



THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
3400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3400

ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS,
AND ENVIRONMENT

January 9, 2026

**MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (INSTALLATIONS,
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (ENERGY,
INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (ENERGY,
INSTALLATIONS, AND ENVIRONMENT)
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES**

Subject: Request for 2026 Department of War Environmental Awards Nominations

This memorandum requests your 2026 Department of War (DoW) Environmental Awards nominations. DoW has honored installations, teams, and individuals for outstanding achievements in the Department's environmental programs annually since 1962. These achievements directly support the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War for Energy, Installations and Environment's mission of operationalizing installation energy and resources through responsible environmental management and strategic partnerships, delivering quality support to Service members and their families, while enhancing mission readiness for our warfighters.

Please submit your nominations in accordance with the attached guidance by April 10, 2026. As outlined on page three of the guidance, each Military Department and Defense Agency may submit one nomination for each of the four installation and four individual/team award categories. Nominations should include achievements accomplished between October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2025, and highlight how these efforts directly support the military mission.

It is a great privilege to honor both military and civilian personnel for their outstanding accomplishments in environmental stewardship and management and their contributions to long-term operational readiness. The 2026 DoW Environmental Awards point of contact is Mr. Terry Bowers, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Environmental Management and Restoration, at 571-232-2482 or terry.l.bowers14.civ@mail.mil.

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Robert E. Thompson
Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary
of War for Energy, Installations and
Environment

Attachment:
As stated

cc:
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology)
Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition)
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics)

**DEPARTMENT OF WAR (DoW) ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS
2026 GUIDANCE**

As of December 5, 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THE AWARDS	2
NOMINATION PROCESS OVERVIEW	3
NOMINATION PACKAGE REQUIREMENTS AND FORMAT	6
1. Nomination Submission Form:	6
2. Nomination Narrative	6
3. Brochure Summary	7
4. Compliance History	7
5. Security Review/Public Release Documentation	9
6. Photographs for Brochure:	10
7. Photograph Captions	10
8. Logo	10
NOMINATION PACKAGE CHECKLIST	11
DESCRIPTION OF THE 2026 DOW ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS CATEGORIES	12
AWARD CATEGORIES	14
Natural Resources Conservation – Small Installation	14
Natural Resources Conservation – Individual/Team	17
Types of Natural Resources Conservation Accomplishments	19
Environmental Quality – Non-Industrial Installation	21
Environmental Quality – Individual/Team	23
Types of Environmental Quality Accomplishments	25
Environmental Restoration – Installation	27
Environmental Restoration – Individual/Team	29
Types of Environmental Restoration Accomplishments	31
Cultural Resources Management – Large Installation	32
Types of Cultural Resources Management Accomplishments	34
Environmental Excellence in Weapon Systems Acquisition – Individual/Team	37
Types of Environmental Excellence in Weapon Systems Acquisition Accomplishments ...	39
JUDGING GUIDANCE	42
APPENDIX I	45
APPENDIX II	49

ABOUT THE AWARDS

Each year since 1962, DoW has honored installations, teams, and individuals for outstanding achievements in the Department’s environmental programs. These efforts directly support mission sustainment by advancing installation resilience, regulatory compliance, and long-term operational readiness. As structured since Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, the DoW Environmental Awards program places certain awards on a two-year cycle. As shown in the table below, Large and Small installations, as well as Non-Industrial and Industrial installations compete in alternate years. The 2026 awards cycle encompasses an achievement period from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2025 (FYs 2024 and 2025).

DoW Environmental Awards Categories:

Cycle Begins in Even FY (e.g., 2024, 2026, 2028)	Cycle Begins in Odd FY (e.g., 2025, 2027, 2029)
Installation	Installation
Natural Resources Conservation, Small	Natural Resources Conservation, Large
Environmental Quality, Non-Industrial	Environmental Quality, Industrial
	Environmental Quality, Overseas
Environmental Restoration	Environmental Restoration
Cultural Resources Management, Large	Cultural Resources Management, Small
Individual/Team	Individual/Team
Natural Resources Conservation	Cultural Resources Management
Environmental Quality	Environmental Excellence in Weapon Systems Acquisition
Environmental Restoration	
Environmental Excellence in Weapon Systems Acquisition	

NOMINATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

2026 DoW Environmental Awards Categories:

Installation	Individual/Team
Natural Resources Conservation, Small	Natural Resources Conservation
Environmental Quality, Non-Industrial	Environmental Quality
Environmental Restoration	Environmental Restoration
Cultural Resources Management, Large	Environmental Excellence in Weapon Systems Acquisition

Nominations for the 2026 DoW Environmental Awards, which recognize achievements from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2025, are due to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War for Energy, Installations, and Environment (OASW(EI&E)) by April 10, 2026. The submission window for nominations is from March 30 to April 10, 2026.

Each Military Service or Defense Agency (herein after referred to as the DoW Components) must email EnvironmentalAwards@bah.com to request file transfer instructions before submitting their nomination packages. It's important to ensure **all nomination materials are unclassified and cleared for public release at the time of submission.**

Each DoW Component may submit one nomination for each of the eight award categories, recognizing achievements between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2025. All nomination coordination must be conducted internally within each DoW Component. Nominees should not submit materials directly to OASW(EI&E), but rather through their appropriate headquarters chain of command.

DoW Components may delegate internal responses to the Assistant Secretary of War for Energy, Installations, and Environment (ASW(EI&E)) memorandum requesting nominations down their respective chains of command from the Office of the Assistant Secretary to the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary, or the equivalent within a Defense Agency.

OASW(EI&E) will distribute all nomination narratives to volunteer program judges and publish the submissions on the [program's DENIX page](#).

All nomination materials must undergo a completed publication and security review, documented by one of the following:

- A cleared DD Form 1910,
- A DoW Component-equivalent publication and security review, or
- An attestation from a qualified entity confirming review.

Security review documentation must be signed using a Common Access Card (CAC) by an official Public Affairs Officer (PAO).

Each DoW Component must transmit its award nomination packages under a cover memorandum addressed to the ASW(EI&E) and signed by the appropriate DoW Component

leadership. This memorandum should respond to the annual request for award nominations from the ASW(EI&E) and should attest to the accuracy, completeness, and qualification of the nominations transmitted therein. For more information, please access the Nomination Transmittal Memorandum Template posted under the Guidance section at <https://www.denix.osd.mil/awards>. **The awards program will not accept packages that do not include this memorandum.**

Installation awards recognize the accomplishments of installation and command environmental programs and their personnel, whose work directly supports military readiness, operational continuity, and mission sustainment. Team awards recognize extraordinary accomplishments of specific project teams, special collaborative teams, cross-functional or cross-organizational teams, or other groups of individuals whose work and collaboration on an environmental issue go beyond standard environmental responsibilities to advance the Department's strategic objectives. Nominees for team awards must include one or more DoW civilian employees (including Intergovernmental Personnel Act [IPA] employees) or members of the U.S. Armed Forces. Other team members may include personnel from Federal, state, tribal, and local government agencies; academic institutions; private organizations; DoW contractors; and/or host nation (HN) employees. Individual awards recognize exceptional accomplishments that demonstrate initiative and impact beyond routine responsibilities in support of the military mission. Nominees for individual awards must be DoW civilian employees (including IPA employees) or members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

All nominations should emphasize accomplishments that demonstrate measurable impact, cost-effectiveness, and direct contributions to military readiness and national security objectives. Nominations should include quantitative information that illustrates the operational relevance and strategic value of each nominee's work. Nominations should include new achievements and should not reuse the same activities from previous years with updated statistics from the current award period. Nominations should not include the same activities across multiple award categories. Installations, teams, and individuals that have previously won a DoW Environmental Award are not eligible to compete using the same accomplishments for any subsequent submission, regardless of the category or award period.

The DoW Environmental Awards nominees are not evaluated by DoW staff or leadership. Rather, a diverse panel of judges with relevant expertise from Federal and state agencies, private organizations, academia, and the private sector evaluate the nominations. This panel recommends winners by evaluating nominations according to the six criteria listed below. Additional judging guidance for all categories begins on page 42.

1. Orientation to Mission
2. Program Management
3. Technical Merit
4. Transferability
5. Stakeholder Interaction
6. Impact/Outcomes

Winners will receive a trophy, a U.S. flag flown over the Capitol and the Pentagon, flag certificates from the Capitol and Pentagon, and a meritorious achievement certificate and

congratulatory letter signed by the ASW(EI&E). All qualified nominees will receive recognition on the awards program website (www.denix.osd.mil/awards) and in the annual awards program brochure.

NOMINATION PACKAGE REQUIREMENTS AND FORMAT

The achievement period for the 2026 DoW Environmental Awards is FY 2024 through FY 2025 (October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2025). The nomination packages should not include achievements outside of this period. **All nomination materials must be unclassified, defense-relevant, and cleared for public release prior to submission to OASW(EI&E). Nomination packages must be submitted using the format and guidelines specified by this guidance.** A checklist with required documents and procedures for nominating each installation, team, or individual is on page 11. Please see the awards program website for examples from previous years (www.denix.osd.mil/awards).

The nomination package must contain all of the following elements, where each element is a separate electronic document:

1. Nomination Submission Form
2. Nomination Narrative
3. Brochure Summary
4. Compliance History
5. Security Review/Public Release Documentation
6. Photographs for Brochure
7. Photograph Captions
8. Logo

1. Nomination Submission Form:

- a. Review and complete the Nomination Submission Form in Appendix I (page 45).
- b. As appropriate, form input should include the full name, rank, and formal job title of the nominee(s) and other primary contacts as this information will appear in formal publications and recognition materials (e.g., website, press release, brochure, certificates, trophy). Do not use informal or partial naming conventions.
- c. Please include full contact information for the primary nominee, Commander's Assistant or Chief of Staff, and PAO. Full contact information includes an email address, commercial phone number, and mailing address, as required in the Nomination Submission Form.

2. Nomination Narrative:

- a. The purpose of the narrative is to provide the content the judges will use to evaluate the nomination. Discuss the importance and meaning of the accomplishments thoroughly, demonstrate them quantitatively. List the accomplishments in priority order for the benefit of the judges and readers, listing the nominee's most important accomplishment first. The narrative must clearly address the six judging criteria, which the Judging Guidance section describes in detail (page 42). All accomplishments listed in a nomination package must be unique to each category in any given award period. Each award category section contains a more detailed description of what the narrative content should address.
- b. The narrative should be a single-spaced Microsoft (MS) Word file or Portable Document Format (PDF) file using 12-point, Times New Roman font and images (e.g., tables, charts, diagrams, photographs), as appropriate, to clarify and illustrate accomplishments.

- c. Videos and music cannot be included.
- d. Any graphic fonts, including photograph captions, should be no smaller than 10-point.
- e. The total text and graphics of the award narrative shall consist of no more than seven single-sided, 8½" x 11" pages when printed.
- f. For narratives supporting team award nominations, please include a statement describing the team's purpose and goals. **This statement should distinguish the team from installation or command environmental programs.**

3. Brochure Summary:

- a. The purpose of this one-page summary is to provide text for awards publications (e.g., brochure, fact sheet). The summary should be concise yet detailed enough to convey the nominee's contributions to military readiness, environmental resilience, and mission sustainment.
- b. The summary should consist of a single-spaced MS Word file or PDF file with 12-point, Times New Roman font. The summary should be on a single-sided, 8½" x 11" page. **Failure to include the one-page summary will disqualify the nomination package.**
- c. The summary must include a paragraph of no more than 600 words that (i) introduces the installation, team, or individual nominated for the award category; and (ii) describes, in non-technical language, the project(s), program(s), and effort(s) conducted by that installation, team, or individual which directly supports the military mission.
- d. The summary should also include four to six bullets, with no more than 60 words per bullet, describing the most outstanding accomplishments by the nominated installation, team, or individual during the award cycle. Each bullet should also describe why each accomplishment is valuable and important to supporting the military mission and readiness. Nominees should order these bullets with the most significant accomplishments listed first and include quantitative outcome or impact information that clearly demonstrates the accomplishments' importance (e.g., quantifiable cost avoidance, time savings, reductions in emissions, improved protection of human health and the environment).
- e. The summary should not include any new information not mentioned or addressed in the narrative.

4. Compliance History:

- a. The purpose of requesting compliance history documentation is to ensure that nominees are not associated with environmental infractions. Nomination packages should include background information and an explanation for all compliance infractions in the Nomination Submission Form.
 - i. Each nominee in the United States should include a compliance statement describing the nominee's relationship with the installation(s) where the nominee has a programmatic tie to land, facility, or environmental management or compliance responsibilities, and/or where nominee staff are located. Nominees should include this information in the Nomination Submission Form of their nomination package for submittal to OASW(EI&E).
 - ii. The nomination package should also include the latest available Detailed Facility Report from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) database in a PDF file (<http://echo.epa.gov/>). **Note: The awards program will not accept spreadsheets or any file types other than PDF.**

- iii. Nomination packages for overseas installations should contain a statement that the installation is compliant with its environmental standards. These standards include those within:

1. DOD Manual (DODM) 4715.05, Volume 1, *Overseas Environmental Baseline Guidance Document (OEBGD): Conservation*
2. DODM 4715.05, Volume 2, *OEBGD: Air and Toxics*
3. DODM 4715.05, Volume 3, *OEBGD: Water*
4. DODM 4715.05, Volume 4, *OEBGD: Hazardous Materials, Storage Tanks, Spills, and Pesticides*
5. DODM 4715.05, Volume 5, *OEBGD: Waste*
6. The applicable and current (within five years) Final Governing Standards (FGS).

The installation executive staff or leadership with the authority to confirm this information should sign this statement. Either a physical or digital signature is acceptable, as long as OASW(EI&E) has the individual's title and contact information.

- iv. For installation awards:

1. The nomination package should include an ECHO report(s) for the installation and any associated sites the nominee represents.
2. Nominees from overseas installations should include the statement of compliance for the installation and for any associated sites the nominee represents.

- v. For team awards:

1. If a team supports only one installation, the nomination package should include an ECHO report for that installation (or statement of compliance for overseas installations).
2. If a team supports multiple installations, the nomination package should include an ECHO report (or statement of compliance for overseas installations) for each installation the team supports. The team must have a programmatic tie to land, facility, or environmental management or compliance responsibilities at the installation.
3. If a team has no programmatic tie to land, facility, or environmental management or compliance responsibilities at any installation, the nomination package should include only the ECHO report (or statement of compliance for overseas installations) for the primary installation where team members are located.
4. The nomination package should include a statement describing the team's relationship with the installation(s) from which the nominee submitted ECHO report(s) (or statement(s) of compliance for overseas installations). The nominee should provide this information in the Nomination Submission Form. The nominee should also describe how the team's responsibilities do or do not relate programmatically to the land, facility, or environmental management or compliance

responsibilities at the installation for which the team submitted the ECHO report(s).

- vi. For individual awards:
 - 1. The nomination package should include an ECHO report for the nominee's installation, or a statement of compliance if the installation is overseas.
 - 2. An individual nominee can include a statement describing the individual's relationship with the installation for which the nominee submitted an ECHO report and/or a statement of compliance. The nominee should provide this information on the Nomination Submission Form.
 - b. Installations where the nominee has a programmatic tie to land, facility, or environmental management or compliance responsibilities that have any High Priority Violation (HPV), Serious Violator (SV), or Significant Non-Compliance (SNC) infractions during the achievement period, or other pending substantial violations that may arise after the nomination is submitted and prior to announcement of the winners, are not eligible to compete in any category of the DoW Environmental Awards, unless the installation can demonstrate, with supporting documentation, that the violations and their inclusion in the ECHO report are erroneous or in an unrelated program area. An HPV, SV, or SNC status alone for an installation does not disqualify the submission of a nomination in an unrelated program area. Even if violations are in an unrelated program area, the appropriate DoW Component should expect to receive a follow-up request from the awards team for additional information about corrective actions that occurred between submission and the mid-to-late April 2026 timeframe. This will help OASW(EI&E) determine if the optics of a particular violation are acceptable for receiving an environmental award.
 - c. Any new violations that occur between submission and winner announcement should be immediately reported through the nominee's chain of command to OASW(EI&E). Prior to submitting nomination packages to OASW(EI&E), the appropriate DoW Component should screen installation nominees against the ECHO report, as well as against its own internal reporting on environmental violations, to ensure that there are no HPV, SV, or SNC infractions at the time of submission. Screening the installation nominees against the ECHO report will also minimize the potential for HPV, SV, or SNC infractions that may arise after nomination packages have been submitted and winners are announced.
- 5. Security Review/Public Release Documentation:**
- a. All information provided in the nomination package must be unclassified and cleared for public release by the nominating DoW Component before submission to OASW(EI&E).
 - b. Packages must include signed copies of security review documentation for public release in the submittal to OASW(EI&E). At the Office of the Secretary of War level, clearance for public release of information is obtained in accordance with DOD Instruction (DODI) 5230.09, *Clearance of DOD Information for Public Release*, using DD Form 1910. The DD Form 1910 can be found on the Defense Office of Prepublication and Security Review webpage: www.esd.whs.mil/DOPSR/. DoW Components may use their own publication security review forms, but

DD Form 1910 is preferable. The security review documentation must be signed via CAC by an official PAO.

6. Photographs for Brochure:

- a. Each nomination package must include at least **six high-resolution** photographs that illustrate the nominee's performance and achievements listed in the nomination narrative. These photographs should be appropriate and available for use in the DoW Environmental Awards publications and program materials. Photographs should visually reinforce the nominee's contributions to military readiness, installation resilience, and mission sustainment.
- b. Nominees should provide these photographs separately from the nomination narrative and in Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPG/JPEG) or Portable Network Graphics (PNG) electronic format. Photographs should be a **minimum** of 4" x 6" with a **minimum** resolution of 300 dots per inch (dpi). Nominees should number photographs to align with their captions (see Photograph Captions below). OASW(EI&E) will not accept photographs if they do not meet the minimum requirements of 4" x 6" with a resolution of 300 dpi or higher.
- c. Individuals and teams nominated for an award category must provide a photograph of themselves to appear in the awards brochure and outreach materials.
- d. Photographs should be appropriate for publication in style and content. The best photographs are those that show the actions, equipment, resources, land, buildings, habitats, people, or species impacted by the nominee's efforts featured in the achievement period. Images featuring people should visually convey the nominee's role in advancing mission-related environmental outcomes.
- e. Additional photographic guidance is available in the Defense Information School article, "[One Shot – One Still: Getting It Right the First Time.](#)"

7. Photograph Captions:

- a. Each photograph must be accompanied by a short, two- to three-sentence caption. The captions should be numbered to match the photograph's file name and in an MS Word document. Please do not embed the caption in the photograph. The photographs should depict the nominee's performance, as outlined in the nomination narrative, and must relate to the submitted award category. Write the caption in [plain language](#) suitable for direct use and publication in the brochure and other program materials.
- b. Ensure that the photograph caption explains what the photograph shows, how it relates to the nominees' accomplishments, and why that is important and valuable to DoW and the military mission. **If the photographs show personnel, please list their full names, ranks, and formal job titles.**
- c. Additional caption guidance is available in the Defense Information School article "[Completing a Proper Caption.](#)"

8. Logo: Each nomination package must include a high-resolution (300 dpi or higher) image of the nominee's activity logo that is in JPG/JPEG or PNG electronic format.

NOMINATION PACKAGE CHECKLIST

1.	Nomination Submission Form	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Nomination Narrative (MS Word or PDF, 7-page limit)	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Brochure Summary (MS Word or PDF, 1-page limit)	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Compliance History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - U.S. EPA ECHO report(s) - Nominee screened against ECHO and internal violation reports and does not have HPV, SV, or SNC violations during the achievement period - If overseas submission, an official statement that they comply with their environmental governing standards 	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Security Review/Public Release Documentation (DD Form 1910, DoW Component equivalent, or other qualified attestation)	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Photographs for Brochure (6 photos; minimum size of 4" x 6" with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi; PNG or JPG/JPEG format)	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Photograph Captions (maximum length of 3 sentences each)	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Logo (minimum 300 dpi resolution; PNG or JPG/JPEG format)	<input type="checkbox"/>
*	Accomplishments featured in the nominee's narrative occurred during the achievement period (October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2025)	<input type="checkbox"/>
*	Nominee screened against all nomination criteria and is award eligible	<input type="checkbox"/>
*	All information included in the nomination package is unclassified and cleared for public release	<input type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIPTION OF THE 2026 DOW ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS CATEGORIES

Natural Resources Conservation (Small Installation & Individual/Team)

These awards honor exceptional efforts that directly enhance military readiness through proactive natural resource conservation and ecosystem management. Recognized initiatives must demonstrate a clear alignment with the readiness mission by:

- Promoting the conservation of natural resources, including the identification, protection, and restoration of biological assets and habitats.
- Ensuring sound stewardship of land and water resources to sustain operational capabilities.
- Advancing innovative ecosystem management strategies that support long-term mission success.

Eligible efforts may include but are not limited to:

- Collaborative conservation actions to protect threatened, endangered, and at-risk species and their habitats.
- Reducing bird and wildlife aircraft strike hazards (BASH) to improve flight safety.
- Proactive wildfire risk management to safeguard training areas and infrastructure.
- Eradication and control of invasive species that threaten mission-critical landscapes.
- Enhancing landscape resilience to maintain access to realistic combat training environments while preserving ecological integrity.

DoW Components may submit nominations for:

- **Small installations** (less than 10,000 acres), including leased, military-owned, or administered ranges and training areas.
- **Individuals or teams** whose contributions have significantly advanced conservation in support of military operations.

Environmental Quality (Non-Industrial Installation & Individual/Team)

These awards recognize efforts to ensure mission accomplishment and the protection of human health and the environment in the areas of environmental planning, waste management, and compliance with environmental laws, regulations, and standards (e.g., Clean Air Act [CAA], Clean Water Act [CWA], Resource Conservation and Recovery Act [RCRA], Safe Drinking Water Act [SDWA], Toxic Substances Control Act [TSCA], the OEBGD, FGS). Meeting or exceeding all environmental requirements not only enhances the protection of our environmental assets but also sustains DoW's ability to effectively train and maintain readiness.

DoW Components may nominate:

- **Any non-industrial installation** of any size to include ranges, test centers, contracting and policy organizations, and research and development (R&D) facilities.
- **Any individual or team** whose contributions have significantly advanced environmental stewardship in support of operational readiness.

Environmental Restoration (Installation & Individual/Team)

These awards recognize efforts to protect human health and the environment by cleaning up hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, and/or munitions in a timely, cost-efficient, and responsive manner. Restoring sites impacted by past DoW activities protects military

personnel, their families, and the public from potential human health, environmental, and safety hazards.

DoW Components may nominate:

- **Any active or closed installation** within the United States.
- **Any individual or team** operating within the United States whose work has significantly advanced environmental restoration in support of operational readiness.

Cultural Resources Management (Large Installation)

This award recognizes exceptional efforts in cultural resources management (CRM) that directly support the military mission. CRM should exemplify proactive stewardship of DoW's extensive heritage assets to include archaeological sites, cultural items, historic properties, and cultural landscapes. Effective CRM safeguards these resources while enabling uninterrupted training, testing, and operational activities across the force.

CRM programs strengthen mission execution by building robust partnerships with installation stakeholders such as master planning, public works, and range management. Early identification and evaluation of cultural resources reduce operational delays and preserve access to mission-critical lands.

This award also highlights successful collaboration with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs), states, and other historic preservation partners to protect cultural resources in a manner that upholds both mission readiness and responsible stewardship.

DoW Components may nominate:

- **Any large installation** exceeding 10,000 acres including leased, military-owned, or administered ranges and training areas.

Environmental Excellence in Weapon Systems Acquisition (Individual/Team)

This award recognizes efforts to incorporate environment, safety, and occupational health (ESOH) requirements into a weapon systems acquisition program's system engineering, product support (logistics), contracting, and/or decision-making processes. Integrating ESOH requirements into acquisition ensures that weapon systems are developed and sustained in ways that protect personnel, preserve environmental resources, and maintain operational effectiveness. These efforts directly contribute to the Department's ability to provide safe, resilient, and mission-ready capabilities.

DoW Components may nominate:

- **An individual or team** actively executing ESOH responsibilities within a program office, including geographically dispersed teams not co-located at the same installation.

Installations, laboratories, and other organizations not serving as integral and active members of the acquisition program are **not eligible** for this award.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Natural Resources Conservation – Small Installation

Eligibility:

Presented to a small military installation managing less than 10,000 acres to include leased, owned, or administered ranges and training areas that have demonstrated exceptional progress in conserving natural resources as a strategic asset for mission readiness. This award recognizes installations that integrate environmental stewardship with operational effectiveness, ensuring long-term sustainability of land and water resources critical to training and mission objectives. This honor commends installations that exemplify mission-aligned resource management, balancing ecological integrity with military preparedness.

To qualify, installations must:

- Maintain a fully compliant Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) throughout the achievement period.
- Complete an internal natural resources self-assessment during the achievement period.
- Engage with one or more INRMP partners to strengthen collaborative conservation efforts.
- Clearly state that the above actions occurred in your submission.

Definitions:

Compliant INRMP: An INRMP that has been both approved in writing and reviewed within the past five years for operational effectiveness by authorized officials of DoW, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and each appropriate state fish and wildlife agency.

Review as to Operation and Effect: A comprehensive joint review by the parties to the INRMP, conducted no less often than every five years, to determine whether the plan needs an update or revision to continue to adequately address Sikes Act purposes and requirements.

Judging Criteria:

The judges will evaluate nominations based on the following criteria (see Judging Guidance on page 42 for additional detail):

1. The program's success in advancing the Department's core priorities, including supporting the warfighter, rebuilding military capabilities, and reestablishing deterrence.
2. The nominee's successes in program management, prioritizing urgency, efficiency, and accountability. This may include:
 - a. Advancing natural resources management activities that address mission priorities and result in the highest return on investment.
 - b. Streamlining processes and activities to overcome obstacles and accelerate delivery of mission support.
3. The program's technical merits and how agile the program is in adapting to changing priorities and requirements. This may include demonstrating and employing emerging and advanced technology to address natural resources challenges.
4. The nominee's effectiveness in disseminating lessons learned to others (internal and external to the installation).

5. The nominee's success in involving base personnel, residents, and the local military community in the program.
6. The nominee's plans to ensure that the impacts of program accomplishments extend beyond the achievement period.
7. The nominee's use of partnerships and innovation to achieve conservation goals and mission needs.

Narrative Packet:

Introduction: Concisely describe the installation mission, approximate civilian and military population (unless classified), and total acreage managed under the nominee's INRMP, followed by a description of the component acreage covered by the natural resources program (e.g., improved, semi-improved, and unimproved acreage; acres of managed forests, wildlife, grazing, agriculture, unique natural areas, lakes, or wetlands; miles of streams or coastline; acres available for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation). Describe significant natural features, such as geological and botanical assets. Please specify how the Natural Resources Program supports the installation's mission (e.g., provides unique habitats for testing and training).

Background: Summarize the strategic role of the installation's natural resources program in supporting mission readiness and environmental stewardship. Describe efforts to update and implement the INRMP, including coordination with INRMP partners through formal meetings, collaborative planning sessions, and stakeholder engagement. Specify the date of the most recent INRMP review or revision conducted to evaluate its operation and effectiveness.

Provide a brief overview of the organizational structure and staffing of the natural resources program, highlighting key personnel roles and technical expertise that contribute to program execution. Identify any advisory committees, working groups, or boards that influence natural resource management decisions, and explain how their input enhances installation resilience, supports operational continuity, and aligns with mission objectives.

Summary of Accomplishments: Highlight the natural resources program's most impactful achievements during the reporting period, emphasizing how these efforts directly advanced military readiness, operational continuity, and environmental resilience. Describe innovative techniques or approaches used to meet conservation goals that support mission-critical activities, such as sustaining realistic training environments, mitigating environmental constraints, or enhancing installation adaptability.

Explain how the goals and objectives outlined in the INRMP contributed to both ecological stewardship and mission success. Include examples of science-based initiatives or research-driven accomplishments that improved ecosystem health, reduced operational risk, generated cost savings, or enhanced training ensuring these examples reflect new progress distinct from prior successes.

Identify the exceptional features of the installation's natural resources program, including its cost-effectiveness, strategic value, and ability to exceed statutory and regulatory requirements. Clearly demonstrate how the program integrates with and strengthens the military mission, using

quantitative data and specific examples to substantiate claims. Please ensure that these examples are distinct from past successes.

Natural Resources Conservation – Individual/Team

Eligibility:

Presented to an individual or team whose work has made a significant and enduring impact on natural resource conservation in direct support of the military mission. This award honors those who advance environmental stewardship to enhance military readiness, sustain training capabilities, and protect critical landscapes. This recognition commends mission-driven innovation, collaboration, and leadership in safeguarding the natural assets that sustain national security.

Eligibility for this award includes:

- **Individual nominees** must be DoW civilian employees (including IPA participants) or active members of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- **Team nominees** must include at least one DoW civilian employee (including IPAs) or U.S. Armed Forces member. Teams may also include contractors and HN personnel.

To qualify, the individual's or team's installation must:

- Maintain a fully compliant INRMP throughout the achievement period.
- Complete an internal natural resources self-assessment during the achievement period.
- Engage with one or more INRMP partners to strengthen collaborative conservation efforts.
- Clearly state that the above actions occurred in your submission.

Judging Criteria:

The judges will evaluate nominations based on the following criteria (see Judging Guidance on page 42 for additional detail):

1. The nominee's successes in advancing the Department's core priorities, including support to the warfighter, rebuilding military capabilities, and reestablishing deterrence.
2. The nominee's successes in program management, prioritizing urgency, efficiency, and accountability. This may include:
 - a. Advancing natural resources management activities that address mission priorities and result in the highest return on investment.
 - b. Streamlining processes and activities to overcome obstacles and accelerate delivery of mission support.
3. The nominee's technical merits and agility in adapting to changing priorities and requirements. This may include demonstrating and employing emerging and advanced technology to address natural resources challenges.
4. The nominee's effectiveness in disseminating lessons learned to others (internal and external to the installation).
5. The nominee's success in involving base personnel, residents, and the local military community in the program.
6. The nominee's plans to ensure that the impacts of program accomplishments extend beyond the achievement period.
7. The nominee's use of partnerships and innovation to achieve conservation goals, mission needs.

Narrative Packet:

Introduction: Describe the installation mission that the individual or team supports and list the individual's or each team member's name, title or position, and employing organization. Include a brief explanation of how the nominee's work contributes to the installation's ability to train, test, and operate effectively.

Background: Provide a summary of the nominee's core duties and responsibilities during the achievement period, emphasizing how these functions supported the installation's operational readiness and strategic objectives. Include relevant background on the natural resources program, detailing the functional offices involved and the management approach employed under the nominee's leadership, whether individual or team-based.

For team nominations, describe how roles and responsibilities were clearly defined, distributed, and executed to ensure efficient program delivery and alignment with mission priorities. Highlight coordination with mission-critical functions such as range management, master planning, emergency response, and other operational units. Demonstrate how this collaboration enhanced installation resilience, sustained training capabilities, and ensured compliance with environmental requirements while advancing the military mission.

Summary of Accomplishments: Detail the nominee's most significant accomplishments during the achievement period, emphasizing how these efforts directly advanced the installation's mission and operational readiness. Highlight innovative techniques or strategies the nominee employed to achieve conservation outcomes that enhanced training realism, reduced environmental constraints, or improved ecosystem resilience in support of DoW objectives.

Provide specific examples of conservation and program successes, including measurable impacts such as cost savings, increased habitat availability for mission-sensitive species, or improved land management practices that sustain military operations. List and describe any awards, commendations, or formal recognition received for excellence in natural resources conservation during the reporting period.

Include relevant professional achievements such as community engagement tied to DoW conservation efforts, participation in professional organizations or conferences, and the development or completion of initiatives that extended beyond routine responsibilities. These initiatives should demonstrate leadership, innovation, and alignment with the Department's environmental goals while reinforcing military readiness.

Ensure all examples are distinct from prior accomplishments and supported by quantitative data wherever possible to illustrate the nominee's impact and value to the mission.

Types of Natural Resources Conservation Accomplishments

Overall Natural Resources Management

Describe how the:

1. Coordination of threatened and endangered species, wildlife, land use management, natural infrastructure, ecosystem management, forestry, and/or outdoor recreation efforts directly contributes to military readiness, operational continuity, and installation resilience.
2. Improvements in planning, programming, and budgeting, including innovative cost-reduction and policy innovation initiatives, strengthen the program's ability to sustain mission-critical landscapes and reduce operational risk.
3. Use of technologies, staffing, and nontraditional management approaches along with tribal knowledge enhance the natural resources program.
4. Application of ecosystem management principles and guidelines supports regional planning and landscape-level conservation, to include consideration of economic, social, and environmental factors.¹
5. Monitoring of wildlife or ecosystem changes over time and responds to various stressors, as well as how these support adaptation and resilience.

Demonstrating Mission Impact Through Natural Resource Stewardship

Describe how the nominee's accomplishments and programmatic improvements in natural resources management have directly enhanced the installation's ability to execute its military mission. Highlight how specific actions outlined in the INRMP or implemented through the natural resources program have sustained or expanded mission-critical capabilities such as training access, range availability, force mobility, or environmental compliance. Focus on how natural resource stewardship preserved readiness, protecting maneuver space, and ensured long-term sustainability of the installation's operational landscape.

Use quantitative data and concrete examples to illustrate operational benefits. This may include:

- Increased training days or range utilization due to habitat restoration or erosion control
- Reduced mission delays or restrictions through proactive species or land management
- Cost savings or risk mitigation achieved through strategic conservation efforts
- Strengthened partnerships that improved regulatory coordination or mission flexibility

Fish and Wildlife

Describe how the installation's natural resources program advances military mission success through strategic management approaches. Highlight how the INRMP provides conservation benefits for listed, candidate, or at-risk species and helped avoid critical habitat designation that could restrict military operations or training opportunities. Focus on how conservation actions sustain training access, reduce regulatory risk, and preserve ecological integrity across mission-critical landscapes. This may include:

1. Promoting species and habitat health.
2. Conserving Federal- and state-listed threatened and endangered species, game and non-game fish and wildlife, and their habitats.

¹ May include integration with efforts outside the installation if these efforts support the natural resources efforts on the installation and the installation's mission.

3. Identifying, protecting, and enhancing at-risk species, significant wildlife resources, and migratory bird habitat and flyways.
4. Allowing for access and use of hunting and fishing opportunities by the nominee's personnel and the general public, where appropriate.
5. Improving and streamlining compliance and permitting programs and fee schedules for hunting, fishing, and/or other recreation opportunities.
6. Coordinating with state wildlife action plans, with USFWS, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and state fish and wildlife agencies, to assess the effectiveness of INRMP implementation and its alignment with mission needs.
7. Using the INRMP to preclude critical habitat designations on DoW lands and ranges by providing conservation benefits for listed species or to preclude candidate or at-risk species listings.

Land Use Management

Describe how the installation's natural resources program advances military mission success through strategic management of fish, wildlife, and plants. This may include:

1. Advancing species recovery goals through actions that help avoid critical habitat designations, improve coordination with partner plans, protect migratory birds, promote hunting and fishing programs, enhance pollinator conservation, and address invasive species control, eradication, and/or biosecurity;
2. Implementing sound land use practices such as water conservation measures, erosion control initiatives, low-impact landscaping, promotion of compatible agricultural working lands, coordination with land management agencies; and
3. Executing effective forest management, such as sustainable commercial forestry, prescribed burning, habitat enhancements, and other actions.

Focus on how conservation actions sustain training access, reduce regulatory risk, and preserve ecological integrity across mission-critical landscape. Describe how accomplishments and improvements in the natural resources program have improved quality of life for the installation's personnel and surrounding communities.

Environmental Quality – Non-Industrial Installation

Eligibility:

Presented to a non-industrial installation that has demonstrated exceptional progress in advancing environmental stewardship as a strategic enabler of mission success. This award recognizes efforts that protect human health and the environment, sustain operational continuity, and ensure compliance with environmental laws, regulations, and standards, including but not limited to the CAA, CWA, RCRA, SDWA, TSCA, OEBGD, and FGS.

Eligible nominees include installations of any size whose primary mission is not industrial production or equipment maintenance. Entities such as the following are eligible for this award:

- Training ranges and test centers;
- Contracting and policy agencies, organizations, and offices; and
- R&D facilities.

Installations with the primary mission of manufacturing, maintaining, or rehabilitating military equipment are not eligible for this award.

Definitions:

Environmental Quality: The overall condition of the physical surroundings, including both the natural and built environments, and how these factors affect human and ecological health. Environmental quality encompasses elements such as air and water purity, noise levels, access to green spaces, and the functionality of buildings and infrastructure. High environmental quality signifies conditions that can support warfighter health, well-being, and ecosystem robustness.

Judging Criteria:

The judges will evaluate nominations based on the following criteria (see the Judging Guidance on page 42 for additional detail):

1. The nominee's successes in supporting the military mission and readiness.
2. The nominee's successes in program management.
3. The program's technical merits.
4. The nominee's effectiveness in disseminating lessons learned to others (internal and external to the installation).
5. The nominee's successes in involving installation personnel, residents, and the local community in the program.
6. The nominee's plans to ensure that the impacts of program accomplishments extend beyond the achievement period.

Narrative Packet:

Introduction: Describe the installation mission, approximate civilian and military population (unless classified), and total acreage. Describe the environmental, geographical, regional, and community setting of the nominee.

Background: Provide an overview of the installation's environmental quality program, emphasizing how it supports and advances the military mission. Summarize the significant environmental aspects of the mission and other environmental challenges affecting the nominee. Describe the organization and staffing of the nominee's environmental management program, the

management approach employed, and the extent of conformance with DoW and DoW Component environmental management policy and guidance. Include examples of the installation's engagement with community committees, boards, and partnerships that influence environmental strategy and strengthen mission support. Include references to and publication dates of any major environmental plans and agreements, such as Integrated Environmental Plans, Memoranda of Agreement, or cooperative conservation strategies.

Summary of Accomplishments: Highlight the installation's most impactful achievements in improving environmental quality during the achievement period. Focus on how these accomplishments directly supported mission readiness, such as reducing operational risk, enhancing compliance, or preserving training access.

Describe any innovative techniques or approaches used and explain their effectiveness with measurable outcomes. List the objectives of the environmental management program or, when applicable, the Environmental Management System (EMS) and assess the nominee's success in meeting those goals during the achievement period.

Clarify how these accomplishments are distinct from past successes and support the mission through cost savings, meeting and exceeding statutory and regulatory requirements, or other distinctive program elements. Highlight how the program not only meets compliance requirements but also strengthens the military mission. Whenever possible, support these points with quantitative data and specific examples that illustrate operational impact, resource efficiency, and strategic benefit.

Environmental Quality – Individual/Team

Eligibility:

Presented to an individual or team whose efforts have significantly advanced environmental quality, which directly supports the military mission. This award recognizes an individual or a team that has demonstrated measurable progress in protecting human health and the environment, supporting operational continuity, and ensuring compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and standards, including but not limited to the CAA, CWA, RCRA, SDWA, TSCA, OEBCD, and FGS.

To qualify:

- **Individual nominees** must be DoW civilian employees (including IPA participants) or active members of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- **Team nominees** must include at least one DoW civilian employee (including IPAs) or U.S. Armed Forces member. Teams may also include contractors and HN personnel.

This category honors those who integrate environmental stewardship with mission execution by protecting warfighter health, ensuring compliance, and enabling operational readiness across the installation or area of responsibility.

Judging Criteria:

The judges will evaluate nominations based on the following criteria (see Judging Guidance on page 42 for additional detail):

1. The nominee's successes in supporting the military mission and readiness.
2. The nominee's successes in program management.
3. The program's technical merits.
4. The nominee's effectiveness in disseminating lessons learned to others (internal and external to the installation).
5. The nominee's successes in involving installation personnel, residents, and the local community in the program.
6. The nominee's plans to ensure that the impacts of program accomplishments extend beyond the achievement period.

Narrative Packet:

Introduction: Describe the installation mission that the individual or team supports. List the individual's or each team member's name, title or position, and employing organization. Include a brief explanation of how the nominee's work contributes to the installation's ability to train, test, and operate effectively.

Background: Provide an overview of the nominee's core duties and responsibilities during the achievement period, emphasizing how these functions supported the installation's missions. Summarize relevant background information regarding the environmental quality program, including functional offices involved, management approaches employed under the nominee's leadership, environmental aspects of the program, and environmental challenges affecting the nominee.

Describe the organization and staffing of the nominee's environmental management program, the management approach employed, and the extent of conformance with DoW and DoW Component environmental management policy and guidance. Include examples of the nominee's engagement with community committees, boards, and partnerships that influence environmental strategy and strengthen mission support. Describe significant environmental plans and agreements, including the dates of preparation or latest revision of each. For team nominees, explain how team roles and responsibilities were defined, distributed, and executed to ensure efficient program delivery and alignment with mission priorities.

Summary of Accomplishments: Highlight the nominee's most impactful achievements and most outstanding programmatic features resulting in enhancing environmental quality during the achievement period. Focus on how these accomplishments directly supported the military mission, including but not limited to efforts that limit operation risk, enhance cost savings, advance compliance, or preserve access to training lands.

Detail any innovative techniques or approaches the nominee implemented, explaining their effectiveness and measurable outcomes. Describe any awards, professional achievements, and other special environmental quality recognition given to the nominee during the achievement period. These may include community service associated with the nominee's work in environmental quality, participation in related professional organizations and/or conferences, and development and/or completion of any environmental quality initiatives that have demonstrated effective management of environmental objectives and long-term mission sustainment.

Distinguish the nominee's accomplishments from past successes. Support these points with quantitative data and specific examples that illustrate operational impact, resource efficiency, and strategic benefit.

Types of Environmental Quality Accomplishments

Waste Reduction Efforts (All Media Areas)

Describe how the nominee's environmental quality efforts advance the military mission through strategic waste reduction efforts. Focus on how the nominee's waste reduction procedures and initiatives protect environmental quality, reduce regulatory risks, and sustain access to training lands. These efforts may include, but are not limited to:

1. Maintenance of permits and compliance records.
2. Compliance with regulatory requirements.
3. Efficiencies in operating plants and/or facilities.
4. Identification of projects, materials, and process changes to enhance and ensure the long-term support of the mission, prevent resource depletion, and avoid adverse impacts on natural assets.
5. Improvements to sampling and/or monitoring techniques.
6. Human health considerations.
7. Recycling and waste diversion efforts and accomplishments.
8. Water resource conservation and efficiency.

Environmental Management

Detail how the nominee's environmental management efforts advance DoW strategic objectives and support military readiness. Highlight how the nominee's environmental management enhances mission readiness by meeting and exceeding environmental standards, safeguarding training lands, and reducing operational risks.

1. Ability to set and meet environmental management goals, objectives, and targets, including EMSs if applicable.
2. Environmental compliance assessments with root cause analyses, audits, and/or implementation of subsequent program improvements.
3. Regulator interaction with regard to inspections, agreements, and other regulatory actions (United States only).
4. Ability to identify environmental impacts on operations and programs.
5. Environmental training program availability (awareness, executive, and implementation team).
6. Environmental management integration with mission, energy, transportation, and operational activities.
7. Improvements in environmental quality.

Effective Use of Funds

Describe ways in which the nominee increases operational flexibility and supports mission readiness by reducing funding expenditures, enhancing performance, or increasing productivity within the environmental budget and relevant line organization budgets. Explain funding information analysis to illustrate how adequate funds are being requested and received for execution against program requirements.

Community Relations

Describe the nominee's efforts to support its warfighters, their families, and local military communities through:

1. Programs and activities to enhance environmental awareness and community involvement (both on- and offsite) and affiliation of the nominee's personnel with civic and local environmental organizations.
2. Cooperation with Federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, organizations, and academic institutions (United States only).
3. Environmental education efforts including Community Right-to-Know activities (on and off the installation) (United States only).
4. Programs and activities to enhance environmental awareness and community involvement for base personnel and residents of military housing (overseas only).

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Planning, Analysis, and Implementation (United States only)

Detail how the nominee's NEPA planning, analysis, and implementation support operational readiness and strategic objectives. Focus on how the nominee's efforts streamline the environmental planning process, balance the military mission, and reduce delays, redundancy, and risks to strategic objectives. Examples of these efforts may include:

1. Methodology, integration, and institutionalization of environmental analyses into planning and decision making for each proposal.
2. Setting of and adherence to objectives and goals that promote long-term operations and identification of actions to streamline the process of identifying the proposed action, appropriate alternatives, and mitigation measures.
3. Management techniques used and their effectiveness in public involvement and participation, including actions to engage in cooperative engagement with other Federal, state, and local agencies; American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and/or NHOs.
4. Examples of ensuring editorial excellence, including readability and brevity.
5. Controls to monitor the environmental effects of the proposed action and the impact of mitigation measures adopted.
6. Supporting the warfighter and promoting timeliness of NEPA implementation and assessments to meet deadlines as required by DoW NEPA procedures (e.g., one year for Environmental Assessment, two years for Environmental Impact Statement).

Environmental Restoration – Installation

Eligibility:

Presented to an installation within the United States that has demonstrated exceptional leadership in environmental restoration, directly supporting the military mission. This award honors efforts to remediate hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, and munitions in a timely, cost-effective, and mission-responsive manner.

Restoration of sites affected by past DoW activities plays a critical role in protecting military personnel, their families, and surrounding communities from environmental, health, and safety risks, while also reclaiming land for operational use and long-term mission sustainability.

Eligible installations include:

- Industrial and non-industrial facilities
- Large and small installations
- Active and closed sites located within the United States

This category recognizes installations that treat environmental restoration as a strategic priority by advancing readiness, resilience, and responsible stewardship.

Judging Criteria:

The judges will evaluate nominations based on the following criteria (see Judging Guidance on page 42 for additional detail):

1. The nominee's successes in supporting the military mission and readiness.
2. The nominee's successes in program management.
3. The nominee's technical merits.
4. The nominee's effectiveness in disseminating lessons learned to others (internal and external to the installation).
5. The nominee's successes in involving base personnel, residents, and the local community in the program.
6. The nominee's plans to ensure that the impacts of program accomplishments extend beyond the achievement period.

Narrative Packet:

Introduction: Describe the installation's mission, approximate civilian and military population (unless classified), and total acreage. Describe the environmental, geographical, regional, and community setting of the nominee.

Background: Provide an overview of the installation's environmental restoration program, highlighting how the program supports the military mission and operational readiness. Summarize the significant environmental aspects of the mission and other environmental challenges affecting the nominee.

Describe the organization, staffing, and management approaches of the nominee's environmental restoration program. Provide details concerning major cleanup milestones accomplished during the achievement period under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and other applicable cleanup regulations. Details may include relevant

environmental restoration plans, schedules, other decision documents (e.g., Records of Decision, engineering evaluation, and cost analyses), and their respective dates of publication. Highlight how these efforts support the military mission by preserving uninterrupted access to training lands, removing operational constraints on mission-critical facilities, and protecting the warfighter from environmental hazards.

Detail the community involvement programs implemented by the nominee (e.g., Restoration Advisory Boards, technical review committees). Briefly describe how these community involvement efforts support and/or accelerate the environmental cleanup process at the installation.

Summary of Accomplishments: Highlight the nominee's most impactful achievements in advancing environmental restoration during the achievement period. Focus on how these achievements directly support the military mission and operational readiness, such as reducing operational risks and constraints, preserving access to testing and training lands, and protecting warfighter health.

Detail any innovative techniques or approaches used and explain their effectiveness and measurable outcomes. List the objectives of the nominee's environmental restoration program and how successful the nominee was in meeting these objectives during the achievement period.

Distinguish the nominee's accomplishments from past successes, clarify how the program supports the mission, and detail the program's cost-effectiveness. Support these points with quantitative data and specific examples that illustrate operational impact, resource efficiency, and strategic benefit.

Environmental Restoration – Individual/Team

Eligibility:

Presented to an individual or team whose work has made a significant contribution to environmental restoration in direct support of the military mission. This award recognizes efforts to remediate hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, and munitions in a timely, cost-effective, and mission-responsive manner.

Restoration of sites affected by past DoW activities plays a critical role in protecting military personnel, their families, and surrounding communities from environmental, human health, and safety hazards, while also reclaiming land for operational use and long-term mission sustainability.

To qualify:

- **Individual nominees** must be DoW civilian employees (including IPA participants) or active members of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- **Team nominees** must include at least one DoW civilian employee (including IPAs) or U.S. Armed Forces member. Teams may also include contractors and HN personnel.

Judging Criteria:

The judges will evaluate nominations based on the following criteria (see Judging Guidance on page 42 for additional detail):

1. The nominee's successes in supporting the military readiness mission.
2. The nominee's successes in program management.
3. The nominee's technical merits.
4. The nominee's effectiveness in disseminating lessons learned to others (internal and external to the installation).
5. The nominee's successes in involving base personnel, residents, and the local community in the program.
6. The nominee's plans to ensure that the impacts of program accomplishments extend beyond the achievement period.

Narrative Packet:

Introduction: Describe the installation's mission that the individual or team supports. List the individual's or each team member's name, title or position, and employing organization. Include a brief explanation of how the nominee's work contributes to the installation's ability to train, test, and operate effectively.

Background: Provide an overview of the nominee's core duties and responsibilities during the achievement period, highlighting how these functions supported the military mission. Summarize relevant background information regarding the environmental restoration program, including functional offices involved, management approaches employed under the nominee's leadership, environmental aspects of the program, and environmental challenges affecting the nominee.

Describe the organization and staffing of the nominee's environmental management program, the management approach employed, and the extent of conformance with DoW and DoW

Component environmental management policy and guidance. Include examples of the nominee's engagement with community committees, boards, and partnerships that influence environmental strategy and strengthen mission support.

Describe significant environmental plans and agreements, including the dates of preparation or latest revision of each. For team nominees, explain how team roles and responsibilities were defined, distributed, and executed to ensure efficient program delivery and alignment with mission priorities.

Summary of Accomplishments: Highlight the nominee's most impactful accomplishments in advancing environmental restoration during the achievement period. Focus on how these achievements directly support the military mission and operational readiness, such as reducing operational risks and constraints, preserving access to testing and training lands, and protecting warfighter health. Detail any innovative techniques or approaches used and explain their effectiveness and measurable outcomes. List the objectives of the nominee's environmental restoration program and how successful the nominee was in meeting these objectives during the achievement period.

Describe any awards, professional achievements, and other special environmental restoration recognition given to the nominee during the achievement period. These may include community service associated with the nominee's work in environmental restoration, participation in related professional organizations and/or conferences, and development and/or completion of environmental restoration initiatives that support the military mission beyond the individual's regular duties.

Distinguish the nominee's accomplishments from past successes, clarify how the program supports the mission, and detail the program's cost-effectiveness. Support these points with quantitative data and specific examples that illustrate operational impact, resource efficiency, and strategic benefit.

Types of Environmental Restoration Accomplishments

Accelerated Environmental Cleanup

1. Efforts to accelerate cleanup at sites.
2. The number of acres or percentage of land cleaned up and subsequently transferred back to the installation's use (or to the community under Base Realignment and Closure or other land transfer agreement) relative to progress made by other installations, other DoW Components, and DoW restoration goals.
3. Initiatives to integrate property reuse/development into cleanups.
4. Program optimization and streamlining efforts that supported accelerated cleanup or provided cost avoidance.

Innovative Technology Demonstration, Validation, and/or Implementation

1. Examples of innovative technologies that reduced the nominee's environmental restoration costs.
2. Innovative technologies the nominee demonstrated, validated, and/or implemented.

Partnerships Addressing Environmental Restoration Issues Between DoW and Other Entities

1. How the nominee worked with state, local, and tribal governments, the affected community, or other Federal agencies, as appropriate, to share restoration lessons learned, improve effectiveness, reduce costs, and accelerate cleanups.
2. Tangible results of those efforts, including documented decisions and/or agreements reached with stakeholders.

Reducing Risk to Human Health and the Environment

1. How the nominee's site characterization technique improvements reduced the risk to human health and the environment.
2. How cleanup activities and site management techniques reduced the risk to human health and the environment.

Cultural Resources Management – Large Installation

Eligibility:

Presented to a large installation with more than 10,000 acres, including leased, military-owned, or administered ranges or training practice areas, that has made significant progress implementing effective CRM in direct support of the military mission and readiness. This award recognizes installations that have demonstrated that cultural resources are mission enhancing facilities that revive our military to its fullest potential; tangible places that remind soldiers, sailors, and airmen of their shared unity and purpose; and flexible to the defense industrial base's needs. Cultural resources include archaeological sites, cultural items, the historic built environment, and cultural landscapes. Installations should have mature and proactive partnerships with installation stakeholders, such as master planning, public works, and range management, in addition to partnerships with external stakeholders, including American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, NHOs, and states. To be eligible for the cultural resources award, installations must have an approved Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) for the entire achievement period.

Judging Criteria:

The judges will evaluate nominations based on the following criteria (see Judging Guidance on page 42 for additional detail):

1. The nominee's success in supporting the military mission and readiness.
2. The nominee's success in implementing program goals and objectives in accordance with the installation ICRMP, advancing operational readiness, and adhering to DoW policies and requirements for consultation with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and NHOs.
3. The nominee's success in implementing proactive CRM policy and regulatory tools to improve program management, such as developing compliance documents and Program Alternatives or using existing Program Alternatives during the award achievement period.
4. The nominee's effectiveness in disseminating lessons learned to others (internal and external to the installation).
5. The nominee's success in engaging internal and external stakeholders in the program.
6. The nominee's effectiveness in planning to ensure that the impacts of program accomplishments extend beyond the achievement period.

Narrative Packet:

Introduction: Describe the installation mission, approximate civilian and military population (unless classified), and total acreage. Describe the environmental, geographical, regional, and community setting of the nominee. Provide information about historic properties associated with the installation nominated for the award.

Background: Provide background information regarding updating and implementing the installation's ICRMP and CRM program, highlighting how the program supports the military mission and operational readiness. The installation must show that it had a current and approved ICRMP during the achievement period. Provide the date and process details of the installation's last ICRMP revision. Describe the installation CRM program, including:

1. The number of staff members assigned to CRM on the installation.

2. Any specialized training, experience, or education the installation's CRM staff members may have, particularly any new skills or training acquired during the achievement period.
3. A description of any extant CRM tools such as Programmatic Agreements, Corporative Agreements, or use of Program Alternatives (as found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 800.14).
4. A description of the installation's tribal consultation program pursuant to relevant laws, presidential proclamations, and DoW policies. This description should include consultation protocols and/or inventories of cultural resources of interest to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and NHOs.
5. Activities pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13007, *Indian Sacred Sites*. Refrain from sharing culturally sensitive information. Please refer to the memorandum ["DOD Guidelines on Maintaining the Confidentiality of Information about Indian Sacred Sites"](#) for additional guidance.

Summary of Accomplishments: Highlight the nominee's most impactful achievements in advancing CRM during the achievement period. Focus on how these achievements directly support the military mission and operational readiness, such as expanding partnerships, improving mission support, and preserving access to training lands.

Describe the installation's overall cultural resources program accomplishments, including (a) a detailed list describing the nominee's most outstanding program features from the achievement period; (b) the inclusion of program features in the nominee's ICRMP; (c) a description of the installation's progress over the award period in achieving the goals and benchmarks stipulated within the relevant ICRMP; and (d) a summary highlighting how CRM has improved mission support (e.g., through expanded partnerships with internal stakeholders).

Describe a specific cultural resources program accomplishment or initiative, including (a) a description of how the nominated program/initiative meets or exceeds the goals and requirements of the nominee's ICRMP; (b) a summary highlighting how the nominated program/initiative has improved CRM and mission support; and (c) an explanation describing how the nominated program/initiative differs from routine CRM activities.

Summarize how the installation implemented innovative techniques or used specialized tools, such as consultation protocols, and how these techniques were successful in supporting the mission. Explain how the nominee's accomplishments significantly supported the military mission and were distinct from past successes.

Describe the program's cost-effectiveness, whether it goes beyond meeting statutory and regulatory requirements, and how it supports the military mission. Use quantitative information and examples to support these claims whenever possible.

Types of Cultural Resources Management Accomplishments

Overall Cultural Resources Management

Describe how the nominee's overall CRM efforts support the military mission by expanding partnerships, improving operational readiness, and enhancing access to training lands. Focus on how the nominee's innovative CRM efforts help the nominee maintain regulatory compliance, minimize impacts to historic properties, and/or optimize flexibility in DoW's testing and training operations. These efforts may include, but are not limited to:

1. Improvements in planning, programming, and budgeting, to include innovative cost-reduction initiatives to support DoW CRM.
2. Coordination of CRM with mission operations, real property asset management, range sustainment, and general operations such as construction, building maintenance, and repair.
3. Use of alternative management approaches, techniques, and staffing to enhance the cultural resources program.
4. Status of ICRMP National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility evaluations (i.e., for archaeological resources, historic buildings, landscapes, structures, and objects).
5. Use of other available tools and programs to support CRM (e.g., historic property Geographic Information System integration, real property inventory updates and corrections, Environmental Security Technology Certification Program, DoW Legacy Resource Management program).

Cultural Resources Compliance

Describe how the nominee maintains compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Focus on how the nominee advances the military mission through streamlined and proactive identification and management of the Department's historic properties. These efforts may include, but are not limited to:

1. Effective interaction with external stakeholders, such as the National Park Service, state historic preservation officers, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Federally recognized tribal governments, NHOs, and local governments.
2. Tracking of budget data to illustrate adequate funding and budgeting for CRM on the nominated installation.
3. Measurable successes in improving CRM internal coordination and external consultation prior to initiation of actions.
4. Successes in managing significant or complex cultural resources compliance actions.
5. Successes in using existing Program Alternatives in accordance with 36 CFR 800.14.

Historic Buildings and Structures

High standards in maintenance and management ensure continued use of DoW's historic facilities, including adapting buildings for new mission needs. Detail how the nominee strengthens mission sustainment through strategic management of its historic buildings and structures. Focus on innovative efforts that optimize the Department's training and testing flexibility through adaptive use of these structures; result in cost-avoidance; and streamline inventories. These efforts may include, but are not limited to:

1. Use of historic assets to support military mission needs (including adaptive use).

2. Appropriate maintenance and repair in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, including cost-effective measures.
3. Rehabilitation in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, including economic analysis.
4. Strategic prioritization of NRHP resource evaluations.
5. Accurate coding of historic assets in real property inventory/databases.

Archaeological Resources

Describe the nominee's strategic efforts in identifying, documenting, and managing archaeological resources on the installation. Focus on how these efforts support operational readiness and mission sustainment by avoiding costs, minimizing impacts to training and testing lands, and maintaining compliance with applicable laws and regulations. These efforts may include, but are not limited to:

1. Evidence of an increase in total acres on an installation surveyed for archaeological resources.
2. Acres surveyed during the award achievement period that, as a result of improved CRM, were made available for military testing and training.
3. Site protection/compliance enforcement.
4. Data recovery efforts.
5. Public interpretation efforts.
6. Research initiatives and scientific contributions.

Native American Program

Describe the nominee's relationships with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes or NHOs. Detail how these efforts support the military mission through regulatory compliance and sustainable resource management. These efforts may include, but are not limited to:

1. Establishment of or improvement upon existing consultation relationships with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes or NHOs for the nominee installation, or by individuals for a specific installation.
2. Consultation with relevant tribes to identify and protect sacred sites.
3. Consultation to establish or maintain appropriate access agreements with relevant American Indian and Alaska Native tribes or NHOs for access to sites on installation(s) with religious or cultural significance to said tribe(s) or NHOs.
4. Consultation to develop and complete inventory and repatriation efforts for all sites/artifacts/items of religious cultural patrimony in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act associated with the nominee.

Curation

Describe the nominee's curation efforts and how they support mission sustainment through regulatory compliance, documentation of historical resources, and informed decision making. These efforts may include, but are not limited to:

1. Development of a curation facility that meets the requirements of 36 CFR 79.
2. Development of agreements with other DoW Components or external organizations to curate installation artifacts and associated records in accordance with 36 CFR 79.

3. Initiatives to ensure that collection(s) meet the standards established in 36 CFR 79, or initiatives to improve collections management in accordance with 36 CFR 79, to include digital curation.
4. Support of initiatives that make collections available to researchers and the public.

Cultural Resources Awareness and Education (on and off the nominee's property)

America's military history and warrior ethos is reflected in the cultural resources DoW operates and maintains. Describe the nominee's cultural resources awareness and education efforts, including how CRM impacts the military mission. These efforts may include, but are not limited to:

1. Creation of cultural awareness programs for DoW civilian and military personnel.
2. Development and maintenance of CRM outreach programs for educational institutions and community groups.

Community Relations

Discuss the nominee's community outreach efforts, focusing on how this collaboration supports the military mission and operational readiness. Focus on how collaboration with other entities supports the protection of DoW's cultural resources, improves DoW's compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and maintains access to training and testing lands. These efforts may include, but are not limited to:

1. Public interpretation initiatives for DoW cultural resources.
2. Public awareness programs and involvement in cultural resources preservation efforts on an installation as well as in an adjacent community.
3. Affiliation of the nominee(s) with civic and private cultural resources organizations and academic institutions.
4. Partnerships with Federal, state, tribal, Native Hawaiian, and local governments and with private cultural resources organizations.
5. Involvement in volunteer and partnership programs (e.g., level of participation, benefits to the nominee[s]).
6. How CRM accomplishments of nominee(s) have improved the quality of life for nominee installation and/or surrounding communities.

Mission Enhancement

Describe any other initiatives executed by the nominee that support the military mission through proactive and strategic CRM.

1. Initiatives that support mission needs through reuse of historic properties.
2. Partnerships (internal or external) that enhance CRM support of the military mission.
3. Programs that enable additional land to be made available for military testing/training through proactive CRM.

Environmental Excellence in Weapon Systems Acquisition – Individual/Team

Eligibility:

Presented to an individual or team within a DoW acquisition program of record (as defined in DODI 5000.02, *Operation of the Adaptive Acquisition Framework*) that has made a significant contribution to ESOH risk and requirements management in direct support of system development, operational readiness, and force protection.

Nominees must demonstrate sustained ESOH integration across the weapon system's life cycle, in accordance with DOD Directive (DODD) 5000.01 (*The Defense Acquisition System*), DODI 5000.02, and DODI 5000.88 (*Engineering of Defense Systems*). Recognized efforts may include:

- Identification of ESOH requirements and hazards,
- Execution of hazard analyses and risk assessments,
- Implementation of mitigation strategies, and
- Risk acceptance decisions prior to exposing personnel, equipment, or the environment to system-related hazards.

Submissions should highlight active coordination with end users, receiving installations, and training locations to ensure compliance with NEPA and/or E.O. 12114 prior to system testing and delivery. Nominees must also demonstrate effective identification, reduction, and management of hazardous materials (HAZMAT), wastes, and pollutants (e.g., discharges, emissions, noise), along with development of safe disposal and control plans.

To qualify:

- **Individual nominees** must be DoW civilian employees (including IPA participants) or members of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- **Team nominees** must include at least one DoW civilian employee (including IPAs) or U.S. Armed Forces member. Teams may also include contractors and HN personnel.

This award honors those who embed ESOH principles into acquisition strategy to ensure systems are safe, sustainable, and mission-ready from development through deployment.

Judging Criteria:

The judges will evaluate nominations based on the following criteria (see Judging Guidance on page 42 for additional detail):

1. **Orientation to Mission:** The nominee's success in contributing to the successful execution of the program's ESOH risk management and requirements efforts; how effectively the nominee used ESOH expertise to support developing, testing, and fielding of military capabilities; and how well the nominee involved the user community in ESOH efforts.
2. **Program Management:** The nominee's success in managing and documenting the ESOH risk and requirements management effort for the program.
3. **Technical Merit:** The technical merits of the nominee's ESOH effort to integrate life-cycle ESOH risk and requirements management into the systems engineering and product support processes based on policy requirements (i.e., DODD 5000.01; DODI 5000.02; DODI 5000.88; other DODI 5000-series relevant to the acquisition program;

and Military Standard (MIL-STD)-882E, *Department of Defense Standard Practice: System Safety*).

4. Transferability: The nominee's effectiveness in incorporating and transferring ESOH mitigations and lessons learned from and to other programs (e.g., legacy weapon systems programs, Service Safety Centers).
5. Stakeholder Interaction: The nominee's success in communicating with others on their team, if applicable, within the Program Office, or to external stakeholders, including transfer of ESOH mitigation measures and lessons learned.
6. Impact/Outcome: The nominee's demonstration of ESOH risk mitigations, HAZMAT identification/minimization, and/or performance enhancement. The quantified results should include actual realized and/or projected improvements (e.g., cost savings, pounds of HAZMAT eliminated, performance/process improvements).

Narrative Packet:

Introduction: Introduce the individual or team by describing (a) the weapon system acquisition program (including the Acquisition Pathway of the program) that is supported by the individual or team and (b) the individual's or each team member's name, title or position, and employing organization.

Background: Briefly describe the weapon systems acquisition program under the purview of the individual or team (include a system description, concept of operations or mission, and where the program is in the acquisition life cycle). Provide a summary of the nominee's major routine duties and responsibilities during the achievement period to provide context for the accomplishments. Summarize how the nominee integrated the ESOH risk management and requirements effort into systems engineering, testing, product support, etc., using the judging criteria to highlight the most relevant ESOH activities and results.

Summary of Accomplishments: Describe the nominee's most outstanding ESOH-related accomplishments during the achievement period and how they support the mission. Summarize how the nominee implemented innovative techniques and how these techniques were successful in supporting the military mission. List and describe any program-related awards and/or other special recognition given to the nominee during the achievement period. Use quantitative information and examples to support these claims whenever possible. If the nominee participated in this award during a previous awards cycle, explain how the nominee's accomplishments are distinct from past successes.

Types of Environmental Excellence in Weapon Systems Acquisition Accomplishments

ESOH Integration

Describe how the integration of ESOH considerations and analyses advances the military mission. Focus on how these efforts safeguard warfighter health and ensure maintained training, testing, and operations. These efforts may include, but are not limited to:

1. Integration of ESOH risk and requirements management into the systems engineering and product support processes pursuant to DODD 5000.01, DODI 5000.02, DODI 5000.88, other DODI 5000-series relevant to the acquisition program, and MIL-STD-882E.
2. Demonstrated incorporation of ESOH analyses into the acquisition decision-making process.
3. Assessment of compliance with applicable ESOH statutes and regulations and potential issues/impacts based on system requirements and operational profile.
4. Incorporation of ESOH requirements and analyses (e.g., system safety analyses, emissions characterizations, HAZMAT elimination/reduction, operational noise requirements) into solicitations, contracts, specifications, and other requirements documents.
5. Compliance with NEPA and/or E.O. 12114 for program actions, including the establishment and maintenance of a Compliance Schedule and other required analysis/documentation and coordination with the receiving organizations (e.g., facilities, ranges) to evaluate potential environmental impacts and any mitigation measures associated with testing and operation of the system.
6. Incorporation of ESOH requirements for demilitarization, deactivation, and/or disposal of the system in accordance with ESOH regulatory requirements.

ESOH Risk Management

Describe how the nominee's ESOH risk management efforts promote operational readiness and mission sustainment. Focus on how the nominee strategically identified, managed, or mitigated risks and how these efforts resulted in increased installation resilience, avoided costs, and protected warfighter health.

1. Identification of hazards, assessment of risks for identified hazards, risks eliminated or mitigated, and risk management using a hazard tracking system following the MIL-STD-882E system safety methodology.
2. Formal acceptance of risks in consultation with the user representative.
3. Communication/briefing of ESOH risks at program and technical reviews and for fielding decisions.
4. Identification/implementation of mitigation measures (especially for high and serious risk), the level of success in reducing the risk through verification/validation, and the mitigation measure(s) that could be transferred to other DoW programs.
5. Minimized cost, schedule, or performance risks to the program by eliminating/mitigating ESOH risks.
6. Participation in Class A and B mishap investigations, as applicable, by providing analyses of hazards that contributed to the mishap and recommendations for materiel risk mitigation measures and via implementation of recommendations arising from these investigations to prevent reoccurrence.

HAZMAT Management and Pollution Prevention

Describe the nominee's HAZMAT management and pollution prevention efforts. Highlight innovative and strategic efforts to identify and minimize impacts of HAZMAT, waste, and other pollutants that directly support the military mission and warfighter health.

1. Approach to identify, characterize, select, track, and eliminate and/or minimize HAZMAT, wastes, and pollutants (e.g., discharges, emissions, noise) associated with the system.
2. Use of National Aerospace Standard (NAS) 411, *Hazardous Materials Management Program Standard Practice*, and NAS 411-1, *Hazardous Materials Target List Standard Practice*, as an approach to HAZMAT program management.
3. Identification of measures to minimize, control, and/or safely dispose of identified HAZMAT, wastes, and pollutants as part of demilitarization, deactivation, and/or disposal planning.
4. Identification and implementation of less hazardous alternatives (e.g., alternatives to hexavalent chromium).

Additional Stakeholder Coordination

Discuss the nominee's coordination efforts with other entities, focusing on how this collaboration supports the military mission and operational readiness. Focus on how these collaborative discussions improve ESOH risk and requirements management throughout the system's life cycle. These efforts may include, but are not limited to:

1. Involvement and coordination with the test and evaluation community, user community (e.g., obtaining concurrence on ESOH risks), receiving organization(s), and others with respect to integrating ESOH risk and requirements management in the life cycle of the system.
2. Implementation of actions to enhance acquisition ESOH awareness at any level or any functional area within the program and/or DoW.
3. Evident cooperation with Federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and academic institutions to influence weapon systems acquisition.
4. Performance of technology transition efforts that other programs across the DoW Components could implement.
5. Transference of lessons learned from other weapon systems programs.

Sustainable Procurement

Discuss the nominee's sustainable procurement efforts. Highlight how these efforts advance the military mission through cost avoidance, continued access to training lands, and protection of warfighter health. These efforts may include, but are not limited to:

1. Reductions in environmental footprint of the system (e.g., HAZMAT and hazardous waste applications/processes, emissions).
2. Adherence to DODI 4105.72, *Procurement of Sustainable Goods and Services*, where possible.

Technology Development

Describe the nominee's efforts to develop innovative solutions for complex challenges to the military mission, highlighting how these efforts may result in cost avoidance and benefit the warfighter. These efforts may include, but are not limited to:

1. Active participation in research, development, and technology demonstration and validation projects, particularly those that support testing and fielding of military capabilities.
2. Collaboration with partners to develop and share solutions to complex environmental and performance challenges.

JUDGING GUIDANCE

General:

Each nominee will be evaluated qualitatively against the six core criteria (seven for the Natural Resources Conservation awards) outlined below. Judges should assess cost-effectiveness, productivity, and measurable results within each criterion, focusing on how the nominee's efforts support the military mission.

Nominations are to be evaluated independently, and judges must not compare nominees to one another. All assessments should be based solely on the content and accomplishments presented in the nomination package, without consideration of personal familiarity or prior impressions.

For individual and team submissions, evaluations should reflect the nominee's capacity and scale of impact. Individual nominations should be assessed in the context of what a single person can reasonably achieve. Team nominations should be evaluated with recognition that coordinated efforts among multiple individuals can yield broader and more complex results. Judges will score each nomination based on its individual merit using the criteria provided. It is important to consider that team nominations may be uniquely positioned to deliver outcomes that exceed what individuals can accomplish alone.

A judge score sheet template is provided in Appendix II (page 49) for reference. The OASW(EI&E) will distribute fillable score sheets and all necessary judging materials. Additional award-specific criteria are detailed in the nomination instructions for each category.

1. Orientation to Mission:

- a. Did the nominee demonstrate substantive involvement and/or coordination of individuals directly responsible for the military readiness mission for the accomplishments cited?
- b. Did the nominee contribute to the successful execution or enhancement of the military readiness mission?
- c. Did the nominee help identify and develop mitigation measures or innovative approaches to address mission restrictions, as necessary? Were these effectively implemented?
- d. Did the nominee utilize science and research contributions that directly supported the mission?

2. Program Management:

- a. Did the nominee demonstrate improvement during the period under consideration?
- b. Was there a recognized management system, including an INRMP or ICRMP, in place to effectively administer (i.e., develop and implement) the environmental aspects of the mission? (Note: Third-party management system registration is not a DoW policy requirement.)
- c. Did the program demonstrate substantive integration and involvement with appropriate internal offices (e.g., operations, testing, range, pest management, master planners, real property, BASH, facilities, other installation communities)?

- d. Were all required plans prepared and up-to-date?
- e. Did the nominee clearly identify and meet program, individual, or team milestones?
- f. Did the nominee demonstrate mission benefits and cost savings (e.g., approaches that benefited the installation's mission, optimization efforts that resulted in cost avoidance, actions taken for cost-effective outcomes benefiting the mission)?

3. Technical Merit:

- a. Did the nominee use innovative techniques and/or technologies? How is the innovation significant, and how did it improve the nominee's ability to meet mission goals?
- b. Was the nominee effective in protecting, enhancing, and/or restoring the environment?
- c. Did the nominee quantify their accomplishments to demonstrate the scale of projects and impacts of successes?
- d. Did the nominee promote protection and/or more efficient use of resources?
- e. Are the nominee's accomplishments distinct from past successes? How are they significant?

4. Transferability:

- a. Can others adopt these accomplishments elsewhere within and/or outside of DoW?
- b. Did the nominee demonstrate progress in transferring innovations to others within and outside of DoW?

5. Stakeholder Interaction:

- a. United States only:
 - i. Did the nominee interact with the surrounding community, state and local regulators, non-regulatory agencies, and private organizations?
 - ii. Did the nominee consult with American Indian tribal governments, Alaska Native tribal governments, or NHOs when required by Federal law?
 - iii. Did the nominee establish volunteer and partnership programs? What were the contributions of these partners?
 - iv. Did the nominee develop public and in-house educational and outreach programs?
 - v. Did the nominee promote public access?
 - vi. Did the nominee include substantive opportunities for public involvement and two-way communication?
 - vii. Did the nominee achieve success in enhancing environmental awareness and community involvement for installation personnel and residents of military housing?
- b. Overseas only:
 - i. Did the nominee achieve success in enhancing environmental awareness and community involvement for installation personnel and residents of military housing?

- ii. Did the nominee establish volunteer and partnership programs? What were the contributions of these partners?
 - iii. Did the nominee develop in-house educational programs?
 - iv. Did the nominee include substantive opportunities for stakeholder involvement and two-way communication?
- c. Environmental Excellence in Weapon Systems Acquisition only:
 - i. How well did the nominee communicate to others on their team, if applicable, within the Program Office, or to external stakeholders? What mechanisms/documents were used to facilitate and document communications?
 - ii. How well did the nominee communicate ESOH risks effectively to others?
 - iii. Did the nominee establish partnership programs? What were the contributions of these partners?
 - iv. Did the nominee help develop training programs?

6. Impact/Outcomes:

- a. Will the technique and/or program endure?
- b. Is there a framework in place to build on and improve the nominee's accomplishments in the future?

7. (NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION ONLY) Partnerships and Innovation:

- a. Did the nominee use partnerships to achieve conservation and support the mission?
- b. How did the nominee use innovative approaches and/or techniques to achieve conservation (i.e., partnerships, funding, science, management, etc.)?
- c. Did the nominee provide examples of how they engaged in proactive collaborative conservation or engaged in partnerships to support collaborative conservation?
- d. Did the nominee meet with their INRMP partners to ensure effective implementation of their INRMP?

APPENDIX I

2026 DoW Environmental Awards Nomination Submission Form

**This form will be available electronically at: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/awards>*

Nominee and Award Category (List team name here; team members should be listed on page 2 of the Submission Form.)
Award Category (include Installation or Individual/Team):
Nominee's Name (Installation, Team, or Individual) <i>*if individual, include rank:</i>
Formal Job Title (Individual only):

Nominee Contact Information (For teams, provide information for team lead; for programs, provide information for program lead/manager.)
Name (include rank):
Formal Job Title:
Commercial Phone Number (No DSN):
Email Address:
Mailing Address: ¹

¹ Team/individual award recognition materials are addressed and shipped to the nominee contact.

Nominee's Installation Commander/Commanding Officer, or Equivalent Leadership ²
Name (include rank):
Formal Job Title:
Mailing Address: ³

² Include complete contact information for the Program Director or other leadership who oversees the nominee, if different from the Commander or Commanding Officer.

³ Installation award recognition materials are addressed and shipped to the nominee's Installation Commander/Commanding Officer, or equivalent leadership.

Nominee's Installation Commander/Commanding Officer, or Equivalent Leadership's Point of Contact, Executive Assistant, or Chief of Staff
Name (include rank):
Formal Job Title:
Commercial Phone Number (No DSN):
Email Address:

Nominee's Public Affairs Officer/Point of Contact
Name (include rank):
Formal Job Title:
Email Address:
Commercial Phone Number (No DSN):

Team Members		
Name and Rank	Formal Job Title	Email Address
1. (Team Lead)		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

**Nominee's U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Enforcement Compliance History Online (ECHO) Report Explanations, If Necessary**

Nominee's Compliance Statement:

Describe the nominee's relationship with the installation(s) where the nominee has a programmatic tie to land; facility; or environmental management or compliance responsibilities; and/or where nominee staff are primarily located:

If the nominee has no programmatic tie to land, facility, or environmental management or compliance responsibilities at any installation, list the primary installation where staff are located. Submit an ECHO report for that installation:

Does the nominee support or reside at multiple installations? (Yes/No):

If yes, list the installations where the nominee has a programmatic tie to land, facility, or environmental management or compliance responsibilities. Submit an ECHO report for those installations:

If no, submit an ECHO report for the single installation the nominee supports.

Provide background information and explanations for any High Priority Violation, Serious Violator, or Significant Non-Compliance infractions in the nominee's ECHO report(s):

By submitting a nomination, the nominee and their Command leadership attest that the nominee was screened against all nomination criteria and is award eligible. The nomination should only include accomplishments that occurred during the achievement period, with no violations reported in the ECHO database. Furthermore, the nominee and their Command leadership confirm that all information included in the nomination package is unclassified and accurate.

APPENDIX II

2026 DoW Environmental Awards Judge Score Sheet Template

DoW Component	Nominee Name	Orientation to Mission	Program Management	Technical Merit	Transferability	Stakeholder Interaction	Impact/ Outcomes	Partnerships and Innovation	Total	Comments
<i>Army</i>	<i>Army Installation Example</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>Example</i>
<i>Navy</i>										
<i>U.S. Marine Corps</i>										
<i>Air Force</i>										
<i>Defense Logistics Agency</i>										