

Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Infrastructure



Areas of responsibilities:

Environmental Restoration
Natural Resources Management
Cultural Resources Management
Hazardous Materials Management
Tribal Relations
Coastal Zone Management
Pollution Prevention
Chemicals of Emerging Concern
Operational Range Assessment
Hazardous Waste Management
Integrated Solid Waste Management
Hazardous Materials Management
Environmental Compliance
Environmental Planning
Military Munitions Response
Overseas Environmental Management

Environment Program

What We Do

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) Environment Program enables the mission by protecting human health and the environment through compliance with environmental laws and regulations, and ensuring access to natural and built infrastructure. The Program's subject matter experts manage over 284 public drinking water systems, 240 air quality permits, and engage with 330 federally-recognized Native American tribes.

Primary Pillars of Support

The Environment Program is divided into three separate pillars or programs of support - compliance, conservation, and cleanup.

- **Compliance** - Ensures our operations comply with applicable environmental laws, regulations, policy, executive orders, and environmental provisions in applicable international agreements in order to continue the mission unimpeded.
- **Conservation** - Includes the Natural and Cultural Resources Management programs and ensures the Air Force protects and preserves the health, diversity and productivity of our natural resources upon which we operate. Through the application of sound management practices, the Conservation programs also ensure that the Air Force balances its obligation to preserve and protect its culturally significant resources while meeting its military mission and goals.
- **Cleanup** - Protect human health and the environment; return land to mission use; use innovative contracting and technical approaches for accelerated cleanup; and comply with regulatory requirements and laws.

Did You Know...

The U.S. Air Force is trustee to over 9 million acres of land, including forests, prairies, deserts, wetlands, and coastal habitats?



We preserve, protect, and conserve natural and cultural resources. We manage 598,000 acres of forest, 266,000 acres of wetlands, and maintain 284 water systems serving over one million Air Force personnel and 123 threatened or endangered species across 54 installations.

Accomplishments & Initiatives

Mission & Environment Sustainment

The DAF is developing the first permanent international site for F-35 aircraft in Europe. In preparation for the advanced aircraft's arrival in November 2021, Royal Air Force (RAF) Lakenheath required a new electrical feed and 15 megawatt substation to power the facilities essential for the F-35 beddown. To enable the power upgrade, RAF Lakenheath drove a \$102,000 project to mitigate environmental impacts, secure a license from Host Nation regulators, and translocate the rare plant Perennial Knawel found within the footprint of the new substation. Efforts protected over 200 Perennial Knawel, a species so rare that 95% of the global population is found at RAF Lakenheath, ensuring project timelines critical to the \$33 million power upgrade and \$825 million of F-35 beddown construction were met.



Water Enterprise Tracking System

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center deployed the Air Force Water Enterprise Tracking (WET) system for permit tracking and monitoring. The WET system is a web-based module within the Air Force network-approved Air Program Information Management System application, enabling bases to track their permits while providing key information to leadership at all levels. There are over 400 Clean Water Act and overseas equivalent permits in the WET system, each containing many conditions required 100% of the time for full compliance.



Top left: the Perennial Knawel. Top right: an F-35. Bottom left: Water sampling. Bottom right: a longleaf pine forest.

Safe Drinking Water

The Office of the Secretary of Defense required US Military Components to test their finished drinking water for two synthetic chemicals of emerging concern called Perfluorooctanesulfonic (PFOS)/Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) at all installations where DoD is the water supplier (including overseas). If the test result for individual or combined concentrations of PFOS and PFOA were greater than the EPA lifetime health advisory (HA) of 70 parts per trillion, Components were to follow the EPA lifetime HA recommended actions including retesting, communication with drinking water officials, proper notification to consumers, and evaluation of options to lower PFOS/PFOA concentrations. At all Air Force enduring locations where drinking water was tested, no Air Force personnel or their families are drinking water with PFOS/PFOA levels above the EPA lifetime HA. Base bioenvironmental engineers and medical personnel continue to sample and monitor water supplies on a quarterly basis in accordance with Air Force water sampling and testing protocols for trend analysis to determine if any further action is needed.

The Department of the Air Force Environment Program's mission is to ensure our Airmen, Guardians, and their families are safe and healthy while they fulfill their mission uninterrupted in the environment where the Air Force trains, lives, and works, with continued access to land, airspace & other resources to support operations, while minimizing liabilities.

For more information:

 safe.hq.af.mil/environment

