



DoD CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM JOURNAL

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

Meet Taura Huxley: Temporary Assignment to the DoD Chesapeake Bay Program

By: *Taura Huxley, Natural Resources Specialist*

In June of this year, I was offered a unique opportunity to work with the DoD’s Chesapeake Bay Program as a result of a requirement to temporarily backfill the Coordinator’s position. I have developed a keen interest in the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in my time living in Tidewater, and this detail has been a perfect opportunity to expand my knowledge in this area. For the past six years, I have worked at NAVFAC Atlantic supporting the Conservation, Process Improvement (CPI), and Community Management programs in various capacities. Prior to that, I worked for the Cornell University Biological Field Station, the U.S. Army, and the U.S. Marine Corps as a biologist and land management specialist in upstate New York and southern California. My background is in natural resources management on the policy side, and avian and plant species on the technical side.

Primary objectives to complete during the detail include the 2009 – 2012 DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Progress Report, organization and beta testing of the Program’s website on DENIX, and assisting with the development and implementation of a training module for the recently signed Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) memorandum of agreement between the DoD and the state of Maryland. This detail has provided me with a chance to observe and participate in work at the regional level while gaining an expanded understanding of the Chesapeake Bay’s current challenges and stakeholder solutions, and I am grateful for the experience I’ve gained and new professional contacts I’ve met so far.

Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

By: *DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Staff*

NEW CHESAPEAKE BAY AGREEMENT

The States, EPA, the Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) and the federal agencies are currently developing a new Bay Agreement to replace the *Chesapeake 2000 Agreement*. The new Agreement is slated to be signed by the Bay state Governors, the District of Columbia Mayor, the EPA Administrator, and the Chair of the CBC at the end of this calendar year. However this may change due to the federal government shutdown. The federal partners have agreed that EPA will sign the new Agreement on behalf of the Federal government and the Federal Leadership Committee. To ensure federal consensus on Bay partnership decisions, the Federal Office Directors (FOD) will assist in the development of federal agencies’ positions. Supporting documents to the Agreement include the general organization governance, which establishes roles and responsibilities and the management strategies that will establish short term targets. This format is similar to the E.O. 13508 Strategy where action items are established under each outcome. The partnership created an editorial board and issues resolution committee to assist in the development of the Agreement. The DoD Bay Program has indicated that DoD’s participation in the partnership will remain “as is” and will continue to promote establishment of efficient reporting mechanisms to avoid double reporting for the EO13508 and new Agreement.

DoD CHESAPEAKE BAY WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

The DoD Chesapeake Bay Program’s DENIX website is very close to going live and we are currently populating content. The website will house meeting minutes, training documents, publications, current events and scientific literature relevant to the Program. Feedback on the website’s organization and content will be solicited from the CBAT in the near future.

FY-13 DoD CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM DATA CALL

The DoD Federal Funding Inventory (FFI) data call was renamed the DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Data Call. The information collected in this annual data call supports DoD’s yearly Progress and Annual Reporting, as required by E.O. 13508. All comments and concerns received on the FY 12 database were addressed in the database’s update. During review of FY 12 data, the Bay Program office identified inconsistencies in assigning the appropriate project goal and outcome. To aid the database users, the program staff developed a list of activity categories that correspond to a specific goal. The user manual was updated to reflect additional changes and will be released with the data call.

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Due to the furloughs and government shutdown, the 2013 data call release is delayed. Installations will be provided ample time to input project information.

FY-12 DoD STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN (SAP)

Each year, the DoD Bay Program develops a Strategic Action Plan to help guide installations' actions that support the Bay protection and restoration. Data collected in the annual DoD Chesapeake Bay Program data call are also reported in the SAP. Since the existing performance measures contained in the SAP are related to expired goals established by the *Chesapeake 2000 Agreement*, new performance measures were developed to measure future progress. These new performance measures were drafted to correspond to specific E.O. 13508 Strategy actions and developed as goals to demonstrate DoD's commitment to Bay protection and restoration.

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE

Because of the current budgetary constraints, the DoD Bay Program staff are developing a series of webinars to replace the Commanders' Conference. Planned webinar sessions include an introduction to E.O. 13508, changes to stormwater management resulting from the Bay TMDL, and the new Chesapeake Bay Agreement. These webinars will be delivered via DCO or another type of Adobe Connect software.

DoD CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM PROGRESS

The FY 2009 – 2012 DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Progress Report is under development with a projected late spring 2014 publication. The DoD Bay program office has created a list of installation-specific projects from the DoD Federal Facilities Inventory that demonstrate DoD's support of the E.O. 13508 goals. To enhance the Progress Report, the Bay Program is requesting photographs of these projects from installations.

EPA ASSESSMENT OF FEDERAL FACILITY TWO YEAR MILESTONES

The EPA will be assessing Federal Facilities as part of their progress report. To review the EPA's Progress Report, please visit this link: http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/pdf/pdf_chesbay/InterimAssessments/FederalInterimAssessment5_28_2013v2.pdf.

STATE PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION

Maryland – The last partnership meeting was conducted on August 7, 2013. Topics included a request from MDE on the current water programs related to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) process of load allocations, and how DoD will be handling aggregated lands issues. MDE also provided updates on Maryland House Bill 97, the Phase II MS4 general permit, and the industrial stormwater general permit. Chesapeake Bay installations should be aware that both the revised MS4 and NPDES Industrial Stormwater provisions contain 20% stormwater retrofit requirements. MDE indicated installations with both industrial and MS4 permits will be required to implement a 20% stormwater retrofit requirement vice 40%. Contact the DoD REC for Region 3 for further information.

District of Columbia (DC) – DC continues to develop their stormwater regulations and an associated stormwater guidance document. They are currently in their third public comment period. The DoD REC office submitted comments on behalf of the DoD Services. The DC Stormwater Memorandum (MOU) between DC, the EPA, and the federal agencies has been signed. DASN(E) office is the primary POC for the MOU.

Virginia – DoD and Virginia are no longer pursuing the development of a Stormwater MOU to resolve concerns over disparate treatment language regarding Federal Facilities contained in Virginia's Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan. Virginia removed the disparate treatment in its Phase II WIP.

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION MEETING

On September 19 – 20, 2013, the DoD Region 3 REC participated in the Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) meeting held in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Thursday's portion of the CBC meeting focused on policy-making issues related to fertilizer and manure-to-energy applications. The Commission toured two locations operated by regional leaders on these issues. The first was GrowMark FS, a small regional agronomic service cooperative. At their East Berlin facility they blend, package, and distribute fertilizer products for the agriculture and non-Ag markets and provide non-custom application services to their members. The second, EnergyWorks BioPower, recently completed construction of a power plant that generates 3.25 MW of electricity from manure. This plant is co-located next to Hilldale Farms, a 5.0 million layer operation. The manure from these birds is collected and gasified to produce electricity and ash that can be beneficially reused. The plant is the first of its kind in the Chesapeake Bay region. It is also the largest nutrient credit generator certified under Pennsylvania's nutrient crediting program. The CBC finished the evening attending the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's "Taste of the Chesapeake" event in Annapolis, MD. CBC Executive Directive, Ms. Ann Swanson, was recognized for her dedication to the Chesapeake Bay.

Friday's portion of the CBC meeting started with an update by the CBC Chairman, Maryland Delegate Maggie McIntosh, on the Virginia and Maryland Potomac River oyster tax legislation, CBC stormwater finance project, and CBC led development of land conservation credits to support the Chesapeake Bay total maximum daily load. Land conservation crediting opportunities may be of interest to installations conserving lands for compatible use/REPI projects. The Commission also discussed the ongoing relicensing negotiations between Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the Exelon Corporation over the Conowingo Dam and Muddy Run pump station. As the states are halfway to 2017, the mid-point of the 2025 Executive Order and TMDL goals for improved water quality, the CBC discussed the progress towards the goals, how to measure and evaluate them, and where potential gaps exist. The CBC indicated that the states have made good progress in updating wastewater treatment plants, passing fertilizer and Ag Certainty legislation,

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issuing MS4 permits with stricter limits, encouraging green infrastructure, and developing nutrient trading regulations. Remaining challenges include meeting two year milestones; progress in the agricultural sector; encouraging enhanced treatment at non-significant wastewater treatment plants; focusing on urban sectors to revise MS4 permits and reduce treatment costs per acre; expanding trading and offset programs; enhancing innovations and breaking down barriers. The CBC meeting closed with a discussion of the new proposed Bay Agreement, with the states questioning EPA's timeline in light of Virginia's upcoming gubernatorial election. The next CBC meeting is scheduled for November 14 – 15, 2013 in Virginia Beach.

The DoD Chesapeake Bay Program hosted a conference call of the Chesapeake Bay Action Team (CBAT) on August 21, 2013 to provide updates and information on current program happenings. Representatives from each of the Services participated. CBAT meetings will continue to meet via conference call quarterly to provide information on the program. The next conference call will be in November.

We also want to thank participants for providing updates. Good things are happening despite the current budgetary environment!

Gas Power Plant Project at Navy Base Gets Underway More Efficient, Cleaner System will Replace Coal

By: Rebecca J. Barnabi

First published by Southern Maryland Newspapers Online (SoMdNews) on July 17, 2013

Demolition of the last coal-fired power plant operated by the U.S. Navy began Thursday with a ground-breaking for a new steam distribution system at Naval Support Facility Indian Head.

The \$62.45 million project will decrease energy costs for the military commands at NSF Indian Head and modernize the naval base's utility services, which are critical for sustaining key mission capabilities, base officials said.

The new steam distribution system will allow the base to perform more efficiently and control spending.

"This project does just that," said Comdr. Elvis T. Mikel, executive officer of Naval Support Activity South Potomac. "It cuts the waste and allows us to come into compliance with environmental regulations."

The natural gas turbine and heat recovery steam generator of the new system will replace the coal-fired Goddard Power Plant, built in 1957. The plant generated approximately 67 percent of the electric power at NSF Indian Head, according to a Navy news release.

Mikel said that the U.S. Navy spent a lot of money maintaining the Goddard plant, which feeds steam through 37 miles of pipe to sources all over the base. But only 45 percent of the steam makes it to the intended source for use due to the plant's age.

With the use of natural gas in the new system, which is more efficient and will require only one power plant, Mikel said that the U.S. Navy will no longer have to bring in 46 million pounds of coal per year by rail, barge and then truck from Pennsylvania.

"It's just all-around a good project. We look forward to increased efficiency," Mikel said.

Mikel said that some have likened ceasing use of the Goddard Power Plant to retiring "an old war horse."

Portions of the Goddard Power Plant have been examined and determined worth preserving by the Maryland Historical Trust, Mikel said. Other portions will be demolished at a later date, once the new system is completed.

The contractor anticipates that the new system will be online by July 2015, Mikel said.

The new steam distribution system is "the largest military construction project at Indian Head," Mikel said.

According to a press release, the new steam distribution system will cut energy costs at the naval base by 50 percent, water consumption by 75 percent and steam requirements by 80 percent. The result will be \$7.5 million in savings each year, and more than 50 billion pounds of carbon emissions will be reduced each year.



Photo courtesy of the U.S. NAVY
Goddard Power Plant, the last coal-fired power facility operated by the Navy, will be demolished and replaced in a \$62.45 million military construction project on Naval Support Facility Indian Head that gets underway this month. The project will decommission the Goddard plant, built in 1957 and now well past its operational life span and unable to meet current emission standards.



Goats Clear Invasive Plant Species at NSA Annapolis

By: James Johnson, NAVFAC Washington Public Affairs

First published by United States Naval Academy Public Affairs Office on June 19, 2013

Greenbury Point, a popular spot for joggers and hikers on the North Severn area of Naval Support Activity Annapolis, has a new community - a herd of hungry goats.

The goats are being used by Naval Facilities Engineering Command Washington in a pilot project to combat invasive plant species which have forced out native plants and animals.

“Our current strategy is to restore designated areas to a grassland meadow by using goats to consume the invasive species,” says Kevin Montgomery, NAVFAC Washington environmental planning and conservation product line coordinator. “Goats are selective grazers; they prefer broad-leafed species over grasses and will eat all of the invasive plant species present in the designated areas.”

Broad-leafed non-native plants such as the Autumn Olive tree, Oriental Bittersweet and Multiflora Rose are a favorite target of the herd.

“Another benefit of the goats is that their digestive system is so strong that they break down the seeds of everything they are eating,” said Katharine Clark, Natural Resources Manager. “So [the plants] can’t reseed themselves, for the most part.”

The herd of 60 goats is one of a three part approach, which also includes spraying chemicals and mechanical mowing.

“This is a pilot project that, if successful, can be utilized to reduce herbicide use and mowing actions,” said Montgomery. “Thereby reducing chemical run-off and air emissions, while significantly improving the habitat.”



One goat of a herd of sixty has a hefty appetite for multiflora rose.

They have been held inside one acre electric fence-lines since May, and are moved as needed to prevent overgrazing. By mid-June, the herd had grazed more than 12 acres. A target of 25 acres by the first week of August has been set. At that time, the goats will be removed and the area will be tilled and planted with native warm-season grass seeds suitable for ground nesting birds.

“At the halfway point, NAVFAC Washington Environmental is pleased with the progress the goats are making at Greenbury Point,” said Blake Waller, Natural Resource Specialist. “This phase of the project has met our expectations and we will continue to use this as a learning experience for the entire region.”

“When we went to assess the eagle, it was capable of standing and walking and very alert, but it could not fly, which meant there had to be something wrong with it,” said Christensen. “You should never be able to walk right up to an eagle and it not fly away.”

Although injured, Christensen said the eagle was still a challenge to capture, due to environmental conditions.

“It was difficult to capture the eagle due to the forested and swampy conditions,” Christensen said. “It took [Chris and I] 30 to 45 minutes to capture it and bring it out of the woods to place in an animal carrier.”

Since there was a good chance the eagle would survive, Christensen and Griffin sent it for rehabilitation.

As part of the rehabilitation process, the injured eagle was brought to military veterans James Beamer Jr. and his wife Pearl, directors of Sacred Friends Inc., a non-profit organization that takes care of sick and injured wildlife, who

Teamwork Returns Eagle to the Sky

By: Tech. Sgt. April Wickes, 633rd Air Base Wing Public

First published in Joint Base Langley-Eustis News on July 22, 2013

He held the bird out in front of him and let her go; she flew low, gained height and continued to soar towards the James River. More than a month ago this eagle could not fly.

The eagle’s road to recovery and freedom would take a dedicated team of people, medication, flight training and more than a month of healing, but she would fly again.

The eagle was discovered May 18 on Fort Eustis, Va., by two members of the community who contacted Christopher Griffin, 733rd Security Forces Squadron game warden, when they spotted it lying on its back with a possible broken wing off of Harrison Road, near the James River.

Griffin notified Timothy Christensen, 733rd Civil Engineer Division installation natural resources manager, and they went to investigate.

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worked with veterinarian Dr. Tony Poutous from Midway Veterinary Hospital in Chesapeake, Va., to treat the eagle. “Thankfully this eagle didn’t have too many injuries,” Poutous said. “There was some bruising and contusions, and her beak was chipped off a little bit, but nothing was broken.”

Poutous prescribed antibiotics, rest and flight training for when the eagle began to recover. He then left the eagle in the care of the Beamers.

Pearl and James provided the eagle with a clean cage, fresh water, food and medication on a daily basis, hoping it would lead to a quick recovery.

“We injected antibiotics into the eagle’s food, because it’s less stressful on the animal to put the medication into the food,” Pearl said.

Once the eagle underwent flight training and was healthy enough to fly without difficulty, she could be released back into the wild.

According to James and Pearl, it was evident the eagle was ready to return to its home.

“The eagle acted like it would rather be someplace else than here,” said Pearl. “Every animal has a personality and each one’s different; this eagle was not friendly and that’s the way it should be.”

Everyone involved in the rehabilitation met at Fort Eustis on June 22 to set the eagle free in her natural environment, close to where she was found. However, there was one more thing to do before the eagle could take flight. She would need to be banded.

Bands are primarily used to study and track the movement, survival and behavior of birds. The eagle was measured and fitted with two bands by Reese Lukei Jr., volunteer bird bander. One band was a U.S. Geological Survey band and another purple band identified the eagle as being from the Chesapeake Bay region.

Now she was ready to fly.

Poutous ensured he held the eagle correctly so she could take off without any problems, then let her fly back into the wild. She flew off heading to the James River and out of sight. Moments later, she was spotted with a fish in her talons.

Many of the onlookers were excited to see this eagle’s flight and the return of its natural behavior. For James and Pearl, their role in the eagle’s recovery held a deeper significance.

“[My wife and I] were both in the military and we support all the troops,” said James. “My blood runs red, white and blue-to see this bird released on Fort Eustis was an added incentive.”



Dr. Tony Poutous, veterinarian, and James Beamer, wildlife rehabilitator, position an eagle to receive identification bands and measurements on Fort Eustis, Va., June 22, 2013. Poutous and Beamer helped rehabilitate the eagle so she could be released back into her natural environment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. April Wickes)



An eagle takes her first flight following rehabilitation on Fort Eustis, Va., June 22, 2013. The eagle was released back into her natural environment after spending more than a month unable to fly. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. April Wickes)



DOD/DON Chesapeake Bay Program Office
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Norfolk, VA 23511

Check it Out:

Stormwater Management & Water Conservation at Federal Facilities (Web-based)

Offered by the Federal Green Challenge, this webinar explores the topic of water at federal facilities, from stormwater regulations, the latest guidelines for water conservation, to requirements and tools, including EPA's new National Stormwater Calculator desktop application. Federal Facilities Environmental managers discuss their successes with stormwater rain gardens and a variety of water conservation projects. To view this previously recorded webinar's document, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/fgc/academy/pdf/2013-08-22-stormwater-conserv-fedfac.pdf>.

Greenbuild Conference and Expo 2013, 20-22 NOV 13, Philadelphia, PA

The Greenbuild Conference and Expo is dedicated to green building. The schedule for Greenbuild includes multiple education sessions, LEED workshops, and a summit on Materials and Human Health. For more information, go to: <http://greenbuildexpo.org/why/attend.aspx>.

Climate Strategies Forum, 14-17 OCT 13, Washington, DC
Sponsored by the Association of Climate Change Officers, the Forum will feature prominent leaders from across sectors in a plenary format, and a series of half-day bootcamps aligned with the core competencies. Plenary sessions will focus on climate and energy, and bootcamps will focus on topics including adaptation planning, implementing change management schemes, implementing a GHG management structure, and building a public-private partnership project. For more information, go to: <http://www.climatestrategiesforum.org/>.

Emergency Environmental Spill Response Training
Produced by NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration, this is an online training module for individuals looking to strengthen their knowledge of spills and their effect on the environment. The scenario describes and oil spill and directs you to the references and data that you can use to determine what natural resources are at risk. For more information, go to: <http://ohshub.com/free-online-training-emergency-environmental-spill-response/>.

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