



## 2016 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Environmental Quality, Non-Industrial Installation Award

Each year since 1962, the Department of Defense (DoD) has honored individuals, teams, and installations for their outstanding achievements and innovative work protecting the environment while sustaining mission readiness. The 2016 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards recognize accomplishments from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2015. A diverse panel of 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 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.

### About the Environmental Quality, Non-Industrial Installation Award

The Environmental Quality, Non-Industrial Installation award recognizes a non-industrial installation that has made significant progress to ensure mission accomplishment and the protection of human health in the areas of environmental planning, waste management, and compliance with environmental laws and regulations (e.g., Clean Air Act, Clean Water 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 2016 winner of the Environmental Quality, Non-Industrial Installation award is *Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California*.

### About Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms

Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) is home to the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command (MAGTFC), whose primary mission is to train military personnel under live-fire conditions in a manner that enables commanders and Marines to practice essential skills for combat brigade- and battalion-sized exercises. The Command trains over 45,000 Marines annually, and relies on a civilian/military population of over 21,000 individuals and infrastructure assets of over 1,000 buildings and structures. The Command has a robust environmental management program (EMP) in place to successfully meet its training mission.

MCAGCC's EMP is a collaborative effort between the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (NREA) Division, installation directorates, units, tenant commands, base residents, and the adjacent Twentynine Palms community. This program oversees base usage of its finite desert resources as training environments, while enabling the Marine Corps units and tenant commands to achieve and maintain environmental compliance and protection as well as sustain resources essential to combat readiness.



*Lt. Col. Timothy Pochop, Director, NREA, recognizes Mitchell Klich, Condor Elementary, for being a finalist during the Earth Day Poster Contest on May 1, 2015.*

## Major Accomplishments in FY 2014-2015

- MCAGCC achieved a 54 percent reduction in water intensity by:
  - Establishing a Water Conservation Task Force;
  - Converting green space to desert landscaping and installing synthetic turf;
  - Replacing water with commercially available agents for dust control;
  - Re-using recycled and/or non-potable water supplies;
  - Researching opportunities to use storm water runoff to supplement irrigation;
  - Studying the water distribution system for deficiencies and improved metering.
- MCAGCC collected, inspected, and demilitarized over 5.6 million pounds of range residue and ordnance debris, recycling 5.5 million pounds and generating \$1.2 million in revenue.
- MCAGCC used an organic refuse conversion alternative system to process food waste through a microbial process. This allows the waste to be directed to the wastewater treatment facility. The alternative food waste management system resulted in a positive FY 2014 Environmental Compliance Evaluation by Headquarters Marine Corps, and is an exemplary way to address environmental requirements. Headquarters Marine Corps is able to use positive findings like this as best management practices for other Marine Corps installations.
- MCAGCC continued supporting community outreach to celebrate Earth Day. During these events, installation staff promote conservation and environmental quality goals for the health and welfare of Marines, families, and civilians.
- MCAGCC processed 280 Requests for Environmental Impact Review (REIR), 70 Grouping REIR Decision Memorandums, one Continuing Environmental Review Statement, two Supplement Environmental Assessments, and one Environmental Assessment. The number of REIRs reviewed reflects the large scope of actions by MCAGCC's robust and compliant environmental review process.



*The Range Sustainment Branch (RSB) collected range residue and ordnance debris, such as practice munitions, scrap, and other munitions components generated during live fire exercises on the installation. The RSB sold processed materials from metal casings, cans, and wooden pallets through the installation's Qualified Recycling Program.*



*Corrugated cardboard is collected, inspected, and baled. The finished product is sold to vendors throughout southern California. This program helps divert solid waste from the landfill and extends the landfill life expectancy.*