



2020 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards



FORT CUSTER TRAINING CENTER, MICHIGAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Natural Resources Conservation, Small Installation Award



Fort Custer supports several prairie fens with high levels of biodiversity and numerous rare species. In 2019, Michigan Natural Features Inventory and Michigan Aerospace Corporation began monitoring these prairie fens using drones and machine learning to automate the detection of invasive species.



Environmental staff and contractors conduct a prescribed burn in an area containing native prairie species. The controlled burn pushed back woody invasive species and stimulated native prairie plant growth.



ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TEAM, U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND, VIRGINIA

Environmental Quality, Individual/Team Award



The Science Applications International Corporation Technical Service Center of the Environmental Information Management System (EIMS) Team. Pictured from left to right: Mark Lawrence, David Wiggins, Sara Campbell, Christopher Preslar, Prayer Singleton, and Tod Hollis. Team members not pictured include Joshua Lapp, Maurice Compton, Joe Maciera, and Beatrice Canter.



Joshua Lapp, the EIMS Lead Developer, middle, demonstrates the functions of an Operational Range Clearance (ORC) field data collection tablet to Daniel Sierra, the EIMS Project Lead, left, and Tom Young, Senior Unexploded Ordnance Supervisor, right, during beta testing at Rodman Bombing Range. The tablets model and automate ORC processes, replacing paper and clipboard data collection, and resulting in significant increases in process efficiency and data accuracy.



VIEQUES ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION TEAM, PUERTO RICO

Environmental Restoration, Individual/Team Award



Jose Ramos Jr. and Juan Melendez, along with other Vieques Environmental Restoration Team members, supported the Hurricane Maria emergency response in the local community in late 2017. Their efforts included clearing debris and fallen trees from public areas and delivering munitions safety information and supplies to Vieques residents.



The Vieques Environmental Restoration Team deployed a temporary, water-filled cofferdam to isolate and dry the removal area of an offshore munitions site. This innovative approach allowed UXO technicians to successfully remove munitions without using UXO divers. The cofferdam provided for more effective access by exposing the formerly underwater environment and munitions, thus accelerating the cleanup while increasing the operation's safety.



CONSERVATION-TRAINING ENHANCEMENT TEAM, CAMP RIPLEY, MINNESOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Natural Resources Conservation, Individual/Team Award



The Conservation-Training Enhancement Team works to implement a new forestry management plan for Camp Ripley's 28,000 acres of forest. The new plan meets military training objectives and achieves the Environmental Office's goal of mature forest growth for native plant communities in a manner that supports mature interior forest wildlife.



The Conservation-Training Enhancement Team manages a golden eagle tracking program to facilitate training around eagle presence and demonstrate how their management strategies continue to support eagle habitat needs. The program's third golden eagle, Gyllen, was transmitted in February 2019.



NAVAL BASE KITSAP, WASHINGTON

Sustainability, Industrial Installation Award



Kelsey Hall and Chris Jorgensen, two environmental engineers within the NAVBASE Kitsap Environmental Division, deploy crates of oyster shells into the stormwater sewer. Oyster shells directly absorb single-constituent metal ion solutions such as zinc and other harmful metals in stormwater, and they are an inexpensive alternative to traditional stormwater treatment methods.



Julia Stockton, NAVBASE Kitsap Wildlife Biologist, inspects a culvert that was recently cleared of a beaver dam and debris. The unobstructed culvert provides access to critical habitat for many aquatic species including endangered salmon.



NAVAL AIR WEAPONS STATION CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA

Cultural Resources Management, Large Installation Award



A NAWNS China Lake cross functional team of experts performed an emergency assessment of the installation's curation facility after the largest earthquakes in the State of California in 20 years on July 4 and 5, 2019. Staff took this photograph during the emergency assessment to illustrate the condition of the curation facility immediately following the earthquakes.



After performing an emergency assessment following the July 2019 earthquakes, the team worked with Public Works personnel and the program management team to execute some accelerated projects, such as replacing wooden shelving with steel reinforced shelving bolted to the wall. The steel shelving is better suited to hold and maintain curation facility artifacts.



MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, CALIFORNIA

Environmental Quality, Non-Industrial Installation Award



MCAS Miramar Environmental Management Department staff employ their mobile trailer-mounted treatment system to remove per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contaminants from wastewater impacted by aqueous film-forming foam. After treating the water and sampling it to ensure the system adequately removed PFAS contaminants, staff discharge the wastewater to the sanitary sewer.



Environmental Management Department employees Mr. Erick Orsorio and Mr. Luis Romero help MCAS Miramar personnel during a hazardous waste collection event. MCAS Miramar also provides waste disposal and recycling support to installation employees during its annual collection event, encouraging Marines, Sailors, and civilians to properly dispose of waste year-round.



CAMP EDWARDS, JOINT BASE CAPE COD, MASSACHUSETTS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Environmental Restoration, Installation Award



Soldiers recovered a very large anomaly, a T60 tank, buried in one of the testing ranges in Camp Edwards' Central Impact Area. The Impact Area Groundwater Study Program (IAGWSP) has excavated over 56,000 anomalies to date.



The Camp Edwards IAGWSP staging area before staff perform the second and final safety certification that is required for each piece of munitions scrap to be recycled. The installation recycles all scrap metal debris recovered during unexploded ordnance (UXO) removal actions, including more than 500 tons during the achievement period.



F-35 JOINT PROGRAM OFFICE, WRIGHT PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO

Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition, Large Program Award



F-35 ESOH Team members include F-35 partner services, Foreign Military Sales military services, Pratt & Whitney, Northrop Grumman, BAE Systems, and other contractor support. Pictured from left to right: Mike Arthur, Allan Aubert, Elaine VandeKerckhove, Richard McKinley, Sari Atchue, Dr. Alan Wall, James Wilt, Hilary Gallagher, Gary Gregory, Benjamin Thrasher, and Scott Fetter.



F-35 Acoustics Team members, including Air Force Research Laboratory and Naval Air Systems Command, analyze the F-35 acoustic environment. Analyses help the team understand, communicate, and mitigate noise exposure in the community, in the cockpit, on the flight line, onboard aircraft carriers, and in hardened aircraft shelters.