

## Fiscal Year 2012 CNO Environmental Awards Goes Green Via Innovative VTC Ceremony

Efforts of Fiscal Year 2012 Winners Highlight Navy's Environmental Commitment

**ON JULY 11, 2013** winners of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Environmental Awards program were recognized via a Video Teleconference (VTC) ceremony held at the Pentagon. This was the first time the awards ceremony had been held via VTC, rather than an in-person ceremony, since the awards were established in 1994.

"It shows that sustainability comes in a lot of different forms and it happens around the world around the clock," said Vice Admiral (VADM) Philip Cullom, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics, during the virtual award ceremony.

The annual CNO Environmental Awards program honors military and civilian men and women for their contributions towards the Navy's environmental stewardship mission. The awards are usually presented at the U.S. Navy

Memorial in Washington, D.C., but this year's fiscal climate forced event organizers to think outside the box. The VTC ceremony significantly reduced the annual event's environmental footprint and saved more than \$200,000.

"It's... really environmentally smart, so we're trying to live it as well as just talk about what we've been doing, affecting and changing the way we do our business in an entirely different way," said Cullom. Eighteen participant sites dialed in from around the world to be individually recognized during the half hour ceremony.

VADM Cullom and Rear Admiral (RADM) Kevin Slates, Director, Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, commended the winners for their sustained commitment to environmental excellence. RADM Slates announced the winners and gave a brief summary of each of their achievements, highlighting the diversity of the Navy's environmental program.

The awards recognize exceptional environmental stewardship by Navy ships, installations, and people and acknowledges organizations, individuals, and teams.

Environmental subject matter experts and representatives from environmental non-governmental organizations reviewed nominations from commands around the world. Thirty winners in 11 award categories were selected.

Winners from around the world dialed into the VTC ceremony. RADM Kevin Slates announced winners and briefly described their achievements.





CNO Admiral Greenert (center) congratulated the winners of the FY 2012 Environmental Awards. Also attending the ceremony, were (left to right), Mr. Ralph Cantral (Director, Coastal America Partnership/Senior Advisor to NOAA); Mr. Donald Schregardus (DASN (Environment)); Mr. Roger Natsuhara (Principal Deputy ASN (Energy, Installations, & Environment)); VADM Philip Cullom; RADM Kevin Slates; Mr. John Conger (Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment); and Ms. Anne Rathmell Davis (Deputy Commander/Executive Director, CNIC).

Competition categories for FY12 included natural resources conservation (large installation); cultural resources management (installation and individual/team); environmental quality (industrial installation, overseas installation, and small ship); sustainability (non-industrial installation and individual/team); environmental restoration (installation); environmental excellence in weapon system acquisition; small program (individual/team); and environmental planning (team).

CNO Admiral Jonathan Greenert congratulated the winners for their continuing dedication to improve environmental readiness and conservation efforts and reiterated that the VTC ceremony in no way undermines the winners' tremendous achievements.

"What you do is amazingly important," said CNO Admiral Jonathan Greenert, addressing the award winners. "You ensure that we can train, and that we have good relation-

ships with our neighbors, civic groups and governments. We have to do this right, show our responsibility, and take care of the environment."

A complete list of winners along with their submission packages can be found at this link: <http://greenfleet.dodlive.mil/environment/awards/cno-environmental-awards/fy12-winners>. For more news from the Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division, visit <http://greenfleet.dodlive.mil/environment>. 

*Photos by MC1 Peter D. Lawlor.*

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## Panama City's Shoreline Restoration Project Recognized for Partnership Efforts

Environmental Division Wins 2013 EPA's Gulf Guardian Award

**THE NAVAL SUPPORT** Activity (NSA) Panama City Public Works Department Environmental Division was recently awarded the 2013 Gulf Guardian Award for their restoration efforts along the installation shoreline. Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Gulf of Mexico program, the award recognizes environmental excellence in preserving healthy and resilient coasts along the Gulf of Mexico. This is the first time a Navy Region Southeast installation has won this coveted award.

Completed in July 2011, the project installed a living shoreline along 2,800 feet of NSA Panama City's shoreline.

Oyster reefs, 175 of them, were constructed with recycled oyster shells to dissipate incoming wave energy from the bay helping to protect the 22,000 salt marsh grasses that were then planted along the shoreline.

The project addressed years of erosion from natural and man-made causes along the NSA Panama City St. Andrew Bay shoreline, utilizing this living shoreline technique versus armored coastline of rip-rap or concrete sea walls. The Environmental Division took the initiative to help protect one of the few remaining pristine bays with significant sea grass beds remaining in northwest Florida. In doing so, juvenile habitats and foraging grounds for local fish and other estuarine species of St. Andrew Bay and the Gulf of Mexico are enhanced and protected from contaminants.

The Environmental Division received the first place award in the partnership category as they partnered with the local community hosting 28 events from October 2010 to July 2011 cleaning up the shoreline, installing oyster reefs and planting the grasses. Volunteers ranged from high



Proper grass planting techniques are demonstrated for NSA Panama City personnel and environmental science students from two local high schools by Florida Department of Environmental Protection Ecosystem Restoration Specialists during a Living Shoreline Restoration project event. The Living Shoreline project restored 2,800 linear-feet of shoreline at three locations on base, installed 175 oyster reefs utilizing recycled oyster shell, and planted 22,000 donated marsh grasses. 2.5 acres of estuarine habitat were created with 2,840 volunteer labor hours at 28 events during a 9-month period.

MC2 David Didier



Wading birds enjoy a tasty treat at the newly installed Living Shoreline at NSA Panama City. The installation found an innovative way to address years of erosion along the shoreline of St. Andrew Bay, one of the few remaining pristine bays with significant sea grass beds in northwest Florida. A Living Shoreline protects and enhances juvenile habitats for the fish that inhabit the bay and for birds that utilize the shallow foraging grounds.

Jonnie Smallman

school students in advanced science classes, volunteers from local environmental organizations, Navy and Air Force military and civilian personnel, plus 100 students from eight universities that volunteered as an alternative Spring Break. Over 600 volunteers donated an astounding total of 2,840 hours in support of the project.

A model for other military and private landowners, this project resulted in the Environmental Division receiving the 2012 Secretary of Navy award for Natural Resource Conservation for Small Installations. “For a five member environmental staff to maintain daily compliance yet facilitate such a large collaborative effort to restore more than 20 percent of its shoreline sets a good example to larger military installations. This self-sustaining project was not compliance driven but driven by the imagination and support of its numerous ambitious



partners” said Mike Clayton, NSA Panama City’s Environmental Program Manager.

The Gulf Guardian Awards were created in 2000 to recognize extraordinary environmental stewardship towards protecting the Gulf of Mexico in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. The awards recognize efforts within the 31 States that comprise the Gulf of Mexico watershed and recognize successful cooperative projects between the U.S., Mexico and the Caribbean.

For more information about the Gulf Guardian Awards, visit [www.epa.gov/gmpo/gulfguard/about-ggawards.html](http://www.epa.gov/gmpo/gulfguard/about-ggawards.html).

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