

## Executive Summary

Department of Defense (DoD) environmental programs support national defense by ensuring quality working and living conditions, exercising safe military operations, promoting sustainable practices and resources, and making smart investments to reduce total infrastructure costs. Environmental stewardship, through effective conservation of natural and cultural resources, cleanup of contaminated property, compliance with environmental laws and regulations, and the use of pollution prevention techniques, is vital to national security. Over the past 10 years, DoD has invested nearly \$42 billion to ensure the success of its environmental programs. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 alone, DoD obligated approximately \$4.3 billion in environmental activities.

Each year, the Department submits an Annual Report to Congress on its Defense Environmental Programs, pursuant to §2706 of title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.) and §§9620(e)(5) and 9621(c) of title 42, U.S.C. This report also fulfills the reporting requirements in §§313 and 314 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2007. This report discusses how the Department's environmental programs—Conservation, Restoration, Compliance, and Pollution Prevention—have used Congressional funding in FY2008, as well as details

accomplishments and outlines future plans for fulfilling commitments to protect human health and the environment. As detailed in this report, DoD made significant progress in its environmental programs during FY2008:

- ▶ DoD's Conservation Program has two primary goals: to protect access to the land, sea, and airspace necessary for realistic testing and training exercises and to protect the valuable natural and cultural resources within these areas for the benefit of current and future generations. DoD

installations inventory and develop plans to manage these resources. By the end of FY2008, DoD revised and reviewed 85 percent of its Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans. DoD also entered into 18 cooperative agreements with Native American tribes in FY2008, including a first time agreement with the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

- ▶ The Defense Environmental Restoration Program addresses hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, and military munitions remaining from past operations at DoD installations and Formerly Used Defense Sites. The Department restores contaminated assets to protect military personnel, their families, and the public. In FY2008, DoD met Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act cleanup requirements at 1,810 sites at current and former defense properties.
- ▶ DoD facilities are subject to fines and penalties if they are found to be in noncompliance with Federal, state, or local environmental laws and regulations. DoD received only 270 new compliance enforcement actions in FY2008, despite the record number of federal and state inspections. In Calendar Year 2007, 95 percent of DoD's domestic wastewater permits were in compliance. During the same period, DoD provided drinking water to 3.7 million people worldwide. Nearly 94 percent of this population received drinking water that meets established drinking water requirements.
- ▶ Pollution can adversely affect the Department's mission by harming DoD personnel and surrounding communities, property held in the public trust, and facilities required to maintain military readiness. Because controlling existing pollution and reversing the effects of pollution is costly, DoD strives to prevent pollution at the source. DoD's pollution prevention approach includes recycling, reducing the use of hazardous materials and developing safer alternatives, eliminating the use of ozone-depleting substances, and purchasing environmentally preferable products. In FY2008, DoD diverted 63 percent of solid waste entering landfills, the highest rate since its low in FY1998. Integrated solid waste management practices saved nearly \$260 million in FY2008

In all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories, DoD is making measurable progress in its conservation, restoration, compliance, and pollution prevention efforts. The Department's environmental performance is summarized in this FY2008 Defense Environmental Programs Annual Report to Congress.