

## Military Conservation Partner Award

In 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fisheries and Habitat Conservation created this award for a military installation that has accomplished outstanding work in cooperation with the Service to promote conservation on military lands during the past year. This award was created to highlight the benefits of partnerships between the military and the Service to conservation. By presenting this award each year, the Service hopes to help enhance existing military partnerships, and encourage the creation of more partnerships.

The award includes a certificate and a plaque and will be presented each year by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director at the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association Workshop held in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. To give every installation an opportunity to compete, winning installations are eligible for nomination after 5 years.

Qualifying installations are those that fall under the jurisdiction of the Sikes Act. To be nominated, the installation must have an INRMP in place. Multiple installations addressed by one INRMP are considered one nomination. Nominations are submitted by Service field stations, including refuges and hatcheries, to the Regional Office Sikes Act Coordinator by mid December each year. Each Service Region may submit up to three award nominations to the National Sikes Act Coordinator by the end of December. The National winner will be selected from the regional nominations by a team of Regional and Washington Office and program representatives.

The following criteria may be used by the Service to help nominate and select an installation for this award:

- communication and cooperation with partners,
- issue resolution, success and effectiveness;
- creative projects;
- program diversity; and
- Service policy and regulation compliance.

### **Award Selection Process and Timeframe:**

- December 19: Installation nominations are due from field offices to the Regional Sikes Act Coordinator.
- December 26: The top 3 installation nominations are due from the Regions to the National Sikes Act Coordinator.
- January 9: A national installation nominee is selected by the Washington Office FHC and the Regional Sikes Act Coordinators.
- January 23: The AD Fisheries and Habitat Conservation reviews and approves the selection.
- March 19: The Director of FWS presents the award.

# Military Conservation Partner Award Evaluation

## Criteria Definitions

Below are criteria that may be considered to help you select an installation for the award. You may use these ideas to help rank installations. In addition to the criteria evaluation, please write a few lines (less than 500 words) emphasizing the installation's cooperative conservation projects, especially with the Service, in the "Comments/justification" section to help the regions and then the Washington Office make a selection. Nominations need address only those criteria that apply to each nomination:

### Communication and cooperation with partners

- This is the basis of the award and should have the most emphasis in the nomination.
- Describe the types of contact the installation maintain with the Service, State agency and other stakeholders.
- What natural resource management teams has the installation developed?
- What MOUs or cooperative agreements have the installation implemented?
- List unique outreach activities and public involvement.
- Have the team members received any other awards for their partnerships?

### Issues resolution, success and effectiveness

- Are issues resolved with a regional ecosystem management perspective?
- Give examples of successful issue resolution and coordination with all parties.
- How has the installation's natural resource program benefited the resource?
- Is project success and effectiveness ongoing?

### Creative projects or solutions to issues

- Do projects have a regional or landscape level impact? Projects listed may be on or off the installation.
- What unique natural resource projects have been implemented?
- Are projects proactive?

### Program diversity

- Describe the diversity of the natural resource program
- Include examples of recreational fisheries, hunting, endangered species restoration, migratory bird, invasive species, contaminants clean up, wetland restoration, and other projects.
- Is the work conducted by installation staff or is it contracted outside the government?

### Service policy and regulation compliance

- Is the INRMP up to date with Service concurrence within the past 5 years.
- Were INRMPs and other documents submitted with enough time for Service review?
- Were compliance projects resolved in a timely fashion?
- Were section 7 consultations adequately and timely submitted?
- Was NEPA coordination with the Service completed on schedule?

# Military Conservation Partner Award Nomination Form

Installation Nominated:

Natural Resource Manager Name	Title	Address
Commander Name	Title	Address

Nominating Field Office

Field Office Contact

## Installation Regional Comparison Score Sheet

(Optional tool to help Regions choose top 3 installations for submission to WO)

**Ratings: Excellent (4), very good (3), fair (2), poor (1)**

Installation Name	Communication	Issue	Creative Projects	Program Diversity	Policy and Regulation Compliance	Total

**Comments/justification emphasizing the installation’s cooperative conservation projects, especially with the Service (500 words or less). Please include photos of the Natural Resource Team and projects if available.**