



2019 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation Award

Each year since 1962, the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) 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 the Department of Defense's (DoD's) mission success. The 2019 SecDef Environmental Awards cycle encompasses an achievement period from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2018 (Fiscal Years (FY) 2017-2018). A diverse panel of 58 judges with relevant expertise representing Federal and state agencies, academia, and the private sector evaluated all nominees to select one winner 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.

About the Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation Award

The Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation award recognizes efforts by an enduring overseas DoD installation of any type (industrial, non-industrial) or size (large, small) to ensure mission accomplishment and the protection of human health in the areas of environmental planning, waste management, and compliance with environmental laws and regulations (e.g., Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Safe Drinking Water Act). Meeting or exceeding all environmental requirements not only enhances the protection of our environmental assets, but also sustains DoD's ability to effectively train and maintain readiness. The 2019 winner of the Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation award is *Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan*.

About Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan

Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler (MCB Butler) is a dynamic collection of installations and training areas widely distributed throughout Okinawa, Japan. As the base support for the III Marine Expeditionary Force, MCB Butler provides training areas and support for current and future combat readiness. While located in Japan, MCB Butler is also the command support element for Marine Corps Installations Pacific, which encompasses Marine Corps installations in Hawaii, Japan, and Korea. Supporting more than 32,000 active duty military and civilians and encompassing over 40,000 acres, MCB Butler provides unique training opportunities in various environmental habitats including the only U.S. Marine Corps Jungle Warfare Training Center (JWTC) and the only U.S. controlled live fire ranges in Japan. More than 3,000 species of flora and fauna, of which approximately 260 are rare, threatened, or endangered, and hundreds of archeological sites exist throughout MCB Butler. The complex training areas and facilities that MCB Butler supports necessitate a robust environmental program that can support military readiness while balancing environmental sustainability.



The island of Okinawa, Japan, is a key training location for the Marine Corps. Innovative soil erosion efforts at Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler (MCB Butler) have been instrumental in protecting this vital coral habitat.

Major Accomplishments in FY 2017-2018

- In FY18, MCB Butler's Qualified Recycling Program (QRP) avoided disposal costs of more than \$950,000 and generated more than \$123,000. Efficiency improvements to MCB Butler's QRP diverted more than 3,000 tons of recyclable materials. In FY18, MCB Butler's in-house coolant-recycling program reformulated 9,773 gallons of coolant for reuse, resulting in a cost savings of over \$120,000; \$52,000 in savings to Marine Corps units and \$68,000 in avoided disposal costs. These programs significantly reduce off-site transfers, minimize risks to the environment, and protect local communities.
- The MCB Butler Hawker Battery Reuse Program rejuvenated and returned, free of charge, 201 batteries to units for reuse during FY17. This generated a total cost savings of approximately \$67,000 through the significant reduction of new battery purchases and reduced hazardous waste generation.
- Staff performed radon testing in 200 buildings, completed radon mitigation diagnostics in five buildings, and mitigated radon in 10 buildings on MCB Butler and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The installation also requires a radon resistant design in new building construction. These actions contributed significant data that Oakridge National Labs is using to shape the radon testing and mitigation industry.
- The installation initiated a hazardous waste risk reduction audit as part of the annual Environmental Management Systems Objectives and Targets, effectively reducing liability to the Marine Corps by ensuring accuracy and complete cradle-to-grave tracking of 3,353 hazardous waste containers.
- Each year MCB Butler partners with local communities during Earth Week to cleanup riverways, beaches, and parks. Approximately 100 active duty Marines and Sailors participated in the Okukubi River clean-up and the Nature Mirai Kan park mangrove planting. At the southern end of the island, military members and the local community gathered to clean-up Ginowan's Beach and Park, removing more than 200 pounds of debris.
- The installation participated in the Okinawa Environmental Forum to facilitate interactions between MCB Butler and the Okinawa Prefectural Government on environmental initiatives and projects occurring across the island.



MCB Butler's coolant recycling program reduces the need for expensive contracts by using in-house personnel and resources.



Top: Local children and United States military personnel planted mangrove species as part of Earth Week activities.

Bottom: Marines and Sailors assisted the Henoko Senior Citizen's Association in the annual cleanup of Matsuda-No-Hama.