



DoD marks Earth Day's 30th anniversary

By Linda D. Kozaryn,

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Recycling events, awareness festivals, base cleanups and other activities are slated throughout the military as the Department of Defense (DoD) marks the 30th anniversary of Earth Day April 22.

"DoD, like the rest of America, has gained great awareness and respect for the environment in the last 30 years," said Sherri Goodman, deputy undersecretary of defense for environmental security. "The department can be quite proud that as the largest industrial organization in the world, it recognizes the value and importance of environmental stewardship and is doing its share to make this a better place for all Americans."

"I'm very proud that the men and women in our military have really made a great contribution to our environmental stewardship," Goodman said. "By every measure of environmental performance, we in the Department of Defense are doing a good job, and we want to keep up that good work."

Since 1993, Goodman reported, DoD has reduced hazardous waste by 50 percent, toxic chemical releases by 65 percent and pesticide use by 32 percent. The department has completed cleanup at 60 percent of the department's active installations and formerly used defense sites. DoD also has reduced new notices of violations by 77 percent and increased solid waste recycling by 50 percent.

Goodman said she hopes DoD will continue to perform its military mission and meet readiness requirements, "and at the same time, be good stewards of the land, air and water that are a vital part of our nation and part of the reason we have a military to protect us."

Whether they're stationed at home or overseas, service members can help protect the environment every day, Goodman noted. "Every day is Earth Day," she said. She urged service members to participate in environmental events whenever there's an opportunity. America's service members can also serve as valuable role models and share their expertise with people in other countries, she said.

"We've had the benefit of environmental awareness for 30 years since the first Earth Day," she said. "Many other countries are only in the last decade becoming aware of the serious environmental challenges that they face."

Along with Earth Day events being held at military installations, DoD has planned two ceremonies in the nation's capital. First, DoD officials will announce the winners of the annual Environmental Security Awards at the Pentagon April 26. The second event is the cornerstone of this year's Earth Day celebration.

On May 1, DoD is slated to open the first federal fuel station to provide alternative fuel. Located near the Pentagon, the station will offer compressed natural gas known as "CNG," and "E-85," a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline.

"It will be one of the first fueling stations of its type in this area and it will service all federal vehicles,"

Goodman said. "So this is our contribution to cleaner fuels, to promote a better planet and cleaner environment."

The two alternative fuels significantly reduce air emissions and pollution as compared to gasoline, she noted. "These fuels are now more widely available, and by making them available at this fueling station, we'll be able to use more vehicles that run on compressed natural gas and on ethanol."

The Energy Policy Act of 1992 and a separate executive order require federal agencies to acquire alternative fuel vehicles to help reduce the nation's dependence on foreign sources of petroleum and reduce air emissions, Goodman said. "In the last year, DoD acquired almost 3,000 alternative-fueled vehicles," she said. "Today, we have about 10,000 alternative-fuel vehicles DoD-wide."

A lack of refueling infrastructure has been a major obstacle to meeting federal goals, DoD officials said. E-85, for example, has not been available in the Washington, D.C., area for several years.

Federal agencies are encouraged to use commercial refueling stations to the extent practicable. Where

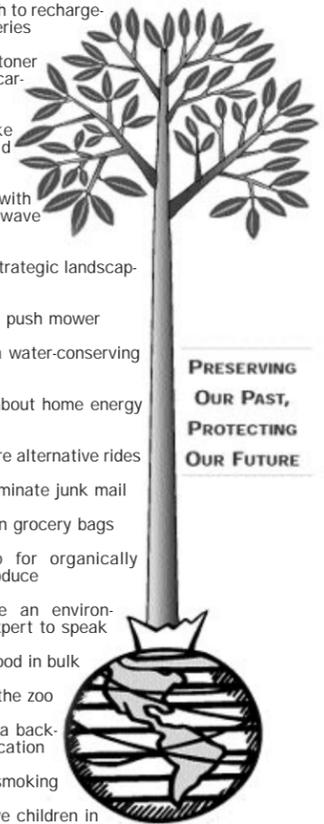
commercial stations are unavailable, federal officials try to partner with commercial providers and other federal agencies to make alternative fuel available.

In this case, DoD officials worked with the Marine Corps, Washington Headquarters Services, the Washington Gas Company, and the Navy Exchange Service to provide the CNG. On the ethanol side, the Department of Energy, the National Grain Growers Association and the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board provided resources.

NAVY Earth Day 2000 50 WAYS to Celebrate Navy Earth Day at Home

1. Get a tune-up
2. Recycle in your neighborhood
3. Use email
4. Create a composting site
5. Install efficient lighting
6. Insulate your home
7. Fix toilet & faucet leaks
8. Plant a tree
9. Buy recycled products
10. Use paper efficiently
11. Reuse disks & video tapes
12. Clean your air filters
13. Get a dry erase board
14. Build a recycled bird house
15. Take a Navy ship tour
16. Lead a nature hike
17. Participate in a volunteer project
18. Wash with biodegradable cleaners
19. Donate books & toys
20. Recycle packing material
21. Drive conservatively
22. Mulch - don't burn
23. Build with recycled lumber
24. Reuse "picnicware" & storage bags
25. Have film developed on CD
26. Attend a recycling technology demo
27. Upgrade to energy-saving appliances
28. Avoid using styrofoam
29. Install double curtains

30. Switch to rechargeable batteries
31. Refill toner & ink jet cartridges
32. Make recycled paper
33. Cook with a microwave oven
34. Add strategic landscaping
35. Use a push mower
36. Use a water-conserving car wash
37. Ask about home energy audit
38. Explore alternative rides
39. Exterminate junk mail
40. Return grocery bags
41. Shop for organically grown produce
42. Invite an environmental expert to speak
43. Buy food in bulk
44. Visit the zoo
45. Take a backwoods vacation
46. Quit smoking
47. Involve children in a poster contest
48. Write an article
49. Partner in a youth group project
50. Tour a recycling facility



Preserving our past, protecting our future

From Navy Earth Day Website

Preserving Our Past, Protecting Our Future is Navy's theme for the 30th Earth Day, a celebration that takes on greater importance as we enter the new millennium. "This theme was designed to focus our efforts on reaching out to young people while strengthening our efforts to protect people and the environment, now and in the future," said Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment Robert B. Pirie Jr.

While April 22 is the official Earth Day, Pirie encouraged Navy people to plan activities throughout the year to mark its commitment to environmental protection.

The first Earth Day was held in 1970. Worldwide, it has become a day of re-commitment to protecting the planet and encouraging sound environmental practices.

For most Navy Sailors, that means business as usual. Navy's mission is defending freedom of the seas and maintaining national security. This mission includes protection of the oceans, Navy lands, and all the natural resources within.

The Navy's manages about

two million acres of ecologically sensitive lands, including woodlands, wetlands, range lands, deserts, and wilderness.

Its aggressive program of sound environmental stewardship preserves native plants, animals and habitats found on its lands and at sea to maintain a unique and functioning ecosystem for future generations, while providing a realistic operating environment for Navy training and exercises. The Navy realizes that national security depends on more than ships, missiles and airplanes - national security is inextricably linked to the ecological health and integrity of our country and world.

Following are some of the Navy programs and activities that illustrate how Navy makes every day Earth Day.

- In collaboration with the San Diego Zoo, Navy started a breeding program for the San Clemente Loggerhead Shrike, a small bird that lives only on Navy lands on San Clemente Island. Hunting by rats, foxes, feral cats and other birds threatens the shrike with extinction. Under the Navy's care, the bird population is rebounding.

- In a pilot program to help protect birds in flight, Navy is using weather radar to monitor bird movements. Air traf-

fic controllers are being taught to recognize bird migration patterns so they can warn pilots.

- Navy is a leader in protecting the marine mammals it shares the oceans with. Programs include shipboard monitoring to protect whales and other marine mammals while vessels are in coastal waters or at sea; development and installation of special propeller shields to prevent injury to mammals while in shallow waters; research into the impacts of man-made acoustic sounds on whales and other mammals; establishment of sea turtle nesting sanctuaries and turtle egg nurseries; and protected sea grass beds for feeding the endangered manatee.

- The Navy destroyer USS Fletcher (DD 992) is testing a new paint that will not only last much longer, but will keep decks and interior spaces cooler under the hot summer sun so that less energy will be used to cool ship systems.

- To reduce the amount of non-degradable waste being sent to landfills, some Navy bases are now using cutlery and trash bags made with cornstarch. While regular plastic can take hundreds of years to decompose in landfills, cornstarch-based plastics can break down com-

pletely in 30 to 75 days.

- In Everett, Wash., Sailors from the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) volunteered their free time to dredge and fortify a creek bed to turn it into a salmon nursery.

Winter rains over the past several years had flooded the banks of the creek, spilling juvenile salmon onto the grass to die. The dredging created deep pools for refuge as well as breeding areas for insects, a favorite salmon food.

This Earth Day, more than 100,000 Sailors and family members will clean thousand of miles of ocean beaches, stream, lake and river shorelines, wetlands; parks and schoolyards; highways, reefs as part of the Navy's celebration of Earth Day 2000.

The Navy's Environmental Stewardship Flagship, sponsored by the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Logistics, encourages Navy commands to join efforts with local communities to educate youth and families on domestic and international environmental initiatives and to encourage communities to preserve, protect, restore and enhance the environment.

Check out the Navy Earth Day web site at <http://206.5.146.100/n45/need2000/home.htm>.

Earth Day 2000 events around Oahu

Hawaii Army National Guard, Youth for Environmental Service and Department of Land and Natural Resources

A partnership with the Hawaii Army National Guard, Youth for Environmental Service, and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to facilitate youth volunteers, age 14-18 in the conservation of Diamond Head State Monument. Youth and adult volunteers will clear debris and plant native Hawaiian plant species to help restore the park and prevent the spread of of invasive weeds.

Type of event - Clean-up/restoration
 Start date - April 22
 Starting time - 9 a.m.
 Ending time - 12 p.m.
 Location or address - Diamond Head Road, across from KCC parking lot
 Event organizer - Hawaii Army National Guard
 Email address - laisc@hi-armg.ngb.army.mil

Hawaii-Pacific Earth Year 2000 - Voyaging Into the 21st Century

Aloha means "hello", "goodbye", and a few things in between - on April 22, it will also mean "Earth Day".

Type of event - Fair
 Start date - April 22
 Location or address - 2325 Correa Road HIG 237
 City - Honolulu
 Event organizer - Island Earth Day -Earth Day Hawaii
 Email address - bmiller@hawaii.edu

Pearl Harbor Earth Day 2000 events

- Apr 20. Remove derelict fishing nets from Kaneohe Bay. Joint venture with the Marines, Navy, State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, Coast Guard.

- Apr 22. Sailors and family members will pick up debris from Tracks Beach and Makua Cave (along the Waianae Coast) from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

- Apr 22. Sailors and family members will remove debris from Rainbow Park (located along the bike path) from 8:30 a.m. to noon. This is a joint venture with the Aiea Community Association and Leeward Community College.

- For more information about any of the above events, contact Bill Roome at 471-5651.