



Letterkenny 'building, buying, going' green

By JIM HOOK Senior writer

The Army wants to measure and then cut greenhouse gas emissions at 12 installations, including Letterkenny Army Depot.

"We're building green, buying green and going green," Army deputy secretary assistant secretary for environment, safety and occupational health Tad Davis said on Friday.

The Army will share its lessons with other branches of the military as it measures the size of its carbon "footprint," according to Davis. Defense is by far the largest user of energy in the federal government.

"At some point in time the federal government is going to be asked to play a leadership role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions," he said. "We in the federal government, like others, may be held accountable for reductions."

Greenhouse gas emissions have been linked to global warming.

"The DOD clearly recognizes that climate change is now one of the most dangerous adversaries we face in the 21st century, and I'm proud that the Army has gotten into the fight." said Lawrence Goldenhersh, president and CEO of software supplier Enviance.

The process of reducing greenhouse gas is also about relying less on foreign energy and making use of renewable sources, Davis said.

"If the U.S. Army thinks it's important to do with two wars going on, that sends a signal it's an important endeavor," Davis said. "We're serious about it."

The Army is expanding a project piloted at Fort Carson, Colo., in 2005. The project was in accordance with an executive order by then President George W. Bush. Software by California-based Enviance tracks and manages greenhouse gas emissions. Emissions of on-base activities are calculated as well as suppliers to the installation and travel by base personnel.

Davis said the Fort Carson project has been expanded to include a representative group of Army installations -- including Letterkenny, training bases and National Guard sites.

A Letterkenny spokeswoman said on Friday the depot had no details about the project. Letterkenny is Franklin County's largest employer and the biggest user of natural gas and electricity of the authority serving the Cumberland Valley Business Park. The depot stores ammunition and assembles, paints and repairs Army vehicles and missile systems.

Eventually all installations will use the methodology to measure their carbon footprint.

The greenhouse gas project runs parallel with the Army's effort to manage energy, water and

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other environmental resources.

"We don't have a single version we use army wide," Davis said. "Each installation develops a system of their own."

Davis is looking to certify a single system for all installations and deploy it within five years.

Managing the carbon footprint eventually could help soldiers in combat areas by saving fuel and other supplies.

"By reducing requirements for re-supply, we are able to reduce the number of convoys, a primary target for ambushes taking place in Iraq and Afghanistan," Davis said.

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