



DPW BRIEF E-Newsletter

Mitchell Samatua Awarded Civilian Service Achievement Medal

Mitchell Samatua, General Supply Specialist, was recognized for his outstanding commitment to workplace safety and proactive risk management within the Supply Branch and awarded the Civilian Service Achievement Medal. He strengthened the Branch's safety measures through his volunteer roles as the Safety and Alternate Fire Marshal.



His dedicated efforts included writing comprehensive risk assessments for the driver training program and training sessions, which directly contributed to a decrease in potential accidents. Additionally, Mr. Mitchell's commitment to compliance was reflected in his submission of 4283s, ensuring the Branch's facilities adhered to the stringent Standard Army Safety and Occupational Health Inspection standards. He actively fosters safety awareness throughout the Branch. A significant highlight of his work is his collaboration with DPW facility managers and the Fort Hood Fire Department to enhance emergency vehicle access. This initiative will help reduce fire lane obstructions in the Branch's parking lot, thereby improving safety for employees and safeguarding privately owned vehicles during emergencies. Mr. Mitchell's thorough building inspections, which include checking fire extinguisher readiness, showcase his unwavering attention to detail. His contributions have greatly enriched the overall safety environment within the Supply Branch, leading to a reduction in workplace injuries and supporting the Business Operations and Integration Division Chief's safety compliance initiative. His dedication is essential for maintaining a safe and productive work environment.

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Spotlight on Success: DPW Employee of the Quarter



Patrick Rider, Senior Technician for the Operations and Maintenance Division, was selected as the WG Employee of the Quarter. His knowledge of the facilities, HVAC, and complex systems throughout the Central Shop footprint leads to rapid response and repair times. Mr. Rider identified inevitable equipment failures; identified the repair parts/equipment necessary to reduce the impact; developed a plan; and executed missions to provide HVAC for high demand critical facilities. Many times, during a very overwhelming workload, there have been situations where Central Shop's maintenance employees have been dispatched to some difficult troubleshooting, and without hesitation Mr. Rider responds to assisting the techs, minimizing impact on Soldiers and the mission. Mr. Rider goes above and beyond to continuously contribute to the organization's growth, development, and goals. Mr. Rider also took on designing and building a training simulator that outlines troubleshooting a single stage air handler operation. This contribution was accomplished all while maintaining his workload. Mr. Rider always demonstrates a positive go-getter attitude along with genuine care for customers and teammates.

Scott Blonigen, Engineering Technician for the Engineering Division, was selected as the GS Employee of the Quarter. Mr. Blonigen's efforts directly resulted in significant improvements to critical installation infrastructure, enhancing readiness and minimizing disruption to daily operations. He demonstrated a remarkable ability to deliver complex projects on accelerated timelines through the adoption of innovative construction methods. For example, Mr. Blonigen spearheaded the complete reconstruction of Ammunition Road - a critical route leading to the Ammunition Holding Area. By utilizing a new pavement reclamation method, he and his team completed the project between Thanksgiving and Christmas - a task that would typically require 90-120 days. This innovative approach not only drastically reduced the construction timeline but also increased the stability of the roadway's base course to better support the heavy tactical vehicles it serves. In the absence of the Branch Chief, Mr. Blonigen stepped up to lead the Horizontal Branch, demonstrating outstanding leadership and commitment without additional compensation due to the ongoing hiring freeze. Mr. Blonigen fostered a collaborative and results-oriented environment within the Horizontal Branch. His focus on team building empowered his colleagues and drove a high level of productivity.



Honoring Service, Safety & Excellence



Back row from left to right: Mr. Brian Dosa; Gregory St. Dennis, Operations & Maintenance Division (OMD); Scott Blonigen, Engineering Division; Stephan Hall, OMD; Shibo Yu, Real Property & Planning Division (RPPD); and Angel Vaughn, OMD.

Front row from left to right: Ann Hunt, RPPD; Mathew Anderson, OMD; Jordan Herring, OMD; Mitchell Samatua, Business Operations & Integration Division; and Patrick Rider, OMD.

DPW employees were recognized for their dedication through length of service awards, safety achievements, and individual honors. These recognitions highlight DPW's commitment to mission readiness, workplace safety, and outstanding performance across Fort Hood.





Honoring 375 Years of Federal Service & TX Chapter of the American Public Works Association Achievements



Col. Mark McClellan, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Hood commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Loyd Rhoades, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Hood command sergeant major present the 2025 Exceptional Performance Award for Safety from the TX Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) to the Operations & Maintenance Division (OMD) Unit Safety Officers (USOs). From left to right, USOs Nicklaus Papson, Alvin Cooper, Brandon Hartman, John Erdman, and Armando Cardona along with Mr. Brian Dosa accepted the TX Chapter of the APWA Award, Feb. 17.

Col. Mark McClellan, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Hood commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Loyd Rhoades, U.S. Army Garrison-Fort Hood command sergeant major honored decades of dedication and excellence during the Semi-Annual Civilian Employee Recognition Ceremony, Feb. 17. The event recognized civilians with five to 45 years of service and highlighted special awards presented on behalf of the Texas Chapter of the American Public Works Association alongside civilian environmental stewardship achievements.

"I really appreciate everyone being here, all the awardees, thank you for your dedicated service to the country," McClellan said. "I really can't say enough how amazing it is to see the years of service you all dedicated, not just in the installation, but to the United States Army."

The DPW Operations and Maintenance Division received the 2025 Exceptional Performance Award for Safety from the TX Chapter of the APWA, recognizing teams whose contributions elevate public awareness and professional excellence in safety.

Unit Safety Officer John Erdman, engineering technician for OMD Services Branch, said the recognition validates the everyday commitment employees make to protect one another. He credited the division's collaborative approach to maintaining engagement in safe work practices.

"Involving the team by working together to have the culture of shared responsibility," Erdman said. "Every team member can be a great asset as everyone has different knowledge in every aspect, so working

together is an amazing step forward to a great safety culture." Environmental stewardship was another focal point of the ceremony, reinforcing the connection between sustainable practices and operational effectiveness. Kandice Hines, Fort Hood qualified recycling program manager, was awarded the 2025 John Teipel Environmental Excellence Award from the TX Chapter of the APWA for outstanding and meritorious achievement in the environmental field.



Col. McClellan, CSM Rhoades, and Mr. Dosa present the 2025 John Teipel Environmental Excellence Award from the TX Chapter of the APWA to Kandice Hines, Fort Hood Qualified Recycle Program Manager, Feb. 17.

"This recognition truly belongs to the recycle team – every person who picks up, sorts, bails and educates plays a role in our success," Hines said. "This award represents the daily dedication and stewardship of our team who support the installation and the Soldiers we serve."



Col. McClellan, CSM Rhoades, and Mr. Dosa present Alexis Garcia (left) and Benito Flores (right) from OMD with Fort Hood Environmental Stewardship Awards for compliance and sustainable practices that support readiness, Feb. 17.



OMD Team's Fast Actions Protects Heat for More Than 2,400 Soldiers

When winter weather threatened critical heating systems across the installation, the Operations and Maintenance Division responded with speed, precision and teamwork. Their efforts prevented the loss of heat and hot water to thousands of Soldiers living in the 39000 and 87000 barracks blocks. Across two separate incidents, DPW maintenance mechanics from Central Shop and East Shop identified system failures early and restored service within hours, preventing more than 2,400 Soldiers from losing heat. Special thanks to the dedication and commitment of all the professionals who work tirelessly to ensure we meet the mission!



Garth Madere and Bill Hooper, Operations & Maintenance Division (OMD), work to address a leak at the heat exchanger of a mechanical room in the 87000 barracks block.



Patrick Rider, OMD, utilizes the direct digital control system to ensure optimal temperature, pressure and flow.



Left to right: Bill Hooper, Stephen Short, Sean Greene, and Garth Madere from OMD.

“No one pitches a fit about having to help. No matter what their workload is, people step in. And honestly, we keep a good sense of humor while we’re doing it. If you’re not making fun of each other while trying to save the day, you’re not having fun.”

GARTH MADERE,
MAINTENANCE MECHANIC,
OMD

Jesse Encarnacion Recognized as Safety Hero of the Quarter

Jesse Encarnacion, general supply specialist for the Business Operations and Integration Division, was recognized as the Safety Hero of the Quarter for 1st Quarter, FY26. He consistently demonstrated a safety-first mindset in a fast-paced maintenance environment where complacency can easily lead to serious hazards. He proactively prevents risks by maintaining organized workspaces; reducing tripping hazards, unsafe stacking, and blind spots; and ensuring materials are stored and handled correctly. Mr. Encarnacion's operates equipment safely, uses proper lifting techniques, asks for help when needed, and serves as a reliable ground guide during vendor deliveries, even in adverse weather. His attention to detail, situation awareness, and willingness to speak up have directly contributed to a safer workplace and a stronger safety culture across the team.



From right to left, Michael Cruz-Miyasaki, unit safety officer for DPW West Shop, recognizes Jesse Encarnacion, general supply specialist for the Business Operations & Integration Division, as the Safety Hero of the Quarter, Feb. 5.





Public Works Excellence: DPW Team Recognized by TX Chapter of the American Public Works Association

The Fort Hood Directorate of Public Works continues to earn recognition for its commitment to safety, communication and mission readiness. DPW team members received honors from the Texas Chapter of the American Public Works Association, Feb. 3, at the TX-APWA Public Workshop and Equipment Rodeo. The Professional Manager of the Year Award for Grounds and Facilities, was presented to Brian Dosa, director of Public Works at Fort Hood. Dosa was recognized for more than 15 years of exceptional leadership overseeing one of the largest and most complex public works operations in the Department of the Army.

"I am honored to be recognized, as it is a direct reflection on our amazing team and the work we do together to support the Soldiers, units and families of the Great Place," Dosa said. "For more than 15 years it's been my privilege to lead and serve with an amazing team of hard-working professionals who exhibit selfless service each and every day."

Dosa emphasized that leadership and people remain the cornerstone of effective public works management. "The most important thing that we do is leading our team," he said. "Be technically sound but strive to grow and develop as a leader. Caring for your people is essential; your team can only do its job and succeed if you provide leadership, resources and care."

Presented with the Exceptional Performance Award for Journalism and Exceptional Performance Award for Safety, the awards highlight a safety culture built on leadership, teamwork and everyday actions that protect Soldiers, civilians and the public.

Brett Becker, occupational safety and health specialist, DPW Operations and Maintenance Division, was recognized for his contributions to safety communication and program development. His publication of Directorate-wide safety bulletins provides essential information on incident trends, contributing factors, and lessons learned from mishaps, injuries, and recordable accidents.

These bulletins ensure the workforce not only understands the 'who, what, when, where, and why' behind each event, but also gains valuable insight to prevent recurrence.

"This award is very meaningful to me because effective communication plays a critical role in safety," Becker said. "I strive to communicate with our workforce in ways that align with current trends so employees remain informed and aware of activities within the directorate." He emphasized that the recognition reflects the dedication of DPW's workforce, particularly those performing high-hazard jobs under challenging conditions.

"Any success associated with this recognition is a direct reflection of our supervisors, work leads and especially the technicians who perform hundreds of high-hazard jobs every day, often under challenging conditions such as recent freezing weather, while continuing to support the warfighter safely," Becker said. That philosophy is echoed by TC Coffman, occupational safety and health program manager, DPW Safety Office, who was the recipient for Exceptional Performance Award for Safety. Coffman stressed that safety excellence cannot be credited to one individual, but to an organization that truly lives its values.

"This recognition is important because it communicates to a greater population the Army does care about its people - Soldiers and the civilians that support them," he said. "This recognition is not mine alone; it serves as validation that the Directorate of Public Works at Fort Hood, Texas, is doing it right... not perfect, right! That means our DPW teammates have bought into safety and caring for one another and that our leadership is committed to supporting their efforts." Recognition from APWA at both the state and national levels, Coffman added, validates the collective efforts of the DPW team.

"I hope the entire DPW feels the pride I do when we are recognized for taking care of what's most important - life."



Texas Chapter President of the American Public Works Association (APWA), Richard Mendoza, and APWA National President Vic Bienes, present the Professional Manager of the Year Award for Grounds and Facilities to Mr. Brian Dosa, Feb. 3.



TX Chapter President of the APWA, Richard Mendoza, and APWA National President Vic Bienes, present the Exceptional Performance Award for Journalism to Brett Becker, Operations & Maintenance Division, and Christine Luciano, Environmental Division, Feb. 3.



TX Chapter President of the APWA, Richard Mendoza, and APWA National President Vic Bienes, present the Exceptional Performance Award for Safety to TC Coffman, DPW Safety, Feb. 3.





Built-In Safety: How Partnership Protects the Workforce at Fort Hood

Editorial by Daniel Juracek, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District

Strong safety programs rarely come from policy alone. They grow from relationships, shared responsibility, and a commitment to look out for one another. At Fort Hood, that commitment is visible in the harnesses clipped to anchor points, in engineered safeguards on rooftops, and in the conversations that stop a fall before it ever happens.

Fall hazards are part of daily operations across the installation — on rooftops, in mechanical spaces, on construction sites, and in confined areas.

“Managing those risks requires more than compliance checklists. It demands coordination, technical expertise, and trust,” said TC Coffman, occupational and safety health manager, DPW Safety.

For more than 15 years, that’s exactly what the partnership between the Fort Hood Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Safety Office and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District, Central Texas Area Office, has delivered.

The collaboration began during construction of the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center. Early discussions highlighted an opportunity to better protect DPW personnel who routinely work at height. Addressing those risks required a structured fall protection program aligned with AR 385-10 and ANSI Z359 standards.

“By combining DPW’s on-the-ground knowledge with USACE technical expertise, the team built a program that strengthened training, planning, and equipment readiness,” said Benoit Palmer, chief of Safety, USACE Fort Worth District.

Over time, the partnership expanded well beyond fall protection. DPW and USACE worked together to improve confined space entry procedures, hosted installation-wide safety roundtables, and delivered hands-on training.

“Hundreds of employees — from maintenance staff to supervisors and engineers — gained practical knowledge that reshaped how work is planned and executed in the field,” said Coffman.

Safety outreach also grew at the installation level. Joint safety stand-downs, roadshow training events, and broader engagement



Cohesive relationships and open and candid communication are critical to the success of an organization. Daniel Juracek, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District and TC Coffman, DPW Safety Office, exemplify the possibilities associated with fundamentally solid relationships.

increased awareness across Fort Hood. Just as important, the partnership improved communication channels, ensuring critical safety information flows quickly between DPW, USACE, and other stakeholders when conditions change or new risks emerge.

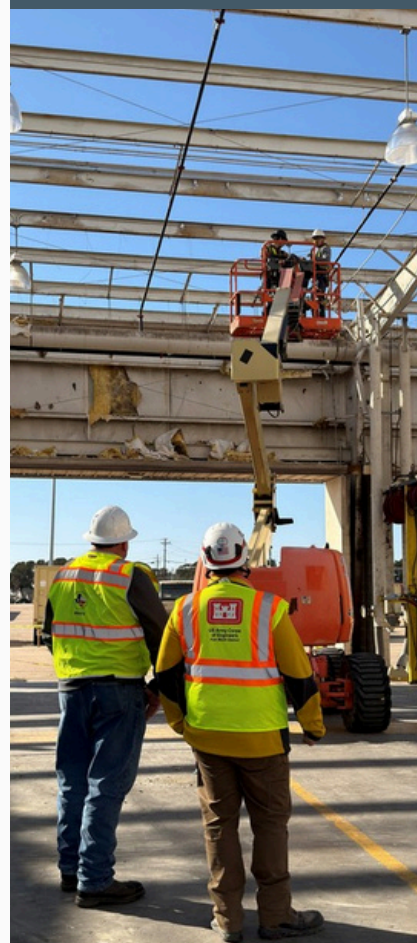
One of the most meaningful outcomes has been a shift from reactive fixes to proactive design. Instead of waiting for hazards to be identified after construction, DPW and USACE now work to design safety features into facilities from the start. Joint assessments have led to permanent controls that reduce risk and limit reliance on human behavior alone — horizontal lifelines, guardrailed platforms, and relocating mechanical equipment to ground level where feasible. For legacy buildings, non-destructive roof anchors provide protection without compromising structural integrity.

“These efforts have positioned Fort Hood as a pilot installation for developing a fall protection model that can inform Army-wide practices,” said Palmer. “By building solutions from real-world conditions and shared expertise, the installation is helping shape a safer standard for others to follow.”

Fall protection may not draw headlines, but it saves lives. At Fort Hood, it also reflects something deeper: a shared commitment to the people who maintain, build, and sustain the installation every day. The partnership between DPW and USACE shows that when safety is built on collaboration, everyone goes home safer.

“By building solutions from real-world conditions and shared expertise, the installation is helping shape a safer standard for others to follow.”

BENOIT PALMER,
CHIEF OF SAFETY,
USACE
FORT WORTH DISTRICT





P2 Services Instrumental in Supporting Mission Readiness



Special thanks to the professionalism and dedication of Hector Nuñez, Darius Redding, Jaime Almendarez, and Harry Rizor from P2 Services, Environmental Division, who were recognized by units for their flexibility and coordination to support mission readiness and success, and received the following positive ICE comments:

"P2 Services has delivered outstanding support to the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team (2ABCT), coordinating and executing services for over 100 pieces of equipment. From the initial contact through the final scheduling, the entire process was seamless and professional. Mr. Garner and his team demonstrated exceptional flexibility and a commitment to mission success. Special recognition is warranted for Mr. Harry Rizor, whose meticulous coordination ensured all units were serviced in a timely manner. The technical expertise and professionalism of technicians Mr. Darius Redding and Mr. Jaime Almendarez were also instrumental to this successful effort and directly contributed to the brigade's equipment readiness."

"I am the 1CD Senior Petroleum and Water Advisor and I would like to personally compliment Team Lead Hector Nunez, Coordinator Harry Rizor, Supervisor Sean Garner and Technicians Darius Redding and Jaime Almendarez for their assistance the past 3 weeks. They ensured 2/1 was a priority for defueling request, and remained patient, professional, knowledgeable, and above all HELPFUL throughout this process. Without them, we would not have accomplished this task and we are beyond grateful for this service. Thank you again for all you do!! First Team!"

"Great work and very hard workers! Would like to recognize the team from P2 Services and their excellent work! Team lead Hector Nunez, Coordinator Harry Rizor, Technicians Darius Redding and Jaime Almendarez and lastly their outstanding Supervisor Sean Garner."



Fort Hood Recycle & DPW Environmental Support Local Outdoor Education & Science Expo

Fort Hood Recycle and Environmental Division team members along with youth volunteers supported the Harker Heights Outdoor Education and Science Expo, Feb. 7. The community event gave team members an opportunity to engage more 120 attendees about the dos and don'ts of recycling, local programs available, and outdoor survival skills.



Back row from left to right back: Kenneth Yeager, Environmental Division and Michael Hight, Fort Hood Recycle.

Front row from left to right: Samari Henry and Jalen Hines, Harker Heights School youth volunteers; Marcial Reyes, Fort Hood Recycle; Christine Luciano, Environmental Division.





WE ARE DPW



Directorate of Public Works, Operations and Maintenance Division's Unit Safety Officers

DPW OMD USO's PRESENT OMD SAFETY RODEO

*This event is for Operations and Maintenance Division personnel only

WHEN: APRIL 16TH, 2026
WHERE: B40001 WEST BAY

TIME: 0730-1500
LUNCH IS PROVIDED

STATION 1
I360°

STATION 2
Rusoh Fire Extinguisher

STATION 3
Safety at Home

STATION 4
HAZCOM

STATION 5
What's Trending

STATION 6
Trailers

DOMINION ENERGY DEMO AT NOON



PLEASE EMAIL ANY QUESTIONS TO BRETT.A.DECKERS.CIV@ARMY.MIL



Fort Hood iSportsman Spring Turkey Hunting Orientation

Come learn how to hunt on Fort Hood and all about its wild Turkey population!

March 6th 2026
3:30 to 4:30 pm
Sportsmen's Center
Bldg. 1937 Rod & Gun Club Loop
Fort Hood, TX 76544



For more information, call Fort Hood iSportsman at 254-535-3295

