



*"In our own lives, in our own ways, each of us has something to offer to the work of cleaning up America's environment. And each of us surely has something very personal to gain."*

**President William J. Clinton**



*lands, skies, and is an important mission. It is not stewards of the families, and is free from what environmental security is all about."*

**William J. Perry, Secretary of Defense**

*"Protecting and restoring the waters that our Armed Forces use part of the overall defense our duty merely to be good environment; we owe our forces, communities an environment that hazards and degradation. That is*

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## **Introduction**

As stewards of nearly 25 million acres of land in the United States, and with daily operations and activities that affect the quality of the nation's air, water, soil, and cultural treasures, the Department of Defense (DoD) takes seriously its responsibility to protect the environment and use natural resources wisely. DoD's extensive environmental efforts

and initiatives reflect the Department-wide commitment to cleaning up sites contaminated by past operations.

Because DoD's ultimate mission is to protect the nation, protecting natural resources and preserving public health must be an intrinsic and vital part of every DoD effort. DoD's stewardship approach has evolved in recent years, and the goals of the environmental restoration program have been clarified to ensure the best use of precious resources and the greatest possible protection of human health and the environment. "*Protection of human health and the environment*"--the phrase is used repeatedly, but its basic premise is often obscured by the myriad of laws, regulations, policies, agreements, orders, and other "drivers" of the environmental restoration program. When all stakeholders focus their efforts on this basic premise of the governing statutes, the goals of the environmental restoration program can be accomplished cooperatively, with the team effort typically resulting in faster, less costly cleanup.

*The Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP), funded by a central DoD account (DERA), provides for cleanup at operating installations and formerly used defense sites. The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) environmental restoration program, funded by the base closure accounts, covers cleanup at closing installations.*

In this most recent era of downsizing in both the private sector and in other government agencies, DoD has also had to find a way to do more with less. In fiscal year 1995 (FY95) alone, the President's budget request for the Defense Environmental Restoration Account (DERA) was reduced by \$700 million. These funding reductions have had a destabilizing effect on the program. Efficiency and costeffectiveness have always been priorities for DoD; however, reduced funding in recent years has presented an even greater challenge to DoD.

*All stakeholders must focus their efforts to work together to protect human health and the environment.*

This volume of the *DERP Annual Report to Congress for FY95* provides narrative examples of how DoD is getting the job done and institutionalizing the restoration program within the framework of the planning, programming, and budgeting system process. This volume also describes how DoD is insuring a good return on investment and maintaining the momentum that has been gained over the years with initiatives begun in previous years. A supplement to this report fulfills the Restoration Advisory Board reporting requirement in the National Defense Authorization Act for FY95.