

# Defense Environmental International Cooperation Program



The **Defense Environmental International Cooperation (DEIC) program** is an engagement tool for working with other nations. It is managed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Energy, Installations, and Environment) [OASD(EI&E)]. DEIC supports international engagement in pursuit of the strategic end states identified in the Secretary of Defense's Guidance for the Employment of the Force as well as the Combatant Command's Theater Campaign Plans.<sup>1</sup> The program focuses on defense-related environmental and operational energy engagement activities. The desired outcomes of DEIC initiatives include building strategic partnerships, enhancing capabilities and capacity, and sustaining mission capability.

**DEIC's Contribution.** DEIC has a modest average annual budget of around \$1.6 million, but has high value impact. DEIC activities have:

- Helped pave the way in establishing military-to-military relationships with new partners.
- Provided a vehicle for engagement between US Defense/military leadership and civilian and military leadership of other nations.
- Provided venues to strengthen relationships through cooperation on specific environmental and energy topics of mutual interest.
- Demonstrated US DoD commitment to environmental stewardship outside the United States by cooperating on common challenges also faced by partner nations.

DEIC sponsored engagement activities have been hosted in 86 different nations on six continents since its creation in 2001. Hosting countries have been spread fairly equally across the continents: 28 in Africa, 19 in Asia and Australia, 17 in the Americas, and 22 in Europe. In addition, another 54 nations across the globe have participated in DEIC-funded multilateral or regionally focused activities. In Fiscal Year 2014 alone, some 500 representatives from 57 different nations participated in DEIC-funded projects.

**DEIC Project Selection.** Each Spring, the ASD(EI&E) requests project proposals from the Geographic Combatant Commands for the following Fiscal Year. An Advisory Group, representing OSD(Policy), the Joint Staff, and the ASD(EI&E), evaluates and prioritizes all project submissions. Based on the Advisory Group's recommendations, the ASD(EI&E) approves projects that make up the DEIC program for the Fiscal Year.

**DEIC Project Format and Criteria.** DEIC projects can take many shapes, such as workshops and table top exercises, development of guidebooks, information exchanges, and participation in multinational studies. Specific criteria for DEIC projects, regardless of whether they are bilateral, regional or multilateral, include:

- Having an international, defense-related environmental or operational energy focus.
- Involving military or defense officials from other countries. The participation of civilian agencies, international organizations, or Non-Governmental Organizations is also encouraged.
- Benefiting DoD directly, either at the strategic level (e.g., helping ensure access for basing, training and operations; protecting the health and safety of troops and local populations; promoting regional stability; contributing to civil-military relations) or at the practical level (e.g., enhancing interoperability; accessing foreign research on environmental or energy issues; raising Environment, Safety and Occupational Health standards with partners).

**DEIC Project Funding.** DEIC uses Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding and is subject to O&M's inherent funding restrictions (e.g., it cannot pay for construction or purchase equipment). For this and other reasons, the program actively promotes projects that leverage other funding sources such as Traditional Commander's Activities (TCA) funds which can cover, for example, the costs of travel for foreign military personnel. In Fiscal Year 2014 DEIC's \$1.67 million budget leveraged roughly one million dollars of funding from other sources.

<sup>1</sup> DoD Directive 4715.1E, "Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health (ESOH)," dated March 19, 2005, paragraph 5.1.8.

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## Highlights of DEIC Fiscal Year 2015 projects include:

- **Supporting the warfighter:** In June 2015, US and Italian military and regional environmental officials met to discuss sustainable training area management. For several years, US and Italian forces had not been allowed to use an Italian training area near Aviano because of claims of environmental stress and European Union Natura 2000 restrictions. Following this EUCOM-led workshop, the Italian regional authority, based on the common understanding of the impacts of training on the environment, allowed resumption of blank-fire training by US and Italian forces. Range managers are optimistic that heavy-drop training will eventually be reinstated as well.
- **Building relationships:** The Pacific Environmental Security Forum (PESF), held in June in Bangkok, Thailand, had 115 participants from 22 countries. They represented a broad range of international stakeholders in the PACOM Area of Responsibility. The PESF focused on environmental issues and their relationship to national and regional security. Topics included water management, energy, climate change adaptation, and sustainability. Thailand has since announced plans to develop a climate change policy based on DoD's Climate Change Adaptation Roadmap. More generally, PESF showcased US leadership on environmental issues and the strength of regional partnerships. It also expanded and strengthened interagency, whole-of-government approaches.
- **Building capability:** The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces, as well as other Afghan public and private organizations, participated in a workshop led by CENTCOM. The workshop provided Afghan-centric contemporary environmental education and training. The objectives focused on developing workable environmental policy frameworks, identifying areas for improvement, and building effective communication techniques.
- **Strengthening relationships:** SOUTHCOM has expanded its collaboration with the Inter-American Defense College (IADC) and the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC). This collaboration aims to eventually integrate environmental considerations into the curricula of these institutions. The latter is a

schoolhouse for mid-career officers from Latin America. The former is for senior officers who obtain a Master's degree; historically, 40% of its graduates have gone on to become general officers. Through such partnerships, SOUTHCOM has reached a broader and more influential audience, with higher potential for long-lasting continuity and impacts.

- **Enhancing regional stability:** Wildlife trafficking is a multibillion-dollar business involving criminal and terrorist networks. These networks – dealing in weapons, narcotics, and money laundering – have destabilized governments in the region. To support the US strategy for combating wildlife trafficking and its destabilizing effects, AFRICOM is engaging with numerous stakeholders throughout the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. A specific focus has been on ways to help prevent poaching and illicit trafficking of rhinoceroses. The rhinoceros has been severely depleted across its habitat, and governments, including the military, are working to find approaches to stop this poaching and illicit trafficking.

## Planned DEIC Fiscal Year 2016 projects include:

- AFRICOM will organize a water capacity building workshop for the Horn of Africa and an operational energy workshop in Burkina Faso.
- CENTCOM will execute an engagement with members of the Gulf Cooperation Council on oil spill planning and preparedness.
- EUCOM will continue sustainable training range management initiatives with Italy, the Baltics, Balkans, and Israel.
- NORTHCOM will host the third biennial international Arctic collaborative workshop.
- PACOM will co-host its annual Forum with Fiji and anticipates a new environmental engagement with Mongolia.
- SOUTHCOM will have several projects focused on net-zero waste and energy assessments.