



2023 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Environmental Restoration, 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 Restoration, Installation Award

The Environmental Restoration, Installation award recognizes efforts to protect human health and the environment by cleaning up hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, and munitions in a timely, cost-efficient, and responsive manner. Restoring these sites impacted by past DoD activities protects military personnel, their families, and the public from potential human health, environmental, and safety hazards. The 2023 winner of the Environmental Restoration, Installation award is *Naval Base Point Loma, California*.

About Naval Base Point Loma, California

Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL) is made up of approximately 1,901 acres of land, spread out between three main regions (NBPL Old Town, NBPL Peninsula, NBPL Harbor Drive) and several smaller areas in San Diego, California. NBPL is home to 65 tenant commands including Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific and Naval Information Warfare Systems Command Headquarters. The mission of NBPL is to help support the U.S. Pacific Fleet and other operating forces, and one of their three lines of effort to meet this mission includes protecting resources and the environment under NBPL jurisdiction. NBPL works with the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Regional Water Quality Control Board on its NBPL Installation Restoration (IR) Program. This cooperation helps to expedite cleanup programs and create innovative solutions to restoration problems.



Department of the Navy site tour with California regulatory agency Environmental Restoration managers at Naval Base Point Loma IR sites, April 2022. From left to right: Ms. Kristin Schwall, Mr. Nicholas Shih, Mr. Derral Van Winkle, Mr. Ed Morelan, and Ms. Eileen Mananian.

Major Accomplishments in FY 2021-2022

- NBPL completed corrective action at underground storage tank (UST) 105, where there was a release from a former 7,500-gallon diesel fuel UST near San Diego Bay, ending ongoing investigations since 1995. NBPL injected an activated carbon called Petrofix into the soil between the oil and the bay, so the Petrofix could absorb the petroleum hydrocarbons as they traveled towards the water. Nitrate and sulfate oxides were then added to the Petrofix to degrade the hydrocarbons after they had been absorbed. 13,000 gallons of this solution was injected into 46 locations at UST 105 in January 2021. The NBPL IR Program issued the closure of the site in September 2022.



Petrofix injection at UST 105 to implement corrective action for petroleum hydrocarbon release from a former UST.

- NBPL completed a successful Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) at IR 7, a 5.5-acre vacant site where municipal and industrial wastes and construction debris were buried. The IR Program implemented the TCRA to remove 0.5 acres of IR 7 after finding elevated concentrations of contaminants onsite. The program also disposed on 5,700 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris from the site. Restoration measures included installing both stormwater erosion controls and a temporary irrigation system for revegetation and hydroseeding with native plant species.
- The NBPL IR Program implemented a successful TCRA designed to remove lead and lead-contaminated soil from Munitions Response Program 1, a 3.5-acre former small arms range. IR excavated and screened 600 cubic yards of soil. The NBPL IR Program excavated approximately 600 cubic yards of soil; 450 cubic yards of the screened soil was suitable for reuse, and 150 cubic yards of waste was disposed of offsite. The program saved over \$50,000 by screening the soil and reducing waste disposal and backfill material costs.
- The NBPL IR Program also managed extensive fieldwork at two sites: IR 12 and IR 13. The results from this fieldwork showed a contamination of volatile organic contaminants by vapor intrusion into buildings. NBPL IR responded within two weeks with a subslab ventilation system that was successful in improving indoor air quality and reducing the vapor intrusion.
- The NBPL IR Program began using unmanned aerial system (drone) flights to survey steep terrain that was previously unattainable. This innovative surveying technique was used at two different IR sites. The Light Detection and Ranging technology produced digital terrain models of the sites to further environmental remediation efforts.



Site restoration in the steep ravine after excavation of solid waste debris and contaminated soil was completed at IR Site 7. Photograph depicts stormwater channel riprap and erosion controls.