

## 2013 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Environmental Restoration Award Category

Each year since 1962, the Department of Defense has honored individuals, teams, and installations for their outstanding achievements and innovative environmental practices and partnerships that promote the quality of life and increase efficiencies without compromising mission success. A panel of judges with relevant expertise, education, or experience from federal and state agencies, academia, and the public evaluated each of the nominees to select winners of the nine categories that cover six subject areas: sustainability; environmental quality; environmental excellence in weapon system acquisition; natural resources conservation; environmental restoration; and cultural resources management. As structured since Fiscal Year 2009, some of the awards within these categories are on a two-year cycle with large/small and non-industrial/industrial installations competing in alternate years.

### About the Environmental Restoration Category

In 2013, the Environmental Restoration category highlighted installations. This award recognizes efforts to protect human health and the environment by cleaning up contamination from past activities at Department of Defense sites in a timely, cost-efficient, and responsive manner. The 2013 winner of the Environmental Restoration, Installation award is *U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground, Directorate of Public Works, Maryland*.

### About U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground, Directorate of Public Works, Maryland

Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) employs over 21,000 civilian, military, and contractor employees, is home to 11 major commands, and plays a key role in the nation's defense and counter-terrorism efforts. As the center for Army planning and testing of weapons, missiles, communications systems, munitions, vehicles, and equipment, APG has state-of-the-art facilities to research, develop, test, and evaluate Army materials. APG also uses innovative strategies, forges strong stakeholder relationships, and implements dynamic management techniques that focus on land use and cost effectiveness, while always being cognizant of the APG and Army missions. A dedicated, talented, and experienced team within the Directorate of Public Works manages the APG Environmental Restoration Program. The team's approach is to focus on high risk areas, streamline contract actions, and maintain close communications with stakeholders. Some specific accomplishments include:

- Developed an innovative solution that used the sun's energy to facilitate the oxidation of white phosphorous, saving the Army \$3.8 million in costs.
- Implemented a remedy modification at an existing groundwater treatment plant to meet cleanup



*To expedite groundwater treatment plant cleanup, APG determined that chemical oxidation, through excavation, and applying sodium percarbonate accelerates the degradation of remaining contaminants, allows resource reuse, expedites site closure, and saves costs and energy.*

objectives; when the installation meets these objectives, this will result in a cost savings of over \$300,000.

- Implemented innovative technologies and green solutions to address site multiple contamination sources on a disposal site while minimizing risks from ordnance and chemical warfare material. These solutions resulted in a minimum of \$1 million in remedial cost savings while making 57 acres of previously restricted land on this disposal site available for sustaining the Army mission.
- Reused excess soil from Base Realignment and Closure construction at APG for remedial cover and fill material, resulting in a cost savings of \$800,000.

APG's goal is to remain responsive and to be in a position to support military readiness and mission requirements while protecting the environment. The key to the Environmental Restoration Program's successful execution of mission and enhanced mission readiness has been frequent communication early in the planning process and continued involvement with all stakeholders.



*Before: A former open burning/open detonation and chemical warfare material disposal site showed signs of soil, groundwater, sediment, and surface water contamination. Personnel placed a sand/chitin mix into the pond as a sediment cover to act as a wetland buffer for plant nutrients, and to provide a food source for bacteria to break down contamination.*



*After: This green remedy realized a cost savings of over \$1 million. This previously restricted 57 acre site is now available for mission training and testing. The success of the project was recognized by the Army Environmental Command and applauded by State and Federal government agencies.*

**Past Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards  
Environmental Restoration Category Winners**

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| <b>2012</b> - Former Mare Island Naval Shipyard, California  | <b>2005</b> - Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific, Hawaii, and Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi (tie) |
| <b>2012</b> - 75 <sup>th</sup> CEG, Hill Air Force Base, Utah  | <b>2004</b> - Tinker Air Force Base,  |
| <b>2011</b> - Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida  | <b>2003</b> - Hill Air Force Base, Utah   |
| <b>2010</b> - Hill Air Force Base, Utah  | <b>2002</b> - F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming   |
| <b>2010</b> - Ms. Regina Dixon Butler, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida   | <b>2001</b> - Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska   |
| <b>2009</b> - Defense Depot, Memphis Tennessee   | <b>2000</b> - Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska  |
| <b>2008</b> - Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina   | <b>1999</b> - Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, New Jersey   |
| <b>2008</b> - Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Partnering Team, North Carolina  | <b>1998</b> - Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant, California   |
| <b>2007</b> - Dover Air Force Base, Delaware   | <b>1997</b> - Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, California   |
| <b>2006</b> - Fort Lewis, Washington   | <b>1996</b> - Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Florida  |
| <b>2006</b> - Pyramid Lake Torpedo and Bombing Range Remediation Project U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District | <b>1995</b> - Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington  |