

MRF of the Month

The Fort Stewart / Hunter Army Airfield Recycling Center

The first-ever Department of Defense installation to be labeled a Keep America Beautiful affiliate, Fort Stewart / Hunter Army Airfield's (FS/HAAF) recycling center is a seven-year-old MRF processing recyclables generated by the community's 50,000 soldiers, family members and civilian employees. The facility came about after former U.S. President Bill Clinton issued Executive Order 13101, *Greening the Government Through*



Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition, in September 1998. With the MRF's establishment in 2002, an Installation Command Policy Memorandum was also created, which requires all military and civilian personnel working and/or living on the premises to recycle.

Operating under a single-stream approach, materials received at the recycling center arrive from several sources. Commingled recyclables are collected from eight-yard Dumpsters located near barracks, motor pools, administrative offices and business operations buildings, and via a curbside service offered to residents of Fort Stewart's housing areas – homes receive a 95-gallon container for materials. A 40-yard roll-off container, or a 20-yard mess side trailer, is used by military organizations, installation activities and food service establishments for the collection of cardboard, with recycling containers being placed at training ranges as well, for collection during all major training exercises. Besides providing a bulk scrap metal service, the FS/HAAF also

offers a convenience center, where cardboard and commingled materials can be dropped off 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Finally, on-site roll-off containers are used by construction contractors, who, in 2008, diverted approximately 81 percent of the construction and demolition debris generated on-site.

The MRF is configured with two sorting lines, one for commingled containers and one strictly for paper, with each sorter handling an average of approximately two tons of material per day. In 2008, the facility processed 6,641 total tons, with fiber accounting for 2,905 tons and commingled containers 2,305 tons. Presently, there are a dozen full-time civilian workers employed at the FS/HAAF facility, which doesn't include the four additional workers out collecting and delivering material to the facility and the one overseeing the scrap metal processing plant. All FS/HAAF Recycling Center operations are conducted during an eight-hour weekday shift.

According to officials, there are a couple of issues currently affecting processing efforts at the MRF. In addition to limited storage areas being used for the unfortunate stockpiling of processed commodities – like most MRF's, the economic situation is making it hard for the plant to market baled material – the amount of contamination being found in collection containers is increasing as well, with some areas of the installation reporting residue rates as high as 60 percent. However, to combat the issue, assessors are continuously monitoring collection containers and taking corrective action against the units or activities responsible. Additionally, awareness training and briefings are presently being conducted to inform the community of what can and cannot be recycled.

Equipment utilized by the recycling center includes one conveyor, as well as two sorting lines, all manufactured by International Baler Corp. The center also employs the use of four IBC balers and one Level-2 industrial paper shredder, manufactured by HSM Shredder.

*Know of a North American-based MRF that you feel *Resource Recycling* readers should know about? If so, e-mail your recommendation, with hi-resolution pictures, to justin@resource-recycling.com, and your facility may just be highlighted in a future "MRF of the Month" column.



Technical Specifications*

The Fort Stewart / Hunter Army Airfield Recycling Center

Location:

Fort Stewart, Georgia
Multi-Material MRF

Start-up Date:

2002

Number of Processing

Lines: Two

Throughput:

Tons per day: 25-27

Commingled

containers: 10-14

Fiber: 12-16

Tons per year: 6,641 (2008)

Approximate tons of material processed in 2008

Commingled

containers: 2,305

Fiber: 2,905

FS/HAAF recycling rate:

30 percent

2007-2008 Materials Processing and Recycling in the United States: Yearbook and Directory

5th Edition — Print or CD-ROM

The 1,300 page Yearbook is the only comprehensive guide to Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in the United States, providing information on 583 operating, planned and shut projects. A nationally recognized resource, it provides a strategic analysis of the post-consumer recycling industry and a database of U.S. Material Recovery Facilities. It is an invaluable reference tool for solid waste decision makers, planners, consultants, and organizations interested in the present and future of recycling.

Governmental Advisory Associates, Inc.

203.226.3238 • 203.226.3239 (fax) • gaa@governmentaladvisory.com • www.governmentaladvisory.com

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