



2021 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation Award

Each year since 1962, the Secretary of Defense has honored installations, teams, and individuals for outstanding achievements in Department of Defense (DoD) environmental programs. These accomplishments include outstanding conservation activities, innovative environmental practices, and partnerships that improve quality of life and promote efficiencies without compromising DoD's mission success. The 2021 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards cycle encompasses an achievement period from October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2020 (Fiscal Years (FY) 2019-2020). A diverse panel of 47 judges with relevant expertise representing Federal and state agencies, academia, and the private sector evaluated all nominees to select one winner for each of the eight categories. These eight categories cover five subject areas including natural resources conservation, environmental quality, sustainability, environmental restoration, and cultural resources management.

About the Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation Award

The Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation award recognizes efforts by an enduring overseas DoD installation of any type (industrial or non-industrial) and size (large or small) to ensure mission accomplishment and the protection of human health and the environment in the areas of environmental planning, waste management, and compliance with environmental laws and regulations (e.g., Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Safe Drinking Water Act). Meeting or exceeding all environmental requirements not only enhances the protection of our environmental assets, but also sustains DoD's ability to effectively train and maintain readiness. The 2021 winner of the Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation award is *Yokota Air Base, Japan*.

About Yokota Air Base, Japan

Yokota Air Base (AB) is the headquarters for the 5th Air Force, home of the 374th Airlift Wing. The 374th Airlift Wing executes rapid global mobility through agile airlift operations across the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. It is responsible to the 5th Air Force Commander for C-130J, UH-1N, and C-12J operations, including tactical air-land, airdrop, aeromedical, and distinguished visitor airlift. As the primary Western Pacific airlift hub for peacetime and contingency operations, the Wing provides airlift for the movement of passengers, cargo, and mail to all DoD agencies in the Pacific area of responsibility and provides transport for people and equipment throughout the Kanto Plain and the Tokyo metropolitan area. The 374th Airlift Wing comprises four groups, each of which manages several of the installation's 17 squadrons. More than 3,500 military members and American and Japanese civilian employees make up the installation's workforce, supporting 32 tenant units and a base populace of more than 12,000. The Wing includes the 36th Airlift Squadron, which flies the C-130J Hercules, and the 459th Airlift Squadron, which flies UH-1N helicopters and the C-12J Huron. Yokota AB is located on the island of Honshu, Japan, approximately 28 miles northwest of Tokyo. The base is surrounded by densely populated urban areas. It occupies 1,750 acres of land and lies within the political boundaries of five municipalities. Except for approximately 15 acres of natural habitat at the extreme southern boundary of the installation, the entirety of Yokota AB has been urbanized.



U.S. civilians, U.S. military personnel, and Japan Air Self-Defense Force personnel pick up litter on the streets bordering Yokota AB during an annual Earth Day community clean up event.

Major Accomplishments in FY 2019-2020

- During FY 2019-2020, Yokota AB managed 13 programs with 9 members and a \$2 million budget. In addition, it supported a total of 32 units and 18 geographically separate units (GSUs) within a \$9 billion infrastructure. To reduce one-time shop ramp ups for inspections, the installation employed a new environmental inspection process. By performing more frequent inspections spread throughout the year, the team create a smoother and more balanced annual workload. In FY 2020, Yokota AB conducted 174 environmental inspections and identified or corrected 17 out of 19 significant discrepancies, which increased environmental compliance by 90 percent.
- Yokota AB hosted quarterly Environmental Management System (EMS) Cross-Functional Team meetings, coordinated with 33 squadrons, and shared information with wing leadership. As a result, the installation fully conformed with International Organization for Standardization 14001 requirements. Also, Yokota AB fostered a community outreach program and completed 86 bilingual environmental awareness briefings for 2,600 Yokota AB military and civilian personnel. Furthermore, 80 percent of the flight attended advanced training, attained 10 new environmental certifications, and had no significant negative findings in unit effectiveness inspections.
- Yokota AB program managers, the Secretary of the Air Force, and the Government of Japan collaborated to launch a \$167 million Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) and leveraged 22-year cost shares. This ESPC decreased energy and utility costs by \$15 million per year. In addition, a revamped flood light project upgraded 27 light poles with 196 light-emitting diode ramp lights. This project significantly increased visibility while slashing energy costs \$65,000 each year. Also, the installation's approach to managing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning and light use is on track to save \$30 million and 11,000 British thermal units annually.
- Yokota AB championed a joint Earth Day event that included the planting of a memorial weeping cherry tree with the Japan Self-Defense Force. The installation also hosted six ecological tours at Tama Hills, a recreation area in Inagi, Japan, which serves Yokota and nearby installations. The tours helped showcase the Air Force's conservation policy and efforts to an audience of 150 Japanese citizens along with installation service members.
- Yokota AB used an in-house stormwater re-engineering solution to clear a 128-mile drainage system. This action eliminated flooding and prevented pollutants from reaching the local community waterways.



This picture depicts one of six ecological tours held at Tama Hills to demonstrate the Air Force's conservation policy and the U.S. Forces Japan's environmental engagement strategy.



Yokota AB constructed a concrete curb to ensure wash water flowed to the oil water separator before entering the stormwater drainage system.