



2014 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Environmental Quality, Individual/Team Award Environmental Quality Team, Minnesota Army National Guard

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: natural resources conservation; environmental quality; sustainability; environmental restoration; cultural resources management; and environmental excellence in weapon system acquisition. 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 Quality, Individual/Team Category

In 2014, the Environmental Quality area covered awards for both individuals/teams and non-industrial installations, which are installations that do not have a primary mission of manufacturing, maintaining, or rehabilitating military equipment. This individual/team award recognizes efforts to ensure mission accomplishment and 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, Safe Drinking Water Act, etc.). The 2014 winner of the Environmental Quality, individual/team award is *Environmental Quality Team, Minnesota Army National Guard*.

About the Environmental Quality Team, Minnesota Army National Guard

The Minnesota Army National Guard (MNARNG) has over 11,000 soldiers who provide war fighting, sustainment, homeland security, and emergency response support for Minnesota and the Nation. The Environmental Quality (EQ) Team consists of 22 members and is responsible for compliance and sustainability management of all Minnesota Army National Guard installation facilities. The EQ Team manages a range of resources across the state including the Camp Ripley Training Center, Arden Hills Army Training Site, 63 Armories, eight Field Maintenance Shops, and two Army Aviation Support Facilities. The EQ Team's commitment to the mission, environment, and community is demonstrated in every aspect of their work from providing environmental training to pollution control, resource protection, and conservation efforts; as well as the Team's support to National Environmental Policy Act activities, Net Zero initiatives, and Environmental Management System implementation. With its cross-functional expertise, the EQ Team is able to ensure that training sites and facilities remain fully compliant and unimpeded by regulatory concerns. The EQ



Dedication of the Little Nokasippi River Wildlife Management Area, part of a 3,000 acre area that is open to the public.

Team is also greatly involved in stakeholder outreach, hosting community events, sponsoring educational internships, and participating in working groups and regulatory committees at the local, state, and federal levels. Some of the EQ Team's accomplishments include:

- Established three new online training courses for the MNARNG Learning Management System for enhancing ability of the MNARNG to train Soldier in environmental issues. Developed a proposal to eliminate 14,000 million cubic feet of natural gas use by installing a biomass district heating system covering seven buildings using totally renewable energy sources.
- Completed the Minnesota National Guard Joint Sustainability Plan in conjunction with the Minnesota National Guard's Campaign Plan, which provides an integrated approach toward achieving Net Zero in the areas of energy, water, and solid waste.
- Finalized the Department of Military Affairs State Sustainability Plan in 2013 to meet a state mandate regarding pollution prevention.
- Implemented an Operational Range Assessment at Camp Ripley, completing Phase 2 this year. The EQ Team successfully demonstrating that no munitions constituents were leaving the training site. Related monitoring also demonstrated that Camp Ripley's water quality is better than that of its neighbors.
- Updated the Camp Ripley Wellhead Protection Plan representing one of the first updates in Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Health adopted the EQ Team's new format for wellhead protection plans. Trained MNARNG facility managers in water use reduction and conservation as part of Net Zero goals which reduced water usage by 26% based on a 2007 baseline, thereby surpassing the 2 percent annual reduction goal.



Completion of Phase 2 of the Camp Ripley's Operational Range Assessment and ongoing monitoring have allowed the Team to demonstrate the installation's superior water quality, and best management practices (such as avoidance of wetlands pictured here) to adopt on other training sites

The Minnesota Army National Guard Environmental Quality Team employed its cross-functional expertise in resource protection and conservation, with special attention to informational training and stakeholder involvement.

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

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| 2013 - 78th Civil Engineer Group, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia | 2000 - Marine Corps Base Hawaii |
| 2013 - Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Japan | 1999 - Indian Head Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Maryland |
| 2012 - Fort Hood, Texas | 1999 - Luke Air Force Base, Arizona |
| 2011 - U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, Germany | 1998 - Naval Aviation Depot North Island, California |
| 2011 - Defense Supply Center, Richmond, Virginia | 1998 - Fort Sill, Oklahoma |
| 2010 - Marine Corps Base Hawaii | 1997 - Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head, Maryland |
| 2010 - Mr. Awni M. Almasri, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Europe Africa Southwest Asia | 1997 - Luke Air Force Base, Arizona |
| 2009 - Environmental Management Division, Hill Air Force Base. Utah | 1996 - Eglin Air Force Base, Florida |
| 2009 - United States Army Garrison Bamberg, Germany | 1996 - USAF Hurlburt Field, Florida |
| 2008 - Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, New Jersey | 1995 - Robins Air Force Base, Georgia |
| 2008 - Hill Air Force Base, Utah | 1994 - Fort Campbell, Kentucky |
| 2007 - Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma | 1993 - Hill Air Force Base, Utah |
| 2007 - Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Japan | 1992 - Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland |
| 2006 - Team Dyess, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas | 1991 - Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma |
| 2006 - Fort Campbell, Kentucky | 1990 - McChord Air Force Base, Washington |
| 2005 - Naval Air Depot Cherry Point, North Carolina | 1989 - Tooele Army Depot, Utah |
| 2005 - Misawa Air Base, Japan | 1989 - Vandenberg Air Force Base, California |
| 2004 - U.S. Naval Support Activity Bahrain | 1987 - Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas |
| 2003 - Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma | 1986 - Fort Lewis, Washington |
| 2003 - Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan | 1985 - Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii |
| 2002 - Air Armament Center, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida | 1984 - Luke Air Force Base, Arizona |
| 2001 - Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, Hawaii | 1983 - Fort McClellan, Alabama |
| 2001 - Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan | 1982 - Hill Air Force Base, Utah |
| 2000 - Patrick Air Force Base, Florida | 1981 - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina |
| | 1980 - McClellan Air Force Base, California |
| | 1979 - Fort Sill, Oklahoma |
| | 1978 - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California |
| | 1977 - Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii |
| | 1976 - Naval Air Training Center Patuxent River, Maryland |
| | 1975 - Eglin Air Force Base, Florida |
| | 1974 - Fort Sill, Oklahoma |