



2016 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards About the Awards

Each year since 1962, the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) has honored installations, teams, and individuals for outstanding achievement in Department of Defense (DoD) environmental programs. As structured since Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, certain awards are on a two-year cycle with large/small and non-industrial/industrial installations competing in alternate years, as shown in the table below. The 2016 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards recognize accomplishments from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2015 (FY 2014-2015).

Award Categories

Each Military Service and Defense Agency may submit one nomination for each of the nine categories that cover six subject areas: natural resources conservation; environmental quality; sustainability; environmental restoration; cultural resources management; and environmental excellence in weapon system acquisition. Some of the awards within these categories are on a two-year cycle, with large/small and non-industrial/industrial installations competing in alternate years, as shown below. Small installations are those with 10,000 acres or less; industrial installations are those with a primary mission of manufacturing, maintaining, or rehabilitating military equipment. Since the 2016 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards are recognizing achievements in the FY 2014-2015 cycle, they are considered “Odd Fiscal Year” awards.

Odd Fiscal Years	Even Fiscal Years
Natural Resources Conservation, Small Installation	Natural Resources Conservation, Large Installation
Natural Resources Conservation, Individual/Team	
Environmental Quality, Non-Industrial Installation	Environmental Quality, Industrial Installation
Environmental Quality, Individual/Team	Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation
Sustainability, Industrial Installation	Sustainability, Non-Industrial Installation
	Sustainability, Individual/Team
Environmental Restoration, Installation	Environmental Restoration, Installation
Environmental Restoration, Individual/Team	
Cultural Resources Management, Large Installation	Cultural Resources Management, Small Installation
	Cultural Resources Management, Individual/Team
Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition, Large Program	Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition, Small Program

Judging Process

A diverse panel of judges with relevant expertise representing Federal and state agencies, academia, and the private sector evaluate the nominees to select one winner for each of the nine categories that cover six subject areas. DoD recognizes each winner with a trophy, a Secretary of Defense certificate of meritorious achievement, and an American flag that is flown over the U.S. Capitol on Earth Day and over the Pentagon on Memorial Day. DoD recognizes honorable mentions with a Secretary of Defense certificate of achievement.

The 2016 Environmental Awards winners represent excellence in innovative environmental leadership and demonstrate the best of what DoD has to offer. Their achievements support DoD's ongoing commitment to sustain mission readiness, while cost-effectively protecting the environment. Although only formally recognized once a year, Military Service members and civilians continue their exceptional efforts day in and day out to protect the environment and human health, as well as to preserve the resources on our installations to support training and operations. Their remarkable efforts enhance the quality of life for Service members, their families, and local communities, and exemplify DoD's environmental leadership both in the United States and overseas.

Qualifications

- Nominees for individual awards must be DoD civilian employees or members of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Nominees for team awards must include one or more DoD civilian employees or members of the U.S. Armed Forces; other team members may be DoD contractor employees.