



## 2019 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Environmental Quality, Industrial Installation Award

Each year since 1962, the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) has honored installations, teams, and individuals for outstanding conservation achievements, innovative environmental practices, and partnerships that improve quality of life and promote efficiencies without compromising the Department of Defense's (DoD's) mission success. The 2019 SecDef Environmental Awards cycle encompasses an achievement period from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2018 (Fiscal Years (FY) 2017-2018). A diverse panel of 58 judges with relevant expertise representing Federal and state agencies, academia, and the private sector evaluated all nominees to select one winner for each of the nine categories that cover six subject areas: natural resources conservation, environmental quality, sustainability, environmental restoration, cultural resources management, and environmental excellence in weapon system acquisition.

### About the Environmental Quality, Industrial Installation Award

The Environmental Quality, Industrial Installation award recognizes efforts to ensure mission accomplishment and the protection of human health in the areas of environmental planning, waste management, and compliance with environmental laws and regulations (e.g., Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Safe Drinking Water Act). Meeting or exceeding all environmental requirements not only enhances the protection of our environmental assets, but also sustains DoD's ability to effectively train and maintain readiness. An industrial installation has a primary mission of manufacturing, maintaining, rehabilitating, or storing military equipment such as depots, fleet readiness centers, air logistics centers, regional logistics/supply support centers, armaments plants, shipyards, and other manufacturing plants. The 2019 winner of the Environmental Quality, Industrial Installation award is *Wisconsin Army National Guard*.

### About Wisconsin Army National Guard

The Wisconsin Army National Guard's (WIARNG) 7,700 soldiers maintain and rehabilitate the vehicles, aircraft, and equipment that drive the Guard's training and readiness. The WIARNG manages facilities with thousands of critical vehicles and equipment supporting 99 units across the state of Wisconsin. To ensure the WIARNG mission proceeds without interruptions at these critical facilities, the WIARNG Environmental Office established a robust, proactive Environmental Quality (EQ) program dedicated to improving efficiency, compliance, and operational readiness. The EQ program also facilitates the integration of environmental goals and compliance oversight. An extensive and expanding training program has helped to ensure that all installation shops thoroughly integrate EQ best practices and compliance accountability. The WIARNG EQ program achieved several key program milestones, accomplished environmental management system objectives, and implemented broader sustainability goals.



*Pictured here, staff install a groundwater monitoring well at Waupun for site investigation activities. The installation achieved complete closure in May 2018, and personnel eliminated offsite impacts to avoid restrictions on adjacent properties.*

## Major Accomplishments in FY 2017-2018

- The WIARNG EQ program implemented a long-term replacement plan to address aging fuel systems and underground storage tanks (USTs). Specifically, WIARNG identified USTs approaching their 30-year manufacturer shelf life date for replacement with new USTs or above ground storage tanks. The installation is also replacing all 15 fueling systems' aging tank monitoring panels with new monitoring systems linked into the Federal online network for more efficient management and real-time tracking. New storage tank components better detect potential fuel spills, savings tens of thousands of dollars in potential cleanup costs. Staff upgraded six fueling system monitoring panels in FY17 and replaced three in FY18.
- The installation updated or revised Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans in-house for several facilities rather than hiring contractors to develop them. Staff from the EQ program are all licensed and/or certified to complete site inspections, site evaluations, and assessments, which has allowed WIARNG to bring nearly all its SPCC Plan compliance operations in-house. Developing SPCC Plans in-house will save WIARNG \$3,000 to \$10,000 per plan.
- Staff at WIARNG identified in-state vendors to achieve increasing waste diversion rates. One such vendor fuel blends hazardous waste chemicals that meet flammability characteristics and burns them to recover energy. In FY17, this vendor recaptured and fuel blended 1,053 pounds of hazardous waste for WIARNG.
- The installation identified an in-state vendor that began recycling antifreeze for WIARNG using a closed-loop distillation process. This vendor reconstitutes the recycled antifreeze according to Army specifications at either 99% pure or a concentration of 60% water and 40% antifreeze. In FY17, WIARNG diverted 10,710 gallons of used antifreeze from the waste stream and purchased 900 gallons of recycled antifreeze for only \$3,641. The cost of the recycled antifreeze is significantly lower than ordering new material, and the vendor picks-up used antifreeze at no charge.
- In FY18, the installation decommissioned a large grit-blasting bay area at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS). After eliminating this waste stream, regulators down-graded the CSMS from a small quantity generator to a very small quantity generator. At the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site (MATES), installation staff now complete paint stripping operations in a closed-loop, water-based system, allowing regulators to classify the MATES and CSMS as very small quantity generators despite the amount of material passing through the systems.



*Rock crusher activities at Fort McCoy during an air emission compliance study. The installation undertook this air compliance assessment and air emissions inventory in fiscal year 2018 for all industrial facilities to ensure compliance with air emissions regulations statewide, particularly focusing on emissions from generators.*



*Mr. Scott Rickard, Construction and Facilities Management Office-Environment, trains soldiers to operate a new tank monitoring panel connected to a fueling system. The panel is remotely connected into the Federal network for remote access and efficient management.*