



2014 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Natural Resources Conservation, Small Installation Award Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Each year since 1962, the Department of Defense has honored individuals, teams, and installations for their outstanding achievements and innovative environmental practices and partnerships that promote the quality of life and increase efficiencies without compromising mission success. A panel of judges with relevant expertise, education, or experience from Federal and state agencies, academia, and the public evaluated each of the nominees to select winners 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 Fiscal Year 2009, some of the awards within these categories are on a two-year cycle with large/small and non-industrial/industrial installations competing in alternate years.

About the Natural Resources Conservation, Small Installation Award Category

In 2014, the Natural Resources Conservation area, the oldest of the six subject areas, covered small installations (10,000 acres or less) and individuals/teams. The small installation award recognizes efforts to promote the conservation of natural resources, including the identification, protection, and restoration of biological resources and habitats; the sound management and use of the land and its resources; and the promotion of the conservation ethic. Environmentally beneficial landscaping is also a factor in this award category. The 2014 winner of the Natural Resources Conservation, Small Installation award is *Marine Corps Base Hawaii*.

About Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Marine Corps Base (MCB) Hawaii encompasses 4,500 acres within five parcels on the Island of O'ahu and a 12-acre parcel on Molokai. The base supports 25,000 military personnel (e.g., Marines, Sailors, family members, civilian employees), and 10,000 military retirees using base service facilities. Additionally, the "Grow the Force" initiative will result in another 2,500 or more Marines and family members arriving on MCB Hawaii, which will bring even more challenges to balancing the sustainability of our natural resources while supporting the military mission. The base Environmental Compliance and Protection Department is comprised of a Marine Corps Captain as Director and 30 military and civilian environmental professionals. The natural resources staff within the Conservation Division consists of a team leader/senior natural resources manager, a natural resource manager, and a bioscience technician. The natural resources team works closely with other staff in overlapping program areas (e.g., conservation enforcement, NEPA, clean air/water, solid/hazardous waste management, cultural resources, environmental management, spill response, recycling, pollution prevention, and geographic information system applications).



Marine Corps Base Hawaii's strong relationships with experts from a variety of Federal/State agencies and non-profit organizations result in numerous benefits, including effective control and monitoring of invasive species.

Some of Marine Corps Base Hawaii's accomplishments include:

- In FY 2013, a unit of Marines assisting the Natural Resources staff helped remove 300 mud-laden tires located 100-300 feet off shore, in a backbreaking and exhaustive effort to improve survivability of the endangered Hawaiian stilt, a type of shorebird. The tires made up nesting platforms intended for use by the stilt, but the stilts quickly abandoned "tire" island because the water around the islands was too deep for the young stilts that need to forage right after birth.
- Initiated a project to maintain dredging of Waimanalo stream. This project will be the first time the stream has been dredged since the Marine Corps took possession of the training area from the Air Force in 2000. The dredging will remove the accumulation of approximately 30,000 cubic yards of sediment/soil. It will also improve stream health by ridding the stream of heavy vegetative growth constricting stream flow, removing debris, and alleviating stagnant waters that breed mosquitos. The free flowing stream will also provide new training opportunities for the military.
- Completed the 2010 coastal and marine resources qualitative investigation of the waters surrounding the base. The surveys characterized the unique elements in Kaneohe Bay's 500-yard security buffer zone that surrounds the peninsula. These surveys provide a picture of the underwater environment and help to conduct in-water training and ship-to-shore movements in a less impactful way on marine resources.
- Initiated a wetland delineation project, performed by the Army Corps of Engineers, in Calendar Year 2012 for the remaining three undocumented potential wetlands located on Marine Corps Training Area Bellows portion of MCB Hawaii. This project will complete the inventory of wetlands that began in 2001; the Base's wetland data layer will be updated once the delineations are completed.



Wedge-tailed Shearwater chick (Puffinus Pacificus), one of the over 60 native and migratory birds recorded on Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Wedge-tailed Shearwater colony nesting on Marine Corps Base Hawaii has rebounded from 520 active nests in 2010 to over 850 in 2013.



2,500 Red-footed boobies continue to thrive in the heart of Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Range Training Facility, where weapons are fired 7-days a week by Marines, Army, and City and County, State and Federal agencies.

MCB Hawaii demonstrated the innovative use of limited funding to protect the environment while accomplishing their mission.

**Past Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards
Natural Resources Conservation Category Winners**

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| 2013 - Naval Base Coronado, California | 1996 - Marine Corps Base Hawaii |
| 2012 - U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, Oahu Army Natural Resource Team | 1995 - Naval Air Warfare Center, Patuxent River, Maryland |
| 2011 - Eglin Air Force Base, Florida | 1994 - Eglin Air Force Base, Florida |
| 2010 - Fort Custer Training Center, Michigan Army National Guard | 1993 - Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant, Minnesota |
| 2010 - Mr. Stephen M. Seiber, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida | 1992 - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina |
| 2009 - Camp Ripley Maneuver and Training Center, Minnesota | 1991 - Fort Belvoir, Virginia |
| 2008 - Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, California | 1990 - Fort Sill, Oklahoma |
| 2008 - Fort Indiantown Gap Training Center, Pennsylvania Army National Guard | 1989 - F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming |
| 2007 - Arnold Air Force Base, Tennessee | 1988 - Goldwater Air Force Range, Arizona |
| 2006 - Minnesota Army National Guard Natural Resources Conservation Team, Camp Ripley | 1987 - New Boston Air Force Station, New York |
| 2006 - Marine Corps Base Hawaii | 1986 - Beale Air Force Base, California |
| 2005 - Fort Drum, New York | 1985 - Robins Air Force Base, Georgia |
| 2004 - Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi | 1984 - Fort Huachuca, Arizona |
| 2003 - U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca, Arizona | 1983 - Indian Island Annex, Keyport, Naval Engineering Station, Washington |
| 2002 - U.S. Army Transportation Center, Fort Eustis & Fort Story, Virginia | 1982 - Fort McCoy, Wisconsin |
| 2001 - Naval Weapons Station Charleston, South Carolina | 1981 - Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pennsylvania |
| 2000 - U.S. Army Training Center & Fort Jackson, South Carolina | 1980 - Fort Huachuca, Arizona |
| 2000 - Hawaii Army National Guard | 1979 - Naval Air Station Chase Field, Texas |
| 1999 - Camp Ripley, Army National Guard, Minnesota | 1978 - Fort Sill, Oklahoma |
| 1999 - U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Belvoir, Virginia | 1977 - Griffiss Air Force Base, New York |
| 1998 - Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia | 1976 - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina |
| 1998 - Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia | 1975 - Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana |
| 1997 - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California | 1974 - Fort Campbell, Kentucky |
| 1997 - Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head, Maryland | 1973 - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina |
| 1996 - Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida | 1972 - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California |
| | 1971 - Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida |
| | 1970 - Camp Pickett, Virginia |
| | 1969 - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina |
| | 1968 - Red River Army Depot, Texas |
| | 1967 - Fort Rucker, Alabama |
| | 1966 - Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Virginia |
| | 1965 - Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida |
| | 1964 - Eglin Air Force Base, Florida |
| | 1963 - Fort Knox, Kentucky |