



# ARMY CHESAPEAKE BAY STRATEGY

## The Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Bay is the nation's largest estuary, covering approximately 2,500 square miles. It is also one of the largest and most biologically productive estuaries in the world. The entire Chesapeake Bay watershed covers 64,000 square miles, including the District of Columbia and large portions of Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, and West Virginia. Nearly 17 million people live in the watershed and depend on the Bay and its tributaries as a source of drinking water, food, power, recreation, and jobs. More than 3,600 species of plants and animals rely on the Bay's unique blend of freshwater and saltwater habitats.



## The Health of the Chesapeake Bay

The Bay continues to have poor water quality, degraded habitats, and low populations of many species of fish and shellfish. Despite on-going progress in some areas, the Bay's most pressing health issues today are: nutrient and sediment pollution, toxic chemical contaminants, habitat loss and over-harvesting of fish and shellfish. The Army Chesapeake Bay Strategy is designed to help address these critical issues for Bay conservation.

## The Army and the Chesapeake Bay

Currently, the Army operates 19 major installations totaling more than 220,000 acres in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, with wetlands collectively covering more than 26,000 acres. Additionally, many smaller Army Reserve and Army National Guard properties are also located within the Bay. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works program, plans, designs, and constructs projects related to ecosystem restoration, navigation and flood risk management with support from non-federal sponsors. The USACE Regulatory Permit program provides protection of the Bay watershed by regulating placement of dredged or fill materials into the Bay and its tributaries, both tidal and non-tidal, including wetlands.

### Army Installations in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

1. Fort Indiantown Gap
2. Carlisle Barracks
3. Letterkenny Army Depot
4. Fort Detrick
5. Aberdeen Proving Ground
6. Fort Meade
7. Adelphi Laboratory Center
8. Walter Reed Army Medical Center
9. Fort Myer
10. Fort McNair
11. Fort Belvoir
12. Warrenton Training Center
13. Blossom Point Research Facility
14. Fort A.P. Hill
15. Fort Lee
16. Fort Eustis
17. Fort Monroe
18. Fort Story
19. Scranton Army Ammunition Plant





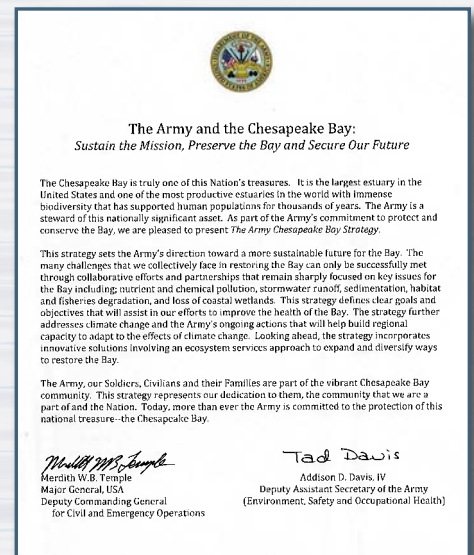
The Army recognizes that it has an environmental stewardship obligation to meet while ensuring that Army soldiers are prepared and ready for their national defense mission. As part of its commitment to environmental stewardship, the Army prepared an *Army Chesapeake Bay Strategy* to define goals, objectives and targets that the Army plans to integrate into its national defense mission to assist in Chesapeake Bay conservation and protection efforts. This strategy incorporates stewardship initiatives for the Chesapeake Bay into the Army's daily mission activities and promotes partnerships with governmental entities, non-governmental organizations, the community and others to maximize Army resources and efforts. The five goals are based on the priorities established in the 2008 Chesapeake Action Plan, the Department of Defense Chesapeake Bay Strategic Action Plan, and Executive Order 13508, *Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration*.

## Strategy Goals

The Army Chesapeake Bay Strategy addresses nutrients, toxics, and sediment reduction; habitat and living resources protection; community outreach and engagement; stormwater management and partnerships.

Its five goals are as follows:

1. Contribute to restoring and sustaining the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.
2. Restore and sustain living resources and healthy habitats on Army installations.
3. Support the implementation of ecosystem-based fisheries management.
4. Strengthen stormwater management practices and maintain healthy watersheds.
5. Foster Chesapeake Bay stewardship.



## The Army's Commitment to the Chesapeake Bay

The Army's commitment to protecting and conserving the integrity of the land and water on which it trains and tests in the Chesapeake Bay watershed has been well documented and demonstrated over four decades through formal agreements, studies, projects, and partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies and non-governmental organizations. Looking forward, the Army will build on these successes with added efforts and focus on implementing this strategy. The following list contains examples of new and existing commitments and accomplishments that Army installations and USACE have made toward protecting and conserving the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

- Multiple Low Impact Development projects
- Chesapeake Bay education programs
- Deer management programs
- Submerged aquatic vegetation research and demonstrations of invasive species monitoring
- Nutrient management plans
- Watershed studies and wetland surveys
- Clean marina programs
- Regional sediment management
- Shoreline stabilization and restoration
- Army Compatible Use Buffer program
- Native oyster restoration
- Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
- Island restoration using dredged material
- Chesapeake Bay environmental modeling
- Elizabeth River, VA, environmental restoration
- Sustainable river flows