



June 1999



# The Army's Chesapeake Review

## State of the Bay

### Addressing Current Water Quality

At the Implementation Meeting on May 20, 1999, David Jasinski from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources presented the findings to date for 1999 concerning dissolved oxygen levels and flow conditions in the Chesapeake Bay.

According to the data collected, dissolved oxygen levels in the bottom of the Bay are less than 4 milligrams per liter, and no major phytoplankton blooms have been recorded yet. This could be attributed to the fact that river flow into the Chesapeake Bay has been consistently below average since August 1998. This lower flow results in fewer nutrients entering the system. With fewer nutrients entering the Chesapeake Bay, there is less phytoplankton, resulting in less bottom-water oxygen depletion. Low levels of dissolved oxygen near the bottom of the Chesapeake show this and are indicative of good water quality.

Decreased flow also allows zones of higher salinity to move farther up into the Bay. Surface- and bottom-water fish are more mobile and can move to better habitat. This is a concern for benthic (immobile) communities because, if they are unable to adapt, they will not survive under the existing conditions.



Volunteers from the Youth Advisory Council stencil storm drains at Glen Haven Annex and Walter Reed Army Medical Center Main Post in an effort to promote pollution prevention.

### Installations Celebrate Earth Day

Army Installations located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed celebrated Earth Day 1999 with various environmental programs.

Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) joined other tenant organizations for the Harford County Earth Day celebration, held in Havre de Grace, Maryland, on April 17. Seven of the 30 exhibits were from APG organizations. Three APG tenant organizations held additional Earth Day events. On April 14, the U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC) helped children at Edgewood Elementary School understand the importance of environmental awareness by participating in the school's annual Earth Day event. Personnel from the APG Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment worked with sixth-grade students at Fallston Middle School in Fallston, Maryland, to decorate 1,000 shopping bags with pollution prevention slogans for distribution at the APG Commissary. The U.S.

Army Ordnance Center and School held its Earth Day program on April 22, featuring many exhibits on Pollution Prevention.

Carlisle Barracks celebrated Earth Day with several activities. On April 27, the child development center held the opening of a Butterfly Garden that was attended by approximately 50 children of civilians and military personnel. The staff at the Barracks Crossing, an arts and crafts center at Carlisle Barracks, helped children create butterfly books and showed youngsters from Youth Services how to make art from recycled products. An Eagle Scout project was also held during Earth Week in which approximately 20 scouts and other volunteers cleaned the entire Letrot stream.

Fort A.P. Hill celebrated Earth Day 1999 with two riparian forest buffer projects. A total of 120 tree seedlings were planted along the shorelines of two ponds at Fort A.P. Hill. Volunteers for the projects included the local Madison Ruritan Club and high school students enrolled in the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School.

Fort Belvoir held two events during Earth Week. The installation

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# Earth Day

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held a rededication ceremony at the Jackson Miles Abbott Wildlife Refuge on Earth Day. The refuge was improved to include trails and fishing piers that meet American Disabilities Act Standards. In addition, the fishing piers were constructed with recycled plastic materials. A cleanup at the Accotink Bay Wildlife Refuge was held on April 17. A total of 50 volunteers participated in the event, including the Fort Belvoir Garden Club and the local Junior Girl Scout troops, who planted a Butterfly Garden on the Accotink Bay trail.

Fort Detrick held a memorial planting in memory of Roy Culler at the child development center on April 22. Mr. Culler was an employee of Fort Detrick and a member of the Forestry Board, the organization that donated the tree. That evening, the environmental office participated in a Kid Affair, with a display that featured projects that the fire department and environmental, safety, and health offices are implementing. Trees for Frederick provided free seedlings and plants for the Kid Affair.

Fort Eustis and its sub-installation, Fort Story, promoted environmental awareness activities through Earth Day displays, which highlighted recycling and pollution prevention. A recycling center was dedicated at Fort Eustis, and a tree planting ceremony was held at Fort Story. In addition, the Fort Eustis Environmental and Natural Resource Division participated in an Earth Day

Grocery Bag Project.

On May 19, Major General William Lynch, the Adjutant General for Pennsylvania, presented four awards to personnel at Fort Indiantown Gap for their leadership and initiative on environmental issues.

Fort George G. Meade promoted awareness of the post's various environmental programs through three informational tables. They informed people on how to recycle and dispose of hazardous waste, and they gave environmental educational materials to area children. The environmental office surveyed civilian employees, soldiers, and their family members about the recycling program. In addition, on April 22, 60 volunteers planted 300 trees on the installation. The volunteers included Boy Scouts and Fort Meade residents.

Fort Monroe celebrated Earth Day with a community planting. The environmental office and roads and grounds personnel teamed with local Girl Scouts and other volunteers on March 27 to plant approximately 250 trees and 10,000 American Beachgrass plants at various places on post.

The Fort Myer Military Community celebrated Earth Day with an exhibit and a luncheon. The environmental division created an exhibit which highlighted its various programs. The division also held a luncheon on April 22 at the Fort Myer Tri-Services Dining Facility, where items such as riparian forest buffer salads were served. A total of 400 people enjoyed these Earth Day activities.

Letterkenny Army Depot conducted a public awareness campaign throughout the installation during March and April. In those two months, the depot newspaper featured informational items promoting Army environmentalism for installation employees, retirees, and the local community.

Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) celebrated Earth Week with their "Earth Wellness = Human Wellness" theme. Three environmental exhibits were set up at WRAMC and featured specific environmental information pertaining to WRAMC and its tenant activities. Environmental education presentations were made at the child development center and community center on April 20. On April 17, WRAMC Environmental Chief, Lieutenant Colonel Martha Sanders, and volunteers from the Youth Advisory Council stenciled storm drains at the Glen Haven Annex and on the WRAMC Main Post in an effort to promote pollution prevention and raise public consciousness about the quality of surface water runoff entering storm drains and into tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay.

USAEC supports Army installations worldwide with environmental issues. For Earth Day, the center develops an Army-wide theme, creates a poster, develops an organizers guide, and maintains a web site to help event planners at installations promote environmental awareness. View the USAEC web site at <http://www.aec.army.mil> or contact the USAEC Public Affairs Office at (401) 436-1267 for Earth Day 2000 ideas.



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## FAC Highlights

### Important FACts

The Federal Agencies Committee (FAC) met on April 1, 1999, at the Maryland State Highway Administration Statewide Operations Center. The meeting was dedicated to transportation issues, particularly the relationship between transportation, land use, and environmental planning. Mr. Eugene Conti, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) opened the meeting by noting that transportation is the artery that links communities, states, and our nation together. He also announced that the Transportation Equity Act (TEA)-21 has just received significant funding increases and USDOT is focusing on the following goals:

- Using the additional funding for the Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Pilot Program and a job access program.
- Using the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) to improve safety, enhance personal mobility and convenience, increase operational efficiency, reduce energy consumption, and enhance economic productivity.
- Working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and General Services Administration (GSA) on an Executive Order to focus the public's attention on vanpooling, telecommuting, and public transportation.

Mr. Conti and Mr. Peter Stokely, U.S. EPA Region III, spoke of the regional efforts occurring in the Washington Metropolitan area. By the year 2020, the population of the metropolitan area is expected to increase by 50 percent and the vehicle-miles traveled will increase by 80 percent. Efforts to help deal with this steady increase include the following:

- Putting together a finance package to repair the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

- Evaluating options to improve the Dulles corridor.
- Evaluating the option of separating freight and passenger rail traffic in the region.
- Trying to reduce the amount of truck traffic in the region.
- Adding new lanes to the Capital Beltway.
- Building a new highway to link Fredericksburg and Leesburg, Virginia.

Altogether, eleven new roads are proposed to be built in the next 20 years.

On January 27, 1999, Federal and state transportation and environmental executives from the mid-Atlantic region met for the TEA-21 Executive Summit. A cooperative agreement was developed that identifies transportation project goals for this task force. Mr. Rich Pepino, U.S. EPA Region III, explained that the main goal of the task force is to develop an integrated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and permitting process that ensures timely, cost-effective development of environmentally sound transportation plans and projects. The emphasis will be on the use of concurrent, rather than sequential, development and review of plans and programs. Two announcements were made at the FAC meeting:

- A site assessment will be taking place in Portsmouth, Virginia to address the disposal or use of dredge spoils in the area.
- A site assessment was conducted at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center on March 17, 1999. The assessment focused on storm water management, low impact development, and conservation landscaping.

## IC Highlights

### Meeting Announcements

The Implementation Committee (IC) meeting was held on May 20, 1999, at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis, Maryland.

Ms. Carolyn Watson, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) and Living Resources Subcommittee Chair, presented a three-part wetlands net-gain goal for the Chesapeake Bay. Part one is to continue "no net loss" of wetlands by implementing wetland regulatory programs. Part two is to achieve a net gain in wetlands acreage and function through restoration. Part three is to use permanent easements, land trusts, and other permanent means and apply landscape planning and management at the local watershed level to prevent further wetland losses.

The Living Resources Subcommittee presented its recommendations to the IC on the Chesapeake Bay Basin Land Cover Monitoring Program. To achieve Chesapeake Bay Program policy requirements for tracking wetlands and riparian forest buffers, information from multiple data sources needs to be integrated to provide the complete picture.

Ms. Elizabeth Fellows, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, presented the latest on source water issues. Source water assessments are required to be conducted in each state, but states are not required to protect source water.

After reviewing the presentations by the committees on Chesapeake 2000 that were given at the April IC meeting, the Chesapeake 2000 Planning Committee requested specific recommendations and language for a new agreement.

## Bay Committees Discuss Cheapeake 2000

On April 18, 1999, the entire Implementation Committee (IC) meeting was devoted to Chesapeake 2000: Renewing the Bay Agreement. Chesapeake 2000 refers to the effort to renew the Chesapeake Bay Agreement and update priority goals and commitments for the Chesapeake Bay Program. Chesapeake 2000, also called C2K, will be carried out by the Bay Program in a partnership with its advisory committees, subcommittees, local governments, and key stakeholders. The Army Installations are considered partners in this effort and will be relied on to carry out the efforts set by the Chesapeake Bay Program.

The final recommendations for C2K will be adopted at the Executive Council meeting in the year 2000. The Agreement is being updated because many of the original goals and commitments set for the year 2000 and either have been met or are outdated. Issues that are being addressed for inclusion into C2K include wetlands; governance; living resources; water quality; population, growth, and development; public access; public information; education; participation; and toxics. The following goals and recommendations regarding these various issues were discussed and may be incorporated into C2K.

The Living Resources Subcommittee presented the recommended qualifiable goals for net gain of wetlands. It is the goal of the States of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, and the District of Columbia to go above and beyond the regulatory goal. A total net gain of 1,007 acres of wetland was recommended for the region. New goals to be included in the C2K Agreement regarding living resources include incorporating a far-reaching oyster restoration goal, establishing a goal for the number of multispecies fishery management plans that need

to be developed by a certain date, and increasing water clarity in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to meet submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat requirements in areas that currently do not meet the requirements.

The Implementation Committee presented recommendations regarding provisions. They recommended that local governments be incorporated into the Chesapeake Bay Program structure.

The Toxics Subcommittee presented recommendations regarding toxics. They plan to continue using science to improve their understanding of the link between loads, levels, and toxic impacts so that they can better manage progress toward an overall toxics reduction strategy goal. The goal will be directed toward developing specific actions to address chemical contaminant loads originating from urban and suburban runoff, agricultural runoff, and atmospheric deposition, and sharing information with community watersheds so that communities can be involved.

More than 40 recommendations were made by the Nutrients Subcommittee on water quality and other nutrient-related tasks. These include, but are not limited to, continuing implementation and tracking of the riparian forest goal (2010 miles by 2010), restoring watersheds to preserve and protect wetlands and open space, encouraging design techniques that filter urban runoff before it reaches open water; and encouraging soil conservation practices on croplands beyond 2002.

An internal assessment of C2K regarding public access and population, growth, and development is being conducted by the Land Growth and Stewardship Subcommittee with assistance from the Local Government Advisory Committee. The overall goal regarding population, growth, and development is to "promote sustainable development in the Chesapeake Watershed." Critical areas of focus efforts include

urban/older suburban areas, new suburban/developing areas, and rural areas.

Public access is an important part of the C2K Agreement. Improved opportunities for public access to the shores and waters are essential if public awareness and support are to be maintained and increased. The first goal is to improve and maintain access to the Bay, including beaches, parks, and forested lands. The second goal is to secure shoreline acreage to maintain open space and provide opportunities for passive recreation. The third goal is to secure necessary acreage to protect unique habitat and environmentally sensitive areas. The fourth goal, to improve opportunities for recreational and commercial fishing, has been met.

The public information, education, and participation provisions of the 1987 Agreement were analyzed by the Communications and Education Subcommittee. Its first goal is to promote a greater understanding among citizens about the Chesapeake Bay system, the problems facing it, and the policies and program designed to help it, which will foster individual responsibility and stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay resources. The second goal is to provide increased opportunities for citizens to participate in decisions and programs affecting the Chesapeake Bay.

When the draft C2K Agreement is completed, it will be distributed to Army personnel for review and comment.