



2021

Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards



EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA

Natural Resources Conservation, Large Installation Award



The Natural Resources Team (NRT) tags a rescued gopher tortoise by drilling holes at the corners of its shell before releasing it into its new home in the base's range. Increasing gopher tortoise populations on base could prevent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from listing the species as threatened or endangered.



NRT forestry technician and wildland fire specialist Mr. Hollister Hurt monitors a prescribed burn at White Point, a military-owned, 85-acre recreation area. Eglin Air Force Base has the largest prescribed fire program in the Air Force. In Fiscal Years 2019-2020, the NRT conducted 162 prescribed burns across 153,577 acres.



MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA

Environmental Quality, Industrial Installation Award



An AH-1Z Viper flies over a former vegetation obstruction in the runway clear zone that threatened pilot and aircrew safety. Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton partnered with the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office to develop a mitigation plan to remove the obstruction and restore similar habitat in the local community.



Students from the Comprehensive Environmental Training and Education Program put on protective gear for first responder operations. Marine Aircraft Group 39 personnel undergo extensive training to ensure the safe handling of hazardous materials and rapid and proper spill response.



YOKOTA AIR BASE, JAPAN

Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation Award



U.S. civilians, U.S. military personnel, and Japan Air Self-Defense Force personnel pick up litter on the streets bordering Yokota Air Base during an Earth Day community cleanup event. This annual event raises environmental awareness and demonstrates that Yokota Air Base supports the local community.



Mr. Yoshitaka Yamaguchi leads one of six ecological tours at Tama Hills, a recreation area that serves Yokota and nearby installations. The tours demonstrate the Air Force's conservation policy and the U.S. Forces Japan environmental engagement strategy to community members.



U.S. ARMY GARRISON FORT POLK, LOUISIANA

Sustainability, Non-Industrial Installation Award



The Sustainability Program supports Army missions while protecting natural resources. Fort Polk implements sustainability practices and principles to enhance training opportunities and ensure long-term availability of training areas.



Fort Polk staff used Qualified Recycling Program proceeds to purchase catfish to stock ponds for the annual Youth Catfish Derby during Operation Earth Friendly. Operation Earth Friendly is a week-long event that highlights the installation's commitment to environmental stewardship.



NAVAL SUPPLY SYSTEMS COMMAND, WEAPON SYSTEMS SUPPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Sustainability, Individual/Team Award



The Naval Supply Systems Command, Weapon Systems Support Team. Pictured in top row, left to right: Andrea Finely, Todd Heintzelman, and Renata Laing. Middle row, left to right: Dave Sapp, Nino Giambone, and Nil Sivakumar. Bottom row, left to right: Shane Dreese, James Pilkington, and Linda Christensen.



Mr. Todd W. Heintzelman, Environmental Protection Specialist, accepts the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safer Choice Partner of the Year 2020 Award on behalf of the Naval Supply Systems Command, Weapon Systems Support Team. The team won the honor for advancing the use of safer and more sustainable cleaning chemicals.



SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Environmental Restoration, Installation Award



Shaw Air Force Base is home to the 20th Fighter Wing, the Air Force's largest F-16 "Fighting Falcon" combat wing, whose mission is to provide combat-ready airpower and Airmen. In Fiscal Years 2019-2020, the Air Force awarded 10 contracts, valued at nearly \$62 million, for environmental restoration at the base.



Department of the Air Force environmental restoration contractors drill a small-diameter pipe into the ground at Sans Souci Farm in Sumter, South Carolina, to inject a Remediation Products BOS 100 treatment into a deep trichloroethene/tetrachloroethene plume. This technique intercepts and treats the plume's leading edge.



NAVAL BASE POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA

Cultural Resources Management, Small Installation Award



Building 158, circa 1912. The Cultural Resources Management Program worked with base stakeholders to rehabilitate Building 158, a premier historic structure on base. Program staff retained the building's historic character and features while providing a modern workspace for the new occupant, the base's Security Department.



Admiral Hartman Family Housing tot lot construction, October 2020. The Cultural Resources Management Program facilitated the development of new recreational facilities through archaeological survey and monitoring at the Admiral Hartman Family Housing site in a Late Prehistoric Kumeyaay Village, La Rinconada De Jamo.



MR. THOMAS E. PENDERS, PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, FLORIDA

Cultural Resources Management, Individual/Team Award



Mr. Thomas E. Penders, Cultural Resources Manager for the 45th Space Wing. Mr. Penders manages over 500 cultural resources, including archaeological sites, missile sites, launch complexes, the Man in Space National Historic Landmark District, World War II resources, cemeteries, a lighthouse, and historic missiles.



These before and after images of Harold W. Butler's grave show the dramatic effects of proper cleaning techniques. Mr. Penders developed a program to improve eight historic cemeteries at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, including cleaning headstones, marking unmarked graves, replacing fences, and repairing broken grave markers.