Defending Our National Treasure:  
A Department of Defense Chesapeake Bay Restoration Partnership 1998–2004

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This book would not have been possible without the concerted efforts of a myriad of dedicated and motivated people who work everyday to improve the quality of the environment throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed, particularly the environmental staff of the Department of Defense Chesapeake Bay installations. The activities that take place at the various Department of Defense installations are generally not visible to the public. This book is intended to highlight some of the accomplishments by Department of Defense personnel and provide context to the activities that are occurring within one of the the largest landholders in the watershed.

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The Department of Defense is one of the largest Federal landholders in the Chesapeake Bay watershed with over 420,000 acres spread among 68 installations. The lands, waters and air of the Chesapeake Bay are essential for the Department of Defense to achieve its military training and readiness mission. Department of Defense installations strive to integrate military mission with environmental stewardship to ensure environmental improvement of the Bay. This report, *Defending Our National Treasure: A Department of Defense Chesapeake Bay Restoration Partnership 1998–2004*, provides a showcase of the recent efforts of Department of Defense civilians, soldiers, and their families that contribute to Bay restoration.

As reflected in the recent Department of Defense Directive “Environment, Safety and Occupational Health,” the Department of Defense leadership is requiring that environmental considerations be part of every significant aspect of military operations—from design to disposal. The Department of Defense is transitioning beyond compliance with environmental requirements to maintain defense readiness today while assuring the sustainability of natural resources needed for future military training and testing. The Department now views compliance as a “floor,” not a “ceiling” in achieving its environmental goals. Our efforts have moved beyond cleanup to conservation, protection, and sustainment of the Bay’s natural resources under our trusteeship. Department of Defense installations are engaged to protect and restore living resources, vital habitat, and water and air quality in and around our installations.

Protecting our resources is incorporated into Department of Defense’s sustainable building design principles. Military construction projects are encouraged to use low impact development (LID) technologies for new storm water construction projects. For instance, Navy installations located in Washington D.C. have used ten different LID technologies in parking lots, roadways, and open spaces that filter pollutants and control storm water runoff. The Pentagon recently constructed a four-acre green roof, one of the largest on the East coast, on its Remote Delivery Facility. This facility not only reduces runoff but also saves on energy costs.

Much of the Department of Defense’s environmental success in the Chesapeake Bay is due to partnerships. By partnering with our neighboring communities and federal, state, and local agencies, we can share expertise and ensure that our progress toward achieving Chesapeake 2000 restoration and protection goals is more efficient and effective. For example, the Army, to meet vital habitat restoration goals, created a premier submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) program near Aberdeen, Maryland in cooperation with the University of Maryland. This ongoing program involves research, restoration, and sharing of scientific data on submerged aquatic vegetation with the State of Maryland and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Other installations, such as Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia and the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland have also participated in SAV restoration and research efforts.

Some of our greatest progress is through relationships developed by the local installations with their communities by providing public access and educational opportunities to help area residents learn about the Bay ecosystem and their everyday impacts on it. Sometimes this outreach extends beyond the environmental arena to lend a helping hand to the community to preserve vital aspects of our nation’s cultural heritage. In September 2003, Fort Lee near Hopewell, Virginia, within twenty-four-hours notice, located a building on-site that would provide 15,000 square feet of space, utilities, and security for 600,000 archeological artifacts from the Jamestown National Park Service’s Visitor Center that were endangered by Hurricane
Isabel. The building was re-keyed to provide security, military police were assigned to patrol the area, National Park Service staff were given passes to get in and out of the post, and access to a forklift was provided—all at no charge by Fort Lee.

The Department of Defense will continue to balance and integrate defense activities with the Chesapeake Bay’s restoration and protection. We will employ new technologies and practices that improve our environmental programs and commitments to the Bay. The Department of Defense will help demonstrate the difference we can make by encouraging greater environmental awareness in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The challenge we face and shall meet is to achieve a secure, sustainable future that contributes not only to the success of our armed forces and our nation, but also the success of restoring and protecting our environmental treasures, such as the Chesapeake Bay.

Alex A. Beehler
Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Environment, Safety & Occupational Health)
Defending Our National Treasure: A Department of Defense Chesapeake Bay Restoration Partnership 1998–2004 provides an overview of major issues impacting the Chesapeake Bay, history of the Department of Defense’s involvement in Bay restoration efforts, current Department of Defense Chesapeake Bay restoration initiatives, specific case studies, and viewpoints of various key individuals dedicated to restoration. These topics are presented in a richly illustrated style including maps, photographs, conceptual diagrams, and figures to uniquely communicate information and make it accessible to a broad audience. Each section provides the essence of each topic rather than the complete and comprehensive treatment. For example, there are numerous documents describing Chesapeake Bay and Department of Defense initiatives (www.denix.osd.mil). Defending Our National Treasure provides the context and background for the issues impacting the Chesapeake Bay and describes the restoration activities conducted on the Department of Defense installations within the Bay watershed.

As one of the largest landholders in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the Department of Defense’s efforts have an important role in the restoration and improvement of the Chesapeake Bay. Department of Defense activities exemplify the positive effects of interagency cooperation and demonstrate the commitments the Department of Defense has made with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other Chesapeake Bay Program partners. Department of Defense initiatives and accomplishments with regard to the Federal Agencies’ Chesapeake Ecosystem Unified Plan (FACEUP), the Chesapeake 2000, and the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Act (CBRA) of 2000 are included in this report. The amount of land the Department of Defense manages both directly on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and within its watershed is substantial. All branches of the Department of Defense (Army, Army Corps of Engineers, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps) take their land stewardship seriously. Department of Defense installations within the Bay watershed proactively establish restoration initiatives.

Department of Defense restoration efforts in the Chesapeake Bay demonstrate how interagency cooperation and partnerships with organizations like the Chesapeake Bay Program can bring about improvements in Bay health.
and are working to improve living resources, vital habitat, water quality, sound land use, and community engagement. Some examples of these initiatives include building living shorelines, using low impact development techniques, and creating partnerships with other agencies and organizations. Common challenges to military landholders in the Chesapeake region include invasion of exotic species, encroachment, and air pollution. Department of Defense installations span the gamut of the most historically degraded (Elizabeth River) to Aberdeen Proving Ground where an amazing resurgence of submerged aquatic grasses has occurred and the greatest number of bald eagle nests in the Chesapeake Bay are located. Thus, the Department of Defense’s approach to restoration and protection provides widely-applicable examples for others facing similar challenges. One of the intentions of this book is to demonstrate the variety and complexity of Department of Defense restoration activities in and around the Chesapeake Bay.

**The Chesapeake Bay is truly a national treasure:** its bountiful resources have been described by writers since the time when Captain John Smith first arrived on its shores 400 years ago to the present. The Chesapeake Bay (Great Shellfish Bay) has immense resources and extensive shoreline providing a unique connection that people in the region have with the Bay. As a significant land holder in the Bay watershed, the Department of Defense is part of that unique connection. The national treasure of the Bay is severely threatened by the 17 million people living in this watershed and their associated activities. Department of Defense installations increasingly provide a haven of green space in an expanding urban and suburban population. Thus, what happens on installations not only affects the personnel who live and work on these installations but affects all the people in the region. It is clear that after hundreds of years of occupation and development of the watershed we need active intervention. The Department of Defense has responded to this challenge by developing environmental programs across the branches, across issues, and across the watershed.
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“Much of the Department of Defense’s success in the Chesapeake Bay region has been the result of long standing partnerships with neighboring communities and federal, state, and local agencies. The Department of Defense continues to expand these partnerships in order to share expertise and ensure that our progress toward achieving restoration and protection goals in the Chesapeake Bay is effective and efficient.”

Mr. Schregardus is principal policy advisor on environmental programs, including conservation of natural and cultural resources, compliance with environmental laws and regulations, cleanup of contaminated sites, and programs for pollution prevention. He also represents the Department of the Navy on the Department of Defense Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Board, and coordinates for the Department of Defense Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act issues of importance to the services.

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Mr. Schregardus received a Bachelor of Science in Physics in 1972 and a Master of Environmental Sciences in 1974 from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

**Previous positions**
Mr. Schregardus began his career with Argonne National Laboratory before joining the Environmental Protection Agency in 1974. He became the Region 5 water quality modeling expert and subsequently the Chief of the Compliance Section for the Water Division in Region 5. In 1989, he was appointed Deputy Director of Water Programs for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. In 1991, Governor Voinovich appointed Mr. Schregardus Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. When he stepped down as Director in 1999 he had served four years longer than any previous Director. Mr. Schregardus joined ms consultants, inc. as an Environmental Principal in 1999 prior to his appointment as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Environment) in November 2001.