



2019 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards About the Awards

The Department of Defense (DoD) established the Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards to celebrate Military Service members and civilians for their exceptional commitment to protecting human health and the environment while advancing the military mission. Each year since 1962, the Secretary of Defense has honored installations, teams, and individuals for outstanding conservation achievements, innovative environmental practices, and partnerships that improve quality of life, and promote efficiencies without compromising mission success. This year’s awards cycle encompasses an achievement period from October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2018 (Fiscal Years (FY) 2017-2018).

Award Categories

Each Military Service and Defense Agency may submit one nomination for each of the nine categories that cover six subject areas: natural resources conservation, environmental quality, sustainability, environmental restoration, cultural resources management, and environmental excellence in weapon system acquisition. As structured since FY 2009, certain awards are on a two-year cycle with large/small and non-industrial/industrial installations competing in alternate years, as shown in the table below. Small installations are those with 10,000 acres or less; industrial installations are those with a primary mission of manufacturing, maintaining, rehabilitating, or storing military equipment. The 2019 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards recognize achievements in the FY 2017-2018 cycle and are considered “Odd Fiscal Year” awards.

Cycle Begins in Even Fiscal Year (e.g., 2018, 2020, 2022)	Cycle Begins in Odd Fiscal Year (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021)
Natural Resources Conservation, Small Installation	Natural Resources Conservation, Large Installation
Natural Resources Conservation, Individual/Team	
Environmental Quality, Non-Industrial Installation	Environmental Quality, Industrial Installation
Environmental Quality, Individual/Team	Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation
Sustainability, Industrial Installation	Sustainability, Non-Industrial Installation
	Sustainability, Individual/Team
Environmental Restoration, Installation	Environmental Restoration, Installation
Environmental Restoration, Individual/Team	
Cultural Resources Management, Large Installation	Cultural Resources Management, Small Installation
	Cultural Resources Management, Individual/Team
Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition, Large Program	Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition, Small Program

Judging Process

A diverse panel of 58 volunteer judges with relevant expertise from Federal and state agencies, academia, and the private sector evaluated the 2019 nominees to select one winner for each of the nine categories that cover six subject areas. DoD recognizes each winner with a trophy, a Secretary of Defense certificate of meritorious achievement, a personalized congratulatory letter, and an honorary American flag that is flown over the U.S. Capitol on Earth Day and over the Pentagon on Memorial Day. DoD recognizes honorable mentions with a certificate of achievement and a personalized appreciation letter.

The 2019 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards winners represent excellence in innovative environmental leadership. Their achievements support DoD's ongoing commitment to sustain mission readiness through cost-effective environmental conservation. Although only formally recognized once a year by the Secretary of Defense, Military Service members and civilians continue their exceptional efforts every day to protect the environment and human health, and to preserve resources on our installations that support training and operations. Their remarkable efforts enhance the quality of life for Service members, their families, and local communities. All nominees exemplify DoD's environmental leadership both in the United States and overseas.

Qualifications

- Nominees for individual awards must be DoD civilian employees or members of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Nominees for team awards must include one or more DoD civilian employees or members of the U.S. Armed Forces; other team members may be DoD contractors.