

2013 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Natural Resources Conservation Award

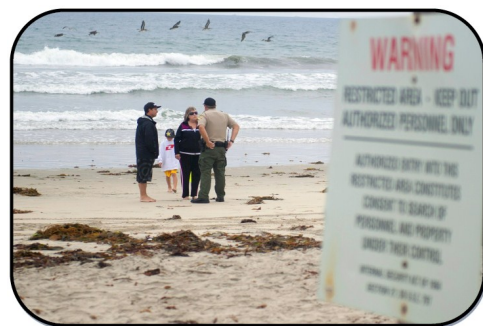
Each year since 1962, the Department of Defense has honored individuals, teams, and installations for their outstanding achievements and innovative environmental practices and partnerships that promote the quality of life and increase efficiencies without compromising mission success. A panel of judges 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: sustainability; environmental quality; environmental excellence in weapon system acquisition; natural resources conservation; environmental restoration; and cultural resources management. 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, Large Installation Award Category

In 2013, the Natural Resources Conservation category covered large installations. This award, the oldest of the six subject areas, 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 2013 winner of the Natural Resources Conservation, Large Installation category is *Naval Base Coronado, California*.

About Naval Base Coronado, California

Naval Base Coronado, California (NBC) is home to over 18,000 active duty military and over 5,500 civilian employees. The base consists of eight geographically separate installations in southern California, representing over 60,000 acres of land and water distributed over an area of 3,380 square miles. NBC's primary mission is to provide the highest quality logistical support and quality of life services for the U.S. Navy's operating forces, assigned activities, and other commands, as needed, to enable the operating forces to produce the highest level of combat readiness. NBC has the only remaining live-fire ship-to-shore and air-to-ground range in the continental United States, and one of the highest concentrations of Naval Special Warfare training and range areas. The NBC Natural Resources Program has had remarkable success supporting the military readiness mission while sustaining natural resources. Although NBC's Southern California Range Complex is the most capable and heavily used Navy range complex in the eastern Pacific region, it also has one of the highest concentrations of federally listed species among Department of Defense installations. Both installation personnel and surrounding communities benefit from NBC's support of ecosystem balance and biodiversity by maintaining or increasing environmental quality, supporting transient natural resources that have value both on and off of the installation, and conducting



A Game warden patrols the Silver Strand Training Complex-North and educates the public about sensitive beach areas at NBC. NBC partnered with the California Department of Game Law Enforcement to help preserve and protect the nesting grounds of the endangered California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover.

outstanding community education and outreach activities. Some specific accomplishments include:

- Developed a San Clemente Island fox management and natural resource compliance and outreach program that set the precedent and standard for other federal agencies and private institutions. Although the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the San Clemente Island fox on four of the eight Channel Islands, it was not listed on San Clemente Island due to Navy's proactive management efforts. These efforts also helped the species rebound to the highest numbers ever recorded on the island.
- Continued aggressive and comprehensive recovery efforts for the San Clemente loggerhead shrike. These efforts helped the San Clemente loggerhead shrike population rebound from less than 30 birds in 1998 to over 300 birds in 2010, decreasing encumbrances on military ship-to-shore and air-to-ground training and supporting a petition for de- or down-listing this species.
- Completed a sensitive plant status report for over 20 rare species on San Clemente Island, including six listed plant species. Surveys indicated a more than ten-fold increase for five of the six listed plants since their time of listing due to Navy's enhanced management practices and increased war fighter support.
- Signed the Record of Decision for the Silver Strand Training Center Environmental Impact Statement to increase training tempo and expanded access to training areas, and a new Silver Strand Training Center Biological Opinion with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to re-open beach training lanes during nesting season. These expanded and formerly off-limits areas provide more than 50 additional acres of enhanced training lands.



In 2012, NBC successfully transferred three injured/orphaned SCI foxes to California zoos to support education and research efforts for this species. Their use as outreach animals helps promote the public's understanding of Navy stewardship.

NBC's conservation model provides a vivid example of how military training and natural resources can successfully coexist.



In 2011-2012, NBC confirmed the return of nesting peregrine falcons at SCI. This is indicative of the health and recovery of natural resources at SCI and the surrounding ecosystem under Navy management. NBC partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor the newly established nest and band the nestlings.



In 2010-2012, NBC conducted a survey of the federally threatened San Clemente sage sparrow, which revealed that previous monitoring underestimated the population and that the sage sparrows were utilizing additional areas on SCI. As the species most likely to constrain future training at SCI, the discovery of a high population level with more habitat flexibility is significant for future consultation negotiations.

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| 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 |
| 1996 - Marine Corps Base Hawaii | 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 |