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## **Fort Hood offers E-85, biodiesel for GSA fleet**

**by Christine Luciano, DPW Environmental Outreach Coordinator**

**August 27, 2009**

When Soldiers and civilians go to the pump to fuel up, they can now use cleaner burning fuel that emits less pollution and helps save the Army money. The Fort Hood Directorate of Logistics and Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division are making large strides to support the use of alternative fuels in the Department of Defense.

Four years ago, DOL and DPW partnered to develop a project and establish the infrastructure for Ethanol 85 and biodiesel at Fort Hood. E85 is an alcohol based fuel mixture that typically contains a mixture of up to 85 percent denatured fuel ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. Biodiesel is a mixture of low-sulfur diesel and renewable oil such as soybean oil and vegetable oil.

"Fort Hood fleet vehicles are required to use this alternative fuel because of mandates by Executive Order 13423 and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. These mandates require General Services Administration to buy flex-fuel vehicles for non tactical use and to use the alternative fuel if it is available," Robert Kennedy, Fort Hood Air Program Manager, said. "Fort Hood's overall air sustainability goal is to reduce the impact on regional air quality from all sources, including mobile sources. For this area the primary source of pollution are our vehicles, so if we can do anything to reduce our emissions from mobile sources, that will help meet our overall goal."

A fuel optimization evaluation was conducted on the infrastructure of the automated fuel service station. "The evaluation determined the infrastructure lacked the needed equipment and distribution channels to support E-85 and biodiesel," Sally Jo Hahn, an environmental consultant, said. "To overcome this challenge, Fort Hood worked with the Defense Energy Support Center to fund and make required capital improvements to support alternative fuels."

The DESC manages the procurement and distribution of fuel for all branches of the armed forces. "The DESC established the infrastructure and the associated costs to help Fort Hood expand its available fuels from JP8, gasoline unleaded, and ultra-low-sulfur diesel to also E85 and biodiesel," Brent Hemenway, Installation Fuels Officer, said.

The automated fuel service station, located at Clark Road and Logistics Lane, now includes four E85 dispensers and four biodiesel dispensers available for the GSA fleet. Of the 1,320 total GSA fleet vehicles fueled at Fort Hood, 668 can use alternative fuel, or 51 percent of

the fleet, Kennedy said.

Each GSA vehicle has an associated vehicle identification link key that is encoded with the customer's billing information. "The automated billing process is efficient. Customers insert their VIL keys at the pump to activate and start it," Hemenway said. "The VIL keys track charges on the vehicles and the customers are billed within 48 hours through a DoD finance system."

"With the support of DESC, DOL, and DPW, Fort Hood can now service the GSA fleet with alternative fuel capabilities," Bob Bishop, Director of Logistics, said. "This will save the Army more than \$100,000 during the first year."

Hemenway emphasized alternative fuels are a part of Fort Hood's sustainability initiative and reducing dependency on oil. "Providing the GSA fleet with E85 and biodiesel will help reduce the use of petroleum-based fuels, and reduce our impact on the environment."