

ITAM program maintains trails, rehabs impact areas

Did you know Fort Sill's Integrated Training Area Management program is working to provide sustainable military training by rehabilitating damaged areas?

With 94,000 acres of training rangeland and cantonment area, Fort Sill is the largest field artillery training complex in the world and provides the U.S. Army with one of its most valuable resources — an installation with enough land to support tactical maneuvers by heavy artillery and light support vehicles.

Fort Sill's ITAM team has started a program of long range planning to keep pace with soil erosion, trail degradation and rehabilitate land impacted by training.

The purpose of this effort is to support Fort Sill's unique training mission and preserve, or improve, to the

land, to the extent practicable, in concert with training.

The focus of ITAM's land rehabilitation and maintenance program here is to repair areas of severe soil erosion using best management practices. These practices include shaping and/or filling gullies and constructing diversions that reduce water velocity and remove water from areas of high erosion. Diversion construction consists of removing and stockpiling topsoil, building the diversion and spreading the topsoil back onto the area.

Most diversions built on Fort Sill hold water and serve as sediment ponds to decrease amounts of soil lost from degraded areas. Although holding water is not necessary to control erosion in most instances, the ITAM program at Fort Sill prefers this approach. In



Did you know?

By Col. Raymond Lacey
Fort Sill Garrison commander

addition to retarding soil loss, building water diversions creates small wetland habitats, a unique and important outcome of these efforts.

But the size of the wetland habitat is not as important as the fact that they are being created in the first place.

Wetlands are vital areas that constitute a productive and invaluable resource. Not only are they important for protecting areas from erosion, storing flood waters and trapping sediments and pollutants thereby improving water quality, but they

provide fish and wildlife habitats and are recharge sources for maintaining ground water supplies.

It has been found that within one growing season after constructing diversions, wetland plant species sprout from the seed bank or are carried in by wildlife. These wetlands are used regularly by all types of wildlife, including white-tailed deer, elk, coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, opossums, skunks, armadillos, feral pigs and a plethora of amphibian and bird species.

Over the last 200 years, wetlands disappeared at a

rate of more than 58,000 acres per year. This constitutes a loss of more than 60 acres of wetlands per hour during this time. In the 1780s, Oklahoma contained almost 3 million acres of wetlands; in the 1980s, less than 1 million acres remained. This provides some perspective as to the necessity of increasing wetlands.

To this end, Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, and the Clean Water Act are clear demonstrations of the importance placed on wetlands. Both require no net wetland losses on federal lands in the United States, thus making the Army an important steward of such resources.

Through the ITAM program at Fort Sill, soil erosion is being controlled. In addition, wetlands have actually increased each year with the

construction of diversions that hold water and evolve into wetlands. In the last seven years, the ITAM's LRAM program has repaired nearly 650 hazardous erosion gullies by building 11 miles of diversions and waterways, creating about 10.5 acres of wetlands.

Fort Sill's ITAM program is continually working to improve degraded land to improve Soldiers' training while sustaining the environment for a secure future.

To reach me

To send questions or comments to me, please e-mail fcms@conus.army.mil or you can mail your comments to Commander, USAG-Fort Sill, 462 Hamilton Road, Suite 120, Fort Sill, OK 73503.

Thanks and have a great Fort Sill day.

Sill shorts

Legal office closed

The legal assistance and claims office is closed Tuesday. Normal hours will resume Wednesday. For more information, call 442-3034.

Graduation

The annual Graduation Recognition Event is April 29 at 7 p.m. at Kerwin Auditorium in Snow Hall. The event recognizes graduates of the on-post universities and several from off-post. For more information, call 442-2184.

ID card closed

The ID card facility is closed May 20 for required training. The Network Enterprise Center, Building 652, Room 200 will be available to reset PINs that day.

For more information, call 442-6679.

Recycle orientation

The public is invited to a recycle orientation the third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the recycle center conference room, 3330 Sheridan Road. For more information, call 442-5712.

DA photos

Appointments must be made for all Department of the Army official photos using the Visual Information Ordering Online Systems at <https://www.vios-west.army.mil> for CAC users or www.vios-akowest.army.mil for non-CAC holder who have an AKO account. No walk-ins are

accepted. For more information, call 442-8127.

Tax assistance still available

Although the 2009 tax filing deadline has passed, tax help is available year-round through the legal assistance office. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 442-3526/1337/6754/6445.

Personnel

The military personnel division is open all training holidays and closed all federal holidays. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except for the ID card section which is by appointment only Monday, Tuesday,

Wednesday and Friday. Thursday is walk-in day. For more information, call 442-5010.

Behavioral health

The Behavioral Health Science clinic is in Building 2442 on Crane Road. Walk-in and Sick Call hours are 8-11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.

TRICARE rumors

Recent e-mail rumors have said TRICARE costs and benefits will be affected under new health reform. There will be no cuts in benefits, no new TRICARE taxes and no increased costs due to health reform, according to Matthew Flavin, Veterans and Wounded Warrior Policy director.

Road closure

Lubberman Road in the 300 area is closed permanently from Corral Road to Knox Road to construct the new Artillery Park. For more information, call 442-5746.

Extinguishers

Fort Sill building managers are reminded the minimum requirement is a 10-pound Type ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher. For more information on the regulations, call 442-1626.

H1N1

The H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccinations are still available at Reynolds Army Community Hospital. The vaccines are handled on an individual basis in the immunization clinic.

the Cannoneer

The Cannoneer is an authorized publication of the Department of Defense. All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Fort Sill Public Affairs Office. Contents of the Cannoneer are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government or the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Fort Sill Public Affairs officer.

Publisher Commanding General Maj. Gen. David D. Halverson
Public Affairs Officer Jon Long
Cannoneer staff

Editor Keith Pannell
Journalist James Brabenec
Journalist Jeff Crawley
Journalist Marie Berberea
Journalist Vacant
DFMWR journalist Monica Wood
Contract journalist Courtney Griggs

For news tips and feature items, e-mail cannoneersill@conus.army.mil or contact: Public Affairs Office, the Cannoneer, 455 McNair Ave. Suite 118, Fort Sill, OK 73503-5100, or call 580-442-5150. Deadline to submit

announcement and other information is close of business Thursday before the following Thursday's issue.

Printed every Thursday as an offset civilian enterprise publication by the Lawton Publishing Co., Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army under exclusive written contract. Donald S. Bentley and Stephen F. Bentley, co-owners.

The appearance of advertisements in this publication, to include all inserts and supplements, does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication must be

made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to the race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, applicable federal, state or local laws.

A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by the advertiser will result in a refusal to print advertising from that source.

For business and advertising matters, contact the Lawton Publishing Co., P.O. Box 2069, Lawton, OK 73502, or call (580) 353-0620. For classified ads, call 357-9545.

Circulation 12,000 weekly.
E-mail: cannoneersill@conus.army.mil

Hurry In! Offers Expire April 25, 2010

MADE IN THE USA

LESLIE'S SALUTES YOU...

...with 20% OFF Featured Above-Ground Pools!

Good	Better	Best
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6" Krystal Kote Steel Ledge 5" Krystal Kote Steel Uprights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7" Texture Kote Steel Ledge 6" Texture Kote Steel Uprights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9" Texture Kote Steel Ledge 7.5" Texture Kote Steel Uprights
<p>12 Round \$599.99</p> <p>24 Round \$1,103.99</p> <p>15' x 30' \$1,399.99 after discount</p>	<p>12 Round \$759.99</p> <p>18 Round \$999.99</p> <p>18' x 33' \$2,463.99 after discount</p>	<p>12 Round \$959.99</p> <p>24 Round \$1,663.99</p> <p>12' x 24' \$2,319.99 after discount</p> <p><i>Fencing and decks sold separately</i></p>

Freestyle

Starting at **\$599.99** after discount

Ambassador

Starting at **\$759.99** after discount

Admiral

Starting at **\$959.99** after discount

With Over 600 Stores Nationwide our buying power allows us to offer you outstanding pools at great prices!

15% off Equipment Pkgs. Starting at **\$229.99** after discount

- A. Sand Filter System 42-230
- B. D.E. Filter System 42-237
- C. Cartridge Filter System 42-216

15% off Ladders Starting at **\$67.99** after discount

- A. Deluxe A-Frame Ladder 43-371
- B. In-Pool Ladder 28-209
- C. Pool Step System 28-550
- D. Entry System 28-199

We sell Spas! Starting at **\$2799** after discount

G-44 Jet Sandstone Millstone

Revolutionary Spa

- 6 position spa with 44 stainless steel jets
- 220 convertible
- 4kw heater
- FREE ozonator
- FREE cover

Visit your neighborhood Leslie's & save today!

LESLIE'S

Store Hours:
Mon-Sat 9:00am - 7:00pm
Sun 10:00am - 5:00pm

WICHITA FALLS
3921 KEMP BLVD.
ACROSS FROM THE SIKES CENTER
940-691-9696

LAWTON
4011 N.W. CACHE RD.
NEXT TO BIG 5
580-355-5415

Offers Expire 4/25/2010. Limits and restrictions apply. Discounts cannot be combined with other offers, are not valid on prior purchases, and are valid with ad only which must be presented at time of purchase. We reserve the right to correct typographical errors. ©2010 Leslie's Poolmart, Inc.

Pool Care Made Easy

1-800-LESLIES (537-5437) • lesliespool.com

Military Discount