

DoW Chesapeake Bay Program

Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Progress Report





Introduction



PHOTO PROVIDED BY U.S. NAVY

To Our Readers,

As Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic and Lead Agent for all military services in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, I am honored to present the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Annual Progress Report for the Department of War (DoW) Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP).

Spanning Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia,

New York, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, to include more than 400,000 acres, our installations play a significant role in the preservation and protection of the Chesapeake Bay while maintaining and building upon military readiness and installation resilience.

The DoW CBP operates under two primary statutory structures: the Clean Water Act and the Sikes Act, which guide installation environmental management while supporting military readiness and warfighter effectiveness. As a landowner in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the Clean Water Act compels the DoW to protect water quality, but these statutory requirements also produce numerous practical benefits for military operations. Stormwater management practices prevent flooding of mission-critical facilities, while proper maintenance of wastewater systems protects the health of civilians, military, and their families.

The Sikes Act was enacted in 1960 to ensure the DoW conserves natural resources. Through the implementation of Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans, installations with significant natural resources manage their natural resources while ensuring no net loss of military mission capacities. Natural resource management helps prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered, which could restrict military training activities. By managing different land covers, the DoW maintains a variety of environments for training while also providing recreational benefits for personnel, civilians, and the public.

The DoW continues to protect installation resilience through collaborative partnerships, Sentinel Landscapes, and Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program funding. These efforts protect against encroachment, which can interfere with mission-critical operations and threaten both national security and the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Community engagement and partnering is a crucial aspect of the DoW CBP. Through federal and state stormwater permit requirements, installations conduct public outreach and educational activities, fostering positive relationships with nearby communities and demonstrating DoW's commitment to environmental stewardship.

I salute the efforts of our men and women who strive to ensure installation resilience, military readiness, healthy and safe living and training environments, and a healthy Chesapeake Bay for future generations.

Rear Admiral Stephen D. Barnett
Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic

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DoW Chesapeake Bay Program

Statutory Requirements

- Clean Water Act
- Sikes Act
- Endangered Species Act

Commitments

- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
- Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Installation Activities

- Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans
Legacy Program Funding
- Joint Land Use or Installation Resilience Planning
Sentinel Landscapes and REPI Funding
- BMP Opportunity Assessments
Stormwater Quantity and Flood Control
- Project Co-Benefits
Cost Savings

Resilient Natural Infrastructure
Sustain Military Testing and Training
Sustain Military Readiness

Multiple statutory, planning, and operational elements come together to support resilient infrastructure and effective training environments to sustain military readiness.

The Year at a Glance



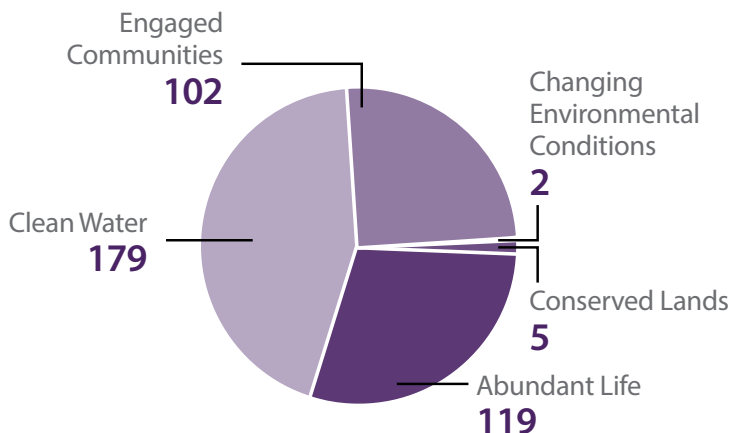
Guided by its core principles to integrate, partner, and engage, in FY2025, the DoW CBP delivered practical products and services that supported statutory compliance while strengthening installation resilience, sustaining training and testing capabilities, and facilitating continuity of operations. The DoW CBP held forums that enabled installations to share challenges, solutions, and best practices, promoting awareness and transferability across the watershed and among Services in support of force readiness. Additionally, by collecting, analyzing, and reporting installation data, DoW CBP staff supported informed decision making, assisted installations in meeting evolving regulatory requirements, and promoted adoption of new technologies and management strategies that supported mission execution. The DoW CBP also strengthened partnerships among federal, state, local, and nongovernmental organizations to leverage resources, coordinate investments, and support stewardship activities that benefited both military missions and neighboring communities.

By helping installations identify projects with multiple co-benefits, the DoW CBP supported efficient use of limited funding, staff capacity, and land resources, while preserving realistic training and testing environments. Nature based solutions and land protection initiatives implemented in FY2025 reduced operational risk, protected mission critical infrastructure, and contributed to safe, healthy environments that support the health, fitness, and welfare of Service members and their families.

FY2025 marked several significant advancements. The DoW CBP participated in development of the updated Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, achieving formal recognition of land conservation as a strategic component of military readiness. The DoW CBP also advanced a new best management practice (BMP) for nonfertilized lands to provide installations with a cost effective means to meet Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit requirements and total maximum daily load federal planning goals.

Additional FY2025 accomplishments included improving BMP crediting and correcting federal land data layers to remove non-DoW lands, creating accuracy, transparency, and fairness in reporting. Installation achievements highlighted in this report demonstrate DoW leadership in promoting abundant life, conserving land, building engaged communities, and providing clean water in ways that support mission readiness and meet warfighter training and mission requirements.

FY2025: 407 projects



FY2025 by the Numbers:

To Promote Abundant Life:

811  additional trees planted on DoW installations

6  acres of wetlands added

To Increase Conserved Lands:

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

5,583  additional acres protected by the REPI program

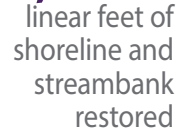
To Build Engaged Communities:

658 DoW stewardship events conducted

19,849  pounds of trash collected during DoW cleanup events

To Provide Clean Water:

199  new best management practices (BMPs) built in State Year (SY) 2025

7,010  linear feet of shoreline and streambank restored

341  additional impervious acres treated by BMPs built in SY2025



DoW Installations in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

LEGEND

● Air Force

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

● Army

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

★ Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)

25. Susquehanna Distribution Center (PA)

26. Defense Supply Center Richmond (VA)

★ Marine Corps

27. Marine Barracks Washington (DC)

28. Marine Corps Base Quantico (VA)

▲ Navy

29. Allegany Ballistics Laboratory (WV)

30. Camp Peary (VA)

31. Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (DC)

32. Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story (VA)

33. Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana (VA)

34. NAS Patuxent River (MD)

35. Naval Research Lab (NRL) Headquarters (DC)

36. NRL Maryland detachments: (Chesapeake Bay Detachment, Pomomkey, Blossom Point Tracking Facility)

37. NRL Virginia detachment: (Midway Research Center Quantico)

38. Naval Support Activity (NSA) Annapolis (MD)

39. NSA Bethesda (MD)

40. NSA Hampton Roads (VA)

41. NSA Mechanicsburg (PA)

42. NSA Portsmouth (VA)

43. NSA South Potomac – Naval Support Facility (NSF) Dahlgren (VA)

44. NSA South Potomac – NSF Indian Head (VA)

45. NSA Washington – Naval Observatory (DC)

46. NSA Washington – NSF Arlington (VA)

47. NSA Washington – NSF Carderock (MD)

48. NSA Washington – Suitland (MD)

49. NSA Washington – Washington Navy Yard (DC)

50. Naval Station Norfolk (VA)

51. Naval Weapons Station Yorktown (VA)

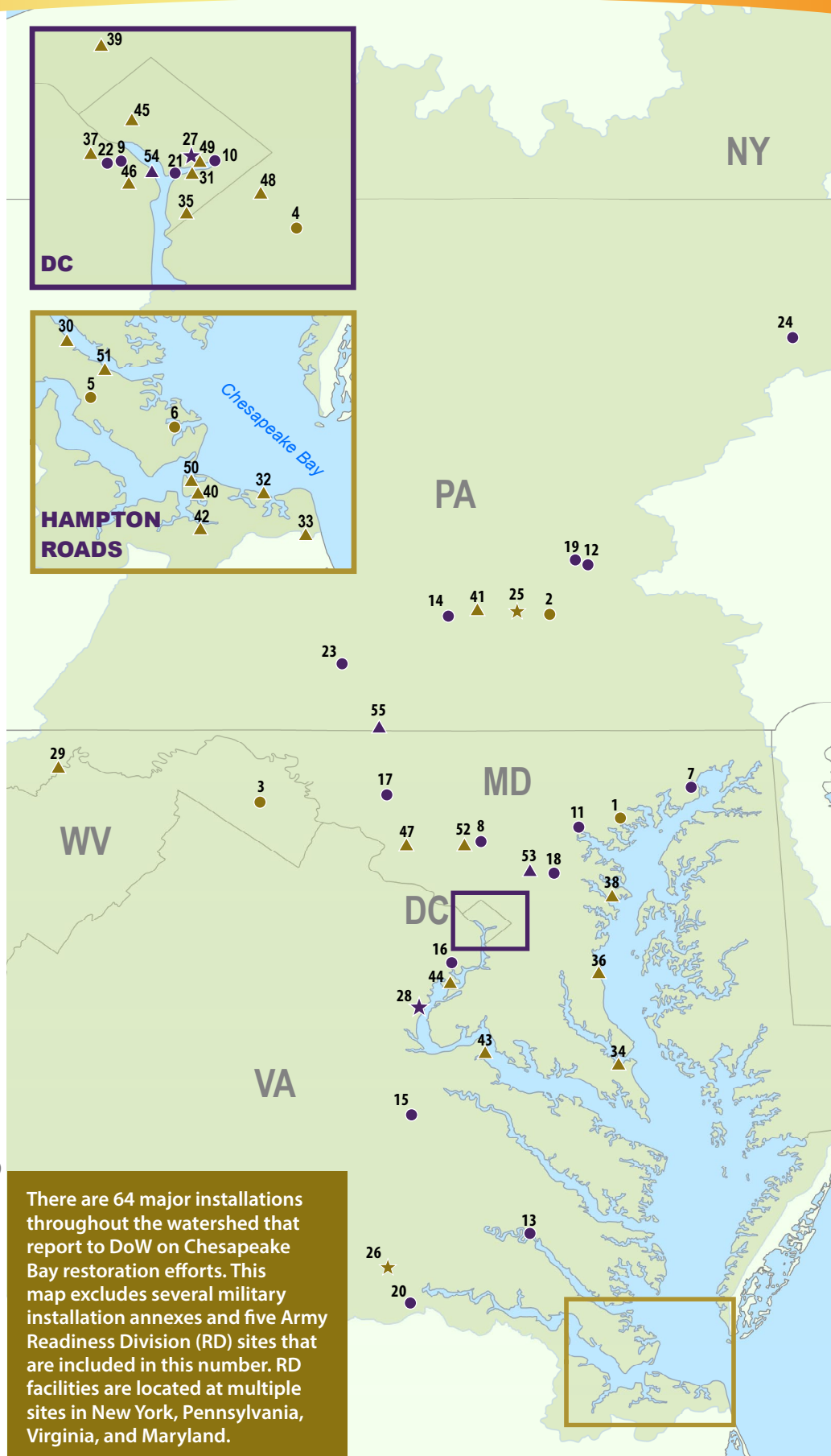
52. Olney Federal Support Center (MD)

▲ Other Installations

53. National Security Agency at Fort George G. Meade (MD)

54. Pentagon (VA)

55. Raven Rock Mountain Complex (PA)



Supporting Military Readiness through Stewardship



The DoW strengthens military readiness by incorporating environmental stewardship into installation operations. By aligning restoration, conservation, and pollution prevention with mission requirements, the DoW ensures that installations effectively manage their natural resources and maintain the operational flexibility necessary to train, operate, and deploy a lethal warfighting force. With approximately 400,000 acres across the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the DoW's environmental stewardship responsibilities directly support national security and long-term mission assurance.

Abundant Life

Healthy natural systems are essential to mission readiness. Forests, wetlands, and shorelines support realistic live-fire training, weapons testing, and operational exercises that prepare warfighters for varied environments. Proactive management of natural resources helps installations avoid regulatory constraints by maintaining healthy habitats, including for threatened and endangered species. Beyond mission benefits, abundant natural resources contribute to quality of life by providing recreational and respite opportunities that support warfighter, family, and civilian morale.

Conserved Lands

Readiness extends beyond an installation fence line. Incompatible development near installations can restrict training, compromise safety, and limit operational flexibility. To address these risks, the DoW aligns its land conservation goals with the REPI and Sentinel Landscapes Partnership Programs. Through these efforts, the DoW works with federal, state, local, and private partners to prevent encroachment, sustain land and water ranges, and protect mission-critical buffers. Conservation easements and sustainable land management deliver multiple benefits, including preserving training space, enhancing resilience, reducing long-term costs, and reinforcing compatible surrounding land use.

Clean Water

Installations strategically manage stormwater and water resources to protect infrastructure from flooding and erosion, sustain groundwater recharge, and preserve wetlands and waterways. These investments support compliance with Clean Water Act requirements and stormwater permits, reducing regulatory risk and preserving operational flexibility. Reducing nutrient and sediment in runoff also improves local waterways and downstream Chesapeake Bay resources, benefiting both installations and defense communities.

Engaged Communities

Strong community relationships are vital to sustained operations. Warfighters, DoW civilians, their families, and defense communities rely on the Chesapeake Bay watershed to sustain quality of life. Installations advance stewardship through education, outreach events, and collaborative projects that engage military personnel and neighboring communities. These efforts build trust, reduce conflict, and support understanding of land use, safety, and environmental protection needs to help maintain mission readiness.

Readiness Through Integrated Stewardship

By implementing integrated, multi-benefit projects, DoW installations enhance operational capability, protect mission-critical resources, strengthen defense communities, and protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed, ensuring military readiness now and into the future.

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



DoW Stewardship



Protected Lands

Co-benefits recognized by the Partnership and applicable to DoW projects are listed here and are indicated with icons attached to the project descriptions on the following pages.



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 DoW 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 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, DoW 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 recreational 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 FY2025, DoW 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.

FY2025 by the Numbers:

32

installations have updated Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans that include installation resilience



811

additional trees planted on DoW installations

6

acres of wetlands added



44,176

cumulative acres of wetlands protected



Shoreline Restoration Supports Installation Resiliency, Protects Property, and Saves Money

Over a 12-year effort, **Naval Support Activity Annapolis (MD)** transformed a deteriorating earthen berm along the North Severn River into a resilient living shoreline. What began in 2008 as photo documentation of progressive berm decay and shoreline erosion evolved through years of surveys and monitoring, rehabilitation planning, collaboration, emergency stabilization, and data collection to eventually support project funding. Construction began in 2024 to restore the failing earthen berm by removing debris, regrading the shoreline, planting native vegetation, and installing breakwaters. The new vegetation will provide shoreline stability and resiliency, while the breakwaters will reduce wave energy and provide valuable wildlife habitat. This long-term solution enhances habitat and ecosystem health, protects Navy property, and avoids an estimated \$7.5 to \$13 million in potential losses had the original structure failed. The project exemplifies the Navy's commitment to environmental stewardship in support of mission readiness.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY K. SEGUIN / NSA ANNAPOLIS



Invasive Plant Removal Improves Training Conditions

Naval Weapons Station Yorktown (VA) is engaged in a long-term, multi-phase project to remove invasive plant species that impede realistic training conditions and threaten forested landscapes. Work includes removing heavily infested bamboo, wisteria, autumn olive, and other non-native species using manual and mechanical methods over approximately 10 acres. Invasive plant stands are felled by hand and/or cut using a forestry mulcher, followed by selective herbicide treatment to prevent regrowth. This process will likely take several years due to the persistence of invasive plant species. Once regrowth of the invasive species has been eradicated, the areas will be planted with native trees or seed mixes to improve ecosystem health and provide realistic training conditions.



Habitat –
Biodiversity
& Habitat



Installation Resilience –
Mission and Operations
Preservation



DoW
Stewardship



PHOTO PROVIDED BY NWS YORKTOWN

Power Line Retrofits Protect Installation Electrical Infrastructure and Bald Eagles

Aberdeen Proving Ground (MD) continued a multi-year avian protection power line retrofit project to replace old spinning markers with modern static markers that don't require maintenance. The new overhead power line markers reduce bird collisions. Without these markers, bald eagles are significantly more likely to strike power lines, potentially damaging electrical components, causing outages or sparking fires that affect installation operations and mission readiness. The new state-of-the-art markers feature high-contrast striping with reflective and glow-in-the-dark elements, to improve visibility for birds approaching from any angle. The glowing stripes are particularly important in low-light conditions. These markers help protect all birds, but particularly bald eagles, which are the most vulnerable to power line collisions at the installation.



Habitat –
Biodiversity
& Habitat



Installation Resilience –
Mission and Operations
Preservation

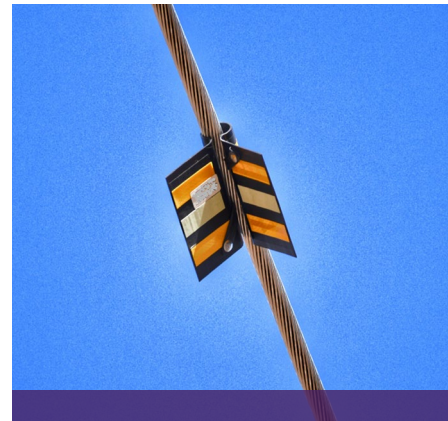


PHOTO PROVIDED BY U.S. ARMY /
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND

Oyster Restoration Improves Installation Resilience

Naval Research Lab – Chesapeake Beach Detachment (MD) conducted an oyster restoration project that successfully deposited 11,813 juvenile oysters on Old Rock Reef in the Chesapeake Bay to help protect the shoreline from wave attack and erosion. This stewardship event occurs annually, with the help of volunteers from the Naval Research Lab in Washington DC and Chesapeake Beach, Andrews Air Force Base, the Washington Navy Yard, and Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling.



Habitat –
Biodiversity
& Habitat



Sustainable
Fisheries –
Oysters



DoW
Stewardship



PHOTO PROVIDED BY NAVAL RESEARCH LAB –
CHESAPEAKE BAY DETACHMENT

Converting Turf to Forest Improves Training Area Variety and Reduces Operating Costs

The **Joint Base Langley-Eustis (Eustis, VA)** Natural Resources Team, with support from local volunteers, successfully converted 0.75 acres of turf grass into forested habitat by planting approximately 300 native tree saplings per acre, including dogwood, oak, chestnut, and longleaf pine. This habitat conversion, completed with Sikes Act funding, enhances training area variety and habitat diversity, reduces long-term maintenance and herbicide costs, and provides phosphorus and nitrogen reduction Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) credits, delivering both environmental benefits and operational improvements for the installation.



Habitat –
Biodiversity
& Habitat



Installation Resilience –
Mission and Operations
Preservation



DoW
Stewardship



PHOTO PROVIDED BY
JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS



Conserved Lands

The DoW manages approximately 400,000 acres of land for national security and international defense and is the largest federal owner 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 military mission assurance. The DoW aligns this strategy with Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement goals for Conserved Lands with implementation of the 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 DoW 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 landowners and managers to advance sustainable land-use practices around military installations and ranges, but with a much larger, regional vision. These measures include purchasing 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 FY2025, \$35 million was used to conserve more than 5,500 acres through the REPI Program with the majority of conserved land located in the Kittatinny Ridge Sentinel Landscape in Pennsylvania.

FY2025 by the Numbers:



**\$10.3
MILLION**

non-DoW, REPI partner funds expended in FY2025 to prevent encroachment on military missions

5,583

additional acres protected by the REPI program



3

installations funded REPI projects with resilience co-benefits

60,050

cumulative Chesapeake Bay acres protected through the REPI program since 2002



Joint Conservation Projects Prevent Encroachment and Protect Military Airspace

In 2025, the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) was awarded a \$3.4 million REPI Challenge grant for conservation easements that permanently protect more than 1,000 acres of land beneath the **Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River (MD)** Atlantic Test Range special use airspace. This first-of-its-kind land conservation partnership within the Middle Chesapeake Sentinel Landscape combines funding from the DoW, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Department of the Interior (DOI). By leveraging USDA easements and DOI funding to match REPI investments, ESLC will implement five joint conservation projects, expanding often under-used USDA easements. The initiative establishes a transferable easement template between the Navy and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, reduces barriers to multi-agency collaboration, enables funding for conservation in gap areas outside traditional programs, and protects military readiness by preventing incompatible development, while preserving agricultural lands and natural landscapes that support Chesapeake Bay water quality.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ESLC



Conservation Easements Promote Long-term Viability of Potomac River Test Range

NSA South Potomac – Dahlgren (VA) partnered with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the Trust for Public Land, and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to secure conservation easements totaling more than 580 acres along the Potomac River corridor. These protected lands are critical to the long-term viability of the Potomac River Test Range, a unique military testing environment that extends more than 50 miles southeast from Naval Support Facility Dahlgren to the mouth of the Potomac River, where it meets the Chesapeake Bay. The easements limit incompatible development within the test range and around the installation, while also preserving existing agricultural fields, forests, and waterways; and establishing buffers and green belts. The easements align military readiness objectives with state and local conservation goals.



Installation Resilience –
Mission and Operations
Preservation



DoW
Stewardship



Protected
Lands



PHOTO PROVIDED BY
NSA SOUTH POTOMAC – DAHLGREN

Land Preservation Protects Critical Military Airspace

NAS Patuxent River (MD) and the Atlantic Test Ranges contributed \$180,000 in REPI funds to help preserve a 114-acre property near Cambridge, Maryland, to prevent incompatible development beneath critical Navy airspace within the Middle Chesapeake Sentinel Landscape. The project supports operational readiness while expanding public access and protecting sensitive habitats. Led by the ESLC, with support from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Program Open Space, the land will be transferred to Dorchester County and developed as a public park, offering more than 6 miles of multi-use trails. This effort was one of 7 projects completed in 2025, conserving 935 acres within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, through partnerships with multiple state agencies, conservation organizations, local governments, and landowners. Three projects in St. Mary's County preserved 356 acres of farmland and forest near NAS Patuxent River, supporting long-term mission sustainability while furthering natural resource and land conservation goals.



Installation Resilience –
Mission and Operations
Preservation



DoW
Stewardship



Protected
Lands



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BRITTANY MARSHALL /
NAVFACSYS COM WASHINGTON

REPI Projects Prevent Encroachment and Preserve Installation Readiness

Fort A.P. Hill (VA) has demonstrated leadership in land protection through DoW's REPI program, safeguarding more than 14,000 acres surrounding the installation since 2006, with an additional 550 acres to be protected by the end of FY2026 and even more with future projects planned. These efforts, implemented in partnership with the Trust for Public Land and The Conservation Fund, preserve critical buffer lands that protect the installation from incompatible development. Use of REPI funding to preserve surrounding land helps ensure uninterrupted military training, enhance long-term mission readiness, and support operational flexibility, while also conserving wetlands, sustaining working farmlands, and protecting the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This collaborative approach to land protection demonstrates the installation's commitment to both preserving military readiness and environmental stewardship.



Installation Resilience –
Mission and Operations
Preservation



DoW
Stewardship



Protected
Lands



PHOTO PROVIDED BY FORT A.P. HILL



Engaged Communities

Warfighters, DoW 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. DoW environmental education and outreach initiatives enhance understanding of environmental concerns and foster a shared commitment to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. DoW installations promote responsible stewardship and preservation of shared natural resources by involving military personnel and their families, DoW employees, public school students, and the broader surrounding community. These efforts align with the 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, 20 installations provide public access sites for DoW Service members, employees, and their families and guests; 11 of these installations also welcome the general public on DoW 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 DoW and learn about conservation efforts.

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

FY2025 by the Numbers:

10

installations received environmental awards



658

DoW stewardship events conducted



2,322

volunteers participated in stewardship events

418

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



Beach Cleanups Help Meet Regulatory Requirements and Engage the Defense Community

Naval Support Facility Indian Head (VA) demonstrated strong installation and community engagement through three shoreline cleanup events, supporting Earth Day and the Potomac River Watershed cleanup, sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation. Each event focused on a different area of the installation's shoreline. By hosting events on multiple days and locations, participation increased and included installation employees, as well as friends and family. A total of 93 volunteers collected approximately 1,155 pounds of trash, including tires, metal debris, Styrofoam, and plastic bottles. These efforts not only involved the Defense community in environmental stewardship and protecting local waterways but also helped meet the installation's stormwater permit requirements.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY NSF INDIAN HEAD



Cleanup Events Support Warfighter Quality of Life and Promote Community Partnerships

Joint Base Langley-Eustis (VA) strengthened community partnerships and promoted environmental stewardship through two cleanup events. Nineteen students from Lindsay Middle School removed approximately 300 pounds of debris while also observing local wildlife in a forested environment. The momentum continued during the annual Clean the Bay week, when 30 community volunteers, working over four days, removed small pieces of plastic, cigarette butts, and plastic bags from multiple sites.



Healthy Watersheds



DoW Stewardship



PHOTO PROVIDED BY
JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS

Base Cleanups and Environmental Fair Promote Installation/Community Partnership and a Shared Commitment to Stewardship

During Earth Week, **NSA Bethesda (MD)** coordinated several environmental initiatives led by Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Environmental Division and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Seventy-five participants, including tenants, staff, and contractors, removed more than 360 pounds of trash from the base. An Environmental Action Fair connected base personnel and patients with sustainability resources from local organizations. These activities promoted installation/community partnerships and reinforced a shared commitment to environmental stewardship at the base, local, and global levels.



Installation Resilience –
Mission and Operations
Preservation



DoW Stewardship



PHOTO PROVIDED BY
ALEXIA MARTINEZ / NSA BETHESDA

Youth Cleanup Creates Safe Operational Areas

Naval Station Norfolk (VA) Public Works partnered with the DoW CBP, Stewards of the Sea, and the Youth Development Center for Clean the Base Day. The event engaged youth volunteers in cleaning operational areas rather than more typical green spaces, promoting stewardship and environmental education. By focusing on operational areas vulnerable to trash entering storm drains and waterways, the effort supported environmental stewardship, while strengthening community partnership and improving critical training and operational areas.



Healthy Watersheds



Installation Resilience –
Mission and Operations
Preservation



DoW Stewardship



PHOTO PROVIDED BY
ANGELA JONES / DOW CBP

PrepareAthon Promotes Warfighter and Family Resilience and Readiness

The **Pentagon Force Protection Agency, Pentagon Emergency Management Division (DC)** promoted installation resilience, readiness, and environmental stewardship by hosting the 2025 PrepareAthon. The event drew more than 1,700 attendees and highlighted how preparedness, pollution prevention, and stormwater management support the DoW mission. Staff showcased waste diversion and stormwater programs, including an interactive demonstration, while fact sheets emphasized pollution prevention practices at work and home, reinforcing the importance of environmental stewardship to mission readiness.



Installation Resilience –
Mission and Operations
Preservation



DoW Stewardship



PHOTO PROVIDED BY PENTAGON FORCE
PROTECTION AGENCY, PENTAGON
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION



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 implement stormwater 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 regulations and make progress toward Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load federal planning goal commitments.

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

In SY2025 as an example of DoW commitment to improving water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, installations reported that tens of thousands of acres of lawns or turfgrass were not fertilized, over one million pounds of total suspended solids were kept from Bay waterways, and more than eight thousand total cumulative acres of submerged aquatic vegetation were protected.

FY2025 by the Numbers:



7,010 linear feet of shoreline and streambank restored

341

additional impervious acres treated by BMPs built in SY2025



199

new BMPs built in SY2025



Nature-based Projects Can Protect Mission Readiness and Enhance Water Quality

In collaboration with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Christopher Newport University, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Chesapeake Research Consortium, and the Pew Charitable Trusts, **Naval Weapon Station Yorktown (VA)** restored Penniman Spit to protect key training areas, improve installation resilience, and enhance Chesapeake Bay living resources. The resulting hybrid living shoreline included 2.25 new acres of tidal wetlands and alternative oyster habitat structures along 1,950 feet of shoreline. By combining innovative engineering design, nature-based water quality best management practices, and a commitment to environmental stewardship, this project demonstrates how efforts to protect mission readiness can also provide co-benefits for the long-term sustainability of local marine resources and their water quality ecosystems service.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY NWS YORKTOWN



Removal of Abandoned and Derelict Vessels Safeguards Operational Readiness

Over the past decade, **Naval Station Norfolk (NSN) (VA)** faced a persistent safety and environmental threat from 11 non-Navy abandoned and derelict vessels (ADV), which had accumulated along the installation's northern seawall in Willoughby Bay. These vessels posed immediate risks of pollutant discharge and navigational hazards, while threatening the sensitive cultural and natural resources that define the bay's ecological integrity. In response, the Navy launched a comprehensive ADV removal program centered on sustainable salvage operations, in which precision and collaboration were key. NSN partnered closely with Lynnhaven River NOW, a local National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-funded nonprofit, and a salvage contractor. In this 14-month operation, all 11 vessels were removed without a single safety or environmental incident. The ADV removal program is a testament to how proactive leadership and federal-nonprofit collaboration can safeguard both naval operational readiness and coastal ecosystems.



Habitat –
Biodiversity
& Habitat



Installation Resilience –
Mission and Operations
Preservation



DoW
Stewardship

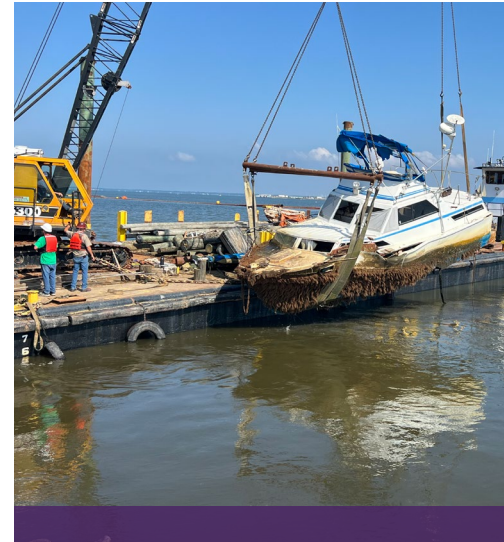


PHOTO PROVIDED BY NSN

Wetland Restoration Promotes Installation Resilience by Protecting Shorelines

The restoration of Carr Creek is part of a larger effort to protect the shoreline at **NSA Annapolis (MD)**. Beginning with a survey, the project team determined the most logical divides between working sections (called “reaches”) and analyzed each reach for erosion severity, wave action, and recommended treatment to maintain or improve the shoreline for installation resilience. Reach identification allowed discreet and phased shoreline projects to be ready when funding became available. Two reaches were restored with an underused technique, known as log-sill installation. This involves installing a hardwood log at a critical location on the shoreline to trap sediment, then planting with native plants to stabilize the shoreline as it builds back up. This technique not only allows for a resilient, living shoreline, but also reduces costs in the short and long term. The successful restoration of the shoreline protects Navy property, while promoting resilience and environmental stewardship.



Habitat –
Stream
Health



Installation Resilience –
Erosion Prevention



DoW
Stewardship



Protected
Lands



PHOTO PROVIDED BY K. SEGUIN / NSA ANNAPOLIS

Converting Turf Grass to a Pollinator Garden Lowers Operational Costs and Meets Water Quality Commitments

The **Joint Base Langley-Eustis (Eustis, VA)** Natural Resources Team converted 0.5 acres of turf grass into a pollinator garden using Sikes Act funding, transforming a dog park into an educational resource for base residents. Dedicated by the 733rd Mission Support Group Commander during observances of Earth Day and the installation's recent Tree City USA recognition, the project included planting two commemorative red mulberry trees. The effort involved multiple installation units, state forest and wildlife agencies, local volunteers, and students from General Stanford Elementary School, who grew and planted seedlings. This initiative generates TMDL nutrient reduction credits, reduces mowing and herbicide costs, enhances pollinator habitat, and strengthens installation and community engagement through hands-on environmental education.



Habitat –
Biodiversity
& Habitat



Healthy
Watersheds



Installation Resilience –
Mission and Operations
Preservation



DoW
Stewardship



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS



Looking Forward

ALIGNMENT OF DOW CBP PRINCIPLES WITH 2025 REVISED CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT

As the largest federal owner of developed land within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the DoW plays a vital leadership role in implementing the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement while maintaining diverse natural resources essential for realistic training environments, installation resilience, and military readiness. The DoW is called upon to provide leadership in protecting and restoring the watershed and fulfills this mission while preserving capabilities for military readiness and providing ecosystem services for defense communities.

The 2025 revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement focuses on four interconnected goals: Thriving Habitat, Fisheries, and Wildlife; Clean Water; Healthy Landscapes; and Engaged Communities, while emphasizing locally inspired and driven implementation. The DoW and its CBP align with this vision by translating watershed goals into practical, on-the-ground actions at installations across the watershed. Clean water initiatives safeguard training lands, airfields, and waterfront infrastructure from erosion, flooding, and regulatory risk. Healthy landscape and habitat restoration efforts reduce endangered species constraints, strengthen installation resilience, and preserve mission flexibility. The DoW provides outreach and engages communities to grow a stewardship ethic and also meet water quality requirements. Together, these actions sustain military operational capacity and demonstrate DoW's commitment as a trusted partner in Chesapeake Bay protection and restoration.

Mission Alignment Through Integration, Engagement, and Partnership

The DoW CBP advances these goals through a mission-first approach grounded in three principles:

- **Integrate** – Restoration, pollution prevention, and stewardship are integrated into DoW's mission of providing the military forces needed to deter war and protect national security.
- **Engage** – Service members, civilians, and families are engaged as environmental stewards, reinforcing a culture of responsibility and readiness.
- **Partner** – Federal, state, and local partners are leveraged to maximize resources, strengthen restoration efforts, and deliver shared benefits.

This alignment ensures stewardship activities actively support warfighter readiness, operational sustainability, and resilient infrastructure.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE DOW CBP?

As the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership looks beyond current commitments, changes to restoration strategies, evolving program requirements, and operational priorities will continue to affect DoW installations and DoW's internal Chesapeake Bay Program. Planned water quality model updates are expected to address the impacts of changing environmental conditions on BMP effectiveness while improving the accuracy and accountability of pollutant loads. Past updates have required greater effort to meet DoW pollutant reduction targets. A key benefit of the Phase 7 model updates will be the differentiation of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and military installation lands to support more accurate load attribution, data tracking, and reporting. Implications should become apparent in 2027 during model testing, with final updates approved in 2028. Following these model updates, new jurisdiction Phase IV Watershed Implementation Plans are expected to be developed by December 31, 2030, setting the stage for updated federal planning goals.

Strategies to meet these goals may include new DoW tools such as purchasing nutrient credits, reporting non-fertilization BMPs, and implementing natural and nature-based projects through Sentinel Landscape Partnerships or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineering With Nature initiatives. Combined with traditional stormwater controls and a focus on BMP inspection and maintenance, these efforts help ensure investments remain durable and cost effective.

Together, these proactive efforts reinforce a shared commitment to protecting the Chesapeake Bay while sustaining installation readiness and long-term support of warfighters and their families.



The four interconnected goals of the revised Chesapeake Bay Agreement focus on watershed restoration. The revised 2025 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement is available at: <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/files/documents/CBWA-2025-IV-Final-Facing.pdf>.



STRENGTHENING READINESS – SENTINEL LANDSCAPES PARTNERSHIP

The DoW's Sentinel Landscapes Partnership demonstrates that the value of land conservation and working lands can be leveraged to support military readiness through strong partnerships. Led by a coalition of the DoW, USDA, and DOI—working with state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and willing landowners—the program promotes sustainable land use practices in priority areas around military installations and ranges. This collaborative, place-based approach reduces encroachment risk, strengthens installation resilience, and sustains long-term community support essential to warfighter readiness.

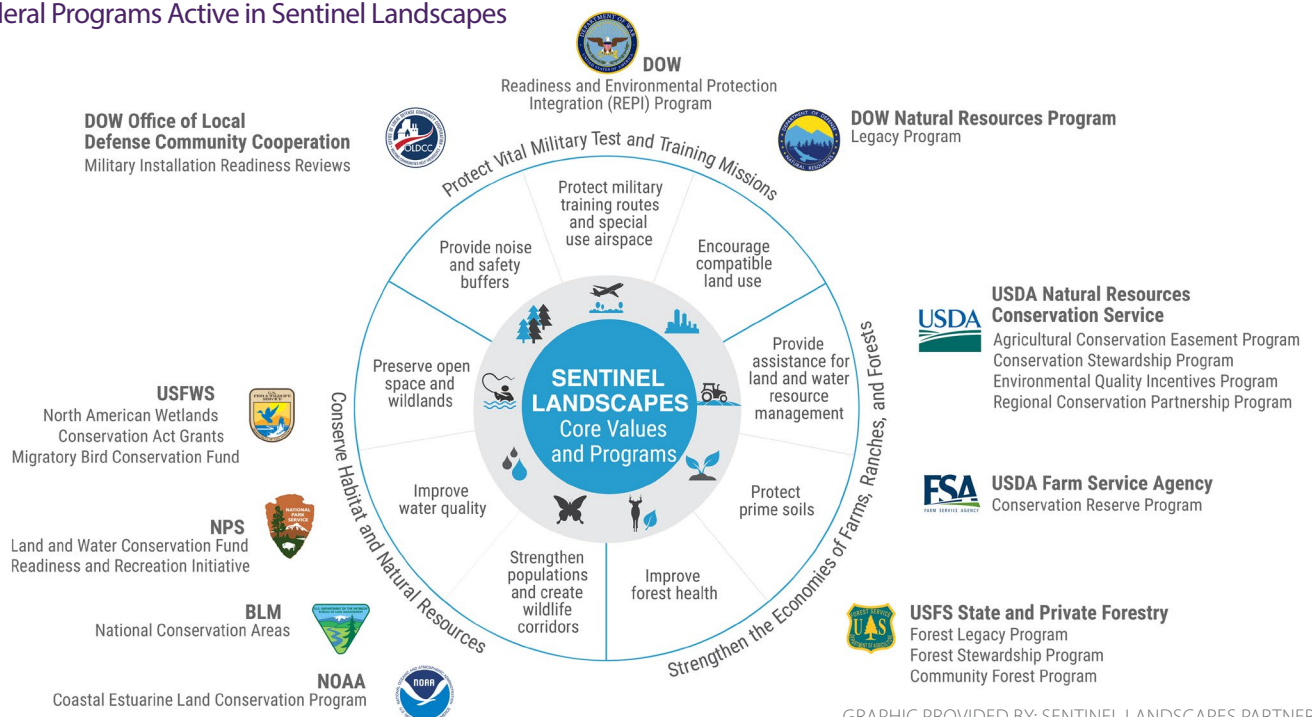
Work in the **Middle Chesapeake Sentinel Landscape** focuses on accelerating land protection and resilience projects that support NAS Patuxent River (MD) and its special use airspace, while mitigating threats from incompatible residential and vacation home development. Partners have expanded conservation easements and voluntary agricultural and forestry practices that preserve open space beneath flight paths, improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and strengthen resilience for both military infrastructure and surrounding communities.

The **Virginia Security Sentinel Landscape**, which encompasses the **Tidewater** and **Potomac Sentinel Landscapes**, emphasizes partnership building, coordinated land-use planning, and aligned funding strategies to prevent incompatible development, with anchor sites around Joint Base Langley–Eustis and Marine Corps Base Quantico. In the **Tidewater Sentinel Landscape**, efforts prioritize coastal resilience, living shoreline projects, and stormwater and habitat restoration to reduce flooding risk while protecting infrastructure and waterways. In the **Potomac Sentinel Landscape**, partners focus on landowner outreach, participation in conservation programs, and strategic planning to preserve dark skies, reduce noise conflicts, and maintain maneuvering space in a rapidly growing region.

FY2025 also marked an important implementation year for the **Kittatinny Ridge Sentinel Landscape** in Pennsylvania. Following its 2024 designation, partners established coordination structures, advanced early conservation and stewardship projects, and supported working farms and forests around its anchor site, Fort Indiantown Gap. These efforts helped safeguard dark skies, protect a wildlife corridor, and maintain critical training capacity.

Together, these efforts highlight the value of the Sentinel Landscape Partnership. By strengthening partnerships, conserving mission-compatible lands, and enhancing resilience at the landscape scale, the program continues to reduce long-term risk to installations, sustain military readiness, and ensure community support for the warfighters and their families who defend our nation.

Federal Programs Active in Sentinel Landscapes



GRAPHIC PROVIDED BY: SENTINEL LANDSCAPES PARTNERSHIP



DoW Chesapeake Bay Program

Fiscal Year 2025 DoW 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 people who work every day to improve the quality of the environment throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed, particularly the environmental staff of the DoW Chesapeake Bay installations. The activities that take place at the various DoW installations are generally not visible to the public and normally occur without fanfare. This report and its highlights are intended to demonstrate the many great accomplishments by DoW personnel and provide context for the scope and breadth of activities occurring within one of the largest landholders in the watershed.

The DoW CBP is jointly managed by the Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Mission Readiness and Environment, and the Navy's Region 3, Regional Environmental Coordination Director.