



DoD CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM JOURNAL

PROTECTING THE CHESAPEAKE BAY FOR MILITARY READINESS, FOR OUR COMMUNITY, FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

DoD Chesapeake Bay Program FY13 Overview

By: Sarah Diebel

Spring has finally arrived and installations are planning for Earth Day activities, National Public Lands Day Events, and planting trees in celebration of Arbor Day. I look forward to hearing about them and sharing stories in the next issue! Please don't forget to send pictures!

We have a tremendous opportunity coming up in May, where the Chesapeake Bay Commission will be briefed on the DoD Chesapeake Bay Program and all of the accomplishments installations reported to support the combined EO 13508 FY13 Progress and FY14 Action Plan report.

Below is a brief summary of project examples and summary funding tables of FY13 completed projects and FY14 planned projects based on the FY13 DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Annual Datacall.

DoD EO 13508 FY13 Progress Report and FY14 Action Plan Funding Totals		
	FY 13 Completed Projects	FY14 Planned Projects
Restore Clean Water	\$63,749,359	\$45,560,316
Recover Habitat	\$3,766,779	\$2,945,856
Sustain Fish & Wildlife	\$596,333	\$781,422
Conserve Land & Increase Public Access	\$428,424	\$6,500,000
Expand Citizen Stewardship	\$1,312,070	\$682,290
Implementation & Accountability	\$1,293,980	\$934,338
DoD Services Total	\$71,146,945	\$57,404,222

In 2013, DoD executed nearly \$64M for projects supporting clean water. Efforts included maintaining and upgrading wastewater treatment plants, sanitary sewer improvements to mitigate Inflow and Infiltration, continuing to management compliance programs including stormwater, tanks and air quality, implementing stormwater repair projects, and evaluating where they can conserve water.

It is encouraging to see and hear that installations are continuing to conduct opportunity assessments, inventory current practices, draft concept designs, and report their implementation approach for the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to each of their respective jurisdictions.

In 2013, DoD executed nearly \$3.8M for projects supporting the recover habitat goal including updating integrated natural resource management plans, constructing wetlands, combating invasive species and enhancing habitat for Bay species.

DoD continues to ensure development that occurs around military facilities is a compatible land use based on the training and mission of the installation. Last year, the REPI

program assisted with safeguarding 178 acres of land for the Navy's Atlantic Test Range along the Patuxent River in Maryland.

Additionally, hunting and fishing programs continue to thrive, trail systems are being maintained, and installations are upgrading and enhancing marinas. Installations' environmental outreach and stewardship activities totaled \$1.3M!

Each year after reviewing all of the projects submitted, it is apparent that installations, through the dedication of environmental staff, continue to demonstrate that they incorporate restoration, pollution prevention, and stewardship initiatives into our daily mission of providing the military forces that are needed to deter war and to protect the security of the United States; to partner with federal, state and local governments and organizations and citizen groups to maximize resources and strengthen Bay restoration and protection efforts; and to engage all levels of military, civilians, and their families to be environmental stewards of the watershed where they live. This is the DoD CBP Mission and I want to thank everyone that assisted with this year's data call and provided information for us to continue to communicate these initiatives.

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DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

The April Chesapeake Bay Action Team (CBAT) Conference Call has been rescheduled for 14 May 2014. An Outlook appointment will be sent to the distribution list with the time and proposed agenda. In the meantime, below are updates of what's been going on since the last newsletter and January CBAT meeting.

EO 13508 Reporting Updates

DoD submitted narrative information and funding totals for the combined FY13 Progress Report and FY14 Action Plan. The report will be finalized by April.

2014 and 2015 DoD Milestones

All of the Federal 2014 and 2015 EO 13508 Two-year milestones were posted on 7 January on the EO 13508 website. DoD milestones are also included.

Chesapeake Bay Agreement Updates

The Bay Program's Principals Staff Committee (PSC) met on 28 February to make decisions related to governance of the Program. The PSC affirmed that consensus is the preferred method of decision-making for the Program, but that voting (a supermajority 7/9) could be used as a last resort. The PSC also addressed issues related to goals and outcomes in the 2014 Agreement, Participation in Management Strategies, Recommended Management Strategies, Adoption of Management Strategies, changes to distribution to EPA funding under Section 117 CBIG/CBRA, Revising Goals, outcomes, and management strategies, Participation at the EC, and updating the Governance Document. The public comment period closed on 17 March and based on comments received by the public and federal agencies, the partnership will more than likely deliberate adding language into the Agreement related to toxic contaminants, climate change, stormwater, Conowingo, and environmental literacy. Bay staff supported DASN(E) at a joint FLC-D/CEQ/OMB meeting held on 24 March with a purpose to update members on the Chesapeake Bay Agreement; federal agency comments submitted by DOI, NOAA and EPA and other agency comments; stakeholder,

state and partner comments that were submitted during the public comment period; recommendations to address implications of Agreement on FLC-D and EO 13508 reporting requirements; and updates on the FY13 Progress report and FY14 Action Plan. DASN(E) expressed concern with EPA concurrence that adding additional goals outside of the core principles or issues may dilute effort and detract from the fundamentals of restoration, supported more explicit language on community based stewardship approaches, suggested incorporating climate change throughout the agreement and management strategies, and recommended toxic contaminants be included in water quality section of the Agreement. The DoD CBP provided EPA DoD positions regarding issues including toxic contaminants, climate change, environmental stewardship, water quality standards and freshwater fisheries in order to develop the federal position on how issues should be addressed in the Agreement in advance of the 12-13 April Principals Staff Committee meeting.

Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting

On 8-9 May, the Chesapeake Bay Commission will hold its quarterly meeting in Washington, D.C. The DoD Chesapeake Bay Program will be presenting to the members on FY13 progress and FY14 initiatives.

Streamlining of EPA Datacalls:

The DoD Chesapeake Bay Program office serves to coordinate reporting of information on all activities taking place at the installation and regional level that support the Bay's restoration. This information is collected on an annual basis by populating an access database for each installation within the watershed. We continue to work through a comprehensive review to align reporting and outreach requirements with data that are being collected, and maximize both end-user and manager functional efficiencies. The program received an alternative proposal in how to collect data and will review and provide information to Service leads to develop a coordinated approach to collect data necessary for each of the program's reporting requirements.

Award Winners from the Environment Virginia Symposium

Kelly Duckworth (announced on April 10th)

The 2014 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards were announced at a ceremony on 8 April 2014 at the 25th Annual Environment Virginia Symposium at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington. The awards recognize the significant contributions of environmental and conservation leaders in two categories, sustainability and land conservation. They are given to businesses and industrial facilities, not-for-profit organizations and government agencies. This year, Joint Base Langley-Eustis (JBLE) won a Silver Award for their Conservation Branch. Below is an excerpt from the award program which was read during the ceremony.

"Fort Eustis is a multifunctional installation that includes office parks, an Army training campus, research and development facilities, as well as other military activities; approximately 12,400 people work and live at the installation. With over twenty miles of shoreline, the installation provides habitat for a multitude of migratory waterfowl and wading birds and is home to six active bald eagle nests on the James and Warwick Rivers. The Fort has more than 3,600 acres of wetlands and over 2,700 acres of commercial timber, key habitat for wildlife, and a filter system to prevent pollutants from reaching the Chesapeake Bay. The Fort Eustis Conservation Branch uses an ecosystem management approach to maintain environmental compliance, ecosystem viability, sustainability of military training lands, ecological integrity, biological communities including sensitive, rare, threatened, and endangered species, and outdoor recreation opportunities. The Branch also protects, preserves, and publicizes the 232 archaeological sites managed by Fort Eustis. The Branch has on-going partnerships with the College of William and Mary, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services, the Fort Eustis Historical and Archaeological Association, and several Boy Scout Troops among others, and is currently developing a partnership with Christopher Newport University's Public History program. Public involvement and outreach have been key to the success of Fort Eustis' Cultural and Natural Resources programs. Social media is used to publicize events, including the annual Earth Day Celebration, an annual open house for Archaeology Month, and Clean the Bay Day."

Congratulations to JBLE on this prestigious award!



North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study

By: Taura Huxley

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosted a visioning session on 11 March 2014 in Norfolk to gather input from local stakeholders on resilience and risk from coastal flooding. Representatives from the City of Norfolk, local Corps' offices, non-governmental organizations, and the Navy provided input on organizational challenges and potential solutions to reducing flood risk for vulnerable coastal populations. The information gathered at this session will be incorporated into the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS); a regional initiative that will be completed in early 2015. More information on NACCS can be found at www.nad.usace.army.mil/compstudy.

Seabees from Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) 2 land on the New Jersey shoreline aboard an amphibious transport carrying construction vehicles. USS Wasp (LHD 1), USS San Antonio (LPD 17) and USS Carter Hall (LSD 50) positioned in New York City harbor to provide relief support to areas affected by Hurricane Sandy.



Work Begins on Willow Oaks Constructed Stormwater Treatment Wetland

By: Andrew Revelos

First published in the South Potomac Pilot on February 14, 2014

Photos provided by Brenna White, NSF Dahlgren

The plan to protect local watersheds from polluted storm water runoff takes another leap forward at Naval Support Facility Dahlgren this month with the groundbreaking for an even larger constructed wetland to the North of Sampson Road. The first constructed wetland wrapped up construction on the southern side of Sampson Road, adding two acres of wetland that helps prevent polluted runoff from entering Upper Machodoc Creek. An even more ambitious environmental design project, the Willow Oaks Wetland, will add approximately six acres of marsh, pools and sculpted land features on the north side of Sampson Road.

Both sites will look very different from their historic appearances when the project is completed in June and the wetlands comes to life, filtering and cleaning runoff from 161 acres of land on and off NSF Dahlgren.



Construction begins on the Willow Oaks Stormwater Treatment Wetland.

Environmental Protection Agency regulations for states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed require reductions in the amount of nutrients and soil sediments that reach the bay as a result of storm water runoff, construction and erosion. Excessive pollutants and sediments in the bay reduce the water's oxygen content and clarity, which in turn harms wildlife. In Virginia, the goal is for each community to have put measures in place to restore the Chesapeake Bay through overall reductions in nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediments by 2025. With both constructed wetlands installed and operational, Dahlgren will be very close to meeting that reduction. "This is going to help us achieve some of our Chesapeake Bay [regulatory] requirements," said Brenna White, storm water program manager for NSF Dahlgren. "The wetland will remove about 85 pounds of phosphorous and 21,000 pounds of sediment from runoff per year. This is a significant percentage of what is leaving the 161 contributing acres that send [runoff] through this constructed wetland."

While pollution reduction is the project's main goal, the wetland will also benefit local plants and animals. The greenery, along with microorganisms in the wetland's water, remove and break down pollutants like nitrogen and phosphorous. The meandering contours of the wetland, known as treatment trains, enhance that process by keeping runoff in the wetland long enough to be cleansed by natural, biological processes.



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“We got a lot of our inspiration from local water bodies—marshes and wetlands,” said White. “We try to mimic what nature does right rather than try to make things conform to a cookie cutter design. We want it to be a thriving micro and macro environment.”

Low marsh, high marsh and deep pool zones within the wetland will support a variety of wildlife, such as ducks, turtles and small fish. Native plants, such as salt grass, wildflowers and bald cypress trees, will also feature prominently in the wetland, though cold weather and rain has delayed some planting. A walking trail will allow base residents to enjoy the natural scenery along the southern portion of the wetland.

White hopes to muster students from Dahlgren School to help plant the Willow Oaks Wetland later this spring. “Live stakes,” certain types of plants and trees that can be propagated by cutting off a branch and planting it in the ground, are well-suited for young volunteers. “It’s a great way to establish stability in the wetland quickly,” she said. “Kids love planting live stakes.”



Construction begins on the Willow Oaks Stormwater Treatment Wetland.

As the Willow Oaks Wetland is constructed, trucks will remove approximately 10,000 cubic yards of soil from the site’s entrance on Sampson Road to B Gate.

Traffic impacts are expected to be minimal.

“It’s going to be a nice addition to the community,” said White.

Beyond Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Buffers: Holistic Planning

By: Kelly Duckworth

During the 5 March 2014 REPI Webinar Series hosted by the DoD in partnership with the Land Trust Alliance, a new focus on REPI approaches was discussed. As part of the new FY15 proposal changes, REPI Program funding will include greater emphasis on holistic approaches to plan for and mitigate encroachment. Kristin Thomasgard, REPI Program Director, reminded the audience that REPI buffer partnerships are just one piece of the puzzle to solve regional and installation encroachment challenges. Acquiring conservation easements or land in fee is often the most expensive method of protecting and conserving land. Therefore, evaluating other opportunities using proactive and holistic planning is fundamental to achieving an installation’s end state goal.

So, what is an end state goal? An end state goal is defined by the installation’s targeted level of land protection necessary to maintain current mission without restrictions.

Further, what is holistic planning? Holistic planning is looking at current and potential future encroachment that goes beyond using REPI buffers. The concept of holistic planning includes developing a strategy where the installation and buffer partners review community plans and coordinate with other internal and external planning bodies. Utilizing this approach may also increase the installation’s probability towards attaining the desired end state goal. Examples of holistic planning could include, but are not limited to working with state and local officials to enact zoning ordinances, providing real estate disclosures to potential buyers, developing noise attenuation ordinances, completing Joint Land Use Studies, conducting tabletop exercises with stakeholders, participating on regional and large landscape partnerships, and conducting community outreach and education.

For installations within the Chesapeake Bay, holistic planning is vitally important due to training our servicemen and servicewomen within these waters. The REPI FY13 Report to Congress shows a total of 14,193 acres of land at a cost of \$62,664,532 has been protected since 2013 for installation located within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In order to meet the Land Conservation Outcome under Executive Order 13508 of protecting an additional two million areas by 2025, DoD will need to use a holistic planning strategies in order to meet our end state goal. Three case studies were presented by installations during the webinar to explore different methods of holistic planning as well as their experiences in the planning process.

Ellsworth AFB

The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in South Dakota has worked cooperatively with the Ellsworth Air Force Base (AFB) for over 20 years. In 2009, the South Dakota legislature created the South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority (SDEDA). The mission of SDEDA is to:

- To make sure that the Great State of South Dakota is always a Great Place for the U.S. Department of Defense to conduct its essential national defense mission at Ellsworth Air Force Base.
- To work hand in hand with local governments, the private sector and property owners to promote the health and safety of those living or working near the base.
- To protect and promote the economic impact of Ellsworth Air Force Base and associated industry.
- To work with the Base and local communities to prepare for additional growth in missions at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

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In the mid-1990s, cooperatively with the City of Rapid City and the Department of Defense, the MPO jointly funded a Joint Land Use Study. The study resulted in a justification for a new interchange, the design and construction of which was funded by the MPO and City of Rapid City. The new interchange and a major entry way corridor provided access to the City of Box Elder and the Main Gate entrance to Ellsworth AFB. The construction of this interchange resulted in the relocation of a number of incompatible land uses in the airfield crash zone, including a McDonald's Restaurant and a gas service station. The resulting transportation and related land use changes were a key component in demonstrating compatible land use in areas surrounding the installation during the most recent Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission hearings. As a result of the cooperation between the DoD and Rapid City Area MPO, the BRAC Commission cited Ellsworth AFB's vast un-encroached airspace and significant economic impact on the local community as a justification for removing the installation from the closure list.

Coordinated efforts continue with a new DOD-funded study undertaken by SDEDA. The study will review land use issues, as well as, planning and development issues in the multi-jurisdictional areas surrounding Ellsworth AFB. Solutions for this installation with community integration include positive community relations; transfers of land from Ellsworth to SDEDA; Willing Buyer Willing Seller Initiative; offering alternative housing options; aviation and airport protection laws; and overlay zoning and grass land protection areas. Through this type of holistic planning approach, the partnership between regional planning bodies and Ellsworth AFB demonstrates other opportunities available to reach the installation's end state goal. The partnership is also a key element for successful economic management impacting Western South Dakota.

Naval Base (NB) Ventura County

Naval Base (NB) Ventura County is a premier naval installation composed of three main operating areas: Point Mugu, Port Hueneme, and San Nicolas Island. It is home to research, development, test and evaluation initiatives of the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division. Urban development is causing concern that additional mission workarounds may occur and restrictive noise abatement procedures for test, training, and operations would need to be enacted. The holistic planning process occurred by evaluating community interests including protection of Ormond Beach and agricultural business.

Ormond Beach is considered by wetlands experts to be the most important wetland restoration opportunity in southern California. The buffers created for NB Ventura County allow partners to modify the site's hydrology to restore tidal action and bring back freshwater flows and established easements provide economic incentives for farmers to continue their agricultural businesses, at a time when market factors could force them to sell their land to developers.

Both approaches are keeping the land compatible with Navy test and training benefits with overall national military readiness while continuing to support the local economy and sustained health and safety for the public and the environment. Additionally, when combined with adjacent freshwater wetlands and the Mugu Lagoon, this REPI project may be part of the largest coastal wetland in southern California!

Holistic planning for this project included protecting working lands and local character that benefit the economy, providing habitat for notable species, and adding recreational benefits for the community. The military benefits by preserving maneuver-training capacity with high-noise area buffers, reducing the electromagnetic interference, and ensuring our ability to test and train our servicemen for future mission growth.

Fort Pickett

Fort Pickett provides a live-fire and maneuver training site for active and reserve Army components, as well as the largest block of special use airspace in Virginia. It is also the leading National Guard Training Center for the Marine Corps and the ground warfare forces of the Navy. Because of such heavy use, the post's ranges and firing points produce large amounts of noise, dust, and smoke, and require a dark-night sky for night flight operations. Fort Pickett is an island of ecological importance and this REPI project helps accomplish its natural and cultural resources management goals. Buffer lands and wildlife corridors along the installation's boundary preserve the Nottoway River drainage and serve as habitat for species vital to the local fishing and ecotourism industry. Holistic planning began as Fort Pickett's isolation dissipates and suburban development steadily approaches where conflicts with the growing population will increase over training-related noise, vibrations, and smoke.

To protect its mission and natural and cultural resources goals, Fort Pickett is partnering with the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation to preserve land near and adjacent to its boundary, ranges, and training routes. The Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation and other partners are acquiring conservation easements and lands in fee to ensure compatibility with these mission capabilities and at the same time preserve natural habitat.

With a holistic planning framework established Fort Pickett's training capabilities are protected from development and local water resources and riparian zones remain safeguarded.

From the three case studies presented, holistic planning can include a wide range of strategies, such as Joint Land Use Studies (Ellsworth AFB), land use regulations (NB Ventura County), and investing in Regional Partnerships (Fort Pickett). In addition, all of these types of holistic planning approaches include community outreach and education. For more information and webinar link access, see the Check It Out Section of this Newsletter.



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Check it Out:

REPI Webinar Topics

Please visit <http://www.repi.mil/Resources/Webinars.aspx> for more information and webinar link access.

- May 21: The REPI End Game II: Defining Priority Areas, End States and Using GIS
- July 2: Mission Benefit Metrics
- August 13: REPI and Energy
- September 24: Engagement with the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)
- November 5: Sentinel Landscapes
- December 10: Exploring Off-Installation Regulatory Solutions
- January 14, 2015: New Land Protection Using the REPI Partnership Authority

May 28-29 - Chesapeake Modeling Symposium - Annapolis, MD

The fourth bi-annual Chesapeake Modeling Symposium will serve as a venue to identify and showcase existing modeling efforts as well as communicate how models are used as decision support tools by different developer and user groups.

For more: <http://www.chesapeakemeetings.com/CheMS2014/>

January 17-21, 2015 - International Low Impact Development (LID) Conference - Houston, TX

This conference will highlight new and ongoing work including research, development, and community adoption of LID throughout the United States and across the globe. Additionally, this conference will focus on the application of LID technology in the Southwest region of the U.S. and also include a mini-symposium on arid regions LID. For more information, visit: <https://www.fedcenter.gov/Events/index.cfm?id=25567>

June 10-12, 2014 (10:00 AM - 12:00 PM) - Habitat Site Restoration and Mitigation: Creating a Restoration Plan - Webinar

This webinar provides attendees with an overview of the planning process for conducting habitat site restoration and mitigation plans. This course consists of three 2-hour online classes that take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Each registrant will be provided with electronic copies of course materials prior to the online course. Each class will include lecture and Q & A. For more information, [visit: https://www.fedcenter.gov/Events/index.cfm?id=25578](https://www.fedcenter.gov/Events/index.cfm?id=25578)

This newsletter is produced by Michael Baker Jr., Inc., under Contract No. N62470-10-D-3000 for DoD/Navy Chesapeake Bay Program Support.

This newsletter is distributed via e-mail. Contact the DoD Chesapeake Bay Program with any questions, comments, or to be added to the e-mail distribution list (e-mail: sarah.diebel@navy.mil or telephone: 757-341-0383).

