



# SUSTAINMENT AND RESILIENCY DIVISION



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**W**hat does it take to be the most capable, combat-ready reserve force? A focus on training to win the wars of tomorrow and a whole lot of brass to back it up. As a United States Army Reserve (USAR)-funded Installation that enables Total Force readiness through mission related training, Devens Reserve Forces Training Area (RFTA) has recycled over 49.5 tons of spent brass over the past three fiscal years. Now, the USAR-funded Installation is actively working to set up a Qualified Recycling Program (QRP) to not only recycle brass shells, but eventually gain proceeds that can be fed back into the Installation to support critical sustainability and community programs.

Department of Defense (DoD) and Army policies require all Installations to have or participate in a recycling program. A QRP is a special kind of recycling program that complies with specific statutory, regulatory and DoD requirements to collect and sell authorized recyclable scrap materials directly, retaining the sales proceeds for use as prescribed by law and regulations. Specifically, QRP proceeds cover solid waste management overhead including operations, maintenance and the purchase of necessary equipment. It can also be used to pay for required program training. Remaining funds, up to 50 percent of the balance, can be used by the Installation for pollution abatement, energy conservation and occupational safety and health activities. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) on post can also benefit as the remaining balance can be transferred to a non-appropriated account and be spent on MWR activities.

With QRP success at Fort Hunter Liggett, California and Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, the Devens RFTA Directorate of Public Works (DPW) is actively striving to stand up a QRP as part of their Installation's long-term strategic plan. Under the plan's infrastructure line of effort and major objective of ensuring proactive and robust environmental stewardship, implementing a QRP is a short-term action that Devens RFTA hopes to have up and running in the next year.

"There are many implementation steps outlined in the Army's QRP Handbook," explained Anne MacMillan, who serves as an environmental support contractor for Devens RFTA DPW. "We're following the prescribed process and recently two members of our team completed the Air Force Institute of Technology's QRP Management course. Additionally, we're awaiting the final results of a waste characterization study conducted over the last two years and we are working on our QRP business plan.

continued...

# SRD SNAPSHOT

Looking ahead, our immediate next steps include setting up the associated accounting program."

As the implementation continues to take shape, the Devens RFTA DPW maintains momentum through frequent collaboration with the Army Reserve Solid Waste Program team, as well as their DPW counterparts at Fort McCoy for guidance and support. "Our most important piece of advice is that like any startup business, a QRP takes money to make money. A QRP may not be profitable during the first few years of operation," shared Michael Miller, Chief of Water and Waste Branch at Fort McCoy's DPW. "Profits are very market driven and while the value of recycling commodities has significantly decreased in the past few years, Fort McCoy's QRP has generated enough proceeds from past sales to keep the Installation's solid waste and recycling programs operational. As we wait for the market to improve, we're proud to keep our QRP operational. Recycling is one of the best ways to have a positive impact on the world. And I think we all need something to be positive about these days."

Devens RFTA DPW is optimistic in the future success of their QRP. "We understand it will take a while to see any funds," clarified MacMillan. "But in the immediate future, we'll strengthen our waste diversion as part of the overall effort to enhance Devens RFTA's modernization and resilience. As time and staffing permit, we hope to expand the QRP beyond brass. Through our strategic planning efforts, we'll continue to enhance operations for our visiting Soldiers and tenants, and that's what makes us the Installation of choice in New England."

For more information about USAR QRPs, please contact [Tyrone Cook](#), Solid Waste Program Coordinator.

Devens RFTA's training facilities and ranges have hosted over **468 thousand** trainees since FY18.



## NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK



### Did you know this week is National Pollinator Week?

This annual observance is a celebration of what bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles do for our ecosystem.

SRD celebrated #NationalPollinatorWeek with a campaign on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) by sharing facts and practical gardening tips to help reduce pollinator population decline.

### Want to learn more about pollinators?

[Pollinator Partnership](#)

[The Xerces Society](#)

[United States Fish & Wildlife Service](#)

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# SRD SNAPSHOT

## 2020 ENERGY EXCHANGE NOW A VIRTUAL EVENT

The 2020 Energy Exchange scheduled for 10-14 August will now take place virtually. The event will still feature accredited training sessions, as well as virtual plenary sessions, leadership panels, a Trade Show and technology innovation demonstrations. Be sure to add this event to your calendar and visit the [Energy Exchange website](#) for updated information based on the new virtual delivery platform.

## ENERGY AND WATER PROGRAM PROVIDES VIRTUAL FUNDING AND STEP-ENERGY TRAINING

On 19-21 May, the Army Reserve Installation Management Directorate sponsored a series of virtual training sessions for the Energy & Utilities Modernization Program (QUTM) Management Decision Evaluation Package (MDEP) and the Status Tool for Environmental Programs (STEP)-Energy project planning tool. Readiness Divisions (RDs), USAR-funded Installations and the 9th Mission Support Command (MSC) were educated on changes in the QUTM 132 project submission process using the new STEP-Energy web-based enterprise tool.

The STEP-Energy tool not only performs project tracking, but provides the ability for all elements of the USAR to effectively plan energy and water requirements over multiple fiscal years and develop financial and contracting strategies for conservation and resilience projects. This system revolutionizes the USAR's energy and water program's project analysis, management, tracking and reporting capabilities.

The QUTM MDEP manager, Andrew Nimitz, hosted the first session with a refresher on the Army funding process and specifics about the QUTM MDEP. The STEP-Energy developer, Om Group, hosted two subsequent sessions demonstrating STEP-Energy and walking participants through practical examples. After the group trainings were completed, Om Group conducted individual sessions—providing tailored site-specific assistance. Thanks to these efforts, RDs, USAR-funded Installations and the 9th MSC are now trained in the new process to enter energy and water requirements into STEP-Energy, and will be enabled to meet the response needs of future taskers.

For more information about QUTM MDEP and STEP-Energy, please contact [Andrew Nimitz](#), Energy Program Manager.

## PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Across the Army Reserve, DPWs are executing amazing projects and overcoming challenging obstacles — all in the name of resilience and readiness. Help us increase awareness around our initiatives that enable our facilities to remain steadfast in the face of disruptions. If you have an idea for a news article, please contact the SRD Strategic Communicator, [Ashley Bradford](#). Bradford will collect the details, draft the article, facilitate reviews/approvals and submit the article to appropriate publications for their consideration. Articles will also be repurposed for use in SRD Snapshots, on SustainableUSAR social media platforms, as well as the [Army Reserve website](#).



## UPCOMING PROGRAM TELECONFERENCES

### Environmental Leadership Forum

09 July  
1500 - 1630 EST

### Solid Waste Program Teleconference

15 July  
1430 - 1600 EST

### Energy and Water Managers Teleconference

29 July  
1430 - 1600 EST



[www.usar.army.mil/Sustainability](http://www.usar.army.mil/Sustainability)