

---

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

Department of Defense (DoD) environmental programs support national defense by ensuring quality working and living conditions, exercising prudent environmental stewardship, promoting safe military operations, and making smart investments to reduce total infrastructure costs. Environmental stewardship, through effective conservation of natural and cultural resources, compliance with environmental laws and regulations, and the use of pollution prevention techniques, is vital to national security. DoD's environmental programs have a budget of slightly less than \$4 billion and employ more than 8,000 full-time environmental professionals. The Department works closely with its partners, finding the right tools to enhance efficiency and recognizing those areas where improvements can be made.

## DoD'S ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY PROGRAM

DoD's Environmental Quality Program focuses on pollution prevention, compliance, and conservation. These areas directly support the Department's mission by protecting resources critical to maintaining military readiness and supporting DoD's ability to fight and win. These three primary focus areas, along with DoD's additional focus areas, are discussed in more detail below.

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

DoD implements Environmental Management Systems (EMSs) to enhance its overall mission performance through better environmental management. DoD Components implement documented EMSs which meet the requirements of Executive Order 13148, "Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management," by establishing robust systems that sustain compliance; inform the public; and promote interoperability among the DoD Components, foreign militaries, and industry. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2003, DoD teamed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide EMS implementation courses for Federal interagency groups, DoD groups, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. DoD Components program EMS training and implementation resources as part of their overall training and management budgets. DoD plans to have EMSs in place at all appropriate facilities by December 31, 2005.

## **POLLUTION PREVENTION**

Pollution can adversely affect the nation's environment. In addition it can adversely affect the Department of Defense's mission by harming DoD personnel and surrounding communities, property DoD holds in the public trust, and the facilities required to maintain military readiness. DoD strives to employ Pollution Prevention as the primary means to achieve and maintain compliance at all DoD installations. In FY 2003, DoD continued to meet and surpass its pollution prevention goals and objectives. DoD once again exceeded its 40 percent diversion rate for non-hazardous solid waste by the end of 2005 by diverting 47.4 percent of its solid waste in Calendar Year (CY) 2003. From CY 1993 to CY 2002, the total amount of hazardous waste disposed declined by 69 percent.

## **COMPLIANCE**

DoD facilities are subject to fines and penalties if they are found to be in noncompliance with Federal, state, or local environmental laws and regulations. The number of new compliance enforcement actions received in FY 2003 is at its lowest level since its peak in FY 1993, despite the increased number of state and Federal inspections. In CY 2003, 94.5 percent of DoD's wastewater permits were in compliance. In 2002, DoD provided drinking water to more than 2.1 million people worldwide. Over 95 percent of this population received drinking water that meets established drinking water requirements. The amount of fines and penalties paid in FY 2003 increased over the amount paid in FY 2002. The majority of the fines and penalties that DoD paid in FY 2003 were originally assessed in prior fiscal years. DoD Components also closed out a significant number of Clean Air Act (CAA) related fines and associated open enforcement actions but did not admit to liability nor to a waiver of sovereign immunity.

## **CONSERVATION**

DoD's Conservation Program has two primary goals: to protect access to the land, sea, and airspace necessary for realistic testing and training exercises and to protect the valuable natural and cultural resources within these areas for the benefit of current and future generations. DoD installations inventory and develop plans to manage resources. By the end of FY 2003, DoD completed approximately 65 percent of biological resource inventories, 90 percent of wetlands inventories, and revised 95 percent of its Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs). Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), any area that is essential to the conservation of a species is classified as critical habitat. The FY 2004 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) modified the critical habitat provision in the ESA to allow an approved INRMP to be used by the Department of the

Interior in lieu of a critical habitat designation, where the Interior Department determines that the INRMP is sufficiently protective.

## **AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE INITIATIVES**

The heart of the DoD's relationship with tribes is its commitment to the Department's American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, signed on October 20, 1998. The policy directs the Department to build stable and enduring government-to-government relationships with tribes; to establish consultation as the key component to successful, meaningful government-to-government relations; and to recognize and respect the significance tribes attribute to natural and cultural resources. In 2003, approximately 200 participants from all DoD Components attended the DoD American Indian Cultural Communications Course that facilitates greater understanding of tribal culture and highlights the requirements of DoD's American Indian and Alaska Native Policy and relevant laws impacting the Department's relationships with Tribes. The DoD Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP) utilizes cooperative agreements to address environmental problems attributable to past DoD activities. Cooperative agreements incorporate "traditional ecological knowledge" into remedial design, directly involve the tribe in project decision-making, develop tribal capacity regarding environmental services, and allow DoD to assist tribes in acquiring technical remediation skills. In FY 2003, DoD entered into 17 new cooperative agreements with tribes to mitigate impacts on Indian lands. Since its inception, DoD has executed over 30 NALEMP cooperative agreements to partner with tribal governments to address environmental concerns.

## **DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Defense Environmental International Cooperation (DEIC) activities and partnering efforts maintain access to resources, including air, land, and sea, for training and readiness; contribute to interoperability; and foster a global military environmental ethic. The United States partners with foreign militaries to better understand how to evaluate, prioritize, and more effectively meet military environmental needs, reduce potential U.S. liability, and promote compliance with international environmental treaty obligations. In FY 2003, DEIC activities focused on building capacity to mitigate encroachment, preserve training range capabilities, address risk management, and address anthropogenic and natural disaster preparation and response.

## **TOXIC RELEASE INVENTORY REPORT**

The Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Report provides information about toxic chemicals released into the environment or transferred off-site from a facility. Although the reporting period for this Environmental Quality Annual Report to Congress covers FY 2003, the TRI reporting period covers Calendar Year 2002. This is the most current data available since the EPA requires facilities to report by July 1, 2003 their TRI releases from the previous year.

In 2002, DoD reported releases and off-site transfers of 16.9 million pounds, an increase of 22 percent from the 2001 TRI Report total. The increase between 2001 and 2002 reporting is primarily due to new requirements and new interpretations for TRI reporting, not a rise in actual releases. When subtracting the amounts reported as a result of operational range activities, DoD released and transferred off-site 11.2 million pounds in 2002. Range installation releases accounted for approximately 34 percent of the total DoD reportable releases.

## **CONCLUSION**

This summary addressed DoD's Environmental Quality Programs and briefly described the way that these programs protect resources critical to maintaining military readiness and supporting DoD's ability to fight and win. The following chapters will provide a more in-depth look at these programs.