



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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CHERRY POINT U.S. NAVAL AIR DEPOT FACILITY RECOGNIZED AS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD

RALEIGH – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources today recognized Cherry Point’s U.S. Naval Air Depot facility as one of three 2004 Environmental Stewards. The award recognizes the facility’s superior environmental performance, commitment to continued reduction of its environmental impact and demonstrated commitment to exceed compliance.

The state’s Environmental Stewardship Initiative, designed to promote and encourage superior environmental performance by North Carolina’s regulated community, began in 2002. An “Environmental Steward” is an organization that has demonstrated environmental leadership through its commitment to exemplary environmental performance beyond what is required by regulation. As an Environmental Steward, the organization commits to reporting annually on its environmental performance.

“The Naval Air Depot is the first federal facility to achieve the Steward recognition by the state of North Carolina,” said DENR Secretary William G. Ross Jr. “Through its vigorous and successful management of environmental issues, NADEP has raised the bar for all the state’s federal facilities. The Naval Air Depot facility serves as an example of strong leadership in environmental performance by setting and achieving environmental performance improvements, and proactive communication of environmental goals and impacts to its employees and the public.”

A 10-member advisory workgroup appointed by Ross provides program direction and implementation and recommended that the Navy’s Air Depot facility be selected as an Environmental Steward. Advisory workgroup membership consists of individuals from industry, industry trade groups, environmental and citizen nongovernmental organizations, government, academia and small business. (Advisory workgroup members are listed on p. 2.)

Reasons cited by the advisory workgroup in its selection of the Naval Air Depot facility include:

- Its integration of environmental management into its core business operations through multiple processes for internal communication of environmental issues, and driving environmental awareness through efficiency improvement and awards programs;
- Implementation of technologies to better track chemical use and monitor potential environmental impacts;
- Its use of local and regional publications to communicate environmental issues and success, and service on local and state environmental groups; and
- The establishment of aggressive goals that include substitution of chemicals to reduce air emissions and hazardous waste generation.

“The Naval Air Depot Cherry Point is very honored to have been selected as a 2004 Environmental Steward,” said Col. John D. Gumbel, NADEP commanding officer. “I attribute this achievement directly to the teamwork of the more than 4,000 employees at our facility. Employee commitment and dedication to environmental protection also have led to our registration to the ISO 14000 Environmental Management System standards.”

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The ESI program has two other levels of participation and recognition: Environmental Partner and Rising Environmental Steward. The Environmental Partner level is designed for adoption by a broad range of organizations that are interested in beginning the process of developing a systematic approach to improving their environmental performance. Partners must demonstrate a commitment to maintain compliance, commit to establishing an environmental management system and set environmental performance goals.

For more detailed information or to apply for the program, please visit the Environmental Stewardship Initiative Web site at <http://www.p2pays.org/esi> or contact John Burke of the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance at (336) 249-1480 or john.burke@ncmail.net.

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2004 Advisory Workgroup Members

Dr. Richard Andrews	UNC-Chapel Hill
Kristin Beck	Progress Energy
Jack Blackmer	Novozymes N.A.
Alan Briggs	Sustainable North Carolina
Jimmy Carter (chair)	DENR
Brig. Gen. Robert Dickerson	MCB Camp Lejune
Preston Howard Jr.	MCIC
Matt Jordan	City of Gastonia
Mike Nelson	Conservation Council of N.C.
Jane Preyer	Environmental Defense
Larry Spence	Ready Mixed Concrete