NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY

FY19 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award: Environmental Restoration

Narrative Summary

Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) is comprised of three major operating facilities: Point Mugu (4,500 acres), Port Hueneme (1,600 acres), and San Nicolas Island (13,370 acres). NBVC also maintains operations at remote sites including: San Miguel Island (9,370 acres), Santa Cruz Island, Fort Hunter Liggett and Laguna Peak. Point Mugu and Port Hueneme are both located along the Pacific coastline in southwestern Ventura County, California, adjacent to the cities of Oxnard and Camarillo. Several of the islands and outlying sites are remote from NBVC. San Nicolas Island (SNI) and San Miguel Island (SMI) lay in the Santa Barbara Channel, 75 miles southwest and 100 miles west of Los Angeles respectively. Fort Hunter Liggett is 200 miles to the northwest. Although slightly less than 30,000 acres in total size, NBVC includes some of the highest quality habitat in California including the largest remaining coastal salt marsh estuary in Southern California. SMI and SNI are the first and second most densely populated seal and sea lion rookeries in North America, hosting more than 250,000 between them during breeding season. The Regulatory Community and the general public have recognized NBVC as leaders in conservation, managing and sustaining more than 2,200 acres of wetlands, 57.5 miles of coastline, 3,400 acres of dunes, 1100+ prehistoric archeological sites, and 12 federally endangered species.

NBVC provides airfield, seaport and base support services to fleet operating forces and shore activities. The over 80 tenant commands and departments located at NBVC employ more than 20,060 military and civilian personnel, supporting the diverse missions of the Department of Defense. These tenant commands support both Fleet and Fighter, including three warfare centers: Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division; Naval Surface Warfare Center Port Hueneme Division; and Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center.

The NBVC Restoration Program has performed restoration activities at 355 Sites since its inception in the mid-1980s. Sites include former landfills, waste disposal areas, leaking storage tanks, industrial areas, aircraft crash locations, utility systems, training areas, smalls arms ranges, bombing ranges, drainage areas, and burial pits. Contaminants include petroleum, oils, lubricants, solvents, polychlorinated biphenyls, metals, pesticides, firefighting compounds, radioactive material, metals, and unexploded ordnance. The Restoration Program has been successful for many years with site closure achieved for over 82% of all sites. Nine sites achieved response complete status during FY17 and FY18. Significant recent and ongoing successes achieved include:

- Accelerated cleanup at the former Gas Mask Training Area (GMTA) resulted in **$9.9M in cost savings** and **returned 30 acres of land for future mission use**.
- Use of adaptive management techniques achieved final cleanup of a methyl tertiary butyl ether groundwater plume **22 years ahead of schedule** and resulted in **$5.5 in cost savings**.
- Use of a purpose built mobile chemical agent containment hood used at the GMTA Site reduced the project’s exclusion zone distance from 500’ to 0’, allowing hundreds of military families to remain in their homes during the 18-month long remediation project.
- Use of an innovative in-situ chemical oxidation remediation technology sequentially after bioremediation resulted in achieving site closure for a recalcitrant chlorinated solvent groundwater plume.
- Partnership with Calleguas Creek Watershed Committee results in projected **$10.2M cost savings over the next 20 years** for the preferred alternative for Point Mugu IR Site 11, the Mugu Lagoon.
- Development of a wetlands restoration procedure to create synthetic wetlands sediment resulted in the **successful restoration of one acre of wetlands** available for wetlands mitigation banking.

The NBVC Restoration Program processes of adaptive management, continuous identification of efficiencies, and creation of beneficial partnerships create the foundation to meet and exceed the Department of the Navy requirements for environmental restoration. The partnerships with the regulatory community, public stakeholders, and consultants are the framework where ideas and trust are put into action for continued success of the Environmental Restoration Program in support of the Naval Base Ventura County for today and into the future.