



About the Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards



The Department of Defense established the annual Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards in 1962 to honor 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. In doing so, the Department celebrates Military Service members and civilians for their commitments to protect human health and the environment as well as maintain and restore America’s natural resources and cultural heritage for future generations while also addressing complex national security challenges.

Each year, the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations & Environment) submits a call for nominations and each Military Service and Defense Agency may submit one nomination for each 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 industrial/non-industrial installations competing in alternate years, as shown below. As the 2013 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards are recognizing achievements in the Fiscal Years 2011-2012 cycle, they are considered “Even Fiscal Year” awards.

Odd Fiscal Years	Even Fiscal Years
Sustainability, Industrial Installation	Sustainability, Non-industrial Installation
	Sustainability, Individual/Team
Environmental Quality, Non-industrial Installation	Environmental Quality, Industrial Installation
Environmental Quality, Individual/Team	Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation
Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition, Large Program	Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition, Small Program
Natural Resources Conservation, Small Installation	Natural Resources Conservation, Large Installation
Natural Resources Conservation, Individual/Team	
Environmental Restoration, Installation	Environmental Restoration, Installation
Environmental Restoration, Individual/Team	
Cultural Resources Management, Installation	Cultural Resources Management, Installation
	Cultural Resources Management, Individual/Team

Nominees for individual awards must be Department of Defense (DoD) civilian employees or members of the U.S. Armed Forces. Nominees for team awards must include one or more DoD civilian employee or member of the U.S. Armed Forces, other team members may be DoD contractor employees. After the Military Services and Defense Agencies submit their nominations, a panel of judges with expertise, education, or experience in the six subject areas from federal and state agencies, academia, and the public evaluate and score each of the nominees based on the specific award criteria to select the winners in each category. DoD recognizes each winner with a trophy, a Secretary of Defense certificate of achievement, and an American flag that is flown over the U.S. Capitol by their senior Senator on Earth Day and over the Pentagon on Memorial Day. DoD recognizes honorable mentions with a Secretary of Defense certificate of achievement.

Although only recognized once a year, Military Service members and civilians continue their exceptional efforts in protecting the environment and human health, as well as preserving the resources at our installations to support training and operations. Their efforts exemplify the Department of Defense's environmental leadership, both in the United States and overseas.