2004 Issue II

CENTRAL REGION ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

CENTRAL REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

US ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Region 7 Range and Restoration Summit "On Target"

By Steve Scanlon
Army REC, Region 7
Central Regional Environmental Office

On June 8, 2004, Federal and state environmental officials and others throughout the Midwest gathered in Kansas City, Kansas to participate in an Army Range and Restoration Summit. This Summit was hosted by the US Army Environmental Center's (USAEC) Central Regional Environmental Office (CREO) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7. This was the first meeting of this type since 1999 and a lot had changed in the five years since the last Army-sponsored restoration summit.

The CREO organizers established an ambitious set of objectives for this one-day forum. One of the most important objectives was to inform the regulatory community of the changes in the management of cleanup conducted by the Army in recent years. These changes are the result of far reaching initiatives such as the establishment of the Army Installation Management Agency (IMA), centralizing program management at the US Army Environmental Center, the transition to Performance Based Contracting (PBC), and the initiation of the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP).

A major difference between this forum and prior restoration summits was the addition of a number of range-related topics to the program. In his opening remarks, Mr. Barton Ives, Chief, USAEC, CREO and DoD REC for Region 7, commented that the reason for this change was the Army's desire to communicate important information about the actions undertaken to ensure the long-term viability of the Army's training and testing ranges. "You have only to watch the news to understand how critical it is that the Army train as we fight. Our military ranges are an indispensable resource for realistic training. To maintain and sustain our training ranges over time, it is also critical that we know the impact of our activities on those ranges – and that we know the types of information necessary to make wise management decisions, in order to keep those ranges viable now and in the future."

Mr. Barton Ives, CREO Chief (center), AEC and ODEP senior staff (to the left and right of Mr. Ives, respectively) discuss Summit progress. *Photo Courtesy of Central Regional Environmental Office.*

The Army provided its top policy and program management professionals to

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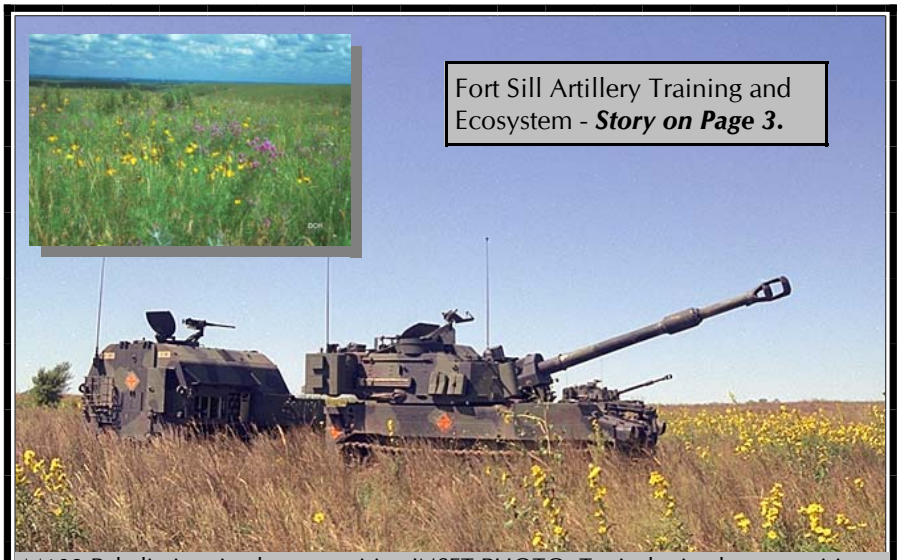

Fort Sill Artillery Training and Ecosystem - ***Story on Page 3.***

M109 Paladin in mixed-grass prairie. INSET PHOTO: Typical mixed-grass prairie found at Fort Sill. *Photo courtesy of Fort Sill.*

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Chief Commentary

Bart Ives - *CREO Chief/DoD Region 7 REC*
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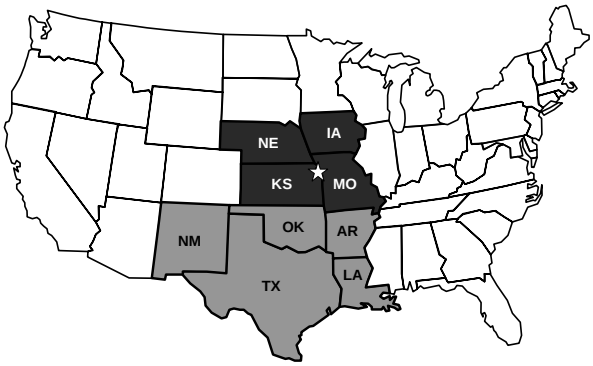
The article on page one by Mr. Scanlon of my staff highlights the successful accomplishment of one of our key Regional Environmental Office missions, that is, to identify venues and opportunities where we are able to reach out to targeted audiences to inform them of issues and initiatives of critical interest to the Army and the Department of Defense (DOD). In this case, we felt the timing was right to bring the Region 7 federal and state regulatory communities to one place to update them on the latest developments related to clean-up, munitions management, and range sustainability from the military's perspective.

In another example of executing our "outreach" mission, Mr. Scanlon and I recently ventured to Columbia, MO to meet with Ms. Karen Miller, the current president of the National Association of Counties. We visited Ms. Miller to explain the DOD's concerns about the long-term sustainability of our installations and the impact of what we in DOD would characterize as "encroachment" (urban sprawl, natural resource conflicts, etc.).

Some might question why we would target such a national organization. Its because to a large extent the county level is in fact where most land use decisions are made. As I've said before in my commentaries, the late Tip O'Neill used to say, "All politics are local." We would amend that to say, "All land use decisions are local." To maintain the sustainability of our installations in the face of the growing competition for scarce resources we're going to need to aggressively use every tool available to us. In this regard, we need to do our best to be sure that the communities surrounding our installations are fully aware of the facilities environmental, operational, and socio-economic footprints when they are making these critical land use decisions that may impact our installations.

For Army installations, a major step is coming to "institutionalize" the sharing of such important information with surrounding communities. There will be new requirements in the revised master planning regulation to subject master plan updates to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA and require the sharing of them with local communities.



CREO Nine-State Area of Responsibility

DoD REC Region 7	■
Army REC Region 6	□
Army REC Region 7	■

CREO Participation Calendar DoD REC Region 7 Army RECs Regions 6 & 7

7/28-30	Missouri Environmental Conference at the Lake, Lake of the Ozarks, MO
8/11	Southwest Strategy Border Task Team Meeting, Silver City, NM
8/16-19	9th Annual Joint Services Environmental Management Conference, San Antonio, TX
8/16-20	ITAM Workshop, San Francisco, CA
8/17-19	Resource Protection & Law Enforcement Along US/MEX Border Conf., Rio Rico, AZ
8/31-9/2	Kansas Environmental Conference, Overland Park, KS
9/20-22	National Brownfield Conference, St. Louis, MO
10/13-15	Worldwide Chemical Conference & Exhibition XXI, Fort Leonard Wood, MO
10/18-20	New Mexico Environmental Health Conference, Albuquerque, NM
10/19	Region 7 Federal Facilities Conference, Kansas City, MO

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Artillery Training and Great Plains Ecosystem Exist Side by Side at Fort Sill

By Justin Kretzer and Eric Webb
ITAM TEAM, Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Fort Sill, the home of the US Army Field Artillery Center, is located in southwest Oklahoma, the heart of the Oklahoma Great Plains country – a region of wide, mixed-grass prairie. This region of the country is called the Central and Southern Mixed Grasslands eco-region, a biologically rich environment. These Grasslands have a north-south orientation, spanning central Nebraska, central Kansas, the western half of Oklahoma, and north-central Texas. In fact, mixed-grassland communities comprise over 70 percent of Fort Sill and the surrounding geographic area.

The fact is that Fort Sill supports two highly important priorities of the U.S. military: training and environmental protection. Additionally, the Fort Sill grassland community is a high value ecological feature that provides an important breeding area for endemic Great Plains bird species. Fort Sill is also a very important stopover site for migratory birds, particularly on wetland sites scattered throughout this eco-region.

Installations with enough land to support tactical maneuver by the M109 Paladin SP 155 mm Howitzer and the Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS), and other heavy and light support vehicles are limited and must be protected so that future training is not jeopardized. On the other hand, many animal and plant species including Neo-tropical migrant bird populations that utilize this type of prairie habitat are declining because of habitat loss, degradation of grasslands from improper or inadequate management, encroachment of woody and exotic vegetation, and disruption of natural disturbance regimes.

MLRS training exercises. *Photo courtesy of Fort Sill.*

Simply put, degraded land is not in the best interest of either the military or wildlife. Maintaining land for military and resident wildlife populations must be a common goal. Therefore, it seemed prudent to conduct research to address whether artillery maneuver training is impacting these grasslands. Recognizing this, the Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) team at Fort Sill implemented a study to evaluate the effects of training on nesting success of prairie-nesting birds within the boundary of Fort Sill in June and July 2003.

Typical mixed-grass prairie habitat frequented by the dickcissel. *Photo courtesy of Fort Sill.*

The dickcissel (*Spiza americana*), a ground-nesting bird that builds nests in tall- and mixed-grass prairies, as well as old-field habitats, was chosen to be representative of a variety of Neo-tropical migrant species. Nests of this species are relatively easy to locate and they are still present in sufficient numbers to obtain adequate sample sizes. Moreover, dickcissel nests are commonly parasitized by brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), which also parasitize nests of the black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*), the only endangered species on the installation. This provides a value added benefit to this study because it obtains information useful in controlling cowbird populations on Fort Sill.

The study was implemented in six training areas (TAs) containing similar mixed-grass prairie habitats utilizing strict scientific methods and controls. These methods included:

- Randomly selecting sampling locations;
- Using the point-intercept method to measure vegetation physiognomic class (live forbs or herbs other than grass, live grasses, forb litter, and grass litter), bare ground, invasive species, and structure (height and density) along 100-meter transects;
- Conducting point-count surveys once per month to estimate bird species richness, diversity, and densities;
- Monitoring nests every 3-6 days evaluate nesting success or failure and rates of brown-headed cowbird parasitism; and

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The Topeka Shiner: A Small Fish with Big Impact

Fort Riley's INRMP Makes Critical Habitat Designation Unnecessary

Compiled From Staff Notes by Dennis Takade
Central Regional Environmental Office

The Topeka shiner, *Notropis topeka*, in a typical stream setting with small rocks and cobbles. *Photo courtesy of Garold W. Sneegrass and Fort Riley.*

The Topeka shiner *(Notropis topeka)* has been the topic of many news articles in recent years. In fact, it is possibly the most recognizable non-game fish in the State of Kansas. This small fish is a resident of small to mid-size prairie streams with relatively high water quality and cool to moderate temperatures. The shiner inhabits streams that are typically silt free with rock or gravel substrate. It seems to prefer clear pools near stream origins that are fed by small springs or near permanent seepage.

Historically, the Topeka shiner was widespread and abundant throughout the central prairie regions of the United States. At one time, the shiner was found throughout Kansas but is now restricted mainly to the Kansas and Neosho drainages in the Flint Hills region

Today, the known geographic range of the Topeka shiner has been reduced by approximately 90 percent. The number of historically known collection sites of Topeka shiner has been reduced by approximately 70 percent, with approximately 50 percent of this decline occurring within the last 40-50 years.

Flint Hills (KS) landscape that is typical of streams inhabited by the Topeka shiner. Photo courtesy of Fort Riley.

Because of it's decreasing range and population, the shiner was designated an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in a final rule published in the Federal Register on December 15, 1998. In August 2002, the USFWS proposed a rule for designation of critical habitat for the Topeka Shiner throughout a large part of the Great Plains states. Critical habitat is defined as a specific geographic area(s) that is essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management and protection.

But, the USFWS indicated they would not include Fort Riley, Kansas, in the critical habitat designation. This proposal was made on August 21, 2002 (FR Volume 67, Number 162) and was confirmed on March 17, 2004 (FR Volume 69, Number 52). A major reason for this decision is that the Topeka shiner had been a key species for planning and conservation efforts by Fort Riley since the early 1990s, with numerous stream surveys occurring over this time period. Moreover, Fort Riley initiated development of management

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Going Purple! Texas Military Forces Implement State-wide EMS Program

By Valerie Stein
Environmental Manager
Texas Army National Guard

The Texas Military Forces (TXMF) have combined their Army and Air National Guard environmental efforts to implement a statewide Environmental Management System (EMS) with a target completion date of 2005.

Executive Order 13148 directs military leaders to ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into all core military functions. While the Army chose the ISO14001 standard as their EMS application, the Texas Military Forces chose to implement the most stringent requirements from both Army and Air Force guidelines in an effort to cover all elements of their organization under one joint EMS plan. This effort will require inclusion of 94 armories, 33 maintenance facilities, 4 Army Aviation facilities, 10 training sites, and three Air Guard Wing operations located across the length and breadth of Texas.

Housekeeping issues identified by the TCEQ EMS audit conducted in August 2003. *Photo courtesy of TMXF.*

The first measure of compliance with joint Army and Air Guard EMS mandates was met when Lieutenant General Wayne D. Marty, Adjutant General of Texas, issued the Texas Military Forces Environmental Policy in 2003. Since that time, two external EMS audits have been conducted.

EPA Region 6 and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) separately conducted the audits. A third audit or gap analysis, completed by the internal agency joint service (purple) EMS implementation team, accomplished the final requirement for completion of an agency wide EMS self- assessment.

The audits conducted by EPA Region 6 staff and members of the TCEQ involved different procedures and techniques. The EPA audit was conducted over a five-day period in January 2002 and concentrated on headquarters upper level management roles. It included interviews with command personnel, extensive document review, comparison of the TXMF EMS program to ISO 14001 protocols, review of staff issues (resources, training and development), and internal/external communications.

Two separate teams performed the TCEQ EMS audit over a period of three days at specified facilities in August 2003. The facilities included the TXMF headquarters at Camp Mabry in Austin and TXMF operations adjacent to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. The TCEQ audit was a "bottom up" audit that included the detailed examination of operational areas such as maintenance operations, contract management, and human resource elements. The focus was on interviews and inspections at the operating level as opposed to upper level management or document reviews.

The results of both external audits were of great assistance in refining the TXMF joint EMS program. The value to TXMF is summarized below:

- Findings from both audits demonstrated common areas of compliance including:
  - Management commitment to success.
  - Well developed internal auditing programs.
- Both audits identified common elements in need of improvement including:
  - Consistent command emphasis
  - Emphasis on accountability
  - Communication between parties with joint responsibilities
  - Greater personnel participation in self-auditing for corrective feedback

Five gallon gasoline container stored next to a tree found during the TCEQ audit. *Photo courtesy of TXMF.*

TXMF progress to date includes completion of multiple leadership and upper management EMS training events and development of a joint implementation plan. This joint Texas Army Guard and Air Guard plan was the first step in identifying the function-specific implementation requirements needed for each type of National Guard activity. The joint EMS implementation team is currently refining the agency's list of aspects and impacts and determining their significance. Once completed, work will begin on implementing the specific elements of the plan for each identified agency activity.

Matters of Interest to All DoD Components

Multi-Agency Plan Addresses Environmental Threats to Federal and Tribal Lands Along the Arizona-Mexico Border

Compiled from Staff Notes by Jim Mayer on Behalf of:
Borderland Management Task Force and Southwest Strategy, United States-Mexico Border Task Team

The Department of Defense (DoD) recently became a signatory to the *Arizona Coordinated Plan To Mitigate and Prevent Environmental and Other Impacts Caused By Undocumented Aliens Crossing Federal and Tribal Lands*. This coordinated plan provides the framework needed to mitigate and prevent environmental and other impacts caused by undocumented aliens (UDAs) crossing through Federal and Tribal lands in Arizona, restore safe public use and management of these lands through a multi-agency, coordinated effort and, to the extent possible, save the lives of undocumented aliens in distress.

The US-Mexico Border looking to the West. The US is to the right. *Photos Courtesy of the Southwest Strategy*.

The United States-Mexico border spans approximately 1,950 miles from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico. Arizona has approximately 374 miles of border common with Mexico. The Federal Government and Native Americans administer over 323 miles of the Arizona-Mexico border. Within 100 miles of the international border, the Federal Government and Native Americans administer more than 13.4 million acres of the land area. DOD has 37 miles of land along the border and administers some 2.8 million acres within the 100-mile zone while the State and private landowners administers about 8 million acres .

Because Federal lands in Arizona are, for the most part, remote, isolated areas adjacent or in close proximity to the Mexican border, they have become major arteries for smuggling humans and controlled substances into the United States. As a result, the extremely valuable, and in many cases irreplaceable, natural and cultural resources are in jeopardy.

Undocumented aliens crossing Federal and tribal land not only cause damage to natural and cultural resources, but they impact visitors, public services, Federal employees and military personnel working and training in the area, and residents and businesses located on Federal and tribal lands. Moreover, UDAs themselves are impacted as they cross Federal lands because of the remoteness of many of these lands and the unexpected harsh conditions that they encounter there.

Certain Federal lands in Arizona can no longer be used safely by the public or Federal agency personnel due to the significance of smuggling undocumented aliens and controlled substances into the United States. The mere number of UDAs traveling in the border area intimidates land users and creates reluctance by some of the public to use public lands. The volume of UDAs also impacts Federal and other government personnel's ability to feel safe while doing their job in the field. Staff exposure while conducting resource management activities in certain areas along the border is a serious safety concern. Ranchers, farmers, miners and other legitimate users of Federal lands are heavily impacted financially by smuggling operations that cut fences, breakdown or leave gates open, damage water supplies, steal or damage equipment, and disrupt grazing and irrigation schedules.

Undocumented aliens waiting to move across Federal/Tribal land. *Photo courtesy of Southwest Strategy*.

Breaking and entering and burglaries along the border are common and include historic and government structures, employee and private residences, and businesses. Federal law enforcement officers, military police, and tribal police often face situations where they are at personal risk.

Literally hundreds, if not thousands of new trails and roads have been created

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(**Multi Agency Plan,** *Continued from page 6)*
on Federal lands in Arizona by undocumented alien crossing Federal and Tribal lands. This proliferation of trails

An example of numerous trails used by UDAs that damage Federal/Tribal lands. *Photo courtesy of Southwest Strategy.*

and roads damages and destroys cactus and other sensitive vegetation, disrupts or prohibits re-vegetation, disturbs wildlife and their cover and travel routes, causes soil compaction and erosion, impacts stream bank stability, and often times confuses legitimate users of trails and roads on Federal lands. Other elements that result from this type of human intrusion include:

- Large numbers of vehicles are abandoned by smugglers and undocumented aliens. Such vehicles are difficult and costly for agencies to remove.

One of literally hundreds of abandoned vehicles. *Photo courtesy of Southwest Strategy.*

- The international border fence is repeatedly cut or torn down in many locations forcing Federal agency staff and grazing permitees to make repairs constantly.
- Recreational, cultural and administrative sites are repeatedly vandalized and damaged. All of this adds significantly to the cost of maintaining Federal improvements.
- Tons of trash and high concentrations of human waste are left behind by undocumented aliens. This impacts wildlife, vegetation and water quality in the uplands, in washes and along rivers and streams. This also detracts from scenic qualities and can effect human and animal health from spread of bacteria and disease.

Warming and cooking fires built and abandoned by UDAs have caused wildfires that have destroyed valuable natural and cultural resources. The fires pose a threat to visitors, residents and

Trash clean up efforts. *Photo courtesy of Southwest Strategy.*

Federal and local firefighters as well as to the UDAs camping in or migrating through the area. Fire threats and intrusive human activities are also a direct threat to a wide variety of plant and wildlife species in Arizona that have evolved as a result of an unusual variety of climatic and geologic conditions. These species include a large number of species designated as threatened or endangered under provisions of the Endangered Species Act. Moreover,

Cooking/warming fire next to burned Saguaro cactus. *Photo courtesy of Southwest Strategy.*

Temporary brush shelter destroys vegetation and adds to litter problem. *Photo courtesy of Southwest Strategy.*

there are numerous prehistoric and historic sites, important cultural landscapes, and more than 100 properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Therefore, under the auspices of the Southwest Strategy, a coordinated plan was developed and entered into by the Department of Defense (DOD), Customs and Border Protection (CBP)/ U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), Bureau of Immi-

Archeological cave site in the Organ Pipe National Monument defaced by graffiti. *Photo courtesy of Southwest Strategy.*

gration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Tohono O'odham Nation (TON), the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, and the Cocopah Tribe. DOD signatories include Fort Huachuca (Army), Luke Air Force Base and Marine Corps Air Station (Yuma).

The development of the Coordinated Plan stems from a series of reports from

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The dickcissel, a Neo-tropical species commonly found in the Mixed Grass Prairie. *Photo courtesy of Fort Sill.*

***(Fort Sill,** continued from page 3)*

- Employing appropriate statistical measures such as analyses of variance (repeated measures; $\alpha = 0.05$) and Mann-Whitney tests ($\alpha = 0.05$) to analyze percentages of forbs, grasses, forb litter, grass litter, bare ground, and invasive species, as well as vegetation structure and bird species richness, diversity, and densities, nesting success and cowbird parasitism rates.

Although long-term military training on Fort Sill may alter some of the mixed-grass prairie vegetation physiognomic class and structure, this study supports the conclusion that training at Fort Sill does not appear to have a negative impact on prairie bird species richness, diversity, density or nesting success. Areas exposed to military training activities consisted of higher percentages of forbs and bare ground and lower mean vegetation densities compared to control sites. But, mean vegetation height and total percentages of grasses, forb litter, grass litter, and invasive species did not differ between treatments.

Species richness, diversity, and total bird densities did not differ between control and training sites. A total of 29 bird species were recorded during this study. The five most common species (i.e., dickcissel; eastern meadowlark, *Sturnella magna*; grasshopper sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum*; northern bobwhite quail, *Colinus virginianus*; and brown-headed cowbird) comprised 54% of all birds sampled. Finally, this study demonstrated that at 27 percent, cowbird parasitism rates at Fort Sill are considerably lower than other installations. For example, dickcissel nests at Fort Riley, in northeast Kansas, experience parasitism rates as high as 85 percent. Total nesting success and cowbird parasitism rates did not differ between control and training sites.

With some 94,000 acres, Fort Sill has provided some of the best military training in the world to generations of artillery Soldiers and continues to do so. However, Fort Sill's land has limitations that become more evident as military equipment becomes larger and heavier and tactics include more maneuver training. Some land is too rugged for maneuver, and many areas have either shallow or highly erodible soils. Therefore, good stewardship equates to continued long-term viability as a training facility. Lands that can support tactical maneuver by Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS), M109 Paladins, and other heavy and light support vehicles are limited and must be protected so that future training is not jeopardized. This study has determined that, with good stewardship, wildlife and military training at Fort Sill exists side by side and prospers.

A cowbird egg in a dickcissel nest. The cowbird chick will parasitize the nest and eventually crowd out the other hatchlings. *Photo courtesy of Fort Sill.*

Dickcissel hatchlings begging for food. *Photo courtesy of Fort Sill.*

US Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District Receives "Honor Award" for Environmental Professional Work

The Kansas City District of the US Army Corps of Engineers has received an Honors Award for work performed at the Federal Creosote Superfund Site Remedial Design project (Manville, NJ), a former creosote wood-treating facility. The company ceased operations in the mid-1960s, and the property was developed into 137 residential sites and a commercial shopping center. A jury of evaluators commented that this project faced significant technical, planning, and community challenges. Phasing the work to minimize disruptions to traffic, utilities, and working on various sections simultaneously required extensive planning. The project deserves recognition for managing three difficult tasks simultaneously: 1) significant public relationships challenges, 2) removing toxic material, 3) keeping many existing houses in place, and 4) allowing the neighborhood to function during the project.

Honor Awards are given in both the Design and Environmental categories to entries that demonstrate or stimulate excellence in each of the design disciplines. An Honor Award can only be given to an entry based on a majority decision of the jury, if no juror casts a dissenting vote.

(*Topeka Shiner*, *continued from page 4*)
guidelines for the shiner in 1994 with the initial Topeka shiner Endangered Species Management Plan being formalized in 1997. This management plan was revised and incorporated into Fort Riley's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs), which was formalized 30 July 2001.

An INRMP is a planning document that allows Department of Defense (DoD) installations to implement landscape-level management of their natural resources while coordinating with various stakeholders. They are vital management tools to ensure that military operations and natural resources conservation are integrated and consistent with stewardship and legal requirements.

The USFWS evaluated Fort Riley's Endangered Species Management Plan for the Topeka shiner and the Fort's associated conservation actions that have been completed, ongoing, or planned in comparison to Section 4(a)(3) of the amended Endangered Species Act.

Based on this evaluation, the USFWS has determined that Fort Riley's management plan has met all criteria for an INRMP to be considered successful. The plan provides conservation benefits to the species, and provides assurances that conservation efforts will be implemented. It also ensures that the efforts of the Army will be effective since they include biological goals, restoration objectives, and monitoring consistent with the draft Recovery Plan. In addition, this INRMP has undergone a Section 7 "consultation" with the USFWS prior to its final approval, thus providing further confidence that there is sufficient conservation management and protection for the Topeka shiner.

A specimen of the Topeka shiner showing it relatively small size. *Photo courtesy of Fort Riley.*

Fort Riley biologist using seine net to conduct shiner survey. *Photo courtesy of Fort Riley*

The USFWS finding that a critical habitat determination is unnecessary for Fort Riley is undoubtedly the result of the many years of effort by dedicated people. In the final analysis, this dedication contributes immeasurably to the sustainability of Fort Riley as an Army installation and training facility.

Legally Brief

By Stanley Rasmussen
CREO Regional Counsel

During the past two years, this *Legally Brief* column has explored many topics, including:

- Sovereign Immunity
- Commerce Clause of the Constitution as authority for Congress to pass environmental laws.
- Historical and current clean air Supreme Court cases.
- Hazardous waste storage regulations for satellite accumulation stations.
- The process for developing, approving, and promulgating regulations.

With this edition, the CREO Regional Counsel is taking a break and is asking you, the reader, for your input on topics you would like to see covered in this section. What are you interested in? What legal-environmental questions do you have? If you contact the CREO Regional Counsel at CREO.Regional.Counsel@nwk02.usace.army.mil or at 816-983-3448, he will be pleased to try to respond to your requests and interests.

The following are some possible future topics:

- Delegation of federal environmental programs to states. How does this process work?
- Navigable Waters, Waters of the United States, and wetlands. What are the differences?
- Federal Reserve Water Rights and how they affect of western installations.
- Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plans and the associated regulations.

BG Randal Castro, New Commanding General, Fort Leonard Wood

The Chief of Staff of the Army announced recently that Brigadier General Randal R. Castro, Commanding General, United States Army Engineer Division, South Atlantic, (Atlanta, GA) will assume command of the United States Army Maneuver Support Center and the United States Army Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

BG General Castro once served as assistant commandant of the United States Army Engineer School and as deputy commanding general, initial entry training, at Fort Leonard Wood from August of 2001 to September of 2003.

BG Castro also has joint service time throughout his career having served as a landing support engineering instructor within the Naval Activity in Washington D.C. from May 1980 to September 1983. He also served as a professor at the United States Naval War College in Newport, R.I., from June of 1995 to June of 1996.

BG Randal R. Castro, incoming commanding general, US Army Maneuver Support Center and Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood. *Photo Courtesy of Fort Leonard Wood.*

BG Castro has attended the engineer officer basic and advanced courses, U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the United States Naval War College. He received a bachelor of science from the United States Military Academy, a masters of science degree in civil engineering from Stanford University, and a master of arts in national security and strategic studies from the United States Naval War College.

BG Castro's awards and decorations include: the Legion of Merit (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Meritorious Service Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Navy Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and Parachutist Badge.

A change of command ceremony is slated for this summer. ☙

***(Range and Restoration Summit,** continued from page 1)*

address a wide range of clean-up topics, from national priorities to the status of cleanup at installations in Region 7 in order to emphasize the importance of this Summit. Army personnel included - Mr. Richard Newsome, Assistant for Restoration to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health; Mr. Krishna Ganta, Chief, Cleanup Division, Office of the Director of Environmental Programs (ODEP); Mr. Randall Cerar, Chief, Cleanup Division, Army Environmental Center (USAEC); and Mr. Daniel Tosoni, Chief, Environment Programs, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Northwest Division."

In addition, the Army provided a high level group of experts to discuss numerous topics related to range sustainability. These experts included Ms. Joan VanDervort, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (G-3) Training Division; Mr. Paul Dubois, ODEP Training Support Division; Mr. Michael Dette, Acting Chief, USAEC Training Support Division; and Ms. Mary Ellen Maly, subject matter expert, Army Range Inventory and the MMRP, AEC Training Support Division.

Range-related topics included an Army range sustainability overview; the Army range inventory; Environmental Management System (EMS) for ranges; military munitions emissions research; Army perchlorate strategy; unexploded ordnance (UXO) corrosion studies; greening ammunition; technology and range Best management Practices (BMP).

Ms. Cecilia Tapia, Director of the Superfund Division of EPA Region 7, remarked that she "...was very interested to hear the most current policy information concerning ranges and cleanup activities, as well as what is happening at these (Army) facilities and where the Army is headed in the environmental arena." With respect to cleanup, Ms. Tapia said that she "...hoped that meetings like this will foster a collaborative relationship ... in investigating and cleaning-up these properties."

During the open discussion portion of the program, state regulatory officials commented that this forum provided a wealth of information that merited further discussion and requested that the Army consider conducting these meetings more frequently. The Army agreed that it would be highly desirable to get the program managers from EPA, the states and the Army together at least once a year to discuss how things are going at specific installations and Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) properties. Moreover, at the conclusion of the Summit, several state officials commented that they thought "...the Army was doing what needed to be done."

Summit attendees included representatives of EPA Region 7's Superfund Division, Air, RCRA and Toxics Division, and Office of Regional Counsel; the US Geological Survey; regulatory agencies from Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska; Fort Leavenworth; Fort Leonard Wood; Fort Riley; the Kansas and Missouri National Guards; USACE Northwest and South Pacific Division; USACE Kansas City and Omaha districts; USACE Hazardous, Toxic and Radiological Waste (HTRW) Center of Expertise; and Lake City Army Ammunition Plant.

To maintain the momentum gained by this summit, CREO plans to organize a follow-on partnering forum in 2005. ☙

BG Michael Barbero, Commanding General, JRTC and Fort Polk

Brigadier General Michael D. Barbero assumed command of the Joint Readiness and Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk on 23 April 2004. The ceremony was held before more than 1,000 soldiers, family members and other invited guests and dignitaries.

As a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, BG Barbero was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on June 2nd, 1976. His initial service was with A Company, 2d Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, where he served as a Platoon Leader and Executive Officer.

After serving in numerous positions of increasing responsibility, BG Barbero returned to Fort Hood, Texas where he began his military career. He took the position of Chief of Staff, III Corps and subsequently assigned to the position of Assistant Division Command (Maneuver), 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), during Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

BG Michael Barbero (right) takes command of Fort Polk and JRTC from BG Kamiya. *Photo courtesy of Fort Polk.*

BG Barbero holds a BS Degree from the United States Military Academy, a Master of Military Art and Science degree from the United States Army Command General Staff College, and a Master of Science in National Security and Strategic Studies from the National Defense University. His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Achievement Medal, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist and Air Assault Badges, the Ranger Tab and the Army Staff Identification Badge. ☙

(***Multi-Agency Plan,*** *continued form page 7)*

the U.S. House of Representative Committee on Appropriations that encouraged a number of Federal agencies to cooperate and address the many environmental and social issues facing the border region of Arizona. Those Congressional reports recognized the potential serious negative environmental impact of this type of human intrusion.

In May 2000, the Southwest Strategy United States-Mexico Border Task Team (formerly the US-Mexico Government Relations Work Group) initiated efforts to better understand the problem and negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding to help address the issues. Additionally, a committee of Federal agency and Tohono O'odham Nation representatives was formed to develop a report to Congress and a coordinated plan for southeast Arizona, as requested in the Congressional reports previously mentioned. During committee meetings it became apparent that the areas being impacted fluctuate depending on pressures brought to bear on smuggling operations by the U.S. Border Patrol and other law enforcement agencies. Thus, this plan addresses impacts that occur in Arizona within an area from the international border to 100 miles north of it.

The purpose of this coordinated plan is summarized in six goal statements that are further refined by corresponding objective statements. Some goals and objectives will be completed using existing resources; others require additional resources to accomplish.

The Goals of the Plan include:

- Regain safety and confidence of employees, visitors, and residents.
- Protect and restore improvements and natural and cultural resources.
- Improve coordination and cooperation among Federal, Tribal, State, county and local governments.
- Increase awareness of impacts caused by undocumented aliens crossing Federal and Tribal land.
- Reduce and try to eliminate deaths of undocumented aliens.
- Seek the necessary funding to accomplish the goals and objectives of this plan.

Subject to the availability of funds and workforce, the signatories have primary responsibility for implementing the actions identified in this plan and ensuring that the goals and objectives are met.

As the Coordinated Plan attests, effective collaboration, coordination and communication are key to helping ensure the success of natural and cultural resource management and community development along the United States-Mexico border region. The SWS BTT helps facilitate effective partnership among SWS members and other stakeholders on natural and cultural resource issues.

For information on the SWS BTT and the SWS in general, please visit the SWS web site at www.swstrategy.org.

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Chief, CREO ---------- **Bart Ives**

Mission: The CREO supports the Army and DoD mission through coordination, communication and facilitation of environmental activities at state and regional levels. The Army REOs are part of a DoD Regional Environmental Coordination network in which the Army, Air Force and Navy each has lead responsibility for mission implementation in the 10 Standard Federal regions. For the U.S. Army, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health has DoD executive agent responsibility for four of those regions (4, 5, 7, and 8). The other six are assigned to the Air Force and Navy. The CREO has DoD Regional Environmental Coordinator responsibility for Region 7 and Army Regional Environmental Coordinators for Regions 6 & 7. For more information on DoD Regional Environmental Coordinators and their activities please visit their website at **https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/Partner/REC/rec.html**.

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