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Facilities Reduction project earns environmental award

By James Campbell
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A Facilities Reduction Program project managed by the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, shared the spotlight with Boston-based contractor Charter Environmental, Inc. and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Fort Worth District Quality Assurance for the project in receiving the 2012 National Demolition Association Environmental Excellence Award, March 13 in San Antonio.

The project involved abatement and demolition of the 60-year old Prichard Stadium Sports Complex to make room for a new hospital at Fort Hood, Texas.

A significant accomplishment is the recycling and reuse of 99.56 percent of the debris, said Thad Stripling, Huntsville Center's FRP manager during this project.

"The demolition of the Prichard Stadium Sports Complex at Fort Hood, Texas, is one of our most successful FRP projects. The sports complex sat on a 60-acre site and included a 5,500 seat stadium with concrete bleachers, running track, parking lots, site and stadium lighting, utilities, fencing, a baseball complex and underground utilities," said Bob Delhome, president of Charter Environmental Inc.

When work was complete in October 2010, a flat, graded site was ready for Fort Hood officials to hold a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new \$534 million Carl R. Darnell Army Medical Center just two months later.

It may be hard to imagine how a collection of recovered debris from demolition of an old sports complex could be reused, but the site was ripe for recovery due to the durable nature of the materials, Stripling said.

The innovative reuse of materials cited in the award included stockpiling crushed concrete on site for future construction, salvaging lighting fixtures for use in the new stadium, reusing telephone poles on a firing range, saving chain link fence for future use, using revenue from recycled metals to fund community events for Army Families, and saving plaques and memorials for placement at a new sports venue.

"The Army standard is 50 percent landfill reduction by weight, and the program average is 72 percent – this project is an example of finding ways to go well above that average," Stripling said.

“It’s also good to see recognition from outside organizations for this project,” he said.

The National Demolition Association that recognized the sports complex project with the Environmental Excellence Award represents more than 1,000 U.S. and Canadian companies that offer standard and full-range demolition-related services and products. The association also promotes environmental education and stewardship.

The Huntsville Center’s FRP eliminates excess facilities and structures to reduce fixed installation costs and achieve energy savings. The program has eliminated more than 15 million square feet of excess facility inventory for various government customers since 2004. Charter Environmental has worked on FRP projects with the Center since 2006.

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