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Evans recognized for going green

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Evans Army Community Hospital has been awarded the Greenhealth Emerald Award by Practice Greenhealth for the second straight year.

The Greenhealth Emerald Award recognizes health care facilities that have achieved improvements in their mercury elimination, waste reduction, recycling and source reduction programs.

“Winning this award establishes Evans as a top performer in sustainable practices for the environment,” said Lt. Col. Donald Chapman, chief of Evans’ logistics division. “We are one of only 70 hospitals nationwide that received this award, and the only hospital in U.S. Army Medical Command to get the Emerald Award.”

“We were also one of only two Army hospitals to get the Greening of the OR award this year,” said Wilburn. “That means that we are using reusable devices and we are recycling everything that we can that is coming out of the OR.”

Chapman said that winning the Emerald Award was more than just the operating rooms “it was the entire hospital staff doing their part” in recycling and using materials that don’t leave a harmful footprint on the environment helped Evans earn the award.

“One of the biggest things that we started this year, that I think actually pushed us over the top to win the Emerald Award was our reusable sharps containers,” said Leo Winburn, Evans’ chief of environmental services. “In the past we were spending \$38,000 to \$42,000 per year on one time use containers. The new sharps containers can be used 500 times before we have to throw them away. This will save us lots of money.”

According to Winburn, Evans is currently the only hospital in MEDCOM that is using the reusable sharps container.

Evans is saving money and resources throughout the hospital, from the floor mats, paper towels and toilet paper all made from recycled material to the microfiber cloths and mops the hospital's cleaning crew uses.

"We use microfiber cloths and mops, and because of they use less water," said Winburn. "Even our cleaning supplies are green and are low odor or no odor

"By us winning the Greenhealth Emerald Award it lets our patients know that we doing our part for the environment by recycling, and we are saving money," Winburn said.



Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Nadja West (left) presents the Greenhealth Emerald Award to Evans Army Community Hospital command team Col. Patrick Garman and Command Sgt. Maj. Theon Hart. (Courtesy photo)



An Evans emergency room nurse uses a reusable sharps containers. (Photo by Jeff Troth)