

The DoD Chesapeake Bay Program

With 68 installations and 16 Army Corps of Engineers facilities in the Bay watershed that cover approximately 420,000 acres of land, DoD is one of the largest federal landholders in the watershed. These installations vary widely in uses and functions, including national defense; training; deployment centers; and research, development, test and evaluation facilities. They range in size from 20 acres to more than 75,000 acres and are located in urban, suburban and rural areas.

In 1984, DoD became the first federal partner in the Bay restoration effort when it signed the *EPA/DoD Chesapeake Bay Initiative – a Joint Resolution on Pollution Abatement in the Chesapeake Bay*. DoD is committed to this partnership and has established a joint service DoD Chesapeake Bay Program. The mission of this program is threefold: 1) to incorporate restoration, pollution prevention and stewardship initiatives for the Chesapeake Bay into DoD's daily mission of providing the military forces that are needed to deter war and to protect the security of the United States; 2) to partner with other agencies and organizations to maximize resources and strengthen Bay restoration and protection efforts; and 3) to engage all levels of DoD military, civilians and their families to be environmental stewards of the watershed.

Since 1994, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic (CNRMA) has served as the DoD Regional Environmental Coordinator (REC) for U.S. EPA Region III and appointed as the DoD Executive Agent for the Chesapeake Bay Program. The REC employs a DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator to organize DoD's program and to ensure that DoD's Chesapeake Bay initiatives are communicated across all the services and installations in the Bay watershed.

DoD has developed a *Chesapeake Bay Strategic Action Plan (SAP) – DoD's Blueprint for the Bay (2009-2013)* to guide and direct restoration and protection activities in a cohesive document that inter-relates programs and commitments, identifies attainable timelines and improves efficiencies of effort. The plan is organized into five strategic goals that coincide with the Chesapeake Action Plan objectives:

- Contribute to Restoring and Sustaining Healthy Waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its Tributaries
- Restore and Sustain Healthy Habitats on all DoD Bay Installations
- Support the Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management
- Maintain Healthy Watersheds
- Foster Chesapeake Stewardship

By focusing on these strategic action goals, the military can continue its vision to protect the Chesapeake Bay for military readiness, for our communities and for future generations.