

Public Works

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The poster features a textured, light brown background with several large, vibrant green leaves scattered across it. In the upper left, a solar panel array is visible. In the center, a person wearing a green protective suit and a respirator mask is working. The text 'ARMY EARTH DAY 2016' is prominently displayed in a bold, green, sans-serif font. Below this, the slogan 'SUSTAIN THE MISSION • SECURE THE FUTURE' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font, followed by the tagline 'The Readiness of the Army Depends On It' in an italicized, black, sans-serif font. The U.S. Army logo, a white star on a black square with a yellow border, is positioned in the bottom right corner, with the text 'U.S. ARMY' in white on a black rectangular background below it.

ARMY
EARTH DAY
2016

SUSTAIN THE MISSION • SECURE THE FUTURE

The Readiness of the Army Depends On It





MEDCOM sustainability efforts continue forward momentum

by Elizabeth Keysar, Kathy Lahaye and Karrie Fristoe

The United States Army Medical Command's sustainability program is continuing to mature and grow, building on lessons learned and formalizing requirements to address accountability and reporting challenges.

The Army Medical Command began its sustainability journey in 2008 when it developed its Army Medical Command Sustainability Action Plan, which described the goals and strategy to achieve them. As part of the strategy, the command conducted sustainability workshops at 29 locations, training personnel and establishing "Green Teams" at each location. The training workshop produces a sustainability action plan for each facility with specific goals applicable to that location. This type of "bottom up" approach has been shown to be critical for successful implementation of sustainability efforts, as each location needs to take active ownership for desired outcomes to be achieved.

The command's experience has shown the teams are not sufficient in and of themselves, however. Sustainability efforts continue to vary greatly from one location to the next and the command headquarters is challenged to analyze progress and identify actions to enhance the program.

Annual sustainability data calls proved cumbersome and difficult to complete by the Health Readiness Platforms, also formerly called Military Treatment facilities. Furthermore, it has been difficult to use the reported data to track progress and identify success stories, best practices and areas in need of improvement.

To address these challenges and continue its forward momentum, the command recently - initiated two essential actions -- develop and issue an updated sustainability policy and adopt the Practice Greenhealth annual awards application process as its annual data call. The recently drafted sustainability policy formalizes the purpose, goals, roles and responsibilities for command's headquarters, regions and the Health Readiness Platforms. The policy establishes tools for measuring compliance and will require that regions and facility leadership play a more active role. Accountability through the four regional headquarters, Atlantic, Pacific, Central and Europe, will increase the visibility and reinforce the importance of sustainability throughout the Command. The policy also will establish a new reporting requirement using Practice Greenhealth.

Practice Greenhealth is the nation's leading membership and networking



organization for institutions in the healthcare community that have made a commitment to sustainable, eco-friendly practices. The Army Medical Command has an existing membership in this organization and many Health Readiness Platforms have completed the Environmental Excellence Awards application in past years, with several achieving the "Partner for Change Award" in 2015. Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colorado, received the Greenhealth Emerald Award last year, which is presented to hospitals that demonstrate superior sustainability programs and cross-functional excellence. Given the command's existing relationship with this organization, its focus on healthcare facilities, and the past success in using the application process, the command decided to use this process as its annual sustainability data call beginning this fiscal year with the 29 Health Readiness Platform locations that have Green Teams. In 2017, the command will expand the process to all hospitals, clinics, and stand-alone laboratories that have command authority.

There are many reasons this was the right decision. Practice Greenhealth is focused on the healthcare community, making its tools and expertise well-suited to the command's unique mission. Practice Greenhealth not only provides the application and awards program, it also conducts detailed analysis of all entries

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(USAG Bavaria, continued from page 31)

for the garrison and ultimately lower energy costs.

In addition to these outstanding environmental sustainability achievements, USAG Bavaria Hohenfels installation received the Fiscal Year 2014 Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Individual Award for Energy Efficiency/ Energy Management. The team developed and implemented several effective low and no cost energy conservation measures during that fiscal year, which resulted in a combined annual savings of \$426,000.

USAG Bavaria has continued to demonstrate not only operational

excellence in support of the warfighter but also implement a robust and innovative environmental program. The installation is leading the way in Europe by meeting and often exceeding promulgated environmental program requirements, ensuring collaboration with local host nation authorities, and providing Soldiers the best training facilities possible.

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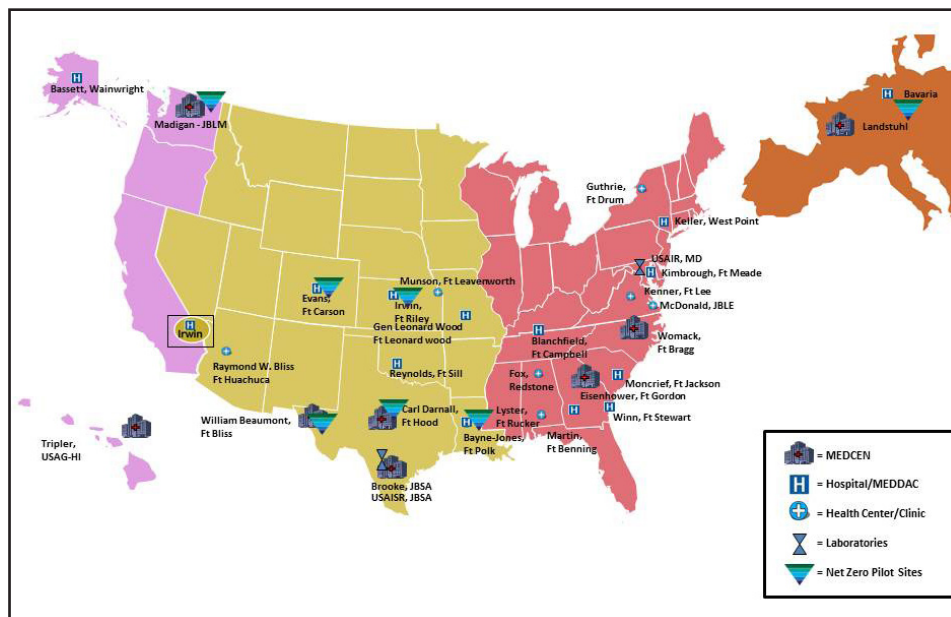


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each year, producing a database of industry sustainability information and providing the command's headquarters summary reports by location and region, as well as a command-level summary.

Practice Greenhealth also uses its database management expertise to provide a report card of key sustainability metrics that allows Health Readiness Platforms to compare their performance against like institutions, enabling sustainability performance to be far more meaningful for the individual Health Readiness Platforms. For example, Practice Greenhealth's application includes items like "Greening the Operating Room" and "Making Medicine Mercury-Free" recognition. Army Medical Command Health Readiness Platforms now will be able to benchmark their progress against like institutions, and each year the "industry best practice" will continue to improve, keeping the command's relevant targets as it seeks continual improvement.

Practice Greenhealth metrics are compatible with those required by the Department of Defense Strategic Sustainability Plan and Department of the Army sustainability requirements, such as energy use intensity, water use intensity, solid waste reduction and guiding principles for sustainable design. Practice



Army Medical Command facilities that received on-site sustainability training along with the Army's designated Net-Zero sites. (U.S. Army Graphic)

Greenhealth provides training on the application process with experts available to address questions, and will modify its application in future years to accommodate some of the unique requirements for federal agencies. The medical command will continue to leverage Practice Greenhealth's expertise as it reviews last year's data and expands the reporting requirement to the entire command.

The Army Medical Command also has learned that sustainability success is closely tied to the sustainability efforts of its host installations. Energy, water and waste information is often collected for the installation as a whole, so the Health Readiness Platform must work closely with their host Directorates of Public Works to accurately document energy and water use, utility costs and solid waste disposal tonnage.

Even more critical, several of the required sustainability goal areas will require Army Medical Command facilities to support the installation goals, as the command cannot individually implement the necessary actions. For instance, renewable energy development typically

will require infrastructure and planning efforts in coordination with the installation and its utility provider. As a tenant, the medical command seeks to actively collaborate with its hosts for sustainability success. Its new sustainability policy specifically recognizes and encourages active collaboration. The formalization of program goals, roles and responsibilities is a critical enabler for the Army Medical Command's continued momentum in sustainability implementation.

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| 2015 Practice Greenhealth Award Winners | |
|--|---|
| Greenhealth Emerald Award: | Evans Army Community Hospital (ACH), Fort Carson |
| Circle of Excellence in Energy: | Bassett ACH, Fort Wainwright |
| Greenhealth Partner for Change Award: | Carl R Darnall Army Medical Center (AMC), Fort Hood Madigan AMC, Joint Base Lewis McChord Bassett ACH, Fort Wainwright Bayne-Jones ACH, Fort Polk Blanchfield ACH, Fort Campbell Reynolds ACH, Fort Sill Winn ACH, Fort Stewart |