

APPENDIX J
ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING AT FORT
BENNING
MILITARY INSTALLATION

Environmental Training at Fort Benning Military Installation

The Environmental Management Division of Fort Benning's Directorate of Public Works conducts a variety of environmental training specific to the needs of this installation and circumstances found here. Most of this training is meant to enable installation personnel to comply with environmental laws and regulations such as The Endangered Species Act, The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and The Clean Water Act. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) serves as the focal point for these legal drivers. NEPA combines the requirements of various laws into a unified system of documentation and administration. This legal compliance justifies the investment of funding and manpower in environmental training. Once established, the training can also inform students about the value of the resources being protected and promote good environmental stewardship.

Fort Benning hired a full-time Environmental Awareness Trainer June 1st, 1999. An Environmental Awareness Training Program was created to satisfy one of the "reasonable and prudent alternatives" specified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion regarding the recovery of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW). The Program seeks to equip all Fort Benning's personnel with the knowledge required to succeed in their tasks without causing adverse environmental incidents. Audiences involved with field training exercises receive detailed information about the training restrictions and precautions required by the 1996 "Management Guidelines for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker on Army Installations."

In practice, most Soldiers training at Fort Benning do not make decisions that could result in serious environmental incidents. Therefore those few who do make such decisions have become our primary focus. Fort Benning offers a Senior Environmental Compliance Officer (SECO) Orientation to representatives of garrison directorates and brigade- or battalion-sized military units. The SECO is commonly a field-grade officer, usually the executive officer of such a unit. The SECOs advise their commanders on environmental issues and set environmental policy for their organization. The SECO Orientation is a four-hour class offered monthly. A class similar to the SECO orientation is now offered to Environmental Compliance Officers of smaller units, such as companies. The Garrison Commander's Environmental Quality Control Committee meeting, held quarterly, is frequently used to convey new environmental information to the installation's SECOs. Environmental awareness is also part of Fort Benning's First Sergeant / Commander Orientation, an every-other-month training for unit leaders new to this post. All of these leadership audiences are informed about the 1996 RCW guidelines. During calendar year 2005 such leadership classes were offered 23 times to a total of 199 people.

While unit leadership may fully support environmental compliance, poor decisions by people in the field can still result in environmental incidents. For example, digging in the wrong spot could lead to environmental damage and legal or financial consequences that could have been simply avoided by working in a different location. Mid-level unit leadership bears most of the practical responsibility for the kind of operations that can

threaten Fort Benning's natural resources. These personnel also risk the consequences of an adverse environmental incident. They deserve the information they need to make good decisions. For these reasons much of Fort Benning's environmental training is delivered in a train-the-trainer fashion. An environmental lesson, including a review of the 1996 RCW guidelines, has been included in The Army Instructor Training Course and the Range Safety Briefing, both held twice per month. During calendar year 2005 the Instructor Training class was offered 24 times and 628 people were trained. The Range Safety Briefing was conducted 25 times with a total of 1,515 people trained.

Within these units and organizations certain individuals have specific responsibilities that require specialized environmental training. Fort Benning's first environmental training was directed at Hazardous Waste Managers; an eight-hour training for these personnel is offered twice per month. Once trained, each Hazardous Waste Manager must complete a four-hour refresher training every year. Activity Coordinators have legal responsibility for preventing storm water runoff pollution; they also have to be trained once per year. Other personnel are taught how to properly use Fort Benning's Record of Environmental Consideration, a requirement of Army Regulation 200-2 and the National Environmental Policy Act.

It is sometimes appropriate to teach military units as a group. Fort Benning policy provides for environmental awareness training to units that are preparing to conduct field training exercises. Units visiting the installation for a short time also need environmental information to be able to avoid negative incidents. Such groups can be trained upon arrival, or can access much environmental awareness information on Fort Benning's internet site: <https://www.infantry.army.mil/nature/>

At this time the Army is placing increased emphasis on sustainability as a guiding management principal. Good stewardship of Fort Benning's natural resources will continue to be an essential component of sustaining this installation's various missions. Until now there have only been occasional opportunities to reach Fort Benning's residents and civilian employees. It remains to be seen what new opportunities for environmental training will become available through the new sustainability initiatives.

FORT BENNING'S ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING

Audience	Training Event	Duration	Trained By	Scheduled By	Mandate	Notes
brigade / battalion-level Environmental Compliance Officers (appointed on orders)	Senior Environmental Compliance Officer (SECO) Orientation	four hours	DPW / EMD	DPW / EMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Army Reg. 200-1 USAIS Policy Memo 200-1-13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> offered monthly one time; no refresher certificate provided
new Company Commanders and First Sergeants	First Sergeant / Commander Orientation	environmental segment (one hour)	DPW / EMD	DOT / QASFD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USAIS Policy Memo 200-1-13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> offered every other month one time; no refresher
company-level Environmental Compliance Officers (appointed on orders)	Company Env. Compliance Officer Workshop (CECOW)	four hours	DPW / EMD	DPW / EMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Army Rrg. 200-1 USAIS Policy Memo 200-1-13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> offered monthly one time; no refresher certificate provided
Officers In Charge of ranges, Range Safety Officers	Range Safety Briefing	Env. Incident Reporting Lesson (45 minutes)	DPW / EMD	DOT / Range Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USAIS Policy Memo 200-1-13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> offered twice / month renewed every 2 years
Army Instructors (in POI-driven Army courses)	The Army Instructor Training Course	Env. Considerations Statement Lesson (45 minutes)	DPW / EMD	DOT / QASFD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRADOC Reg 350-70 USAIS Policy Memo 200-1-13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> offered twice / month one-time; no refresher
Hazardous Waste Managers and Environmental Coordinators	Hazardous Waste Manager Training Course	eight hours	DPW / EMD	DPW / EMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Army Reg. 200-1 FB Haz. Waste Mgt. Plan USAIS Policy Memo 200-1-13 RCRA, OSHA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> offered twice / month annual refresher (4 hr.) certificate provided
Activity Coordinators of industrial facilities (appointed on orders)	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Training	four hours	DPW / EMD	DPW / EMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Army Reg. 200-1 Clean Water Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> offered monthly annual refresher certificate provided
personnel responsible for preparing FB Form 144-R (S-3 shop, etc.)	Environmental Documentation Training	four hours	DPW / EMD	DPW / EMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Army Reg. 200-2 USAIS Policy Memo 200-1-13 NEPA, OSHA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> offered monthly one time; no refresher certificate provided
resident / tenant unit members	educator visit or ECO instruction	EA lessons based on unit mission (30 min. each)	Educator or ECO	ECO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USAIS Policy Memo 200-1-13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> should be repeated annually, prior to FTX
transient students of POI-driven Army courses	any lesson taught by a USAIS Instructor	Env. Considerations Statements (five minutes)	USAIS Instructors	varies by course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRADOC Reg 350-70 USAIS Policy Memo 200-1-13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> instructors use standard statements presented in TAITC
transient students - WHINSEC	any lesson taught by a WHINSEC Instructor	Env. Considerations Statements (five minutes)	WHINSEC Instructors	varies by course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRADOC Reg 350-70 USAIS Policy Memo 200-1-13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors view Spanish language video during Instructor Training.