



*FY2015 Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Awards Nomination
Environmental Quality-Team Award
Commander, Navy Region Northwest*



INTRODUCTION:

Commander Navy Region Northwest (COMNAVREG NW) provides consolidated base operations support for Navy activities in 11 states covering over 91,000 acres of land, 1.5 million square miles of land and water, and 46 miles of shoreline. The Region Commander (REGCOM) oversees the assigned shore organization and provides facilities and space management, exercise coordination, and support to military members and their families, 79 special areas and detachments, over 100 tenants, and to the third largest fleet concentration area in the world including: 2 carriers, 13 ships, 13 submarines, 92 support vessels, and 115 aircraft. The four major COMNAVREG NW installations include 7 dry docks, 27 piers, and 3 runways. Naval Base (NAVBASE) Kitsap is one of the most complex installations in the United States inventory and includes a shipyard, maintenance and weapons facility, a fuel depot, an undersea warfare center, and several specialty sites. Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island includes the main airfield, outlying field, and weapons training field. Naval Station (NAVSTA) Everett includes Jim Creek Naval Radio Station (NRS), and multiple reserve and specialty centers. Naval Magazine (NAVMAG) Indian Island is the largest ammunition magazine in the western U.S. The Naval Facilities Engineering (NAVFAC) Northwest (NW) Environmental Management System (EMS) Team successfully transitioned the Region EMS to conformed Installation EMSs at all four major Installations during fiscal years (FYs) 2014 and 2015.

TEAM MEMBERS:

The NAVFAC NW EMS Team consisted of seven key members:

- Ann Bazilwich, COMNAVREG NW EMS Manager, Team Lead
- Dave Franzen, Environmental Scientist, EMS Support
- Dallas Hoover, Environmental Engineer, Environmental Quality Assessment (EQA) Manager
- Valerie Koehler, Environmental Scientist, EMS & EQA Support
- Michael Barenburg, NAS Whidbey Island EMS Coordinator
- Barbara Tissier, NAVBASE Kitsap and NAVMAG Indian Island EMS Coordinator
- Linda Wagoner, NAVSTA Everett EMS Coordinator

BACKGROUND:

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

COMNAVREG NW initially declared conformance to Executive Order (E.O.) 13423 on 22 September 2009 and became one of two Regions across Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) to implement a region-wide EMS. After four years in full-conformance status with exemplary senior leadership support and encouragement, the decision was made to transition to installation EMSs to allow for:

- Greater mission-specific emphasis with a smaller, more focused EMS;
- The installation commanding officers (ICO) to define the scope of the EMS in alignment with installation priorities;



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— Unique metrics that meet the needs of the installation.

In January 2013, CNIC endorsed the addition of COMNAVREG NW installations as Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) EMS appropriate facilities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

The heart of the transition effort took place in FY 2014 and 2015 when plans of action and milestones were executed and completed, external CNIC audits were performed, and major EMS findings from the external audits were corrected. The COMNAVREG NW EMS stood down after the installations successfully declared individual conformance on the following dates:

- NAVSTA Everett - 18 June 2014
- NAS Whidbey Island - 9 September 2014
- NAVMAG Indian Island - 14 September 2015
- NAVBASE Kitsap - 18 September 2015

• ***COMNAVREG NW EMS PLATFORM AND SENIOR LEADERSHIP SUPPORT***

The proactive approach of establishing a region EMS to ensure the support and collaboration of the REGCOM and senior staff first set COMNAVREG NW apart from the Navy EMS community. This foundation has allowed the four Northwest installation EMSs to continue to be guided by COMNAVREG NW principles as demonstrated by his signed endorsement of the installation EMS on each environmental policy. In addition, the Region EMS established a command platform that included a Region EMS implementation instruction to facilitate management of environmental issues and effectively respond to and resolve compliance findings. Following the transition to installation EMSs, this platform remains firmly in place along with the Region EMS instruction. The enthusiasm and commitment from the installation EMS coordinators was unwavering and continued throughout the transition process until each installation declared conformance to ISO 14001:2004, the framework and international standard for an EMS. This was demonstrated by monthly Environmental Management Team meetings, launched in 2008, which continue to bring constant communication, action, and improvement across the region.



Environmental Policy

Other examples that drove the transition's success included a comprehensive internal audit process at the Region and installation-level, with ICOs executing a deck-plate practice-level audit process while allowing the REGCOM to track, assess and champion installation EMS implementation. This robust internal audit program resulted in only two major EMS external non-conformances being identified and later resolved in the four external CNIC audits performed during the reporting period. Another process carried over from the region EMS is the continuation of EMS Awareness training on three different on-line sources: Enterprise Safety



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Application Management System, Total Workforce Management Services, and Environmental Compliance Assessment, Training and Tracking System. This allowed for more tenants to easily access the mandatory training for all personnel working for or on behalf of ICOs as required by the Council on Environmental Quality. Such consistencies are examples of how the Region's influence, engagement and support have guided the transition to installation EMSs across the Northwest area of responsibility, while enabling senior leadership commitment to be the cornerstone of each EMS.

- ***TRANSITION TO INSTALLATION EMSs***

Transitioning to installation EMSs required comprehensive Region and installation plans and tracking metrics; buy-in from Region and installation senior staff and the NAVFAC NW environmental community; and most importantly, an enthusiastic Environmental Management Team that was not afraid to work hard. Constant communication with senior leadership was critical as documentation was generated, policy was established, and processes were approved. Practice owners were educated on the modifications to EMS implementation processes, including EMS ownership and the changes to the environmental policy. A transition matrix was created to track and report transition progress in monthly environmental key performance indicators (KPIs) until all elements were completed. Further, a regional post-transition course of action (COA) was established to ensure installations maintain conforming EMSs between triennial external CNIC audits. The COA includes: REGCOM endorsement on installation Environmental Policies; spot checks to be performed by NAVFAC NW / Environmental N45 staff; maintenance of KPIs including tracking objectives and targets, regulatory performance, internal audits and corrective action status; annual installation executive summaries presented to the REGCOM with installation EMS management reviews and spot check results; and maintenance of the Region EMS instruction defining EMS roles and responsibilities required for each installation EMS.

WASTE REDUCTION AND ENERGY CONSERVATION

Installation EMS objectives during the reporting period focused on eliminating waste and conserving energy. Environmental personnel collaborated with practice owners, particularly those who managed processes at highest risk of impacting the environment, to disseminate awareness and meet objectives by applying a successful practice-specific aspect ranking strategy. This strategy, which included methods for achieving environmental objectives and training and compliance improvements took the place of an installation-wide approach and became one of the building blocks of each installation's EMS.

- ***NAVSTA EVERETT'S RECYCLING PROGRAM***

NAVSTA Everett readily set precedence by including in their EMS objectives the reduction of solid waste installation-wide, striving to increase the diversion rate for recyclable materials. To raise awareness, a new process was implemented to achieve correct product placement into containers using labels consistent with the Region. Compliance assessments were used as a mechanism to train practice owners, followed by verifying on-site that solid waste was recycled



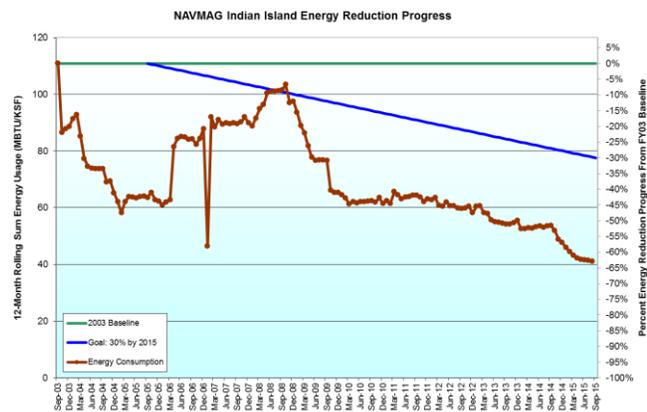
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following Navy policy. The installation plan of the week and monthly military indoctrination sessions further promoted recycling efforts, enhancing outreach and allowing NAVSTA Everett to successfully meet their goal of 50 percent diversion.

• **NAVMAG INDIAN ISLAND'S ENERGY STAR PROGRAM**

The NAVMAG Indian Island ICO guided energy awareness into the operational mindset throughout the installation during the reporting period by establishing and *exceeding* an EMS objective to reduce energy consumption by 30 percent by the end of FY 2015. NAVMAG Indian Island achieved a 63 percent reduction in energy intensity compared to the 2003 baseline, far exceeding the goal of 30 percent reduction by 2015. With this kind of energy savings, it is easy to see how NAVMAG Indian Island won the Platinum level of achievement on the Secretary of the Navy Energy award four years in a row, including this year. Facility managers consistently looked to maximize the energy savings in all projects on base, not just the CNIC funded energy projects. Three major projects were completed in FY 2014-2015 that drove energy consumption down: installation of modern Industrial Control Systems with an annual energy savings of 1,846 million British Thermal Units per hour (MBTU); the Utility Energy Savings Contract to replace street and exterior building lighting saves an additional 1,334 MBTU annually; and the installation of energy and water conservation measures in various buildings, saving 174 MBTU.



NAVMAG Indian Island's Energy Reduction

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENTS AND PROGRAMS

Through FY 2014-2015, a series of integrated internal EMS and compliance assessments were conducted at various levels of the Region and installation EMSs. Compliance assessments were also performed for Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Naval Operations Services Center (NOSC), and Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Bayview, Idaho. The program's primary goals were for trained, highly competent subject matter experts to perform as auditors on assessment teams to identify environmental deficiencies before they could be identified in regulatory inspections and external CNIC audits; and to focus on deficiencies open longer than a year. The goals were met and benefits exceeded:

- On average, a minimum of 25 percent compliance deficiencies identified during assessments and external audits.
- COMNAVREG NW installations received 60 percent fewer Notices of Violations from regulatory agencies in 2015 from the previous year.



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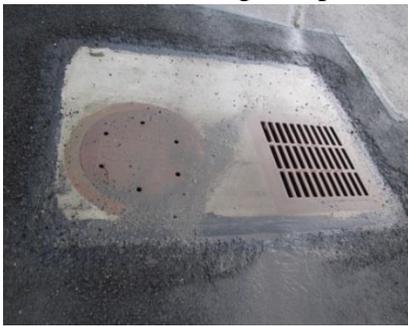


- Over 160 internal and external audit compliance deficiencies were identified installation-wide during the reporting period and only an average of 15 percent were open greater than one year that did not require funding, a project completion, or a National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) action.

Internal and external assessments in the Northwest not only were a method to identify compliance deficiencies, but were used to assist installations in correcting compliance deficiencies and reviewing environmental program requirements ensuring adequate funds were being requested to maintain compliance. As a result, assessments were more a team exercise resulting in improved relationships between the NAVFAC NW Environmental Core and Integrated Product Team Nucleus (IPTN) and Public Works Department (PWD) Environmental staff. For example, during the reporting period when NAS Whidbey Island PWD encountered a heavy workload with a storage tank program manager vacancy, IPTN subject matter experts immediately supported the installation's tank program, closing nine abandoned monitoring wells, decommissioning three underground storage tanks, performing the subsurface investigation/site characterization of the future site of an A3 static display, and escorting regulators on state-run inspections.

- **WASTEWATER/STORMWATER PROGRAM**

Northwest water program managers ensured compliance for four treatment plants, five industrial stormwater permits, and two permits for the discharge of non-contact cooling water. Auditors have been trained to take an inclusive auditing approach by enhancing compliance checklists and extending EMS questions to senior management and tenant command personnel, resulting in increased awareness of practice owner compliance. The Water Team had a strong “can do” attitude in ensuring compliance and was qualified to provide many services in-house, including



**Storm Drain with Cartridge at
NAVMAG Indian Island**

the following specific projects completed or initiated in FY 2014-2015 by working with our local services contractor:

- 1) Installation of an electrically-operated valve in the NAVBASE Kitsap Keyport OTTO fuel system allows operators to stop fuel from entering storm drains in the event of a spill.
- 2) Installation of a cartridge type stormwater filter at NAVMAG Indian Island Port Operations to improve stormwater quality.
- 3) Installation of a tree box filter to remove contaminants from stormwater at NAVBASE Kitsap Keyport Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office.
- 4) Design and construction of a stormwater rain garden to filter copper and zinc contaminants from dust released from trucks before being discharged to the Puget Sound.



NAVBASE Kitsap Rain Garden



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- 5) At the NAVMAG Indian Island crane test/ maintenance area, installation of a trench drain connecting to fuel station drains leading to an oil/water separator where contamination is removed before water discharges to the sanitary sewer.



Stormwater Infiltration Pond at NAVMAG Indian Island

- 6) Installation of a large stormwater infiltration pond at NAVMAG Indian Island to lower levels of aluminum, copper, and zinc.

- 7) Reduced copper and zinc levels in stormwater runoff by approximately 50 percent at NAVBASE Kitsap Bangor Delta pier by installing plastic sheet piling along the pond to form a channel where a bed of broken oyster shells was placed to capture metals.

• DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

Drinking water compliance achievements in FY 2014-2015 which were effective in protecting, enhancing, and/or restoring the environment included:

- 1) Securing a contracting vehicle for sampling and testing for lead in priority areas and completing an inventory of all drinking water outlets at COMNAVREG NW child development centers and youth centers.
- 2) Conducting field visits and observing sampling for lead and residual orthophosphate in drinking water and developing corrective action to eliminate said elements if detected.
- 3) Evaluating the design of the fluoride treatment facility and wellhead protection recommendations for the design of Recycle Center renovations.



Jim Creek NRS Sand Settling Tank

- 4) Designing and constructing a settling system to remove concentrated manganese from the sand filter backwash water so manganese solids can be bagged and disposed of instead of being discharged to Jim Creek.

In addition, an environmental sampling and laboratory services contract was created to expedite environmental sampling analysis for regulatory compliance and to support environmental pre-construction efforts. Approximately \$78,000 has been spent on this small-business contract since FY2015.

• ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND CONSERVATION PRODUCTS

The Northwest Environmental Team accomplished a multitude of products and services in-house while maintaining conformance to both the Region and installation EMSs with limited available funding. Quality compliance products tailored to local conditions were provided to customers saving an estimate of \$800K in contractor oversight and labor costs. EMS has improved COMNAVREG NW conservation efforts as well as compliance programs. For example, deficiencies identified





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**NRNW Natural Resource Staff
Conducting Amphibian Surveys**

during a 2011 EMS audit of NAVMAG Indian Island resulted in identifying natural resources as a significant aspect. In doing so, EMS helped COMNAVREG NW maintain a focus on continual improvement in natural resources management and forestry practices. Since the 2011 audit, NAVMAG Indian Island Natural Resources staff and the NAVFAC NW Forester have implemented improvements in logging practices that will protect wetlands and ensure compliance with both the Sikes Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. EMS findings related to past problems in these areas were closed this year and projects including reforestation, invasive species reduction, wildlife surveys, and conservation mapping were

completed at NAVMAG Indian Island. Other specific compliance and conservation products from throughout COMNAVREG NW are listed in the table below:

Environmental Media and Product	Quantity
Oil and Hazardous Substances/Storage Tanks	
Oil Transfer Operations Manuals	4
Class 4 Oil Transfer Standard Operating Procedure	1
Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan Updates	10
Storage Tank Management Plans	4
Disaster Preparedness Plan	1
Pollution Prevention	
Environmental Management Plans	3
Pollution Prevention/Hazardous Waste Annual Report	2
Wastewater, Stormwater and Drinking Water	
Wastewater Permits	2
Best Management Practices Plan for Stormwater	1
Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Updates	4
Comprehensive Site Inspections	9
Sanitary Surveys	3
Coliform Monitoring Plans	7
Wellhead Protection Plan Update	1
Air and Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA)	
EPCRA reports	16
Air Emission Inventories	3
Natural and Cultural Resources, and NEPA	
Biological Assessments and Evaluations	11
Essential Fish Habitat Assessments	8
Marine Mammal Protection Act applications	8
Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan	2
Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan	1
Environmental Assessments	7
Environmental Impact Statements	2