



2023 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Environmental Quality, Industrial Installation Award

Each year since 1962, the Secretary of Defense has honored installations, teams, and individuals for outstanding achievements in Department of Defense (DoD) environmental programs. These accomplishments include outstanding conservation activities, innovative environmental practices, and partnerships that improve quality of life and promote efficiencies without compromising DoD's mission success. The 2023 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards cycle encompasses an achievement period from October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2022 (Fiscal Years [FY] 2021-2022). A diverse panel of 54 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. These nine categories cover six subject areas including natural resources conservation, environmental quality, sustainability, environmental restoration, cultural resources management, and environmental excellence in weapon systems 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 and the environment 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, Toxic Substances Control Act). Meeting or exceeding all environmental requirements not only enhances the protection of the nation's environmental assets, but also sustains DoD's ability to effectively train and maintain readiness. Industrial installations have 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 2023 winner of the Environmental Quality, Industrial Installation award is *Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island, Florida*.

About Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island, Florida

Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island (MCSF-BI) is a 1,237-acre maritime industrial facility located on the St. Johns River in Jacksonville, Florida. MCSF-BI plans, coordinates, and implements facility maintenance, construction, environmental management, safety, communications/network services, and physical security efforts in support of Blount Island Command's (BICmd) logistics mission. BICmd ensures a high state of readiness of Marine Corps Strategic Prepositioning Programs and provides planning and operational expertise to enable rapid deployment of Marine Air Ground Task Forces. MCSF-BI is committed to environmental excellence and continues to protect the ecosystems under its stewardship, reduce the use of non-renewable resources, and support responsible and sustainable development through the operation of a mature environmental management program. The MCSF-BI Environmental Office, staffed by three professionals with contract support, is responsible for enhancing MCSF-BI's mission readiness through environmental compliance, sustainability, training and education, and natural resources protection programs. Although small, the MCSF-BI Environmental Office has worked successfully with command organizations, tenants, and contractors to efficiently mitigate mission and environmental impacts.



Aerial view of MCSF-BI, with the industrial facility on the west side of Saint Johns River and the 326-acre Dredge Disposal Area to the east. Land use at MCSF-BI consists of 686 acres of developed industrial land, 225 acres of undeveloped land, and open water.

Major Accomplishments in FY 2021-2022

- In 2021, the Environmental Office collaborated with the base operating contractor to improve off-spec JP-5 management. Since the JP-5 is recycled and reused on site, it was determined that it does not need to be managed as waste, including storage in the 90-day hazardous waste storage area. Therefore, the Mayport Base Operating Support contractor no longer collects, handles, or stores off-spec JP-5. Off-spec fuel is collected by the shops in intermediate bulk containers totes labeled “Off-Spec JP-5 Fuel for Recycling.” Under new procedures, JP-5 recycled on site has been determined not to be a waste stream, streamlining handling and management requirements. Process improvements saved \$117,000 in FY 2022, an increased annual savings of \$45,000 over FY 2021.
- MCSF-BI operates a coolant purification system to filter used antifreeze for onsite reuse. In 2021, the Environmental Office implemented process changes including enhanced labeling of used oil and antifreeze containers, operator training, increased inspections, and purchase of an oil skimmer. These efforts significantly decreased contamination of used antifreeze, resulting in \$31,000 in cost savings in 2022.
- In 2021 and 2022, MCSF-BI improved facilities and operating procedures to eliminate stormwater pollution discharges, including physical and process improvements at the woodchipper area; procurement of covered scrap metal hoppers and covers for open dumpsters; stormwater pond dredging and other repairs; and improvements to industrial buildings to mitigate oily wastewater generation.
- MCSF-BI implemented energy saving measures including installing LED lighting at five buildings; installing 25 solar streetlights; and completing Facility Related Control Systems in two buildings. In FY 2022, MCSF-BI also performed an energy audit in 25% of total square footage. As a result, the installation Resource Efficiency Manager identified operating issues at Building 361 boilers. Correcting these issues saved the installation 21% on its annual gas bill (652 Million British thermal units in energy savings or \$15,126 in cost savings).
- During the achievement period, MCSF-BI continued to implement a successful Qualified Recycling Program, and realized more than \$146,000 in revenues from the sale of recyclable materials.
- MCSF-BI developed a Facility Response Plan (FRP) to plan and prepare for responding to potentially significant oil spill scenarios. The FRP replaces the installation’s Integrated Contingency Plan, and complements the existing Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan. Finalizing the FRP allows the installation to fuel boats on site via tanker truck, which has streamlined operations, improved mission readiness, and resulted in cost savings for the installation.



The Fuel Filtration Unit at MCSF-BI, with several off-spec JP-5 totes visible in the background. The fuel filtration unit (FFU) can process most off-spec fuel generated at MCSF-BI. However, contaminated fuel cannot be processed through FFU, and is turned in to the Mayport Base Operating Support contractor for management as waste.



KFM, LLC coolant purification system used to recycle used antifreeze at MCSF-BI. Used antifreeze is collected by shop personnel and transferred into a used antifreeze tank at Building 350. Once a sufficient volume of has been collected, it is processed through the coolant purification system and transferred into a purified antifreeze tank for dispensing to shops.