

Scorecard Department of Defense



Department of Defense

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About the Department of Defense (DOD)

The enduring mission of the Department of Defense (DOD) is to provide combat-credible military forces needed to deter war and protect the security of our nation.

This page provides information on how **the Department of Defense (DOD)** is working to advance environmental justice for communities across America. It is part of Phase One of the Biden-Harris Administration's Environmental Justice Scorecard.

Environmental and Civil Rights Protection

DOD's Highlights

DOD works to deliver environmental and health benefits to disadvantaged communities. For example, Fort Carson Air Program Managers work closely with local communities, non-governmental organizations, and government advisory councils on topics related to air quality in these communities. .

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Base Myer-Henderson Hall participates in multi-agency working groups to provide these communities with infrastructure investments. West Point's long and collaborative history of resource management with Tribal Nations and fair approach to development has resulted in a low risk of disproportionate impacts to traditionally underserved communities. Fort Stewart promoted free COVID vaccine clinics to ensure such communities had access to vaccines.

The Army National Guard created the Southeast Regional Native American Consultations with six Tribal Nations participating in seven states, the Arkansas and Texas Army National Guard State Consultation with five Tribal Nations participating, and the Oregon Army National Guard Consultations with one Tribal Nation.

Federal agencies are advancing environmental justice by carrying out their responsibilities under the law to identify and address disproportionate and adverse public health and environmental, climate-related, and cumulative impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns. Agencies are working to ensure that all communities experience the protection of our country's bedrock environmental laws. The following information reflects some of the environmental and civil rights work **the Department of Defense (DOD)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

For more information, please visit [DOD's Equity Plan](#) .

National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider and disclose the environmental, health, and community impacts of certain decisions or actions before taking them. Environmental reviews help ensure the public is informed about potential actions, and give communities an opportunity to participate in the government's decision-making process. Environmental reviews also ensure that federal agencies consider ways to protect and enhance public health and the environment, and advance environmental justice in their decision-making. The following information highlights some work **the Department of Defense (DOD)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- DOD and Military Departments provide policies and guidance to address environmental justice: the Army's policy can be found at 32 CFR Part 651, the Navy's policy can be found at 32 CFR part 775, and the Air Force's policy can be found at 32 CFR Part 989.
- **3** project modification(s) where environmental justice concerns were raised during the NEPA process
 - The Navy selected multiple transportation options for the Pearl Harbor dry dock to help manage traffic, which minimizes impacts on historically overburdened communities.

- The Navy adjusted the Fallon modernization project to respond to several Tribal concerns.

Centering Environmental Justice in Decision-Making

Federal agencies work to ensure that the voices, perspectives, and lived experiences of communities are heard and reflected in the priorities, policies, and decision-making of the federal government. Agencies also take steps to respect Tribal sovereignty and ensure government-to-government consultation on federal policies. The following information highlights work **the Department of Defense (DOD)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022 to center environmental justice in its decision-making.

Consultation and Partnership with Tribal Nations

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- DOD began incorporating environmental justice considerations in its consultation policies: The DOD Instruction (DODI) 4710.02, DOD Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes, and DODI 4710.03, Consultation with Native Hawaiian Organizations. For updates to DODI 4710.02, the Department hosted Tribal leaders in virtual, regional consultations in September 2022. Relevant polices also include the June 2014 Army Policy Guidance, Tribal Consultation; the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Instruction 11010.14B from January 2019; and the Air Force policy outlined within the Cultural Resource program policy.
- **More than 500** Tribal Consultation(s) related to environmental justice from January 2021 to September 2022
 - Each DOD installation with significant need has a Remedial Advisory Board and conducts Tribal consultation as part of compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and Executive Order 13175.
 - The Army National Guard in several states has established annual, biannual, or quarterly in-person consultations to efficiently bring together Army National Guard (ARNG) leadership and Tribal leadership.
 - Oregon Army National Guard, via the State's Oregon Military Department, entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation for an ongoing habitat restoration project.

Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

Since the start of the Biden-Harris Administration, federal agencies have been working to embed environmental justice into all aspects of their work, including by implementing [Executive Order 12898](#) and [Executive Order 14008](#) . The following information shares some of the work **the Department of Defense (DOD)** has done from January 2021 to September 2022 to institutionalize environmental justice.

Phase One Scorecard metrics and highlights include:

- **Has** an environmental justice strategic plan that **has not been** updated in the past 5 years



- **2** tool(s) or resources to advance environmental justice
- **At least 640** staff that work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity
- **40** internal training(s) for staff on environmental justice
- **1** new or strengthened office(s) on environmental justice
- **3** new or strengthened internal working group(s), steering committee(s), council(s) on environmental justice
- The Army, the Navy, and the Air Force collaborated with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in a Region III pilot study that supports creating guidance to incorporate environmental justice into the Superfund process. Each DOD installation with a significant need has a Remedial Advisory Board and conducts Tribal consultation consistent with the National Historic Preservation Act and Executive Order 13175.

DOD's Highlights

The Army created a cultural resources webpage with information on Tribal regulations and policy, a new template for Tribal consultation guidance, and a standardized process for completing compliance with section 5 and 6 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), with the ARNG NAGPRA working group. The Army, the Navy, and the Air Force have incorporated environmental justice into their NEPA procedures. DOD has identified environmental justice as a key item in its Climate Adaptation Plan and Sustainability Plan.

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