

# Partnering for a Greener Future

## Naval Installations Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day

**ON 22 APRIL** 2010, the United States Navy made international headlines with the successful test flight of the camelina biofuel-powered F/A-18F Super Hornet jet, dubbed the “Green Hornet.” The flight demonstration took place at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, MD, and was a critical step toward Navy Secretary Ray Mabus’ goal of fielding a “Great Green Fleet”—a carrier strike group composed of nuclear ships, surface combatants equipped with hybrid electric alternative power systems running on biofuel, and aircraft running on biofuel—by 2016. The Navy is also participating in research and development to identify other biofuel sources with the goal of reducing dependence on foreign energy sources and using fuel with a lower net carbon footprint than petroleum fuels.

In addition to the flight of the Green Hornet, naval installations across the

globe celebrated the 40th anniversary of Earth Day by emphasizing the Navy’s interagency and private sector partnerships with the theme of “Partnering for a Greener Future.” This theme was evident in many of the Navy Earth Day events held in April 2010.

### Navy Region Northwest

#### Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest

In celebration of Earth Day’s 40th anniversary, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Northwest (NW) personnel attended a number of events to honor the Navy’s ongoing environmental stewardship efforts. Personnel participated in brown bag lunchtime presentations and discussions on noxious invasive weed species, bicycle commuter safety, and on-base recycling. This information was invaluable to many

attendees who were unaware of the large capability and extent of the NAVFAC NW recycling program.

Throughout Earth Week, an information table near the main entrance of the base provided brochures, handouts, and contact information for various environmental and energy conservation programs throughout Navy Region Northwest.

#### Naval Station Everett, WA

On 21 April, Naval Station Everett hosted an Earth Day 2010 event with the theme “Explore the Outdoors and Make Everyday Earth Day.” Commander Daniel B. Limberg introduced the base-wide event and highlighted the many projects the station has implemented to become more sustainable. An Earth Day Fair included more than 20 vendors and provided information that helped Sailors and base personnel become

It’s important to emphasize, especially on Earth Day, the Navy’s commitment to reducing dependence on foreign oil as well as safeguarding our environment. Our Navy, alongside industry, the other services and federal agency partners, will continue to be an early adopter of alternative energy sources.

—The Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy



The Navy celebrates Earth Day by showcasing a supersonic flight test of the “Green Hornet,” an F/A-18 Super Hornet strike fighter jet powered by a 50/50 biofuel blend. The test, conducted at NAS Patuxent River, MD, drew hundreds of onlookers that included Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, who has made research, development, and increased use of alternative fuels a priority for the Department of the Navy.

*Kelly Schindler*



Fair goers at Naval Station Everett learn about recyclable materials, paper vs. plastic and green house gases. Here they try guessing the number of aluminum cans on display at Naval Station Everett Recycle’s information table.

*Denise Lesniak*

more environmentally aware. The Fleet and Family Readiness Outdoor Recreation program also supported the fair and promoted earth-friendly outdoor adventures. In addition, five teams participated in a dumpster dive competition to collect the most recyclable material from dumpsters on base. At the end of the dive, 87 percent of the contents from the dumpsters was diverted from the waste stream. Observers were surprised to learn how much trash can actually be recycled.

#### Naval Base Kitsap, WA

In recognition of Earth Day, Naval Base Kitsap personnel visited Clear Creek Elementary School in Silverdale, WA. Navy presenters demonstrated the importance of having plants in ditches on the side of the road for erosion control by constructing two devices—one which consisted of plants and soil shaped into a small ditch, and the other which just had soil shaped into a small ditch. Water was then poured into the demonstration ditches to show the children how much faster the ditch with the plants drained in comparison to the ditch with soil only. In addition, Sailors from Naval Base Kitsap teamed up with local elementary students to “green up” Trident Lakes park. Volunteers contributed approximately 75 hours to clear



Naval Avenue Learning Center students assist Captain Mark R. Whitney, Commander, PSNS & IMF, in planting an apple tree in the school's garden.

*Richard Chaffee*

invasive shrubs and dying trees before replanting the one-acre area with 200 grand fir and 100 western red cedar trees. Students also toured the park and learned about the impacts of storm water, how to identify wetlands, and observed as contractors re-stocked a lake with 1,000 rainbow trout.

#### Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, WA

Personnel at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (IMF) rolled up their sleeves and pitched in on events on base and in the local communities. Events included tree plantings at local schools and orphanages, education events, trash pick-ups on base and surrounding beaches, clean up at local naval tourist attractions and community trails, and a children's poster exhibit.

PSNS & IMF Sailors cleared a trail, re-leveled a walkway bridge and repaved the entrance area to the building at

the Stillwaters Environmental Center at Clear Creek Trail. As part of the clearing, approximately 200 pounds of wood were recycled and used for other areas of the trail.

#### Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, WA

An early-April kick-off event helped to bring attention to the goals and challenges of environmental practices and awareness at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island. The Navy Whidbey Recycle crew hosted a reception and mini environmental fair featuring base resources in the areas of recycling, energy and environmental awareness. This event was open to all base personnel including active duty, civilian and contract personnel and family members.

Each year NAS Whidbey Island hosts a popular "dumpster dive" waste characterization study. The dumpster dive is a highlight of the Earth Month calendar as NAS Whidbey Island personnel teach Sailors, Marines and civilians to be more diligent in sorting out recyclable materials

before tossing out the trash. This year, the dive was extremely successful with an 82 percent recycle rate, improving seven percent over the past several years.

#### Navy Region Southwest

Navy Region Southwest (NRSW) focused attention on the importance of reuse and recycling with several Earth Day events. At NRSW's Office Clean Up Day, personnel turned in excess furniture and office supplies to the NRSW Furniture Reuse program, and at NRSW's E-waste Collection program, broken and obsolete electronics were collected for final disposal through the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service. Functional electronics were redistributed to other departments and commands.

Volunteers celebrated their achievements with a cookout lunch following the clean up activities. The day ended with Rear Admiral William D. French participating in a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new water vending machine offering Navy Exchange patrons the option to refill personnel water containers instead of buying single-use plastic water bottles.

#### Naval Base Ventura County, CA

Naval Base Ventura County celebrated Earth Day all month long with activities including beach cleanups, electronic waste recycling programs, and a community education and outreach booth. Three tons of residential electronic waste—including 5,000 pounds of computer monitors, 108 television monitors and 1,500 pounds of miscellaneous waste such as cell phones and cables—were kept out of landfills thanks to the first residential e-waste recycling event. A similar event for government e-waste kept another 22,000 pounds of e-waste out of landfills.



Sailors, Marines and civilians teamed up to pull 1.34 tons of recyclables from designated dumpsters during the NAS Whidbey Island 2010 Waste Characterization Study.

*Oliver Elam*

The beach cleanup drew nearly 30 people, including four Cub Scouts from Den 3246 in Port Hueneme, CA. Environmental specialists were on hand to provide guided nature walks along the beach at Point Mugu, and telescopes were set up for bird-watching.

“We wanted to show that the Navy does a good job of environmental stewardship in addition to carrying out its mission,” said Dan Shide, installation environmental program manager and one of the coordinators of the Earth Day activities. “Hopefully events like these will increase people’s awareness of Earth Day and the resources surrounding us—their importance and significance,” he said.

### Naval Base San Diego, CA

Naval Base San Diego had two focuses for Earth Week: to be green and to develop partnerships with the community in order to promote and support the Navy’s energy and environmental goals.

“We made a real push to not only do our part for Earth Day, but also forge into the community to share what we do and to work on continuing partnerships with our

surrounding neighbors,” said Capt. Rick Williamson, Naval Base San Diego’s commanding officer.

The week started on 20 April when Naval Base San Diego opened its redesigned main gate after a ten month construction period. The renovation included low impact landscaping.



Natural Resources Program Manager Martin Ruane leads an “Into the Wild” guided nature walk as part of the 13 April beach clean-up event at Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu.

*Andrea Howry*

“We added artificial grass and landscaping that requires little to no water,” said Lt. J.G. Joel Overson, NAVFAC Southwest Construction Manager. “The great thing about the design is that it requires very little water and maintenance, yet remains green year round—a very welcoming sight when first entering the base.”

On Earth Day, Naval Base San Diego sponsored a San Diego Bay Harbor Clean Up. Naval Base San Diego’s liquid cargo department traveled the waterways between the piers to pickup over 900 pounds of trash. Eight Sailors spent several hours removing the trash that had collected underneath the piers and within the port security barriers. Later, an electronic waste turn-in event collected over ten tons of electronic appliances and 22.5 tons of electronic equipment.

#### Naval Air Station Kingsville, TX

Commands and activities at NAS Kingsville used the nationwide Earth

Day celebration as an opportunity to recycle and properly dispose of old appliances. Base personnel were encouraged to look at their old appliances to determine if they could cost-effectively be replaced with new, energy efficient models.

“Navy Region Southeast is taking energy conservation seriously,” said Lt. Brent Simmons, NAS Kingsville site manager. “We are going to have to become more aware of our role in providing a greener future for our planet, and we need to be active leaders in energy conservation and environmental stewardship. This is the way ahead for all of us.”

#### Navy Region Midwest

##### Naval Station Great Lakes, IL

More than 140 volunteers at Recruit Training Command (RTC) conducted trash and debris pick-up on base as part of Naval Station Great Lakes’s 2010 Spring Beautification Appearance

Program, held in conjunction with the national recognition of Earth Day. The trash consisted mainly of paper collected along the fences that surround the command. The effort by the RTC volunteers to help keep the command spruced up was apparent by the 92 bags of trash collected during the cleanup.

#### Navy Region Mid-Atlantic

##### Naval Base Sugar Grove, WV

Each year, Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Sugar Grove extends its Earth Day activities into a month-long celebration of spring. Activities include invasive species removal, reintroduction of native plants, Arbor Day ceremonies, Earth Day celebrations, road and river litter pickup, and educating the population on base and in the community about environmental issues.

The principal event for the month was the annual Safety, Health and Environ-



Volunteers help clean up Naval Station Great Lakes on Earth Day as part of the 2010 Spring Beautification Appearance Program. The 146 volunteers collected 92 bags of trash that had accumulated along the fences surrounding the command during the winter.

*Sue Krawczyk*



Volunteers collecting trash as part of NIOC Sugar Grove's Earth Day events.  
Sugar Grove

mental Fair, held 15 April. All local public school 4th grade classes and home schools were invited to attend, and more than 150 students participated. Command personnel, school-age students and area citizens were provided with literature on safety, health, natural resource and environmental issues by representatives from the Department of Defense Chesapeake Bay Program, Virginia and West Virginia State Police and Departments of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, the American Red Cross and other county, state and federal agencies.

On the following day, more than 35 volunteers participated in a river cleanup, collecting 27 bags of trash. This annual cleanup is held during the first two weeks of April each year and promotes partnerships in conjunction with West Virginia's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan—the "WV Make It Shine Program."

#### National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD

The National Naval Medical Center's Environmental Programs Division organized several events throughout Earth Week, including educational presentations and a base-wide cleanup. About 30 staff members from various departments volunteered to help during the cleanup. Additionally, more than 200 local students attended educational presentations in the command's picnic pavilion.

#### Naval Station Norfolk, VA

Military and civilian volunteers worked side-by-side cleaning up Naval Station Norfolk during Clean the Station Day on 30 April—part of a week of Earth Day activities. Clean the Station Day is a semi-annual event organized by Naval Station Norfolk Special Operations Department that



FRCE poster contest winners: 1st Place Sasha Buslovich (right), 2nd Place Ginny Schnorenberg (center), and 3rd place Timmy Glennon (left). An awards ceremony was held 26 April in the Executive Board Room with the Commanding Officer, Colonel L. Scott Loch, presenting the awards.

FRCE



Volunteers from NAS Jacksonville spent their morning scouring the shoreline on foot and in boats to pick up more than 5,000 pounds of trash and debris.  
*NAS Jacksonville*

all local commands participate in to help clean and beautify the base.

Participants took part in multiple beautification processes, from planting bushes, trees and flowers, to picking up garbage and debris. “It’s good stewardship, it’s good fellowship and it’s good camaraderie,” said Capt. Kelly M. Johnson, commanding officer of Naval Station Norfolk.

### **Navy Region Southeast** **Fleet Readiness Center East**

Fleet Readiness Center East (FRCE) Industrial Environmental Division held their fourth annual Earth Day Art Poster Competition in partnership with Annunciation Catholic Parish Middle School. Students were asked to translate the theme “What Does Earth Day Mean to Me?” into art using any media, style or pattern they desired, incorporating recycled materials if possible.

Thirty-one students submitted Earth Day posters and a panel of five judges from the FRCE Environmental Division reviewed the submissions for originality, theme, clarity, and overall artistic merit. An awards ceremony was held 26 April in the Executive Board Room with FRCE’s commanding officer, Colonel L. Scott Loch, presenting the awards. All participating students received a letter of appreciation from Colonel Loch along with literature about Earth Day and ways to conserve and protect our planet.

### **Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL**

Nearly 190 volunteers observed Earth Day at the annual NAS Jacksonville Shoreline Clean-up on 22 April at Mulberry Cove Marina. Volunteers from NAS Jacksonville and tenant commands spent their morning scouring the shoreline on foot and in boats to pick up more than 5,000 pounds of trash and debris. Each year,

volunteers from NAS Jacksonville pick up junk deposited by wind, water, and careless people alongside five miles of the St John’s river. The river is designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as one of only 14 American Heritage Rivers.

“The quality of a river’s water is largely determined by activities within the land area surrounding it—that’s why keeping our shoreline clean is important,” said Angela Glass, Assistant Natural Resources manager and organizer of the event.

NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Jack Scorby Jr. told the volunteers that keeping the installation clean and presentable takes more than a one-day event. “Today’s event showcases how we truly care for our base. We want to maintain our leadership as environmental stewards within the Jacksonville community. ‘Going green’ is not

something we do just once a year—it's our commitment to keep our base and shoreline clean year round," said Capt. Scorby.

The event concluded with a barbeque and an award presented to the group who found the most unusual piece of debris during the clean-up. The award went to volunteers from the Air Operations Ground Electronics Maintenance Division, who pulled three padded office chairs from the shoreline.

#### Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL

Earth Day 2010 at NAS Pensacola was a great success. During the beach cleanup, 55 volunteers picked up over 1,000 pounds of debris. Items that were removed from the beach included a tire, Styrofoam trash, video games, plastic bottles, cigarette butts, and construction debris. The base newspaper, GOSPORT, covered the event and the Public Affairs Office also dedicated the weekly "NAS Pensacola Live" TV show to Earth Day. Additionally, the Pensacola Public Works

Department removed airfield sweeper spoil piles, deteriorated Conex boxes, and an assortment of scrap steel. Two large dumpsters of scrap metal were recycled along with twenty old fuel containers and cylinders.

#### Marine Corps Installations East

##### Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC

Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune sponsored an Earth Day celebration at Marston Pavilion and partnered with local waterway stewards and keepers for a beach cleanup. The outside common spaces and the adjacent waters of Wallace Creek were utilized to support displays including MCB Camp Lejeune's Open Water Spill team and a personal electronics turn-in, which collected TVs, computers, monitors, cell phones and small appliances.

Students from the MCB Camp Lejeune middle school enjoyed informal discussions with Environmental Conservation and Compliance

personnel, interacted with displays, and observed 'Baldy' the green sea turtle from the Beasley Turtle Hospital. During the beach cleanup, twenty five Marines and sixteen civilians canoed along the New River coast to pick up trash and debris.

#### Navy Region Hawaii

##### Naval Base Pearl Harbor, HI

More than 40 Sailors assigned to Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific (ATG MIDPAC) worked together to clean up Rainbow Bay Marina in Pearl Harbor on 22 April. Chief Operations Specialist Brian Dallke, who is majoring in environmental studies, coordinated the event as part of the command's participation on Earth Day. ATG MIDPAC spent the whole morning filling more than 80 bags of trash, segregating recyclables such as cardboard, cans and bottles.

#### Overseas Commands

##### Naval Base Guam

Children on Naval Base Guam (NBG) learned how to promote environmental awareness and encourage conservation of resources during Earth Day events held on Guam. The NBG Child Youth Program celebrated Earth Day with a series of activities revolving around gardening.

"Earth Day is special because it's a day when we really focus on environmental issues," said Therese Meno, recreation specialist for the NGB Child Youth Program. "It's an opportunity to teach the next generation of teachers and leaders about conservation of our resources and maintaining a green world. By teaching them now, we're helping to instill green habits that will hopefully grow and develop with them as they get older. And 20 years



Twenty-five Marines and sixteen civilians canoed along the New River coast to pick up trash and debris at Camp Lejeune.

MCB Camp Lejeune



Chief Boatswain's Mate Todd Demers, assigned to ATG MIDPAC, picks up trash at Rainbow Bay Marina.

*Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Mark Logico*

Children from the Commander, Fleet Activities Chinhae (CFAC) Youth Center, along with staff from the Navy Hospital Branch Health Clinic-Chinhae, and Seabees attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1 Detachment Chinhae, participated in tree planting activities and trail cleanups on the installation. The youth center provided a plaque to commemorate the planting of a Korean Apple Flower Tree. Pre-school children from the youth center took the morning shift and cleaned up the first few hundred yards of the trail around the perimeter of the installation, while the adults cleaned up the remainder of the trail in the afternoon. The trail is considered the most important natural resource on CFAC and provides a nice view of the City of Chinhae and its coastline.

The CFAC Environmental Division also partnered with the Energy Manager and the Noncombatant Evacuation Operations Exercise Team to display some simple yet effective awareness tools and to share information on pollution prevention practices, such as recycling, reusing, and reducing waste in everyday situations.

**Navy Region Center Singapore**

Navy Region Center (NRC) Singapore scheduled activities every weekend in April 2010 to raise awareness of sustainable infrastructure and energy and water consumption reduction. Activities included a regional water quality control board working group symposium and a meeting with the

from now, Earth Day will take on a whole new meaning because these kids would have taken it to a whole new level.”

Students participated in a variety of activities, including planting sunflower seeds and tree seedlings. The NBG Child Youth Program also recycled as part of the Navy's efforts to conserve resources and reduce their carbon footprint.

“We have recycling bins that we use for plastic containers, aluminum and paper, and those are a part of the

base-wide recycling programs,” Meno said. “It's great for us because the kids really get into it.”

**Commander, Fleet Activities Chinhae, Korea**

Students from C.T. Joy Elementary School toured the Inland Fisheries Institute in Chinhae, Korea, during Earth Day 2010. The mission of the Institute is to find cures for diseases in indigenous fish species of Korea. The tour gave students a greater appreciation and understanding of some of the efforts that are taken to improve the natural environment.



## Navy and Marine Corps commands worldwide understand the importance of maintaining strong ecosystems as they maintain a strong capability to defend our nation and allies, and will continue to showcase successes on Earth Day as they pursue those priorities year-round.

Regional Environmental Coordinator to explore a possible solar panel project for NRC Singapore.

On Earth Day, NRC Singapore held the annual Environmental and Safety Fair. More than 190 participants were asked to bring an aluminum can to support the NRC Singapore Qualified Recycling Program. Participants were encouraged to answer questions on environmental or safety issues to raise awareness and as an incentive to win an Environmental Management System t-shirt. The next day, NRC Singapore's Environmental Division co-sponsored a beach cleanup with Singapore National Environmental Agency and the Chaplain's Office. The cleanup collected more than 30 bags of non-biodegradable trash.

### Naval Base Yokosuka, Japan

As part of Earth Day activities, Yokosuka Base opened the doors to its greenest building, the co-generation plant, to students from Kinnick High School. The \$97.1 million project was funded and built by NORESKO in a partnership with the Navy, and is the largest energy savings performance contract in Department of Defense history. Navy and NORESKO personnel jointly operate the plant to ensure optimum performance. The plant

averages 81 percent efficiency, far above the 35 percent efficiency of a conventional plant. Throughout the tour, Kinnick High School students were shown the technical aspects of the plant and its generators, as well as the environmental benefits.

### Conclusion

Like the other events highlighted here, taking advantage of technology like the Yokosuka co-generation plant to protect the environment, conserve energy, and educate future generations about responsible stewardship of our planet is a great example of accomplishing what Earth Day founders intended 40 years ago. Navy and Marine Corps commands worldwide understand the importance of maintaining strong ecosystems as they maintain a strong capability to defend our nation and allies, and will continue to showcase successes on Earth Day as they pursue those priorities year-round. 📍

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