

# Sustainability Focus

### SUSTAINABILITY MISSION

Enhance Military Health System readiness and resiliency by safeguarding human health and the environment through the efficient use of resources and on-going process improvement.



### SUSTAINABILITY VISION

We are leaders in delivering worldclass health care solutions with minimal environmental footprint to support those who serve in the defense of our country. We focus on securing a sustainable and resilient future for all.

## DHA SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM OUTING!!

### Contact us at:

Email: [dha.ncr.j-1-8.mbx.fe-sustainability@health.mil](mailto:dha.ncr.j-1-8.mbx.fe-sustainability@health.mil)

Website: <https://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Access-Cost-Quality-and-Safety/Military-Hospitals-and-Clinics/Sustainability>



Photo by Ambrose Rosario

Left to Right: Mr. Ambrose Rosario, Mr. Uzair Iqbal, Mr. Roland Mancha, Dr. Steven Hall, Dr. Anthony Marchi, Mr. Reyes Camacho.

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# Announcements

## Words from the New Chief Sustainability Officer

Hello,

As we bid farewell to COL Dipatrizo, I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible impact she has made during her time as Chief Sustainability Officer of the Defense Health Agency. Her leadership and unwavering dedication to sustainability have set a strong foundation for the DHA's efforts to build a more efficient, resilient, and environmentally responsible health system. Through her vision, COL Dipatrizio has helped advance key initiatives that have not only improved operations but also inspired a culture of sustainability across the entire Military Health System.



Her passion for optimizing processes and reducing waste has moved the DHA closer to fulfilling its strategic goals, and her legacy will undoubtedly continue to influence our work for years to come. As she embarks on her next chapter, we thank COL Dipatrizio for her service, leadership, and commitment to a healthier and more sustainable future. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

As the newly appointed Chief Sustainability Officer of the Defense Health Agency, I am thrilled to collaborate with a dedicated team that shares a deep commitment to enhancing the efficiency and resilience of our operations while addressing the critical issue of climate change. I'm eager to lead DHA's sustainability initiatives in the year ahead, driving meaningful progress toward a more sustainable future across the Military Health System.

Yours in Service,

COL Thurman J. Saunders

# Announcements Cont.



## Importance of Engaged Leadership

### TIPS FROM PRACTICE GREENHEALTH

Sustainability programs that are aligned with organizational priorities are more likely to gain senior leadership's support and lead to long-term success. Almost 90% of the top-performing institutions in our sustainability benchmark reports have an executive-level champion at the top of their reporting structure. This executive champion or sponsor brings credibility and authority to the program's mission and goals while setting a tone from the top that this work is important.

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Many hospitals have found success and support from their leaders by aligning sustainability initiatives with their organization's existing business processes and procedures from the beginning, including:

- Identifying current successes to demonstrate return on investment in sustainability programming
- Building sustainability projects that have a clear business case
- Choosing projects that fit within the strategic priorities of the organization
- Establishing organizational commitments to sustainability goals in writing
- Identifying executive and clinical champions and creating a reporting structure with accountability resting at the executive level

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For more information please visit: <https://practicegreenhealth.org/topics/engaged-leadership>



# Announcements Cont.

## CleanMed is heading to Atlanta

Make plans to join us in Atlanta, Ga. for CleanMed 2025, May 6-8.

## CleanMed 2025 Bulletin

CleanMed is the premier national conference for leaders in health care sustainability. It is the platform for health care leaders to convene, collaborate, and conduct societal transformation for individual, community, and planetary health. It is the only conference that connects you with those at the forefront of implementing climate-smart health care innovations, environmentally preferable purchasing, sustainable food strategies, greening the operating room, and renewable energy – cost-effective solutions tailored to health care’s needs, goals, and mission.



### LOOKING FORWARD

The enthusiasm and commitment displayed at CleanMed 2024 highlight the growing momentum towards a more sustainable healthcare sector. As attendees return to their organizations armed with new knowledge and inspiration, we can expect to see significant advancements in sustainability practices across the industry. We look forward to the continued progress and innovation that will undoubtedly emerge from the connections and ideas fostered at CleanMed 2024. Together, we can build a healthier, more sustainable future for all.

"CleanMed 2025" FIIG will be communicated enterprise wide before the end of the calendar year. For inquiries, contact us at Email: [dha.ncr.j-1-8.mbx.fe-sustainability@health.mil](mailto:dha.ncr.j-1-8.mbx.fe-sustainability@health.mil)

# Environmental Highlights



Photo by Rey Camacho

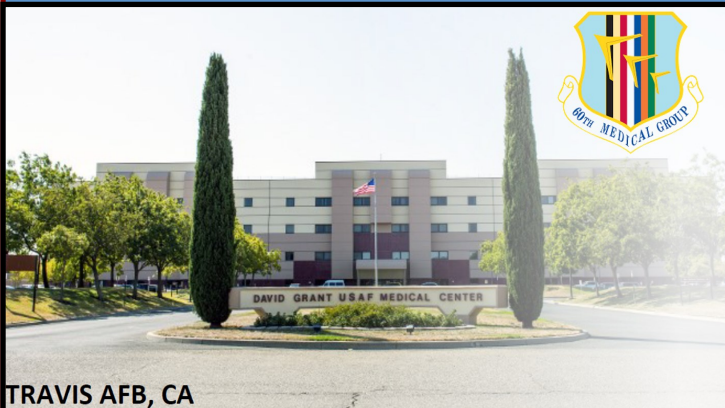
TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER



Photo by Defense Media Activity

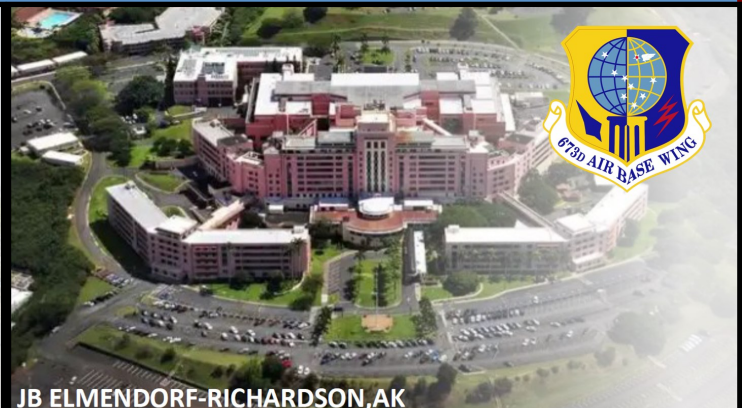
Our Environmental Team has been conducting ECBA's (Environmental Compliance Baseline Assessment) focusing on ensuring compliance with state, federal, and DOD regulations. Led by Mr. Darren Breaux and Roland Mancha, assessments were completed at Travis AFB, CA; Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK; and Tripler AMC, HI. Identified areas included hazardous waste disposal, regulated medical waste, and expired/unused pharmaceutical products. Collaborative efforts with facility managers were made to address non-compliance issues and develop corrective action

plans. Our team is committed to protecting the environment, preventing pollution, and ensuring the health and safety of military personnel and communities. Regular assessments will continue to support facilities in achieving and maintaining environmental compliance.



TRAVIS AFB, CA

Photo by Defense Media Activity



JB ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, AK

Photo by Defense Media Activity



# Preface To Upcoming Webinar



## Avoiding pitfalls of hazardous waste management: Tips for sustainable & safe practices

Lisa Strutz, PE  
Defense Centers for Public Health – Aberdeen  
22 May 2024

In a recent presentation at the Practice Greenhealth CleanMed Conference, Mrs. Lisa Strutz, offered valuable insights into the complexities of hazardous waste management within healthcare facilities. Her presentation, shed light on common challenges faced by both government and private healthcare systems.

Her presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the regulatory landscape surrounding hazardous waste management, including the Pharmaceutical Rule, Generator Improvement Rule, and Dental Amalgam Effluent Rule. She emphasized the importance of adhering to these regulations to avoid penalties and ensure compliance.

Key challenges discussed during the presentation included:

- Improper management of pharmaceutical waste: This included issues such as incorrect labeling, storage, and disposal practices.
- Non-compliance with regulatory requirements: Many healthcare facilities were found to be out of compliance with various regulations, leading to fines and penalties.
- Lack of knowledge and training: Staff members often lacked sufficient knowledge and training to handle hazardous waste safely and effectively.

Best practices for hazardous waste management, included:

- Regular training and education for staff: Providing staff with the necessary training to handle hazardous waste safely and effectively.
- Regular audits and inspections: Conducting regular audits and inspections to identify and address potential compliance issues.
- Developing a comprehensive hazardous waste management plan: Creating a plan that outlines procedures for handling, storing, and disposing of hazardous waste.

By following these best practices, facilities can significantly reduce their risk of non-compliance and ensure safe and sustainable management of hazardous waste.

Mrs. Strutz's presentation provided a clear understanding of the challenges and best practices related to hazardous waste management, empowering attendees to take action to improve their facilities' compliance and sustainability efforts.

DHA Ecompex Webinar (HW 101) - 30 Sept 2024 @0800. **\*\*Hazardous Waste 101\*\***: HW refers to substances that pose substantial or potential threats to public health or the environment. These can include chemicals, batteries, certain electronics, and medical waste. Proper management is crucial, as improper disposal can lead to contamination of soil and water, posing risks to ecosystems and human health. Understanding how to identify, handle, and dispose of hazardous waste is essential for individuals and businesses alike to promote safety and sustainability.

\*Key practices include following local regulations, using designated disposal facilities, and reducing waste generation through recycling and safer alternatives.