



2017 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation Award

Each year since 1962, the Department of Defense (DoD) has honored installations, teams, and individuals for outstanding conservation achievements, innovative environmental practices, and partnerships that improve quality of life and promote efficiencies without compromising mission success. The 2017 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards cycle encompasses an achievement period from October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2016 (Fiscal Years (FY) 2015-2016). A diverse panel of judges with relevant expertise representing Federal and state agencies, academia, and the private sector evaluated all nominees to select one winner for each of the nine categories that cover six subject areas: natural resources conservation; environmental quality; sustainability; environmental restoration; cultural resources management; and environmental excellence in weapon system acquisition.

About the Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation Award

The Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation award recognizes an overseas installation that has made significant progress to ensure mission success and the protection of human health in the areas of environmental planning, waste management, and compliance with environmental laws and regulations (e.g., Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act). Meeting or exceeding all environmental requirements not only enhances the protection of our environmental assets, but also sustains DoD's ability to effectively train and maintain readiness. The 2017 winner of the Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation award is *U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, Germany*.

About U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, Germany

Headquartered in Grafenwoehr, Germany, U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Bavaria is the largest overseas garrison within Installation Management Command Europe (IMCOM-E). The garrison supports four geographically dispersed military communities: Tower Barracks (TB) at Grafenwoehr, Rose Barracks (RB) at Vilseck, Hohenfels, and Garmisch. The garrison jointly operates Grafenwoehr Training Area and Hohenfels Training Area with the 7th Army Training Command. Approximately 180,000 troops from more than 35 countries train at Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr each year.



Romanian tanks during Combined Resolve II participate in training exercises at U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, Germany.

The U.S. Army is a signatory to the Supplement to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Status of Forces Agreement (1998) which requires the Army to follow specific German laws and European directives for environmental protection. These requirements supplement U.S. Federal law, and U.S. Army and DoD regulations. The USAG Bavaria environmental program enables soldiers to train in compliance with applicable environmental laws, while minimizing impacts to the military mission. Of note, more than 800 legally protected flora and fauna species flourish within the garrison's boundary.

Major Accomplishments in FY 2015-2016

- Environmental program staff developed and implemented an innovative technique to decontaminate and clean up Royal Demolition Explosive (RDX) residues in a limestone rock quarry within constructed wetlands via molasses-stimulated biological degradation. Compared to other proposed methods, this concept reduced construction costs from \$7,375,000 to \$2,330,000.



A cogeneration heat and power plant at Camp Nainhof, Hohenfels Training Area, is designed to save approximately 1,300 tons of greenhouse gas emissions and \$900,000 in energy costs per year.

- USAG Bavaria helped military trainers evaluate training scenarios to avoid environmental impacts. This process saves project coordination time, avoids duplication of work order review efforts, and prevents loss of design funds. USAG Bavaria's environmental review process was such a success that the Army adopted it IMCOM-E-wide.

- In coordination with host nation (HN) authorities and other environmental non-government organizations, USAG Bavaria implemented a € 1.2 million European Union (EU) LIFE+ project to save the only reproducing population of the Greater horseshoe bat in Germany. The EU funds LIFE+ projects to support environmental, nature conservation, and climate action projects. This initiative to save the Greater horseshoe bat was the first EU LIFE+ project on an active military training area. The bat colony has survived in this area only because open military training lands in Hohenfels Training Area provide excellent foraging grounds.



Greater horseshoe bat and Mouse-eared bat caught by a photo trap at the entrance of a hibernating quarter at Hohenfels Training Area.

- The installation partnered with HN authorities to conduct and implement a joint study about contamination cleanup at the Class III Yard and a low-cost remediation solution that reduced annual costs from \$500,000 to \$40,000.
- The installation shared its environmental program with national and international parties (e.g. Bavarian Environmental Office, German Army, Armies of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, Israeli Ministry of Defense, French Ministry of Defense, University of Prague, Australian National University). Personnel also received invitations to present at the NATO NetZero Workshop (Wiesbaden, Germany), the LifeDefenseNature2mil Conference (Nîmes, France) and the Estonia Environmental Security Event (Tallin, Estonia).