



2015 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards About the Awards

Since 1962, the Department of Defense (DoD) has sponsored the Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards to honor individuals, teams, and installations for their outstanding achievements and innovative work protecting the environment while sustaining mission readiness. In doing so, the Department celebrates Military Service members and civilians for their commitment to protect human health and the environment. Honorees demonstrate excellence in maintaining and restoring America's natural resources and cultural heritage for future generations, all while carrying out the DoD mission.

Award Categories

Each Military Service and Defense Agency may submit one nomination for each of the nine categories that cover six subject areas: natural resources conservation; environmental quality; sustainability; environmental restoration; cultural resources management; and environmental excellence in weapon system acquisition. Some of the awards within these categories are on a two-year cycle, with large/small and non-industrial/industrial installations competing in alternate years, as shown below. Small installations are those with 10,000 acres or less; industrial installations are those with a primary mission of manufacturing, maintaining, or rehabilitating military equipment. Since the 2015 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards are recognizing achievements in the FY 2013-2014 cycle, they are considered "Even Fiscal Year" awards.

Odd Fiscal Years	Even Fiscal Years
Natural Resources Conservation, Small Installation	Natural Resources Conservation, Large Installation
Natural Resources Conservation, Individual/Team	
Environmental Quality, Non-industrial Installation	Environmental Quality, Industrial Installation
Environmental Quality, Individual/Team	Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation
Sustainability, Industrial Installation	Sustainability, Non-Industrial Installation
	Sustainability, Individual/Team
Environmental Restoration, Installation	Environmental Restoration, Installation
Environmental Restoration, Individual/Team	
Cultural Resources Management, Individual/Team	Cultural Resources Management, Installation
	Cultural Resources Management, Individual/Team
Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition, Large Program	Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition, Small Program

Judging Process

A panel of judges from federal and state agencies, academia, and the private sector with expertise, education, or experience related to the specific award subject areas evaluate and score the nominees to select the winners for each of the nine awards. DoD recognizes each winner with a trophy, a Secretary of Defense certificate of achievement, and an American flag that is flown over the U.S. Capitol by their senior Senator on Earth Day and over the Pentagon on Memorial Day. DoD recognizes honorable mentions with a Secretary of Defense certificate of achievement.

The 2015 Environmental Awards winners represent excellence in innovative environmental leadership and demonstrate the best of DoD's environmental stewardship. Their achievements support DoD's ongoing commitment to sustain mission readiness, while cost-effectively protecting the environment. Although only formally recognized once a year, Military Service members and civilians continue their exceptional efforts day in and day out to protect the environment and human health, as well as to preserve the resources on our installations to support training and operations. Their remarkable efforts enhance the quality of life for Service members, their families, and local communities, and exemplify DoD's environmental leadership both in the United States and overseas.

Qualifications

- Nominees for individual awards must be DoD civilian employees or members of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Nominees for team awards must include one or more DoD civilian employees or members of the U.S. Armed Forces; other team members may be DoD contractor employees.