

CNO Environmental Awards Recognize Exceptional Stewardship

Efforts of Fiscal Year 2009 Winners Highlight the Range of the Navy's Commitment

WINNERS OF THE annual Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Environmental Awards program have been announced for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009. The awards recognize people, ships, and installations for their exceptional environmental stewardship.

This awards program is closely aligned with the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) and Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) programs. Winners at the CNO level become nominees at the SECNAV level of competition. Winners at the SECNAV level become nominees at the SECDEF level of competition.

The competition categories for FY 2009 included natural resources conservation (small installation and individual/team), cultural resources management (installation), environmental quality (non-industrial installation, individual/team, and large ship), sustainability (industrial installation), environmental restoration (installation and individual/team), and environmental excellence in weapon system acquisition (team).

Nominations were judged on accomplishments during the timeframe 1

October 2007 through 30 September 2009. Accomplishments of the FY 2009 CNO environmental award winners are highlighted below.

Natural Resources Conservation Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize efforts to promote the conservation of natural resources, including the identification, protection, and restoration of biological

resources and habitats; the effective management and use of the land and its resources; and the promotion of the conservation ethic.

Small Installation

Commander Fleet Activities
Yokosuka, Japan

Commander Fleet Activities, Yokosuka (CFAY), located on 1,700 acres of land just inside Tokyo Bay on the Pacific Ocean side of Honshu Island, is the



The CFAY Public Works Department Environmental Division routinely receives work request forms. As a result of a submitted work request form regarding a proposed construction site near more than 50 cherry blossom trees, the trees were relocated away from the construction site and thereby protected from the impacts of construction. Cherry blossom trees are a national icon in Japan.

largest overseas U.S. Navy base in the world. CFAY works closely with U.S. and Japanese officials, ensuring fleet, family, community, and mission readiness as they relate to the participation and fulfillment of environmental objectives. CFAY partners with local governments to meet or exceed stringent U.S. and Japanese government environmental protection standards. Such standards are supported in CFAY's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP), which includes updated facility inventory lists. CFAY's INRMP was most recently updated in July 2009 to include a new Threatened Species List. CFAY continues to meet and/or exceed all strategically planned natural resource conservation management objectives.

Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida

Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola took direct hits from Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis in 2004 and 2005, and damage to its natural resources was nearly catastrophic. Its INRMP played a major role in base recovery. Training areas where tree and site damage posed safety problems were restored by removing 7,000 hazard trees and pruning 4,000 trees around mission areas. Native vegetation, including planting 2,000 new trees and new dune establishments along shorelines, improved the quality of life and provided a buffer for newly constructed training and housing facilities. At Forrest Sherman Field and the Bruce L. Tanner Forest, 80 acres of aviation clear zones were cleared and prescribed burning was conducted on 550 acres, improving flight safety and reducing the Bird/Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH). The base also restored seven interpretive nature trails, two youth camping areas, a freshwater fishery, and reopened natural resources facilities to the public.

Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Detachment Fallbrook, California Commissioned in 1942, Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Detachment Fallbrook was able to focus on proactive solutions to mission challenges. Accomplishments included:

- Comprehensive annual surveys for federally listed species yielding valuable distribution



NAS Pensacola has 10 miles of hiking trails. The Bayou Grande Nature Trail and Family Picnic Center offers the nature enthusiast "the Real Florida" experience. This nature trail was completely restored following destructive damage caused by hurricanes.

and trend data to track the status of populations and provide presence/absence data for mission support project assessments.

- Habitat treatments involving removal of dense vegetation and the drilling of artificial burrows to stimulate the recolonization of the endangered Stephens' kangaroo rat into formerly occupied habitat.



Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Detachment Fallbrook is home to numerous sensitive species, including migratory birds (such as the red-shouldered hawk; top left) and five federally listed species, including (clockwise from center top): the coastal California gnatcatcher, Stephens' kangaroo rat, least Bell's vireo, and arroyo toad.

Individual/Team

Mr. John R. Burger of Pacific Missile Range Facility, Hawaii

John Burger has on-site responsibility for the oversight and implementation of both the INRMP and Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan of the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), the world's largest instrumented multi-environment Navy training range. As PMRF's Environmental Coordinator, Mr. Burger has developed unmatched communication channels and positive working relationships with the local community, governmental agency peers, and private organizations committed to the protection of natural resources. Accomplishments included:

- Continuous refinement of the Laysan Albatross Surrogate Parenting program to minimize BASH potential while increasing egg hatching success at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge.
- Leveraging available assets to develop long-term monitoring of threatened and endangered species, especially the Hawaiian Monk Seal and Green Sea Turtle.

Environmental Team of Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport, Rhode Island

For the past decade, Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division Newport's Environmental Team has provided the Navy and non-Department of Defense customers with a broad spectrum of environmental and natural resource management services. The team's accomplishments included:

- Completing the first known quantitative biofouling survey of an aircraft carrier. These data will be useful when decommissioning Navy vessels.



Inquisitive Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle on PMRF's Underwater Range. The Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle is protected under the Endangered Species Act as a threatened species. A Navy diver in the background is inspecting cable.



A diver prepares to enter the water at NUWC Division Newport to start the underwater biofouling video survey of the Ex-USS FORRESTALL (CV 59).

- Developing a series of real-time algorithms to detect, classify, localize, and estimate the density of marine animals using passive acoustics.

Ms. Michael F. Wright of Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia

Michael Wright is a Natural Resources Specialist who has made impressive accomplishments in updating, managing and implementing the natural resources program for her immediate area of responsibility and for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic Region (NAVFAC MIDLANT) as a whole. Some of her accomplishments included:

- Organizing more than 150 volunteers to assist with habitat restoration activities. During three events these volunteers planted more than 160,000 plants.
- Becoming the first NAVFAC MIDLANT installation manager to receive certification as an Airport Biologist from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in support of mission BASH management.

Environmental Quality Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize efforts to ensure mission accomplishment and protection of human health through implementation of environmental management



Ms. Wright helps a Dam Neck Annex Child Development student with planting the ceremonial Arbor Day tree.

systems in the areas of environmental planning, waste management, and safe drinking water.

Non-Industrial Installation

Naval Base Coronado, California

Naval Base Coronado's (NBC) environmental program manages some of the most diverse and regulated facilities in the continental United States. NBC's environmental program is comprehensive and multifaceted; focused on compliance, conservation and recycling, with minimal impact on training operations. A testament to the success of NBC environmental program is minimal enforcement actions, in spite of increased training on some of the most active Navy ranges. Of special significance has been:

- Approximately 32 percent reduction in water consumption and 25 percent reduction in energy consumption.
- Over \$21 million in energy projects awarded or executed in FY 2009.

Naval Base San Diego, California

In the spirit of community partnership, Naval Base San Diego (NBSD) is a vigilant caretaker of its property, steadfast in compliance with environmental laws and regulations. The introduction of new ideas and equipment which reduce waste, capture pollutants, and otherwise mitigate environmental impacts at NBSD has led to regulatory compliance in all areas of NBSD activities. Achievements included:

- Over 10,000 man-hours contributed annually to base environmental activities.

- Initiated an electronic waste turn-in event that resulted in the recycling/reuse of \$430,000 in electronic items and a potential savings of \$10,000 in disposal costs.

U.S. Naval Support Activity Bahrain

Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain is committed to maintaining a comprehensive environmental program that minimizes environmental processes to cost effectively meet customer's needs. By specifically targeting source reduction and recycling, NSA Bahrain reduced costs by more than \$1.5 million and reduced hazardous waste disposal quantities by more than 55 percent. Some other outstanding achievements included:

- Diverting more than 2,000 tons of aluminum cans, scrap metals, tires, wood, plastic bottles, paper, cardboard and others from the solid waste stream achieving a cost avoidance of more than \$150,000 and generating over \$40,000 of sale proceeds to support base environmental activities, such as Earth Day.
- Establishing cradle-to-grave procedures to locally recycle shipboard bilge water and oily waste, reducing disposal costs by millions of dollars and disposal quantities by millions of gallons.

Individual/Team

Mr. Awni M. Almasri of U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia

Compliance with regulations related to hazardous waste (HW) generated at NSA Bahrain and the Fleet is challenging and costly due to a lack of the proper disposal facilities in the Arabian Gulf Region. All HW has to be shipped to proper disposal facilities in Europe and Canada. Mr. Almasri developed and engaged in an aggressive recycling and in-country HW disposal program to reduce the volume of waste being disposed of outside the Southwest Asia Area of Operations. Mr. Almasri successfully reduced NSA Bahrain and shipboard HW

disposal quantities by more than 50 percent. His efforts reduced the annual HW management cost from approximately \$3 million to less than \$1 million per year.



Mr. Almasri talking to school children during NSA Bahrain earth week.



NRCS Environmental co-sponsored a Special Cleanup Day at Changi Beach Walk to support the FY 2009 Earth Day theme, "Partnering for the Planet."

Environmental Program Management Team, U.S. Navy Region Center, Singapore

The U.S. Navy Region Center, Singapore (NRCS) Environmental Team has an important role in maintaining compliance with U.S. environmental guidance and applicable local laws and regulations as well as enhancing the quality of life of the facility population. In FY 2008/2009, the team became the first in the Navy to achieve Environmental Management System (EMS) conformity with zero deficiencies. Other significant accomplishments included:

- Effective implementation of environmental compliance programs which received no Notices of Violation from local regulators.
- Supported over 123 U.S. Navy ships and processed over 380,000 pounds of shipboard hazardous waste and biomedical waste for local disposal at no cost to the ships.

Environmental Quality Team of Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California

Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake is the Navy's largest Research, Development, Acquisition, Test, and Evaluation facility for weapons development and testing. Activities associated with this mission generate a

large and diverse energetic wastestream that must be treated on-site because government regulations prohibit the transport of most of it on public roadways. Major accomplishments of the team included:

- Development of an innovative, science-based approach, designed to withstand public scrutiny, respond to public misconceptions, and quantify potential impacts on human health from Open Burn/Open Detonation operations.
- Increasing by up to four orders of magnitude the amount of propellants and explosives that can be treated per year.

Large Ship

USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)

USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (IKE) has created an environmentally conscious culture onboard. By taking advantage of fleet wide and locally prepared training opportunities, the ship has maintained the highest levels of material readiness to ensure day-to-day operations are environmentally safe. The end result is an environmentally friendly and safe culture which is incorporated into the ship's daily routine. During IKE's three-month deployment



An F/A-18 Hornet flies over the NAWS China Lake and the surrounding community.

into the Fifth Fleet area of responsibility in support of Operation Enduring Freedom beginning in February 2009, IKE conducted over 4,000 launches and recoveries of fixed- and rotary-winged aircraft without a single reportable environmental incident.

USS FRANK CABLE (AS 40)
 USS FRANK CABLE (AS 40) is the largest single Naval command and the largest afloat platform on Guam. Sailors understand that this vessel is the pride of the local community and that this respect can only be maintained by

dedicated commitment to protecting Guam's pristine and natural beauty. Ever mindful of this responsibility, FRANK CABLE was able to meet and/or exceed all mission requirements and enjoy routine operational success, all the while serving as the guardian of the environment. FRANK CABLE demonstrated significant commitment to the Navy's Environmental and Natural Resources Program during fiscal years 2008 and 2009. Specific achievements during this award period included substantial improvements in hazardous material reuse and just-in-time ordering. As a result, FRANK CABLE had dramatically reduced the amount of new orders for hazardous materials, the total amount of hazardous materials stored on board, and the amount of hazardous waste generated.



The aircraft carrier USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER transits past the mountains of Morocco on her way through the Strait of Gibraltar to the Mediterranean Sea.



USS FRANK CABLE.

Sustainability Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize efforts to prevent or eliminate pollution at the source, including practices that increase efficiency and sustainability in the use of raw materials, energy, water, or other resources.

Sustainability Industrial Installation Award

Fleet Readiness Center East, North Carolina

Senior management at the Fleet Readiness Center East (FRC East) recognizes the environmental impacts of FRC East's activities and embraces the role of an environmental steward. FRC East was the first Department of Defense (DoD) facility to implement a comprehensive ISO 14001 EMS incorporating the entire facility. FRC East's program has been continuously registered through third party surveillance and re-registration audits, exceeding Executive Order, DoD, and Department of Navy requirements. Some highlights of the achievements accomplished during the award period were:

- Diversion of 5.7 million pounds (60 percent) of recyclable material from the landfill.
- Reduction of paint usage by 120,000 pounds (30 percent), and varsol usage by 10,000 gallons (50 percent).
- Implementation of a transportation incentive program that reduced green house gas emissions by 20 million pounds, completely offsetting that produced from the manufacturing processes.

Fleet Readiness Center Southwest, California

Fleet Readiness Center Southwest (FRCSW) provides aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul support to U.S. and allied warfighters. FRCSW operates a multitude of industrial processes including electroporting, painting, chemical cleaning and stripping and jet engine testing which utilize hazardous materials and generate hazardous wastes and emis-

sions. During the period of performance, the organization did not receive any regulatory agency Notices of Violation, no EMS non-conformances from the third party registrar and was a member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's elite Performance Track program. Examples of completed projects during the performance period included:

- Contract award totaling almost \$7.7 million to address Executive Order 13429 requirements.
- Demonstration of hexavalent chromium-free primer for aircraft.

Environmental Restoration Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize efforts to protect human health and the environment by cleaning up identified DoD sites in a timely, cost-efficient and responsive manner.

Installation

Former Naval Air Facility Adak, Alaska
Naval Air Facility Adak operated from 1950 until the base closed in March

1997 as part of the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). Adak has the most cleanup sites of all Navy BRAC installations and has the seventh most amongst all Navy installations. Since Adak is a BRAC base, the program mission is to expeditiously and cost-effectively complete all environmental response actions necessary to dispose of the installation. The Adak environmental team has deployed an aggressive approach to meeting the BRAC goal of ultimately transferring the property. Despite logistical constraints, the team made significant advancements toward defining and meeting the Navy's environmental responsibilities at Adak.

Naval Air Facility El Centro, California
Naval Air Facility El Centro (NAFEC) provides facilities, services, and

materials for training fleet air squadrons. Flight squadrons conduct more than 78,000 missions annually at NAFEC, making it the most active training facility west of the Mississippi. Accomplishments of the NAFEC Installation Restoration (IR) team included:

- Site closure with unrestricted land use at multiple sites. The NAFEC IR team accelerated cleanup at two Underground Storage Tank sites, which resulted in clean closure and unrestricted land use with no delay to Military Construction projects.
- Update of an IR site remediation system, which has resulted in the EMS's target to reduce energy consumption. The new system, utilizing a variable speed drive and

other system optimization upgrades, has resulted in 50 percent less electricity and 26 percent less propane on an average hourly basis.

Naval Air Station Brunswick, Maine
Naval Air Station Brunswick (NASB) is a maritime aviation patrol installation that has been challenged to accelerate the IR program since the station went on the DoD's BRAC list in 2005. Expediting cleanup actions under the NASB IR program promotes property transfer and civilian redevelopment efforts as the base transitions through closure in May 2011. The accelerated pace and expanded scope of cleanup efforts have been possible only through cooperation and collaboration of the NASB team with its regulatory and community stakeholders,



In Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009, over 78,000 flight operations were carried out at NAFEC without disruption or incident from environmental investigation or cleanup activities.

including the federal and state regulatory agencies, the local citizen's group, and the local redevelopment authority.

Individual/Team

Alameda Point Environmental Restoration Team, Base Realignment and Closure Program Management Office West

The former NAS Alameda was identified for closure in September 1993 and operations ceased in April 1997. The environmentally charged climate has made community acceptance very difficult to achieve on the IR Site 1, a landfill used as the principal disposal area for all waste generated at the former NAS Alameda. The Alameda Point environmental restoration team had many significant achievements in the field of environmental restoration during fiscal years 2008 and 2009, particularly for IR Site 1. Accomplishments included:

- Partnering with federal, state, and local agencies in selecting the first containment remedy for a radiological contaminated landfill to be transferred out of federal ownership within the State of California.
- Gaining greater Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) members acceptance after many years of opposition.
- Realizing cost savings of over \$80 million as a result of garnered community support for the selected remedy, and utilization of a competitive fixed price contract.

Environmental Restoration Team, Naval Base Ventura County, California

The Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) and Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest (NFECSSW) Remedial Project Manager Team members provide all aspects of

Installation Restoration Program (IRP) oversight at NBVC. NBVC is composed of three operating facilities: Point Mugu, Port Hueneme and San Nicholas Island. The NBVC IRP Team expanded during fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to support a particularly complex project—the dredging of the NBVC Port Hueneme harbor using a Confined Aquatic Disposal cell for placement of contaminated sediment. The Port Hueneme Dredging Project moved at a rate unheard of for a project of its complexity, finishing ahead of schedule and approximately \$1M under budget.

Vieques Naval Installation Project Management Team, Puerto Rico, of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic

To accelerate the development of a wildlife refuge and provide public access to areas that contain dangerous muni-

IR Site 1 consists of 36.8 acres located on the northwestern tip of Alameda Point where the Oakland Inner Harbor joins the San Francisco Bay.





Unexploded ordnance that is unsafe to move is detonated in place using explosives. As part of the public outreach program, members of the Vieques RAB have been allowed to observe the detonations from a safe distance to better understand the cleanup process.

tions, the Vieques Naval Installation Project Management Team initiated three fast-tracked munitions removal projects. During the last two years these projects have cleared the surface of over 1,000 acres containing munitions. In addition, over 20,300 munitions items have been destroyed and over nine million pounds of munitions-related scrap metal has been processed.

Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize efforts to incorporate environmental, safety and occupational health requirements into the weapon system acquisition program's decision-making process.

Team

F/A-18E/F & EA-18G Program Office, PMA265 Green Hornet Team of Program Executive Officer, Tactical Aircraft Programs

The F/A-18E/F and EA-18G Program Office, PMA265 consistently maintains a high level of environment, safety, and occupational health (ESOH) compliance demonstrated by having won five consecutive CNO Environmental Excellence in Weapon System (Team) Awards. The F/A-18E/F is the first Navy aircraft to demonstrate the use of a biofuel derived from Camelina in a 50/50 blend with JP-5. Camelina-derived biofuel offers the potential for significant carbon emissions reductions (up to 80 percent) and the F/A-18

accounts for one-fourth of the Navy's aircraft fuel consumption.

F-35 Lightning II Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Team of Program Executive Officer, Joint Strike Fighter Program

The F-35 Lightning II Acquisition Program's ESOH Team incorporates a cross functional, multidisciplinary membership which applies a systems engineering approach to program-wide ESOH management. At the heart of a strong environmental management approach is prevention of pollution at the source. The team executed the most extensive three-dimensional flyover noise measurement program ever conducted for a military aircraft which resulted in a comprehensive noise footprint and



The F/A-18E/F was the first U.S. Navy aircraft to demonstrate alternative fuel compatibility.

validated a new and more accurate three-dimensional noise model.

PMA-264 Marine Species Mitigation Research Team of Program Executive Officer, Air ASW, Assault and Special Mission Programs

The Marine Species Mitigation Research Team is working toward the creation of a new set of sensors, systems, and processes optimized for the protection of marine species and increased opportunities to perform Navy operations. During the perfor-

mance period the team accomplished the development of several products and processes including development of whale search radar using low cost commercial maritime search radar for all-weather, day/night collection capability, and detection beyond the range of human observers plus Auto Adaptive Whale Search Radar algorithms for enhanced marine mammal signal and reduced clutter. 



The first Navy variant, F-35C, undergoes final assembly at Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth, Texas. The bright green surface is the new chrome-free corrosion inhibiting primer material.

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