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Facilities Reduction team removes unwanted structures, helps community and environment

Photo caption: Red River Army Depot owned two metal buildings that sat on an isolated 50-acre pasture surrounded by a 10-foot tall barbed-wire fence for more than 30 years. Courtesy photo

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

Each year buildings are added to and removed from government property books. Buildings are added by new construction or conversion of existing buildings, and others are removed by demolition or conversion from commercial to noncommercial activity.

Many of these structures are removed by conventional methods that involve the exchange of money for service rendered, and others are removed with a more cost-effective, non-conventional method like the one recently used by Installation Support's Facilities Reduction team to remove two metal buildings in a pasture near Denton, Texas – they just gave them away!

It all began with a phone call. Representatives from Installation Management Command (IMCOM) and Red River Army Depot contacted Thad Stripling, program manager for Huntsville Center's Facilities Reduction Program, requesting the removal of two buildings, measuring 1,100 and 1,250 square feet respectively, located 10 miles from Denton, Texas, near the Corps' Lewisville Lake dam.

Red River owned the buildings and wanted to remove all excess property from their books, but couldn't get the money to do so. The buildings had not been used for more than 30 years, and were formerly used as automated communication equipment buildings for civil defense storage, and more recent to store other equipment.

Stripling said the phone call didn't come as a surprise, since the FRP team is responsible for handling such "odd" requests for removal of structures from customers in locations around the globe.

"Our doing this work is a well-kept secret," Stripling said. "Although it seems small scale, these type projects have a significant impact on our client's satisfaction.

Stripling and his team worked closely with Oly Thorson, IMCOM Regional Manager and Red River officials to order to meet the requirements. Early on, they came up with a unique idea to get rid of the buildings – donate them to a local charity, and make a positive impact on the environment.

It was decided that the benefactor would be chosen from a list of approved charities that were a part of the Combined Federal Campaign. The team made a decision to give the buildings to the Habitat for Humanity of Denton County's Habitat ReStore Discount Home Improvement Center.

The organization's ReStore sells quality new and previously owned goods at discounted prices. Most items in the store are donated by local individuals and companies. Proceeds from the ReStore go to Habitat for Humanity of Denton County to build more affordable homes for families in the community.

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