2014 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards
Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition, Large Program Award, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center (AFLCMC) F-35 Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Support Team, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH

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 Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition, Large Program Individual/ Team Category

In 2014, the Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition award highlighted individuals/ teams for large programs. This award, the newest of the six subject areas, recognizes efforts to incorporate environment, safety, and occupational health requirements into a large (Acquisition Category I, i.e., with an estimated expenditure of over $480 million in research, development, and test and evaluation funding or procurement funding of more than $2.79 billion) weapon system acquisition program's system engineering, contracting, and decision-making processes. The 2014 winner of the Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition, Large Program Individual/Team award is the *Air Force Life Cycle Management Center F-35 Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Support Team, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base*.

About the AFLCMC F-35 Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Support Team

The Air Force Life Cycle Management Center (AFLCMC) F-35 Environment, Safety and Occupational Health (ESOH) Support Team, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio is responsible for shaping the F-35 program's approach to ESOH Risk Management by reviewing contractor ESOH deliverables, ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and providing contractual language for solicitations to properly identify and manage ESOH risk. These actions provide the framework that will allow the F-35 Joint Program Office to successfully identify and track hazards and their mitigation status throughout the life cycle of the program. The AFLCMC F-35 ESOH Support Team spearheaded the successful Field Service Evaluation of an Alternative Outer Mold Line (AOML) coating system for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. The F-35 Joint Program Office estimated that the AOML coating system will result in a $435 million reduction in production costs and a savings of $1.07 billion in Operations and Sustainment cost over the life cycle of the

Shown here are members of the AFLCMC F-35 ESOH Support Team. From left to right, team members are: Mr. Andy Ghazee, Mr. Arnold Godsey, Mr. Thomas McDonald, Mr. David Walker and Mr. Jeff McCann. Absent from the picture are Mr. Thomas Lorman & Mr. Jim Ryckman.

Joint Strike Fighter program (total savings of $1.505 billion). The F-35 Joint Program Office sent a letter of appreciation recognizing the AFLCMC F-35 ESOH Support Team's accomplishments and praising their dedication and teamwork in implementing the AOML Field Service Evaluation Program. AFLCMC F-35 ESOH Support Team's accomplishments include:

- Reduced the overall F-35 aircraft weight by reducing coating weight which equals reduced fuel consumption, lower air emissions, and eliminated Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) while maintaining required coating corrosion resistance properties.
- Reduced paint waste stream by over 50 percent by extending the refresh cycle for the F-35 coating system from two-three years to approximately six-eight years, significantly reducing maintenance crew labor hours and aircraft down time over the aircraft's life cycle.
- Identified critical deficiencies in the draft F-35 Programmatic ESOH Evaluation update developed in support of Acquisition Milestone C (i.e., decision to enter production following development and testing), including the need to identify far field noise as a serious risk with significant implications to the NEPA compliance schedule.
- Formed a Weapon System Pollution Prevention Working Group in FY 2012 to identify and prioritize projects that reduce ESOH risks/costs for a range of aircraft, both during production at Air Force Plants and during sustainment/maintenance at the Air Logistics Complexes. This group will improve communication among organizations to avoid duplication in research efforts.
- Developed and maintained easily-accessible ESOH resource tools on a website for all weapon system program offices providing a single-cohesive ESOH focal point for the many weapon system programs.

Pictured here is a robotic painting work cell. A new lightweight coating system eliminates one layer of paint from the traditional system resulting in an overall aircraft weight reduction and over 50% reduction in the paint/pain -removal waste stream.

The AFLCMC F-35 ESOH Support Team increased efficiencies in aircraft development, project prioritization, resource access, and other critical mission areas that contribute to their environmental and overall excellence in weapon system acquisition.

Past Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards
Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition Category Winners

2013 - Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center's Counterfeit Refrigerant Impact Team, Michigan
2012 - Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Warren, Michigan
2011 - Sustainable Painting Operations for the Total Army, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland
2010 - Aeronautical Systems Center Environmental and Occupational Health Team, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio
2008 - Fairchild Air Base, Washington
2006 - C-17 Pollution Prevention Integrated Product Team, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio