



2014 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Environmental Restoration, Individual/Team Award Naval Air Station Cecil Field Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team, FL

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 Environmental Restoration, Individual/Team Category

In 2014, the Environmental Restoration category highlighted both installations and individuals/teams. This individual/team award recognizes efforts to protect human health and the environment by cleaning up contamination from past activities at Department of Defense sites in a timely, cost-efficient, and responsive manner. The 2014 winner of the Environmental Restoration, Individual/Team award is *Naval Air Station Cecil Field Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team*.

About Naval Air Station Cecil Field BRAC Cleanup Team

The former Naval Air Station (NAS) Cecil Field was the largest military installation in the Jacksonville, Florida, area and the South's only Master Jet Base. The Environmental Protection Agency placed NAS Cecil Field on the National Priorities List in 1989, and in 1993, the BRAC Commission recommended closure of the base. When the base closed in 1999, 285 sites required further evaluation with 25 sites being investigated as part of the Installation Restoration (IR) Program. As of December 2013, 14 IR sites have been approved for No Further Action (NFA), 99 percent of the 17,225 acres have been transferred, and cleanup remedies are in place for all sites in accordance with the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Petroleum Program. The work was accomplished while maintaining a perfect safety record with zero recordable incidents and zero lost-time accidents.



Members and participants of the Cecil Field BRAC Cleanup Team. The team's success is demonstrated by having 99 percent of the property transferred, saving money while using innovative and sustainable solutions to protect public health and the environment, and through teamwork with the current property owners developing the property.

The Cecil Field BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT) coordinated with the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and teamed with experts to devise and use innovative solutions and technologies to achieve its mission of property transfer while adhering to its vision of partnering. The BCT subcontracted forty percent of remediation work to local, small, and disadvantaged businesses. The BCT has taken the necessary steps to protect the public and the environment through expedited response and saved over \$10 million in the cleanup process. Some of NAS Cecil Field BCT's accomplishments include:

- Implemented sustainable remediation techniques such as a solar-powered air sparging system, which prevented groundwater contamination from discharging in a nearby creek.
- Implemented innovative remediation using Oxygen Release Compound Advanced™ (a proprietary formulation that accelerates naturally occurring aerobic biodegradation of contaminants) injections at a petroleum site, which resulted in reducing concentrations of petroleum related contaminants such as 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene, and total xylenes in groundwater by an order of magnitude to near regulatory limits.
- Expeditiously removed munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) in accordance with applicable environmental and safety requirements to minimize impacts to construction/remediation activities supporting reuse of former Navy property.
- Finalizing the last parcel of Navy property, Site 15, for transfer for its specified reuse, after addressing all environmental issues and clearing it of MEC.



Solar-powered air sparging (removal of contaminant vapors) was selected for a pilot study to act as a sustainable solution for preventing groundwater contamination from discharging into the nearby creek.

The Naval Air Station Cecil Field BRAC Cleanup Team achieved environmental excellence through its quick, innovative, and timely responses to environmental restoration efforts.

**Past Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards
Environmental Restoration Category Winners**

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| 2013 - U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground, Directorate of Public Works, Maryland | 2006 - Pyramid Lake Torpedo and Bombing Range Remediation Project U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District |
| 2012 - Former Mare Island Naval Shipyard, California | 2005 - Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific, Hawaii, and Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi (tie) |
| 2012 - 75 th CEG, Hill Air Force Base, Utah | 2004 - Tinker Air Force Base, |
| 2011 - Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida | 2003 - Hill Air Force Base, Utah |
| 2010 - Hill Air Force Base, Utah | 2002 - F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming |
| 2010 - Ms. Regina Dixon Butler, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida | 2001 - Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska |
| 2009 - Defense Depot, Memphis Tennessee | 2000 - Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska |
| 2008 - Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina | 1999 - Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, New Jersey |
| 2008 - Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Partnering Team, North Carolina | 1998 - Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant, California |
| 2007 - Dover Air Force Base, Delaware | 1997 - Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, California |
| 2006 - Fort Lewis, Washington | 1996 - Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Florida |
| | 1995 - Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington |