter up to 60 pounds of pollutants from the air each year.

■ There are about 1,000 milk jugs and other bottles in a recycled plastic park bench.

■ The energy saved from recycling one aluminum can will run your TV for three hours.

■ Americans throw away 44 million newspapers everyday. That's the same as dumping 500,000 trees into landfills each week.

■ One person uses two pine trees worth of paper products every year.

■ Americans discard four million tons of office paper every year — enough to build a 12 foot-high wall of paper from N.Y. to Calif.

■ Every year we save enough energy recycling steel to supply Los Angeles with nearly a decade's worth of electricity.

■ Americans throw away enough aluminum every month to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet.

■ Americans go through 2.5 million plastic bottles every year.

### For More Fun Facts:

<http://www.oberlin.edu/recycle/facts.html>

<http://www.resourcefulschools.org/html/facts2.html>



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