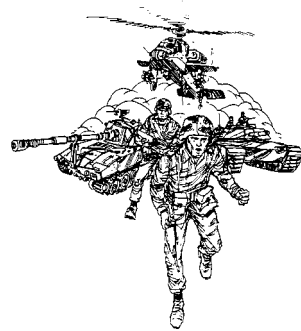


THE SOLDIER AND THE ENVIRONMENT: SOLDIERS' ENVIRONMENTAL ETHIC AND RESPONSIBILITY CARD

A soldier's guide to responsible conduct for respecting America's natural resources.



DISTRIBUTION: United States (US) Army Training Support Centers (TSCs).

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Headquarters, Department of the Army

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INTRODUCTION

Environmental protection has become a major concern to Americans. Over the past couple of generations, we have realized that our natural resources must be protected if we are to pass this heritage along to our children and grandchildren.

Army commanders will not tolerate the lack of concern toward protecting the land, air, and water resources *loaned* to the Army by the American people. If soldiers are not good environmental stewards, the results of their actions could be costly, ill-advised, and wrong.

THE ARMY'S ENVIRONMENTAL VISION

"The Army will integrate environmental values into its mission in order to sustain readiness, improve the soldier's quality of life, strengthen community relationships, and provide sound stewardship of resources."

*General Dennis Reimer
Army Chief of Staff*

THE ARMY'S ENVIRONMENTAL ETHIC

"We will take care of the environment because it is the right thing to do."

Training Circular (TC) 3-34.489

THE SOLDIER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Taking care of the environment protects your health and safety, as well as our natural resources. For example, when fuel is spilled on the ground, it soaks into the soil, poisons the plants, and eventually enters the streams and lakes that supply drinking water. (See FM 3-100.4 for additional information.)

THE ARMY'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

The Army has recognized that protecting the environment is the right thing to do; therefore, it has instituted its environmental-protection program in order to meet its responsibilities under the law.

The Army's environmental-protection program is broken down into the following four areas:

- **Compliance.** Attain and sustain compliance with environmental regulations at all Army installations and during Army operations.
- **Restoration.** Repair damage to the environment caused by Army operations as quickly as possible.
- **Prevention.** Prevent or reduce pollution at its source to lessen future problems.
- **Conservation.** Conserve and preserve natural and cultural resources within the Army's control for future generations.
- This program is illustrated by using a model of a building with a foundation and four pillars (Figure 1). The pillars are compliance, restoration, prevention, and conservation, which support the vision of environmental stewardship. This strategy is founded on a bedrock of shared national values, which support the foundation. Across the foundation is the Army's tradition of leadership, which links the foundation blocks together and provides a sound footing for the four pillars.

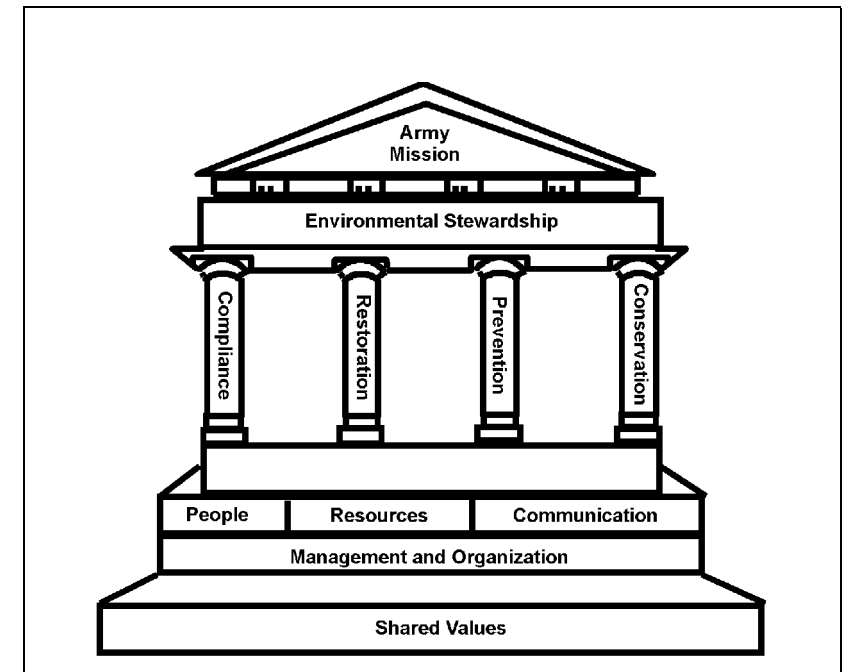


Figure 1. The Army's Environmental-Strategy Model

NOTE: Most soldiers do not have any restoration responsibilities. However, to make the installation a safer place for soldiers and their families, the Army is cleaning up its contaminated sites. By following the principles under the other three environmental pillars, soldiers can help the Army eliminate the need for a restoration pillar.

SOLDIERS AND THE ARMY'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

As a soldier, you fit into the Army's environmental program by—

- Realizing that it is your personal and professional responsibility to support the Army's environmental program.
- Performing tasks in compliance with the environmental standing operating procedures (SOPs) in your unit.
- Asking yourself before you perform the tasks, "What will be the effect on the environment?"
- Using common sense in the absence of instruction from the chain of command to determine what is right from what is wrong.
- Supporting the unit's recycling program.
- Taking the Army's environmental vision to heart while you are performing your job, while you are off-duty, and while you are living in family housing.

POLLUTION PREVENTION: A KEY CONCEPT

Pollution prevention is defined as preventing waste from being generated in the first place, and all pollution is a waste. You may prevent pollution by—

- Performing your job carefully. Small drips add up to pollute streams, lakes, and local drinking water sources. Use only the amount of hazardous material (HM) necessary to do a job—any more creates unnecessary hazardous waste (HW).
- Reusing items instead of throwing them away. Use both sides of your notepaper instead of only one side. Reuse cleaning products, rags, and absorbents used to clean spills, whenever possible. Check with other units to see if they have a use for any unneeded items.
- Recycling hazardous materials, such as solvents and coolants. Return used parts and assemblies to your supply facility for

rebuilding or recycling. Participate in your unit's recycling program.

Listed below are further examples of how you can show initiative and reduce pollution on your own.

- Turning off unneeded power-consuming devices.
- Preventing spills by observing safe working practices.
- Responding properly to spills in the workplace.
- Using drip pans to contain fluid leaks from equipment.
- Selecting products that have refillable containers.
- Selecting recycled products, when possible.
- Recycling paper, aluminum cans, batteries, pavement, scrap metal, and such, in the workplace and at home.
- Purchasing products that are easily recycled.

You can be involved in pollution prevention activities without even being aware of it. Pollution prevention may already be "built in" as part of your job routine. Recommendations for changes in a process, or in materials used, that led to reduced pollution have been made by soldiers in the past. Changes in your work may have already been identified. Changes like these, when approved, will make everyone's job easier and save money.

Pollution prevention recommendations generally involve the following areas:

- Substituting nonpolluting products for a hazardous one.
- Using a different cleaning process, such as mechanical versus chemical.
- Filtering and reusing solvent cleaner.
- Prolonging the life of lubricants through enhanced filtering.
- Recovering energy from used petroleum, oils, and lubricants (POL) products by burning.
- Processing changes.
- Procuring substitute products that eliminate the need for ones currently being used.

If you know of a better way to perform your job with less pollution, then submit your ideas through your local Army Ideas for Excellence program.

CONSIDERATIONS

HM and HW Handling/Spills

Before working with HM or HW, you must have received special training. This training will enable you to handle, properly store, and accumulate these products and to respond to spills according to the requirements of your workplace.

When using chemicals or POL products, carefully follow your leader's instructions and the unit's SOPs. Without special training, your only response to spills should be to protect yourself, warn others, and report the spill through the chain of command.

Reporting Environmental Incidents

If you witness a spill or other environmental damage, immediately report the *what, where, who, how, when, and why* to your chain of command.

Obtaining Environmental Training

General environmental awareness has been integrated into your professional development courses. For special training requirements and important local considerations, consult with your environmental compliance officer and your chain of command.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

It is recommended that you read FM 3-100.4 and TC 3-34.489 for additional information.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Environmental compliance officer:

Installation environmental office:

Range control: