

Garrison receives environmental award

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U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder
Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder was recognized for its environmental initiatives on June 7 at a ceremony in Mainz by the Rheinland Pfalz Ministry for Environment, Forest and Consumer Protection (Ministerium für Umwelt, Forsten und Verbraucherschutz).

The garrison was one of five organizations recognized by the ministry. An independent jury, comprised of representatives from trade associations, the chamber of commerce, communal association of councils, media outlets and the ministry for environmental protection had to consider numerous applications in order to make their selection.

"The United States Army Garrison Baumholder is very honored by this award that recognizes our commitment to the environment as partners with the City of Baumholder and the State of Rheinland-Pfalz. It is very clear for us in our role as the overseeing organization for

US Forces in Baumholder that we act consistently to sustain our resources and save energy for the host nation, the U.S. tax payer, and our future generations," said Lt. Col. (P) Paul Pfahler, U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder commander.

The award focused on Baumholder's efforts to reduce the amount of energy and the amount of water the garrison uses.

"For the future, we look forward to furthering our partnership with the City of Baumholder in their 'Energy City Baumholder 2020' initiative and in implementing several ambitious projects that will improve the sustainability of our resources and the environment," said Pfahler.

Last year Baumholder consumed approximately 100 million kilowatts of heating energy, 33 million kilowatts of electrical energy and more than 1.3 million cubic meters of water. "Since then we have made significant reductions in these areas, which are in line with both U.S. federal law and Presidential Orders that call for a



Ministry photo

Margit Conrad, Rheinland Pfalz minister for environment, forest and consumer protection, presents Lt. Col. Paul (P) Pfahler, U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder commander, a special award for environmental initiatives May 7 at a ceremony in Mainz.

3 percent annual reduction in our energy use from 2006 to 2015 and a 2 percent annual reduction in our water usage from 2005 to 2015," he said.

Baumholder also has several projects on the drawing board that will harness the natural

energy of the sun and the wind and implement the environmental benefits of converting from natural gas to biomass.

Garrison environmental personnel are currently determining the design and installation location for 530 solar panels

that will eventually generate 90 kilowatts of energy. "We plan to place these on suitable but prominent locations so that our community members as well as our German neighbors witness our efforts. We will also continue to work with OIE Energy of Idar-Oberstein to convert our heating plant from natural gas to biomass," said Pfahler.

The garrison is also exploring the installation of a water turbine in the dam of the waterworks in Hoppstaedten that will provide enough electrical power to fully operate the garrison's plant there. "Finally, we are investigating the possibility of generating electricity with wind power on parts of our over 720 hectare of Garrison property," said Pfahler.

"I would like our host nation friends to know that the US Army Garrison Baumholder will continue its efforts toward improving our environmental standing within this beautiful country. We remain committed to this effort, as we stand side by side with our German hosts, to make all our lives better now and in the future," said Pfahler.