Earth Week 2007 Events at the U.S. Army Garrison Mannheim, Germany

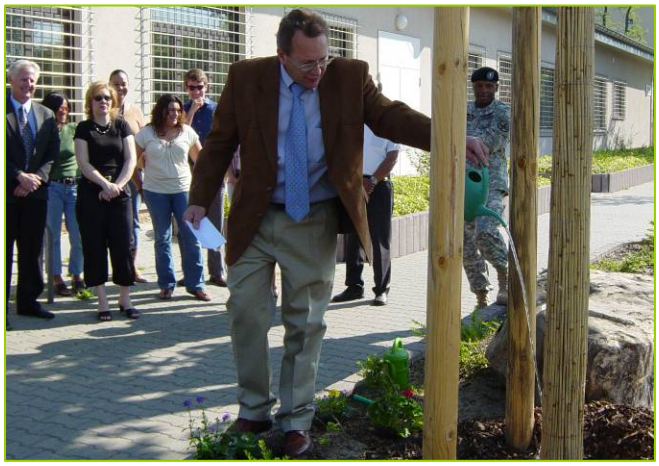
from Monday 23 through Friday 27 April

Earth Day Theme "Sustaining the Environment for a Secure Future"

Earth Day Tree Dedication and Flower Planting Ceremony

The Earth Day Tree 2007 of the Mannheim Military Community is a common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The Common Ash is a 20-35m tall tree, native to most of Europe.

Tree is watered with Miracle grow.



Flowers are planted around the tree.

Environmental Awareness Training at Schools

The Environmental Management Division visited the Mannheim Military Community's schools during Earth Week to talk about Recycling, Energy and Water Conservation.

Environmental Field Trips

Together with the schools, the Environmental Management Division organized various field trips to places of environmental interest.

Field Trip to the Incineration and Biomass Plant

What happens to our refuse? 5,000 tons of non-recyclable refuse from the Mannheim Military Community is burnt at the incinerator each year.

Field Trip to Yellow Bag Plant at Lachen / Speyerdorf

In 1990, Germany launched the so-called "yellow-bag" system. The idea is to collect, sort and recycle packaging material to reduce the amount of refuse. Approximately 250 tons of "yellow bag waste" such as packaging material made out of plastic, metal, and composites are collected and recycled from the Mannheim Military Community per year.

Field Trip to Heye Glas at Germersheim

The children could see in the glass works how recycled glass is melted and blown into new glass bottles.

Field Trip to Water Works Käfertal

At the water works Käfertal, which provides 40% of the water supply to the city of Mannheim including the USAG Mannheim, ground water is cleaned to provide drinking water.

Field Trip to “Forsthaus Taubensuhl” in the Palatine Forest

High School kids had fun in the forest, learning how to use a “Forest Telephone” and about the valuable resources and functions the forest provides.

Earth Day Contest and Win a Trip to Paris!

The winner of the Earth Day contest.

Mannheim Military Community members came up with suggestions, ideas and experiences on how they save electricity, heat and water and on how the Mannheim Garrison recycling program can be improved. From all the suggestions, the winner was determined with a raffle.

Suggestion from Earth Day Contest Winner:

It is a bad habit to leave office doors open. I interviewed several colleagues why they leave their doors open. The answer was: I don't know, everybody else is doing it or our customers/supervisor may have the impression we do nothing or even sleep when doors are closed.

My suggestion:

1. Establish a policy which requires office doors must be kept closed from 01 October until 31 March (or any better date),
2. Provide self adhesive posters which could be attached to the office door stating: This door will be kept closed for energy conservation, don't knock just come in.

I think if we can get this to work we will save a tremendous amount of heating energy.

Earth Day Celebration and Award Ceremony at the Top Hat Club

The Director of Public works presents certificates and coins to the lucky Earth Day Art Contest winners!

All Earth Day Art Contest winners from Mannheim Elementary School, Mannheim Middle School and Mannheim High School.

One of the highlights (not only for the kids):
The 2007 Earth Day Cake