



## 2021 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Sustainability, Individual/Team Award

Each year since 1962, the Secretary of Defense has honored installations, teams, and individuals for outstanding achievements in Department of Defense (DoD) environmental programs. These accomplishments include outstanding conservation activities, innovative environmental practices, and partnerships that improve quality of life and promote efficiencies without compromising DoD’s mission success. The 2021 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards cycle encompasses an achievement period from October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2020 (Fiscal Years (FY) 2019-2020). A diverse panel of 47 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 eight categories. These eight categories cover five subject areas including natural resources conservation, environmental quality, sustainability, environmental restoration, and cultural resources management.

### About the Sustainability, Individual/Team Award

The Sustainability, Individual/Team award recognizes individuals or teams for their efforts to prevent or eliminate pollution at the source, including practices that increase efficiency and sustainability in the use of raw materials, energy, water, or other resources. The sustainability award also recognizes energy efficiency and renewable energy practices, greenhouse gas reduction efforts, procurement of sustainable goods and services, waste diversion, electronics stewardship, and efforts to plan for adaptation and resilience. Sustainable practices ensure that DoD protects valuable resources that are critical to mission success. The 2021 winner of the Sustainability, Individual/Team award is *Naval Supply Systems Command, Weapon Systems Support, Pennsylvania*.

### About Naval Supply Systems Command, Weapon Systems Support, Pennsylvania

Naval Supply Systems Command, Weapon Systems Support (NAVSUP WSS) provides supplies, services, and quality of life support to the Navy and Joint Warfighter. It exercises centralized control of more than 375,000 different line items of repair parts, components, and assemblies providing global logistics support. Through a research and development project funded by the Navy’s Environmental Sustainability Development to Integration program, NAVSUP WSS formed a multi-functional team to develop the “Navy Enterprise Wide Hazardous Materials (HM) Standardization and Minimization of General Use Consumables” project and conducted pilots to demonstrate that U.S. Navy installations could increase the purchase of more environmentally-friendly HM substitutions using new tools and procedures. The team consisted of representatives from Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Environmental, NAVFAC Safety, NAVFAC Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Commander Navy Installation Command Safety, and NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Centers as well as NAVSUP WSS. The project demonstrated a process that standardized procurement of consumable general use HM and tools that guided end users, supply personnel, safety, and environmental service providers in the selection of environmentally preferred products at shore-based facilities.



NAVSUP WSS Team, Top Row L-R: Andrea Finely, Todd Heintz, Benita Lina. Middle Row L-R: Dave Sapp, Nino Giambrone, Nil Sivakumar. Bottom Row L-R: Shane Dreese, James Pilkington, Linda Christensen.

## Major Accomplishments in FY 2019-2020

- The NAVSUP WSS team created a new fast-track ordering process using the newly fielded WSS Hazardous Material Management (HMM) Tool. This automated approvals of the purchase of sustainable products from the Navy-wide Green Authorized Use List (AUL) consisting of sustainable products that anyone at any Navy base can order. The team also published new standard operating procedures and technical guidance, which provided instructions on how to fast-track product orders. One hundred percent of end of pilot survey respondents said that the new ordering system was more efficient than the normal ordering process.
- The team identified existing Safer Choice products in the Navy supply system and added 118 more, increasing the number of Safer Choice products available for purchase by over 300 percent. The team conducted market research and published a list of local vendors that carried specific Safer Choice items and created a cleaner category/Safer Choice crosswalk quick-reference guide. This guide let users know what Safer Choice cleaners were available for their needs and where to purchase them.
- The NAVSUP WSS team created a new green leaf logo and tagged each item on the Green AUL in the HMM Tool. The logo highlights all sustainable items, allowing users to easily identify preferred sustainable products. Over 70 percent of end-of-pilot survey respondents stated that the logo influenced them to purchase Safer Choice cleaners.
- The team's Clean with Green community outreach program, which informed people about the benefits of purchasing Safer Choice cleaners, potentially reached 34,000 service members, their families, and civilians on the two pilot sites. NAVSUP WSS presented on the pilot and benefits of Safer Choice products to a national and international audience at the Navy Ashore Hazardous Material Managers Annual Meeting in November 2019 and the DoD Joint Safety and Environmental Professional Development Symposium in April 2020. These two briefings reached an audience of over 150 active duty and Navy civilians in the HM community.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded NAVSUP WSS its Safer Choice Partner of the Year honor for advancing the use of safer and more sustainable cleaning chemicals.

## Clean With Green

**Many traditional cleaners are hazardous**

- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) cause respiratory issues and headaches 
- Skin, eye, and throat irritation or burning 
- Toxic to aquatic life while ammonia and nitrogen are nutrient-loading to aquatic systems causing poor water quality 

### Need a Cleaner...Order Greener

**Green Cleaners Meet EPA's Safer Choice Certification**

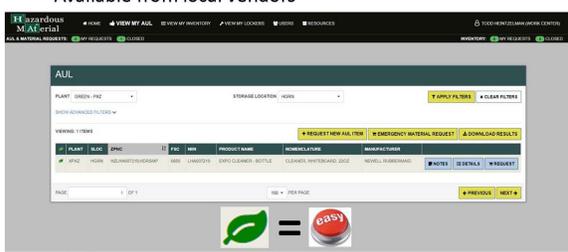
- ✓ Safer to human health
- ✓ Safer for the environment
- ✓ Meets California VOC standards
- ✓ Tested to ensure cleaning performance



### Look for the on the HAZMAT App

**Green Cleaners are:**

- Already listed on your AUL
- Easy and fast to order
- No lengthy material request needed
- Available from local vendors

EPA's Safer Choice Website: <https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice>  
 POC: NAVSUP WSS Pollution Prevention at: [afloat hazmat.wss.fct@navy.mil](mailto:afloat hazmat.wss.fct@navy.mil)

*This "Clean with Green" community outreach flyer was provided to personnel at the pilot bases. It outlines the benefits of selecting Safer Choice cleaners over traditional cleaners and the time saved by fast track ordering them.*



*Todd W. Heintzelman, Environmental Protection Specialist, receives the EPA's Safer Choice Partner of the Year 2020 Award on behalf of NAVSUP WSS.*