Fall 2025

DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Journal

Edited by the DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Team

PROTECTING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY FOR MILITARY READINESS, FOR OUR COMMUNITY, FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

New Regional Environmental Coordinator for Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic

By DoD Chesapeake Bay Program

Please welcome Phillip Winslow as the new Regional Environmental Coordinator (REC) for Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic (CNRMA), headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia. Mr. Winslow brings to the position more than two decades of professional experience in regulatory compliance, program management and environmental stewardship across federal, state, and municipal agencies.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY: PHILLIP WINSLOW

Phillip Winslow, REC for CNRMA.

Growing up in Kill Devil Hills, on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, Mr. Winslow developed an early connection to the environment, which shaped both his education and professional path. In 2001, he graduated from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, earning a degree in environmental studies. He began his career as an environmental specialist with the Virginia Department of Transportation, where he gained expertise in implementing large-scale construction and maintenance projects in compliance with Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, erosion control, and stormwater management. In 2008, he transitioned to working for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, where he served as a regulatory stormwater compliance specialist. He then joined the City of Suffolk, Virginia, Public Works Department as a supervisor, overseeing their Municipal Stormwater Permit Program. This position provided insight into local government challenges and solutions for implementing environmental compliance programs.

In 2010, Mr. Winslow joined the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) as a regional stormwater program manager, providing technical expertise in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting to installations across the Mid-Atlantic and helping the Navy maintain compliance while supporting mission readiness. He was promoted to Director of NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic's Water Compliance Division, where he managed a multidisciplinary team charged with ensuring compliance with the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In January 2025, he was appointed REC, representing CNRMA and the Department of Defense (DoD) at the local, regional, and national levels. He serves as the DoD REC in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regions I and III, and the Navy REC for EPA Regions II and V, coordinating closely with state and federal partners to align environmental policy with military mission requirements. Mr. Winslow welcomes the opportunity to bring his professional expertise and passion for environmental stewardship to his role in balancing operational readiness with long-term sustainability, ensuring that environmental restoration, compliance, and protection remain integral to DoD operations.

IN THIS ISSUE

Commander's Corner: Environmental Stewardship in Support of Mission Readiness

By DoD Chesapeake Bay Program and Jacobs Solutions Inc.

In his initial "Message to the Force" and subsequent town hall meetings and briefings, U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth has emphasized a renewed focus on warrior ethos, lethality, and mission readiness—alongside a commitment to restoring trust in the military and supporting warfighters and their families.

Across the DoD, environmental teams are stepping up to align with these priorities in meaningful ways. Installation environmental staff protect the mission by identifying threats to mission preparedness and addressing them through sustainable land use, ecosystem restoration, and nature-based solutions, in accordance with statutory requirements, stormwater permits, and the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. They collaborate with local communities and non-DoD organizations, leveraging on- and off-base assets, to implement projects that support national defense activities and reduce regulatory barriers to military operations.

The DoD Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) provides strategic mission support to installations throughout the watershed by:

- Hosting forums for information sharing, problem-solving, and strategy development to promote awareness and transferability throughout the watershed and across services
- Leveraging staff expertise to collect, compile, and report installation-specific data to facilitate environmental compliance, support strategic and informed decision-making, and provide information on new technologies and strategies to meet installation goals
- Connecting with local, state, federal, and non-government organization partners to leverage assets, reduce operational costs, coordinate stewardship, and support community engagement
- Communicating internally and externally about the value of environmental protection projects to maintain mission readiness and promote locally driven lethality, while also providing benefits to the neighboring defense communities

Through these efforts, the DoD CBP enhances the existing capacity of the installations to: support military training and weapons testing in various 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 uninterrupted continuity of operations. Additionally, these efforts support warfighter health, fitness, and welfare, and create safe and healthy environments where military and civilian families can thrive.

Together, installation staff and the DoD CBP implement environmental stewardship activities in direct support of Secretary Hegseth's vision. By aligning natural resource management with defense priorities, they ensure the military remains lethal, ready, and trusted, today and into the future.

Success Story: Installation Cleanup Events around the Watershed

By Angela S. Jones, DoD CBP

Between April 2025 and July 2025, the DoD CBP collected cleanup information from installations in the watershed that organized events as part of Clean the Base Day. Installations across all military services in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia conducted 27 events, engaging 556 volunteers. They collectively cleaned approximately 34.6 miles of their facilities' streets, piers, streams, and barracks, and removed 19,849 pounds of trash and debris. These efforts have directly supported the military mission by facilitating a safe and healthy environment for training, readiness, and mission accomplishments, while also helping installations comply with environmental laws and regulations. The magnitude of these efforts highlights DoD's role as a leader within the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership and demonstrates its strong stewardship ethic in keeping with the goals and objectives of Executive Order 13508 for Protection and Restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.

Check out some of the installations within the watershed engaging civilians and military personnel during various installation cleanup events!

Arlington National Cemetery, VA

On July 11, 2025, volunteers collected more than 250 pounds of trash and debris.

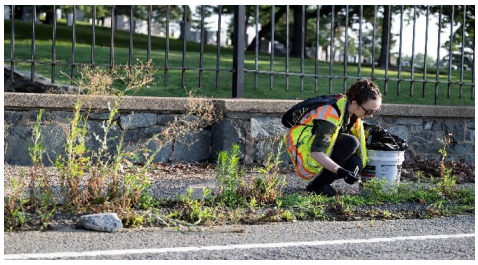

PHOTO CREDIT: ELIZABETH FRASER, ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Camp Peary, VA

On July 19, 2025, approximately 20 participants cleaned two different sections of shoreline and collected more than 400 pounds of trash and debris.

PHOTO CREDIT: COURTNEY KEIRN, CAMP PEARY

Defense Logistics Agency Distribution Susquehanna, PA

On April 26, 2025, 18 volunteers collected almost 500 pounds of trash and debris, while cleaning close to one mile of roadway.

Fort George G. Meade, MD

In June 2025, volunteers collected nearly 600 pounds of trash and debris.

PHOTO CREDIT: GLORIANN MARTIN, FORT MEADE

Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek – Fort Story, VA

During two events in June 2025, volunteers from the installation and the Environmental Department collected more than 1,000 pounds of trash and debris.

Joint Base Langley-Eustis (JBLE)-Langley, VA

In June 2025, 30 volunteers at JBLE-Langley cleaned 4 miles of shoreline and collected approximately 180 pounds of trash.

Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana, VA

In June 2025, volunteers from the Environmental Department and Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility, Virginia Capes collected more than 4,000 pounds of trash and debris.

PHOTO CREDIT: VALERIE CASWELL, NAS PATUXENT RIVER

NAS Patuxent River, MD

On June 3 and 7, 2025, more than 40 volunteers collected nearly 500 pounds of trash and debris.

Naval Station Norfolk (NSN), VA

On June 5, 2025, the NSN Environmental Department along with DoD CBP staff, Stewie from Stewards of the Sea, and teens from the NSN Child Youth Program, came together to collect nearly 500 pounds of trash and debris.

PHOTO CREDIT: ANGELA JONES, DOD CBP

Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSAB), MD

NAVFAC EV and Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences each held a volunteer cleanup event at NSAB during the week of Earth Day. Across both cleanups, NSAB had 75 volunteers collect and dispose of more than 360 pounds of trash.

PHOTO CREDIT: CONNOR SMITH, NSAB

Naval Support Activity (NSA) Hampton Roads, VA

During multiple events in May and June 2025, nearly 80 volunteers from NSA Hampton Roads Headquarters and Naval Medical Center Portsmouth collected more than 5,000 pounds of trash.

Naval Support Activity Washington (DC) and Naval Support Facility Carderock (MD)

In April 2025, volunteers collected approximately 160 pounds of trash and debris during two separate events.

PHOTO CREDIT: ALMA VELA, NSA WASHINGTON

Naval Support Facility Indian Head, MD

In April 2025, more than 90 volunteers collected nearly 1,200 pounds of trash and debris during three separate events.

PHOTO CREDIT: WILLIAM FABEY, NSA SOUTH POTOMAC, NSF INDIAN HEAD

Naval Weapons Station Yorktown and Cheatham Annex, VA

During two events in April and June 2025, more than 70 volunteers cleaned nearly 6 miles and collected more than 600 pounds of trash and debris.

Norfolk Naval Shipyard, VA

During two events in April and June 2025, volunteers collected just under 900 pounds of trash and debris.

United States Coast Guard Base Portsmouth, VA

On June 18, 2025, 8 volunteers with 2 small boats, heavy equipment and retrieval rigging, cleaned 1.2 miles of shoreline and collected 2,215 pounds of trash and debris.

PHOTO CREDIT: SCOTT FISHER, USCG BASE PORTSMOUTH

Success Story: JROTC Cadets Partner with Fort Meade to Boost Environmental Sustainability

By Gloriann Martin, Fort George G. Meade Public Affairs

The Mustang Battalion of Meade High School's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps recently partnered with the U.S. Army garrison at Fort Meade to improve stormwater management across the installation and provide practical professional development for its cadets.

The cadets teamed up with personnel from the garrison's Directorate of Public Works to remove tree protection sleeves, pick up trash, and support the installation's stormwater compliance program. The program supports Fort Meade's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. Under the Clean Water Act, this permit ensures stormwater is managed to protect local waterways.

"When young trees are planted, they are given a tree protection sleeve… that serves to protect the tree from animal grazing while it is small and more vulnerable," said Julie Adkins, Fort Meade's natural resources program manager. "Timely removal is important for tree growth, forest health and to keep plastic trash out of the environment. The cadets' contributions to help us remove these sleeves and pick up trash gave us a much-needed assist (in) maintaining the natural environment."

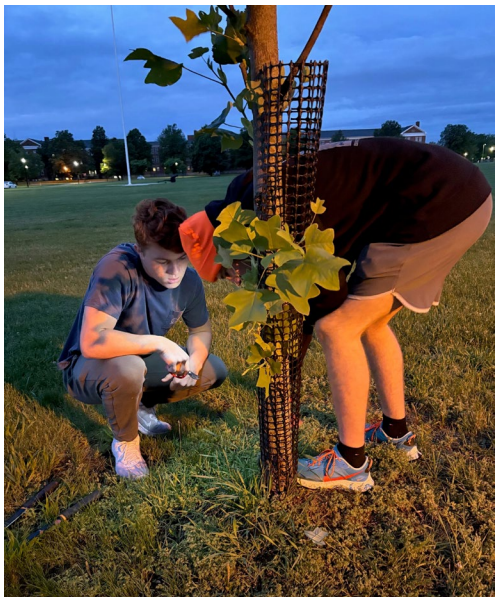

PHOTO CREDIT: GLORIANN MARTIN, FORT MEADE

Meade High School Mustang Battalion cadets remove protective mesh from a tree at the Parade Field at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, May 2025. The work supports the installation's stormwater permitting requirements and promotes long-term tree health.

The assistance began in April 2025 with a large-scale cleanup from Mapes Gate to Franklin Branch, clearing more than half a mile along the road. During the first phase, 11 large bags of trash, and hundreds of sleeves and stakes were collected by 22 cadets who volunteered for the effort during their spring break.

"The cadets have been excited at the prospect of getting out and helping the community," said retired Col. Nathan Crum, Meade High School's senior Army instructor. "Doing your share as a good citizen in your school, community, country and world is one of the five JROTC competencies infused in our curriculum."

The initiative also built critical skills taught in the classroom. Upperclassmen learned organizational leadership, planning and project management, while squad leaders directed small teams in the field. By the end of May, 18 cadets had earned their Service Learning Ribbon for dedicating at least eight hours to the initiative and writing reflections about their experience. Notable squad leaders included cadets Edis Amaya, Daniel Awonuga, Owen Barry, and Sarah Elfernani.

In its second phase, the project tackled multiple areas across the installation, including the Parade Field, the western side of Ernie Pyle Street, and the wooded area east of Hawkins Drive behind the installation's Burger King. "As a part of our Service Learning Project process, we require all cadets to reflect on their impact and experience following their service," said Cadet Gavin Inman, incoming battalion commander. All cadets reported having a positive experience, to include improving their work ethic, learning to balance directing others and following directions, and applying teamwork and compromise to accomplish goals.

The Mustang Battalion is looking to continue their work through additional phases of the project in collaboration with the garrison's natural resources team. Future efforts may include reconnaissance of new sites, more tree maintenance, or trail improvement projects that offer meaningful hands-on service.

According to Adkins, the work completed by the Mustangs directly supported the Fort Meade MS4 stormwater permit and even contributed to a friendly Chesapeake Bay Action Team competition among installations to see who could remove the most trash. "We look forward to collaborating with Julie and her team to determine what should be the next set of priorities," said Crum. "We expect many phases to come in helping Fort Meade."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

on Fort Meade's environmental initiatives, visit https://home.army.mil/meade/my-fort/all-services/environmental.

Fertilizer Loads Assigned to DoD Lands

By Jacobs Solutions Inc.

Current Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool modeling assumptions treat DoD turfgrass as if it is fertilized like residential lawns, even though some installations don't fertilize their turfgrass. These erroneous fertilizer pollutant loads are added to justifiable loads from impervious surfaces and contributing land uses, or land cover. The combined pollutant loads increase the amount of nutrients that the DoD must reduce to meet MS4 permits and Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Federal Planning Goals. An urban nutrient management (UNM) plan best management practice (BMP), prepared by a certified expert, is commonly used to reduce or prevent nutrient loads from fertilized lands, so that the property owner can receive nutrient reduction credit. Preparing UNM plans can be costly, time consuming, and frustrating, especially when needed to refute an erroneous assumption regarding turfgrass fertilization. The DoD CBP is working through the Chesapeake Bay Partnership's Urban Stormwater Workgroup to identify a cost-effective and creditable BMP that will provide relief for military installations in meeting their MS4 permit requirements or TMDL Federal Planning Goals.

PHOTO CREDIT: KEVIN DUBOIS, DOD CBP

While residential lawns are often fertilized, some installations do not fertilize turfgrass.

Overview

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model estimates fertilizer loads on all turfgrass areas, including those on military installations, using a simplified, jurisdiction-wide approach. The straightforward, per-acre approach analyzes statewide data for non-agricultural lawn fertilizer sales and measured turfgrass acreage in non-agricultural areas. The model divides the total fertilizer sold by the total turfgrass area, and assigns a uniform application rate to every acre, regardless of actual on-the-ground applications of fertilizer.

Once application rates are established, the model simulates how nutrients from fertilizer move through soil, water, and vegetation to reach streams, rivers, and, eventually, the Chesapeake Bay. The model adjusts for factors, including rainfall intensity, soil characteristics, and plant uptake efficiencies. Because fertilizer usage and turfgrass areas change annually, the model updates each year to reflect the latest sales figures and turfgrass acreage estimates.

Impact to DoD

DoD installations and range areas cover more than 400,000 acres of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, all turfgrass areas, including lawns, parks, athletic fields, and DoD sites, are assigned nitrogen and phosphorous loads based on modeled fertilizer application rates.

Each jurisdiction's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan's Federal Planning Goals quantify the necessary reductions of nitrogen and phosphorus needed to offset loads. Although some DoD installations do not apply fertilizer to their turfgrass, they still receive modeled load allocations of nitrogen and phosphorus, which contribute to the load reductions needed to meet the Federal Planning Goals. DoD installations must fund, implement, and maintain BMPs to reduce nitrogen and phosphorous loads assigned to the DoD. A few installations have UNM plans for their housing and golf course areas, where fertilizer is purposefully being applied.

Ongoing and Future Actions

The Chesapeake Bay Partnership's Urban Stormwater Workgroup convened a UNM Expert Panel to assess how various urban nutrient management practices perform at removing nitrogen and phosphorus. The panel is tasked with evaluating fertilizer legislation, identifying qualified data sources, exploring alternative crediting mechanisms, and developing verification frameworks for the mechanisms. The goal of the most recent UNM Expert Panel was to evaluate the options and implications of applied BMPs that could be used to reduce or eliminate pollutants from fertilizers.

The fertilizer-rate-reduction options proposed by the UNM Expert Panel are organized into the following three progressive UNM BMP tiers.

Fertilizer Rate – Level 1:

- Because non-agricultural fertilizer sales have been dropping, all jurisdictions will receive credit for reduced fertilizer application rates.
- This option would not be reported as a BMP; the jurisdiction's urban pervious loads would be reduced in the model and these reductions would be assumed to be factored into adjustments to DoD Federal Planning Goals.

Fertilizer Rate, Timing, and Location – Level 2:

- This BMP provides for additional credit for UNM plans, in close alignment with a subset of the other core practices established by the 2013 UNM Expert Panel.
- UNM plans must reflect the latest fertilizer management best practices regarding fertilizer rate, timing, and location, which target reducing export of nitrogen and phosphorus from turfgrass.

Non-Fertilized Turfgrass – Level 3:

- This BMP provides a small, additional reduction for properties that are effectively maintaining healthy turfgrass to reduce nutrient export without the use of fertilizer.
- Grass clippings must remain on site; and there should be less than 15% of exposed soil.
- The property owner must sign a commitment to implement this BMP. The person responsible for maintaining the turfgrass should obtain training to understand soil test findings and warning signs of nutrient export.

To confirm that the non-fertilized turfgrass BMP is practical, the DoD CBP is collaborating with the Expert Panel to establish simple verification protocols that can be conducted by military installation staff. Annual record checks are recommended so that practice reporting is current, property contact information is up to date, and personnel training is completed. The turf health and cover must be monitored to verify that there are no detrimental impacts due to the lack of fertilization, which could result in increased erosion.

Conclusion

If the UNM Expert Panel recommendations are approved, DoD installations will benefit from the cost-effective and easy to implement BMPs in levels 1 and 3. These proposed BMPs will provide a means for military installations to reduce some of the fertilizer nutrient load so that they can focus their staff capacity and funding towards achieving justifiable and equitable Federal Planning Goals.

Chesapeake Bay Action Team (CBAT) Updates

By Jacobs Solutions Inc.

Members of the CBAT convened for its meeting on July 24, 2025.

Chesapeake Bay Service Leads and Installation Roundtable Discussion

CBAT members were provided with an overview of the Chesapeake Bay Sentinel Landscape Partnership. Members heard updates on the Middle Chesapeake Sentinel Landscape, the Virginia Security Corridor Sentinel Landscape, and the Kittatinny Ridge Sentinel Landscape.

BMP and Project and Indicators (P&I) Datacalls Overview and Training – Part 2

Members were provided with an overview of the DoD CBP BMP crediting report results and the jurisdiction's datacall template-update procedures, as well as expectations for installations in the fiscal year 2025 BMP and P&I datacalls. Members can find both parts of the training on the DoD CBP's DENIX website.

Draft Template for Installation Briefing on CBP Elements

Members were presented with briefing elements, graphics, and a formatting template that can be used to develop internal and external presentations on installation activities that fall within the DoD Chesapeake Bay Program. This work was produced in response to CBAT member requests for assistance in briefing senior installation leadership to garner support for enhanced program success.

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Webinars and Links of Interest!

Upcoming and Past Webinars

(past webinars can be viewed at the links provided)

8/21/2025: Network for Engineering With Nature webinar
Life Depends on Rivers: Building a Movement to Protect and Restore America's Rivers
https://ewn.erdc.dren.mil/engagements/event/n-ewn-seminar-life-depends-on-rivers-building-a-movement-to-protect-and-restore-americas-rivers/

8/26/2025: Monarch Conservation webinar series
Building a framework for a national native seed strategy in Canada and Incorporating a Two-eyed Seeing Approach into the Southern Ontario Seed Strategy
https://monarchjointventure.org/resources/monarch-webinar-series/international-conservation/building-a-framework-for-a-national-native-seed-strategy-in-canada

9/18/2025: Network for Engineering With Nature webinar
Co-producing Coastal Resilience: The Stone Living Lab as a Collaborative Model for Testing Nature-Based Approaches
https://ewn.erdc.dren.mil/engagements/event/n-ewn-seminar-co-producing-coastal-resilience-the-stone-living-lab-as-a-collaborative-model-for-testing-nature-based-approaches/

9/23/2025: Monarch Conservation webinar series
Farming for Monarchs: How Monarch Habitat and Agriculture Can Coexist
https://monarchjointventure.org/resources/monarch-webinar-series/agriculture/farming-for-monarchs-how-monarch-habitat-and-ag-can-coexist

10/28/2025: Monarch Conservation webinar series
Native Garden Design and Climate-Resilient Landscaping
https://monarchjointventure.org/resources/monarch-webinar-series/creating-habitat/native-garden-design-and-climate-resilient-landscaping

11/18/2025: Monarch Conservation webinar series
Community-Driven Conservation: How Alternare A.C. Protects Monarch Habitats and Empowers Rural Communities
https://monarchjointventure.org/resources/monarch-webinar-series/international-conservation/community-driven-conservation-how-alternare-a-c-protects

Helpful Links

DoD **Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program Newsletter, January 2025**
https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USGOVREPI/bulletins/3cd1ffd

UMCES **Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Report Card**
https://ecoreportcard.org/report-cards/chesapeake-bay/watershed-health/

DoD **Chesapeake Bay Program Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Progress Report**
https://www.denix.osd.mil/chesapeake/denix-files/sites/30/2025/08/FY24-Annual-Progress-Report_20250808_v2.pdf

This newsletter is produced by CH2M HILL, Inc. (now Jacobs) under NAVFAC Atlantic A-E Contract N62470-25-D-0002 in support of the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act Environmental Compliance Program. For more information or to be added to the email distribution list, please contact the DoD Chesapeake Bay Program: http://www.denix.osd.mil/chesapeake/home.