DoD Chesapeake Bay Program

Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Progress Report

Introduction

To Our Readers,

As Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic and Lead Agent for all military services in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, I am pleased to share this Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Annual Progress Report for the Department of Defense (DoD), Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP).

DoD installations and ranges encompass more than 400,000 acres across the region, comprising approximately 1% of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and 20% of the total federal footprint making DoD the largest federal owner of developed land in the watershed.

According to the Clean Water Act, as a landowner, it is essential that DoD participate in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership (Partnership) and its regional and sub-watershed planning and restoration programs. Moreover, DoD is obligated to ensure that the property and actions taken by the Department comply with the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

In 1984, DoD became one of the first federal departments to formally join the watershed effort. Since the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) was established in 2010, the DoD CBP has directed the exchange of information between the DoD and the Partnership on Bay-related policy and provided leadership among federal agencies in Bay protection, conservation, and restoration.

On military installations with significant natural resources, the Sikes Act requires the DoD to prepare and implement Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources consistent with their use and with no net loss in the capability of installation lands to support the military mission. To meet the scale of today's challenges, the DoD will continue to enhance their INRMPs to enable more proactive adaptation actions and holistic support of resilience. Through these efforts, military installations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed play an important role in protecting a variety of natural environments that preserve the ability of DoD to test, train, and prepare warfighters to be the most lethal fighting force in the world.

The DoD continues to support and coordinate initiatives to integrate conservation, habitat restoration, pollution prevention, and stewardship in DoD's mission and to engage DoD military and civilian employees and their families as stewards of the Chesapeake Bay. The DoD CBP shares its expertise across the DoD enterprise to support military installations and coordinate their actions to forge trust with its federal, state, and local partners. These actions inform decision-making, leverage assets, reduce the cost of operations, and deliver reliable and resilient infrastructure, while protecting the health, welfare, and quality of life for DoD military, civilian, and defense community families.

This report highlights success stories and identifies strategies to be implemented demonstrating DoD's leadership and commitment to protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

RDML Carl Lahti
Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic

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COVER PHOTO BY NICHOLAS PILCH, VISUAL INFORMATION SPECIALIST, DLA INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT. DEFENSE SUPPLY CENTER OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA IS HOME TO 23 ELK IN A PRESERVE THAT IS PART OF THE BELLWOOD-RICHMOND QUARTERMASTER DEPOT HISTORIC DISTRICT.

The Year at a Glance

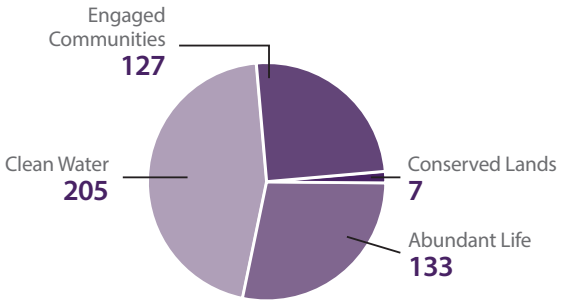
The core mission principles that guide the DoD Chesapeake Bay Program are to integrate, partner, and engage with installations to provide the products and services they need to execute DoD priorities for mission assurance and warfighter readiness.

The DoD CBP facilitates forums for the sharing of information, challenges, and problem-solving strategies to ensure awareness and transferability throughout the watershed and across Services. Staff leverage their expertise to collect, compile and report installation data for compliance with laws and regulations, support strategic and informed decision-making and provide information on new technologies and strategies to meet installation goals. They connect local, state, federal and NGO partners to leverage assets and coordinate and support community stewardship activities.

Through these efforts, the DoD CBP amplifies the existing capacity of installations to support military training and weapon testing in a variety of realistic warfighter environments, identify projects that meet multiple objectives for the wise use of limited funding, staff and real estate assets and provide for installation resilience for an uninterrupted continuity of operations. Additionally, these efforts support warfighter health, fitness, and welfare, and provide safe and healthy environments where military and civilian families can thrive. The DoD CBP also communicates internally and externally about the value of installation work for mission readiness, locally driven lethality, and the benefits they provide to their neighboring defense communities.

This page highlights a sample of DoD installation achievements from FY2024 that support DoD priorities while meeting statutory requirements and simultaneously contributing to Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement goals and outcomes for conservation, restoration, and protection.

FY2024: 472 projects



FY2024 by the Numbers:

To Promote Abundant Life:

9,065
additional trees planted on DoD installations

3,411
linear feet of shoreline and streambank restored

To Increase Conserved Lands:

13
installations with active Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) partnerships

3,398
additional acres protected by the REPI program

To Build Engaged Communities:

700
DoD stewardship events conducted

17,064
pounds of trash collected during DoD cleanup events

To Provide Clean Water:

155
new best management practices (BMPs) built in State Year (SY) 2024

4,871
total BMPs implemented in the Chesapeake Bay watershed since SY1985

226
additional acres treated by BMPs built in SY2024

DoD Installations in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

LEGEND

Air Force

1. Air National Guard (MD) – 175 WG Warfield
2. Air National Guard (PA) – 193d SOW Harrisburg, PA
3. Air National Guard (WV) – 167th Airlift Wing, Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, WV
4. Joint Base Andrews
5. Joint Base Langley-Eustis (Eustis)
6. Joint Base Langley-Eustis (Langley)

Army

7. Aberdeen Proving Ground
8. Adelphi Laboratory Center
9. Arlington National Cemetery
10. Army Reserve National Guard (ARNG) (D.C.)
11. ARNG (MD)
12. ARNG (PA)
13. ARNG (VA)
14. Carlisle Barracks
15. Fort Walker
16. Fort Belvoir
17. Fort Detrick
18. Fort George G. Meade
19. Fort Indiantown Gap
20. Fort Gregg-Adams
21. Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall – Fort Lesley J. McNair
22. Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall – Fort Myer / Henderson Hall
23. Letterkenny Army Depot
24. Scranton Army Ammunition Plant

Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)

25. Susquehanna Distribution Center, PA
26. Defense Supply Center Richmond

Marine Corps

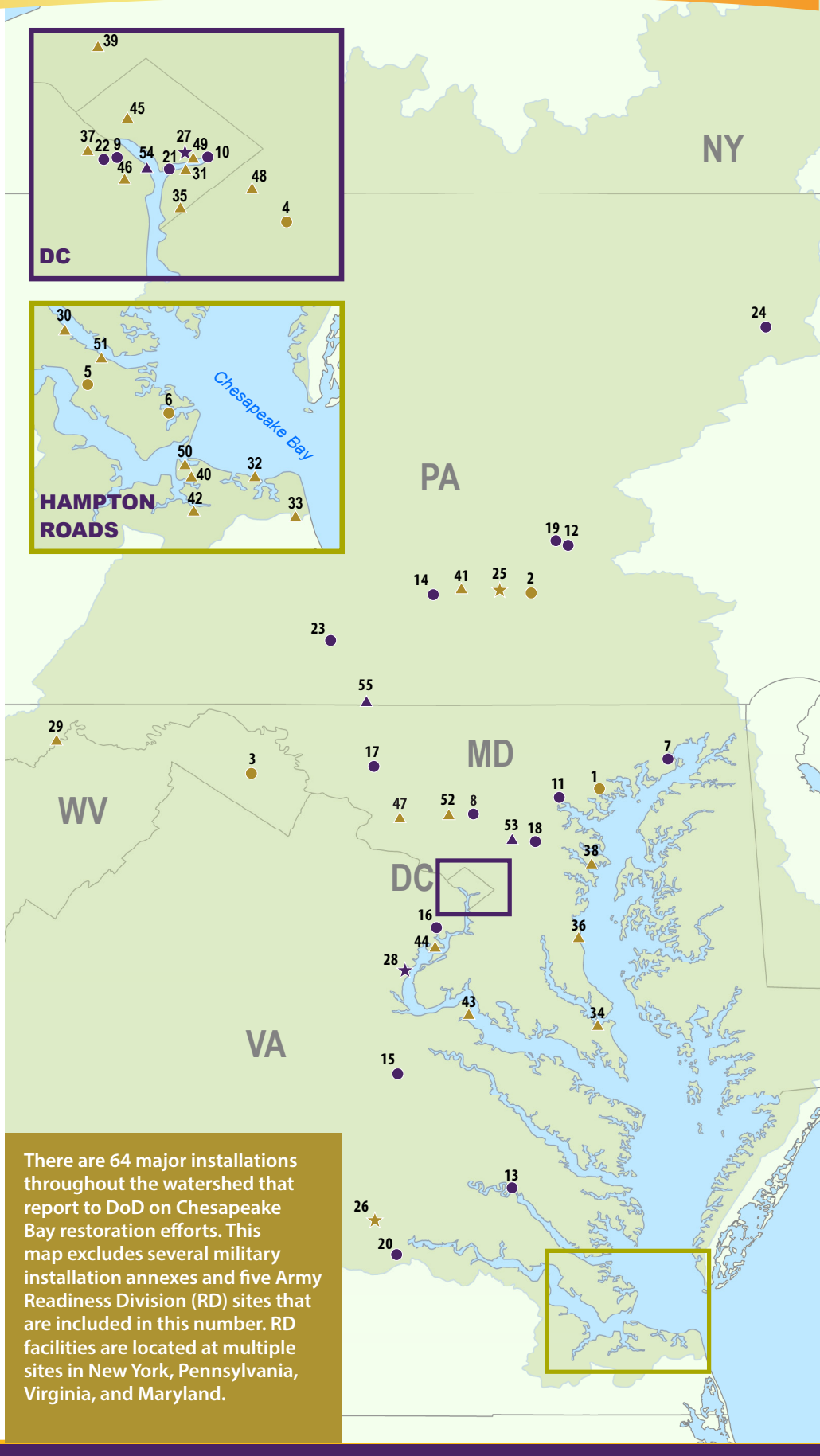
27. Marine Barracks Washington
28. Marine Corps Base Quantico

Navy

29. Allegany Ballistics Laboratory
30. Camp Peary
31. Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling
32. Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story
33. Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana
34. NAS Patuxent River
35. Naval Research Lab (NRL) Headquarters
36. NRL Maryland detachments: (CBD, Pomonkey, BPTF)
37. NRL Virginia detachment: (MRC on Quantico)
38. Naval Support Activity (NSA) Annapolis
39. NSA Bethesda
40. NSA Hampton Roads
41. NSA Mechanicsburg
42. Norfolk Naval Shipyard
43. NSA South Potomac – Naval Support Facility (NSF) Dahlgren
44. NSA South Potomac – NSF Indian Head
45. NSA Washington – Naval Observatory
46. NSA Washington – NSF Arlington
47. NSA Washington – NSF Carderock
48. NSA Washington – Suitland
49. NSA Washington – Washington Navy Yard
50. Naval Station Norfolk
51. Naval Weapons Station Yorktown
52. Olney Federal Support Center

Other Installations

53. National Security Agency at Fort George G. Meade
54. Pentagon
55. Raven Rock Mountain Complex



There are 64 major installations throughout the watershed that report to DoD on Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts. This map excludes several military installation annexes and five Army Readiness Division (RD) sites that are included in this number. RD facilities are located at multiple sites in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland.

DoD CBP Principles and FY2024 Accomplishments

The DoD is adept at meeting its military mission while simultaneously being recognized as a leader in Chesapeake Bay protection, conservation, and restoration. DoD environmental staff identify threats to mission preparedness, readiness, and operational success and address these threats through sustainable land use, land management, ecosystem restoration, conservation, and nature-based solutions in accordance with statutory requirements, stormwater permits and the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. The DoD CBP and its installation partners use their subject matter expertise to improve on- and off-base natural resources in ways that support multiple installation readiness objectives and also provide valuable ecosystem services for defense communities. Their collaborative efforts improve the quality of life for military service members, civilians, and their families so that warfighters can remain mission focused, committed to duty, and ready to deploy as needed.

To achieve these objectives, military installations protect and sustain operational and training missions by collaborating with nearby communities and non-DoD organizations. A prominent example of the value of these partnerships is in the federal designation of Sentinel Landscapes. The Sentinel Landscape Partnership Program brings together federal agencies, state and local governments, and private organizations to work with willing landowners and land managers to advance sustainable land use practices around military installations and ranges. Together, they leverage assets to implement projects that are compatible with national defense activities and alleviate regulatory restrictions that may inhibit military operations. Ensuring compatible land use adjacent to installations enhances the military's ability to carry out testing, training, and operational activities necessary to prepare the warfighter for real-world combat. At the same time, the program advances sustainable land management, preserves natural resources, increases access to recreation for the health and welfare of the warfighter and families, and enhances installation resilience to changing environmental conditions.

In FY2024, the Middle Chesapeake Sentinel Landscape (MD) added more than 2,800 acres that protect the testing and training mission of the Navy's Atlantic Test Ranges which strengthens and maintains military readiness. Within the Tidewater Sentinel Landscape (VA), approximately 1,300 linear feet of oyster reef and three acres of sand spit restoration protect mission critical pier and transportation infrastructure at Naval Weapon Station Yorktown. Pennsylvania's Kittatinny Ridge Sentinel Landscape (KRSL) was first designated in 2024 and provides opportunities for partners to protect National Guard training centers, specialized aviation facilities, and air and missile defense systems. The KRSL will leverage and build upon 515,000 acres of forested lands to protect military assets and training missions from incompatible development fueled by a rapidly growing population.

In FY2024, military installations continued to make progress toward meeting DoD commitments to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement's TMDL and jurisdiction Federal Planning Goals, contributing to their Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) pollution reduction targets. The installation achievements highlighted in this report showcase DoD successes in improving the Bay's water quality, restoring and protecting habitat, conserving land, and engaging communities. These projects not only achieve DoD CBP goals but also support mission readiness and installation resilience. Projects are strategically designed and implemented to provide a variety of benefits that meet mission requirements and restore and enrich the Bay ecosystem. Co-benefits recognized by the Partnership and applicable to DoD projects are listed to the right and are indicated with icons attached to the project descriptions on the following pages.

Project Co-Benefit Categories

Habitat
- » Biodiversity & Habitat
- » Stream Health
- » Wetlands

Healthy Watersheds
- » Healthy Watersheds
- » Land Use Methods & Metrics

Sustainable Fisheries
- » Fish Habitat
- » Oysters

Water Quality
- » Bacteria Loads
- » Flood Control/ Mitigation
- » Forest Buffers
- » Groundwater Recharge
- » Recreation

Installation Resilience
- » Mission and Operations Preservation
- » Erosion Prevention

DoD Stewardship

Protected Lands

Abundant Life

As the nation's largest and most productive estuary, the Chesapeake Bay is home to thousands of species of plants and animals and holds tremendous ecological, economic, recreational, and national defense value for the millions of people who live, work, and play in the region.

The DoD relies on its natural ecosystems to support and enable mission preparedness, military readiness, and operational success. They must be sustainably used, managed, restored, or conserved to prevent changes or degradation that could impact missions.

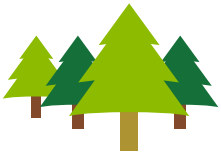
The Sikes Act requires natural and wildlife conservation on military lands, and installations must develop and implement Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) to guide the management of the Bay's natural ecosystems to support both military operations and the protection of these public lands. Through their persistent and wise management, DoD natural resource managers deliver positive outcomes for oyster and fish habitats, waterfowl, streams and wetlands, submerged aquatic vegetation, and urban tree canopy, all while preventing impacts to military missions.

These same ecosystems provide the variety of natural training, testing, and operational environments that warfighters need to prepare for deployment around the world. They also provide important recreation and fitness opportunities to improve the quality of life for military personnel, civilians, and their families.

Balancing conservation with military security, safety, and operational needs, in FY2024, DoD installations implemented shoreline restoration, monitored habitat enhancements for wildlife, managed invasive species, and conducted surveys to assess the health of key indicator plant and animal species. Many of the projects provided co-benefits and met multiple installation objectives, demonstrating the wise use of limited resources and cost savings.

FY2024 by the Numbers:

30 installations have updated INRMPs that include installation resilience



9,065 additional trees planted on DoD installations

283 acres of wetlands added

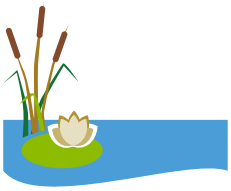


PHOTO PROVIDED BY AFETA CAMP PEARY

Large-Scale Invasive Species Removal Supports Military Training

Armed Forces Experimental Training Activity (AFETA) Camp Peary (VA) conducted a large-scale invasive species removal and management project to prevent invasive species from displacing native trees and vegetation and changing the structure of the forest. AFETA Camp Peary removed 186 acres of Autumn Olive and 29.5 acres of Chinese Wisteria in compliance with their INRMP to sustain the long-term ecological integrity of ecosystem habitat used to train warfighters. Approximately 20 acres were re-planted with the native long leaf pine trees (pictured), which will restore mission critical training conditions and complement the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's efforts to restore native forest habitats.

Vegetation Management to Reduce Wildfire Threats, Support Operations, and Reintroduce Bobwhite Quail

Bobwhite habitat creation and maintenance is accomplished through mowing, forestry mulching, herbicide application, prescribed fire, and plantings. Implementation of these practices ties directly to vegetation management strategies that support **Letterkenny Army Depot's (PA)** mission by reducing available fuels for wildfires and managing heavy encroachment of brush and trees near depot operations and facilities. Partnering with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the installation's project staff are optimistic about the reintroduction of wild bobwhites to their former range and the future of the broader population in Pennsylvania.

Biodiversity & Habitat | Land Use Methods & Metrics | Mission and Operations Preservation

PHOTO PROVIDED BY LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT

Volunteer Oyster Restoration Prevents Shoreline Erosion and Protects Mission Critical Assets

Oyster restoration can help to protect the shoreline environment from erosion so that installation operations are not hindered by the loss of waterfront land. The **Naval Research Lab – Chesapeake Bay Detachment (MD)** oyster restoration project employed a dozen volunteers, partnered with Maryland's Horn Point Lab in Cambridge to secure juvenile oysters (spat), reared the spat in cages suspended off docks in the Chesapeake Bay tributary of Fishing Creek. In 2025, they will spread over 4,000 oysters on Old Rock Reef in the Chesapeake Bay. Using volunteers in this project helps engage surrounding community and makes the most of limited project funds.

Healthy Watersheds | Oysters | Erosion Prevention | DoD Stewardship

PHOTO BY WILL PARSON / CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

Preventing Shoreline Erosion to Sustain Mission Readiness and Turtle Populations

NAS Patuxent River (MD) features natural landing zones used for realistic helicopter training and system testing, which also serve as vital nesting areas for diamondback terrapins. Coastal erosion threatens both, with projections showing complete loss of these zones within 10 to 20 years if left unaddressed. Such habitat loss could prompt federal protection of terrapins, potentially introducing regulatory constraints on mission-critical military training. To mitigate the erosion, a shoreline stabilization plan is underway. By Fall 2025, the effort will have restored 3.3 acres of marsh and built over 3,000 feet of living shoreline to support habitat and military operations.

Wetlands | Healthy Watersheds | Mission and Operations Preservation

PHOTO PROVIDED BY NAS PATUXENT RIVER

Vegetation Management Supporting Military Operations and the Endangered Sandplain Gerardia

Invasive species pose a significant threat to the endangered sandplain gerardia and its habitat at **Joint Base Andrews (MD)**. Annual vegetation management efforts by the base's Natural Resource Manager and support staff, including invasive species control, mowing encroaching vegetation and herbicide treatment of woody stems, help to maintain this plant's fragile habitat. Additionally, a "no mow" buffer zone was established, providing extra protection for the species. At the same time, these proactive strategies support the base's operational mission by preventing new regulatory constraints and vegetation from encroaching upon operational sites and storage areas.

Biodiversity & Habitat | Land Use Methods & Metrics

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOINT BASE ANDREWS

Conserved Lands

The DoD manages approximately 400,000 acres of land for national security and international defense and is the largest federal manager of developed land in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. However, inappropriate land uses outside of military installations can negatively affect military operations. As a result, land conservation has long been a pillar of mission assurance. The DoD aligns this strategy with Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement goals for Conserved Lands with implementation of the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) and Sentinel Landscape Partnership Programs. Both programs work with federal and non-federal partners to leverage assets, cut costs, secure real estate interests, and ensure compatible adjacent land uses.

The REPI Program protects military missions by helping to remove or avoid land-use or management conflicts near installations and by addressing existing or potential regulatory restrictions that could inhibit military activities. Since 2003, REPI has grown and fostered a sea-change in how DoD responds to conservation and military training issues and engages in outside-the-fence land use planning.

Like REPI, the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership is a coalition of federal agencies, state and local governments, and private organizations working in designated landscapes with willing land owners and managers to advance sustainable land use practices around military installations and ranges, but with a much larger, regional vision. These measures include purchasing conservation easements to conserve crucial groundwater supplies, creating groundwater recharge projects, investing in low-profile erosion control structures on surrounding lands, conserving or re-establishing vegetation to reduce erosion, and protecting wetland habitat for watershed management and species protection. In FY2024, $40.1 million was used to conserve more than 6,200 acres through the REPI program with the majority of land located in the Middle Chesapeake Sentinel Landscape in Maryland.

FY2024 by the Numbers:

$25.3 MILLION non-DoD, REPI partner funds expended in FY2024 to prevent encroachment on military missions (1.7 times the amount provided by REPI)

3,398 additional acres protected by the REPI program

4 installations that funded REPI projects with resilience co-benefits

54,415 cumulative Chesapeake Bay acres protected through the REPI program since 2002

PHOTO PROVIDED BY NAS PATUXENT RIVER

Conservation Preserves Land for Mission Training

Land conservation protects Navy airspace by preventing incompatible development and safeguarding aircraft testing and training, while also preserving farms, forests, and wetlands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. **NAS Patuxent River (MD)** utilized REPI program funding to conserve 2,751 acres within the Atlantic Test Ranges and 117 acres at Webster Outlying Field, working with Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, local counties, land trusts, and other partners. These efforts used $5.2 million in non-DoD partner funding, 1.3 times the amount provided by the DoD REPI Program. An additional $6 million in REPI funds was secured for future projects. Key initiatives include preserving 1,079 acres of marsh migration zones on Maryland's Eastern Shore to support species such as the saltmarsh sparrow and black rail, protecting 659 acres of farmland, forests, and historic sites in Virginia's Northern Neck near Stratford Hall, and conserving 584 acres in Southern Maryland, including 117 acres near Webster Outlying Field. Together, these efforts maintain military readiness, enhance conservation, and preserve vital habitats for future generations.

Conserving Land to Protect Military Missions through the REPI Program

Residential development near Fort Indiantown Gap often generates complaints due to training-related noise, smoke, and dust, potentially restricting operations and compromising readiness. In response to encroachment conflicts, **Fort Indiantown Gap's (PA)** REPI program secured approximately 1,040 acres in its Rausch Creek project area to support existing military missions and prevent incompatible development, such as excess nighttime lighting, tall structures like communications towers or wind turbines, and reduced safety buffers which would interfere with low-level and nighttime aviation training.

Forest Buffers | Mission and Operations Preservation | Protected Lands

PHOTO PROVIDED BY FORT INDIANTOWN GAP

Conserving Critical Potomac River Corridor Lands for Mission Readiness

Conserving land along the Potomac River corridor is critical to the long-term viability of **Naval Support Activity (NSA) South Potomac – Dahlgren's (VA)** Potomac River Test Range. The range is a one-of-a-kind testing environment that extends more than 50 miles southeast from Dahlgren to the mouth of the Potomac River where it meets the Chesapeake Bay. Dahlgren partnered with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and the Trust for Public Land to purchase a conservation easement of 153.5 acres along the Potomac River corridor. Partner funding doubled the DoD funds of $260,950 for a total funding amount of $521,900 for mission critical land conservation. Strategic management of land uses along the river corridor creates buffers and green belts around installations and slows urban sprawl, protecting training and range operations. This current easement purchase limits incompatible development and preserves the existing agricultural fields, forests, and waterbodies on the property, while aligning with state and local land conservation goals.

Stream Health | Healthy Watersheds | Mission and Operations Preservation | Protected Lands

PHOTO PROVIDED BY NSA SOUTH POTOMAC – DAHLGREN

Innovative Reuse and Recycling Improves and Protects Training Areas

The **Fort Gregg-Adams (VA)** Integrated Training Area Management Program is an example of how military training and environmental stewardship can go hand in hand. The program actively reduces waste, prevents water contamination, and protects the environment through innovative reuse and recycling initiatives, all while ensuring realistic and effective training for soldiers. Over 500 tons of wood debris, a byproduct of forestry and grounds maintenance, were diverted from landfills and used to stabilize 5.1 miles of eroded tactical maneuver trails to improve warfighter training conditions. Eight tons of leaf debris were composted and transformed into nutrient-rich soil, which is used to repair damage in training areas, increasing resource efficiency, and maintaining mission readiness. Instead of ending up in landfills, over 50 discarded Christmas trees find new life as erosion control barriers along Bailey Creek which protects the creek shoreline and preserves valuable training land for operational preparedness.

Healthy Watersheds | Mission and Operations Preservation | Protected Lands

PHOTO PROVIDED BY FORT GREGG-ADAMS

Engaged Communities

Warfighters, DoD civilians and their families rely on lands and waterways to provide for on- and off-base recreation, physical and mental fitness, and an overall quality of life that allows service members to remain mission focused, committed to duty and ready to deploy. DoD environmental education and outreach initiatives enhance understanding of environmental concerns and foster a shared commitment to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. DoD installations promote responsible stewardship and preservation of shared natural resources by involving military personnel and their families, DoD employees, public school students, and the broader military community. These efforts align with the community stewardship objectives outlined in the Sikes Act, Clean Water Act and Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

Installation staff hold in-person and virtual events to engage and educate adjoining defense communities and other interested stakeholders about their environmental initiatives. Building strong relationships fosters mutual understanding, reduces conflicts, and promotes collaboration on shared interests. Collaboration builds trust and ensures the military can mitigate concerns about noise, safety, and environmental impacts while maintaining operational readiness.

Within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, 21 installations provide public access sites for DoD service members, employees, and their families and guests; 11 of these installations also welcome the general public on DoD lands. These areas offer opportunities for outdoor recreation like hunting, fishing, birdwatching, biking, and hiking. Visitors can immerse themselves and appreciate the abundant natural resources managed by the DoD and learn about conservation efforts.

The success stories in this section highlight examples of how DoD promotes environmental stewardship and engages military families and surrounding communities while also meeting statutory requirements.

FY2024 by the Numbers:

11 installations received environmental awards

700
DoD stewardship events conducted

2,326
volunteers participated in stewardship events

407
total public access sites open to DoD service members, employees, their families, and other approved visitors

PHOTO PROVIDED BY NSN

Supporting Environmental Literacy; Enhancing Stewardship

Naval Station Norfolk (NSN) (VA) hosted more than 3,000 elementary students and 500 teachers and administrators from Norfolk and Portsmouth during a Fleet Fest Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) event. Students spun a wheel of chance to randomly select questions designed to test their knowledge of standards of learning objectives adapted to Chesapeake Bay Program and NSN environmental activity themes. Staff from the NSN Environmental program, the DoD Chesapeake Bay Program and Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, Mid-Atlantic Public Works also provided the students with takeaway environmental literature and learning activities.

Cleaning the Base Maintains Safe and Healthy Operational Areas

Clean-up efforts help to maintain safe warfighter training areas for operational readiness, protect the health and welfare of installation personnel, and protect the health of the Bay. **Joint Base Meyer-Henderson Hall (VA)** participates annually in the DoD CBP's Clean the Base Day by holding a clean-up event focusing on stormwater management facilities and other areas around the installation that drain to the Chesapeake Bay. More than 265 pounds of trash were collected during the clean-up event including pieces of plastic, plastic bags, snack wrappers, and bottles and larger items such as pieces of metal, PVC piping, and an umbrella.

Healthy Watersheds | DoD Stewardship

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOINT BASE MEYER-HENDERSON HALL

Planting Trees for Privacy, Security, and Mission Assurance

The **Defense Supply Center of Richmond (DSCR) (VA)** enhances warfighter training areas and operational preparedness by annually planting at least 50 native trees, including oaks, maples, locusts, and firs. The trees are strategically placed to act as natural screens for installation privacy and security and they also provide secondary environmental benefits. Their canopy and root systems reduce stormwater runoff and flooding potential by intercepting water, promoting transpiration, and improving infiltration. Through these nature-based measures, DSCR demonstrates a commitment to environmental sustainability and ensures mission readiness while enhancing installation resilience.

Biodiversity & Habitat | Land Use Methods & Metrics | Flood Control/ Mitigation

PHOTO PROVIDED BY DSCR

Clean the Base Day Successful Due to Collaboration

In a joint effort with **Fort Barfoot (VA)**, 36 acres of forest surrounding a major stream on **Fort Gregg-Adams (VA)** were cleaned. Forty-five volunteers—including National Guard members, Marines, civilian employees, and the Fort Gregg-Adams Garrison Commander, Col. James D. Hoyman—answered the Regional Commander's Clean the Base Day Challenge to ensure a safe and healthy operational training environment and protect the Chesapeake Bay's water quality and wildlife habitat. Although Fort Barfoot lies outside the Bay watershed, its members supported Fort Gregg-Adams' mission enthusiastically. Together, they collected 2,078 pounds of trash—more than any other installation in the watershed—highlighting a strong commitment to environmental stewardship and military readiness.

Stream Health | Healthy Watersheds | DoD Stewardship

PHOTO PROVIDED BY FORT GREGG-ADAMS

Supporting Warfighters and Families: Marina Clean Up to Support Healthy Recreation

Naval Recreation Center Solomons (MD), an annex of **NAS Patuxent River**, recently held Clean the Marina Day, attracting 550 participants, including service members, families, and locals. Sponsored by the United States Automobile Association, the event spotlighted DoD's commitment to preserving natural resources for safe and healthy recreation. Staff shared brochures covering best practices for absorbent spill pad usage, pump-out station guidelines, and Maryland's clean marina recommendation. Additionally, Spring-a-Palooza Day welcomed 120 attendees and promoted stewardship of military lands. Both events reinforced sustainable practices, environmental awareness, and community engagement in protecting waterways to ensure healthy access for current and future generations.

Healthy Watersheds | Fish Habitat | Recreation | DoD Stewardship

PHOTO PROVIDED BY NAVAL RECREATIONAL CENTER SOLOMONS

Clean Water

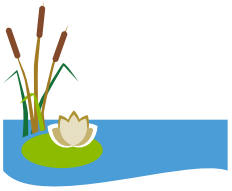
The strategic management of stormwater reduces threats to critical assets and mission readiness by preventing flooding and soil erosion providing infiltration and groundwater recharge, protecting wetlands, preventing drought, and preserving the availability of clean and safe drinking water to support warfighter health and wellness and maximize locally driven lethality.

Reducing nutrient and sediment pollution and toxic contaminants in local waters also protects Chesapeake Bay living resources that provide abundant recreational opportunities and safe fish, crabs, and waterfowl to consume.

Military installations install stormwater best management practices (BMPs) to mitigate nutrient and sediment pollutants in runoff from buildings, roadways, parking lots, airfields, and natural areas to comply with municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) regulations and make progress toward total maximum daily limit (TMDL) federal planning goal commitments.

The DoD CBP monitors progress toward reducing pollutant loads from stormwater and wastewater sources to document compliance with environmental laws and regulations and contributions to jurisdiction Watershed Implementation Plans. The projects highlighted in this section demonstrate DoD's commitment to support mission readiness and the warfighter while improving the water quality of the Bay and the maintenance of healthy watersheds.

FY2024 by the Numbers:



3,411 linear feet of shoreline and streambank restored

226 additional acres treated by BMPs built in SY2024

155 new BMPs built in SY2024

PHOTO PROVIDED BY DSCR

Strategic Street Sweeping Achieves Permit-Required Phosphorus Reductions and Protects Water Quality

Defense Supply Center Richmond (DSCR) (VA) has implemented a comprehensive street sweeping program with four goals in mind: achieve the TMDL pollutant reduction goal assigned to the installation; meet pollution reductions as required by its MS4 permit; maintain permeable pavement, where applicable; and reduce salt and sand pollution on installation roadways and loading areas after snow events. Installation staff are confident their street sweeping program will achieve installation-specific Chesapeake Bay TMDL total phosphorus reductions and satisfy the installation's MS4 permit requirements. In the past twelve months, DSCR has swept more than 50 acres of roadways by strategically scheduling and mapping out street sweeping routes for capturing maximum pollutants with limited resources, minimizing the cost of operations.

Teaming for Cost-Efficient Maintenance of Permeable Pavement

Amidst competing priorities and limited funding, maintenance of stormwater BMPs is a common challenge at many DoD installations. At **NSA Washington Navy Yard (DC)**, environmental staff teamed up with the installation Transportation Operations & Maintenance shop to tackle sediment loads, to reduce food packaging waste, and to conduct routine maintenance of 13 permeable pavement sections, all at no extra additional cost to the Navy. On the second weekend of each month from May through November, transportation staff conduct base-wide pavement sweeping which covers approximately 90 percent of all streets within the fence line and specifically targets permeable pavement sections. Since this routine sweeping has been established, the Washington Navy Yard has seen an approximate 10 percent reduction in total suspended solid concentrations in stormwater runoff. These actions protect water quality, maintain stormwater infiltration, prevent flooding, and help to maintain reliable and resilient infrastructure in a cost-efficient manner.

Healthy Watersheds | Groundwater Recharge

PHOTO PROVIDED BY NSA WASHINGTON NAVY YARD

Stormwater BMP Maintenance and Inspection Contracts Ensure Future Operational Capability

The **NAS Patuxent River Complex (NASPRC) (MD)**, encompassing Patuxent River, Webster Outlying Field, and Solomons Island, uses approximately 330 structural and alternative BMPs to treat 300 impervious acres to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff discharging into the Chesapeake Bay. Collaborative efforts between the Public Works Department and the Stormwater Program ensure routine maintenance for these BMPs through updated ground maintenance contracts, supporting Chesapeake Bay TMDL compliance in a cost-effective manner. A BMP verification and inspection contract was efficiently executed, involving inspections, cross-referencing with federal databases, re-measuring BMPs, and providing field notes, signage, and photographs. This meticulous process identified and resolved multiple database discrepancies, enhancing BMP accuracy and management. With these contracts and ongoing efforts, NASPRC ensures continued high-quality stormwater treatment, safeguarding the Chesapeake Bay, maintaining stormwater infrastructure to support mission operations, and demonstrating its commitment to installation resilience and sustainability.

Stream Health | Land Use Methods & Metrics | Groundwater Recharge

PHOTO PROVIDED BY NASPRC

Street Sweeping to Capture Pollutants and Protect Receiving Water Quality

Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bethesda (MD) conducts quarterly street sweeping of roadway curbs and gutters to meet environmental regulatory requirements and prevent constraints on military operations or readiness. Street sweeping supports the installation's MS4 permit requirements by reducing the nutrient and sediment loads in stormwater runoff being discharged. Both mechanical broom sweepers and regenerative air sweepers are used to capture a wide range of particle sizes which helps to maximize pollutant removal and protect water quality in the Rock Creek watershed. NSA Bethesda tracks the curb miles for each street sweeping event by using the street sweeper's GPS equipment. The amount of impervious area swept is reported in their annual MS4 permit report and Chesapeake Bay TMDL BMP reporting.

Stream Health | Healthy Watersheds | Bacteria Loads

PHOTO PROVIDED BY TYMCO

DoD CBP Supports Installation Mission Readiness

The DoD Chesapeake Bay Program will continue to support installation customer needs by leveraging its environmental expertise across the DoD enterprise and in support of warfighter preparedness and mission assurance. It is uniquely positioned to:

Provide Environmental Products and Services to Commands

- Offer forums, guidance, and outreach materials for continuous learning, information exchange, success strategy transferability and innovation.
- Provide authoritative and reliable data analysis for informed decision-making and regulatory permit compliance.
- Conduct annual comprehensive program performance evaluations for data-driven and informed investment decisions.

Implement Strategic Use of Real Estate to Reduce Operating Costs

- Use REPI and Sentinel Landscapes Partnerships to protect and sustain expansive land and sea ranges.
- Identify threats to mission preparedness, readiness, and operational success, and address these threats through sustainable land use, land management, ecosystem restoration, and conservation.

Build Internal and External Relationships to Forge Trust and Leverage Partner Assets

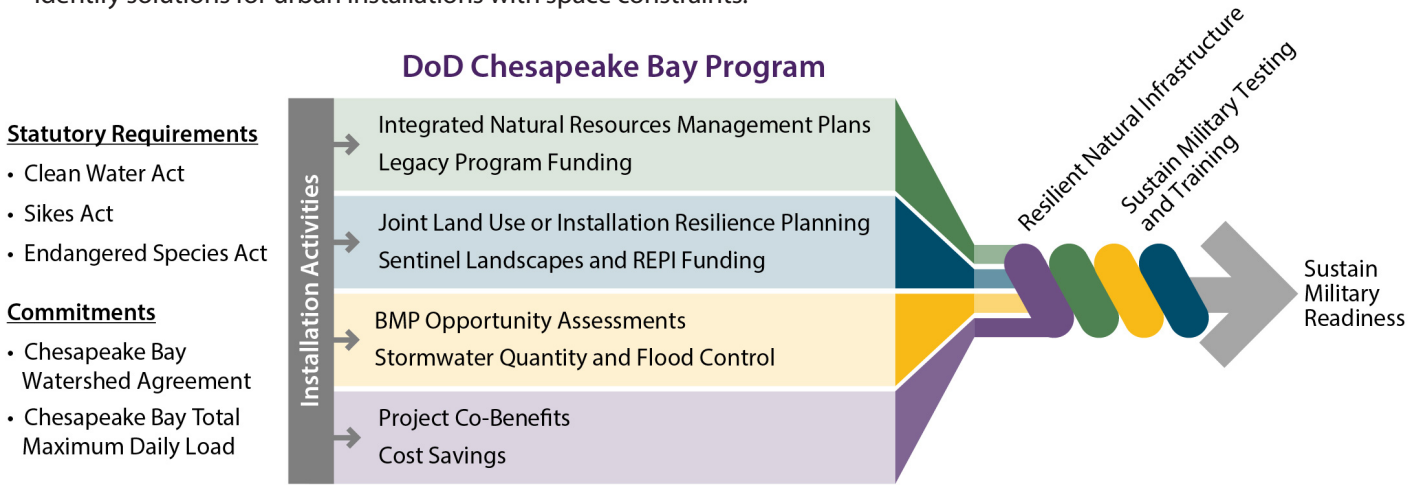
- Actively engage within the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership to gain access to subject-matter experts and deliver results for the DoD and its partners.
- Collaborate with the Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering With Nature Initiative to secure external funding to meet installation resilience needs.
- Lead and foster stewardship activities and outreach in defense communities.

Protect and Optimize the Delivery of Reliable and Resilient Shore Infrastructure that Results in Readiness and Force Generation and Maximizes the Impact of Warfighter Capacity and Capability

- Use Best Management Practice credit reports to focus on preventative maintenance for sustainment of the function and value of mission critical facilities.
- Anticipate changing weather and work to mitigate threats to mission assurance – flooding, drought, wildfire, shoreline erosion, etc.

Offer New, Rapid, Innovative, and Affordable Solutions that Meet the Urgent Warfighting Requirements of our Forces

- Focus on natural and nature-based features that meet multiple installation objectives, provides an additional line of defense for DoD-built infrastructure, amplifies existing ecological benefits, and fuels economic productivity for the local communities that support installations.
- Identify solutions for urban installations with space constraints.



Looking Forward
Future of the Watershed Agreement Beyond 2025

For the DoD, the future of Chesapeake Bay protection, conservation, and restoration remains grounded in simultaneously achieving warfighter preparedness and mission assurance, compliance with environmental laws, regulations and statutory requirements, and the stewardship of public lands and natural resources. The DoD's ability to conduct realistic training and essential operations in a variety of natural and changing landscapes is essential for preparing more lethal and resilient warfighters and its ability and readiness to project force across the globe.

As the DoD CBP looks toward the 2025 deadline for achieving the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement's goals and outcomes, it will remain steadfast in its commitments, using its unique and valuable assets for improved water quality, land conservation, and stewardship. The DoD CBP will coordinate and amplify the work of its 64 installations to contribute to those outcomes whose targets are off course and not predicted to be achieved, especially for wetlands and tree canopy. It will work with the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee, Goal Implementation Teams and their various work groups to review, revise and propose new goals and outcomes for a revised Watershed Agreement and work to streamline the structure and governance of the Partnership to maximize the effectiveness of the DoD CBP in support of installation and mission needs. We will strengthen communication, engagement, and integration across the DoD CBP to build trust, align goals, and enhance coordination among installations and use our expertise to support partners in defense communities to improve service member quality of life. With the DoD as a significant land manager in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and with our network of installations, we will meet tomorrow's challenges by identifying threats to mission preparedness, readiness, and operational success, and address these threats through sustainable land use, ecosystem restoration, conservation, and nature-based solutions.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY FORT WALKER

Fort Walker's Assault Landing Zone exemplifies how natural resources objectives and military mission requirements can both be met within the same footprint. The military requires that vegetation be maintained below a certain height for line-of-sight reasons. Fort Walker Fish & Wildlife manages the vegetation with plantings that are beneficial to species in decline, such as the bobwhite quail and the monarch butterfly, cohesively fulfilling military requirements. The root structures of these plantings also filter water and hold soil in place, improving water quality

DoD Chesapeake Bay Program

Fiscal Year 2024 DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Annual Progress Report

Acknowledgments

This report would not have been possible without the concerted efforts of a myriad of dedicated and motivated installation environmental staff. They support essential warfighting capabilities by managing a variety of natural resources that protect and sustain existing and future operational and training missions across the DoD enterprise. They collect and report reliable data for informed decision-making, manage the strategic use of real-estate assets, and collaborate with partners to reduce operational costs while providing reliable and resilient infrastructure. Their work, throughout the Chesapeake Bay, also supports the health and welfare of military personnel, civilians, and their families, which form the backbone of locally driven lethality. Their activities are generally not visible to the public and normally occur without fanfare, but we owe them a debt of gratitude for their unsung contributions to warfighter capacity, capability, and force generation. This report showcases the leadership and stewardship of DoD personnel within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, offering a small sample of the scope and breadth of protection, conservation, and restoration activities being conducted by the Department of Defense.

The DoD CBP is jointly managed by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Environment and Mission Readiness, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic and the Regional Environmental Coordination office.