

# Defense Environmental International Cooperation Program



The **Defense Environmental International Cooperation (DEIC) program** is an engagement tool for working with other nations on defense-related environmental and operational energy engagement activities. It is managed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Energy, Installations, and Environment) [OASD(EI&E)]. DEIC supports international engagement in pursuit of the strategic end states identified in the Secretary of Defense's Guidance for the Employment of the Force as well as the Combatant Command's Theater Campaign Plans.<sup>1</sup> The desired outcomes of DEIC initiatives include supporting the warfighter, building strategic partnerships, enhancing capabilities and capacity, and sustaining mission resilience.

**DEIC's Contribution.** DEIC has a modest average annual budget of around \$1.5 million, but has high value impact. DEIC activities have:

- Helped pave the way in establishing military-to-military relationships with new partners.
- Provided a vehicle for engagement between U.S. defense/military leadership and civilian and military leadership of other nations.
- Provided venues to strengthen relationships through cooperation on specific environmental and energy topics of mutual interest.
- Demonstrated U.S. DoD commitment to environmental stewardship outside the United States by cooperating on common challenges also faced by partner nations.

DEIC-sponsored engagement activities have been hosted in 86 different nations on six continents since its creation in 2001. Hosting countries have been spread fairly equally across the continents: 28 in Africa, 19 in Asia and Australia, 17 in the Americas, and 22 in Europe. In addition, another 56 nations across the globe have participated in DEIC-funded multilateral or regionally focused activities. In Fiscal Year 2015 alone, over 1,000 representatives from 61 different nations participated in DEIC-funded projects.

**DEIC Project Selection.** Each year, the ASD(EI&E) requests project proposals from the Geographic Combatant Commands for the following Fiscal Year. An Advisory Group, representing OSD(Policy), the Joint Staff, and the ASD(EI&E), evaluates and prioritizes all project submissions. Based on the Advisory Group's recommendations, the ASD(EI&E) approves projects that make up the DEIC program for the Fiscal Year.

**DEIC Project Format and Criteria.** DEIC projects can take many shapes, such as workshops and table top exercises, development of guidebooks, information exchanges, and participation in multinational studies. Specific criteria for DEIC projects, regardless of whether they are bilateral, regional, or multilateral, include:

- Having an international, defense-related environmental or operational energy focus.
- Involving military or defense officials from other countries. The participation of civilian agencies, international organizations, or Non-Governmental Organizations is also encouraged.
- Benefiting DoD directly, either at the strategic level (e.g., helping ensure access for basing, training and operations; protecting the health and safety of troops and local populations; promoting regional stability; contributing to civil-military relations), or at the practical level (e.g., enhancing interoperability; accessing foreign research on environmental or energy issues; promoting Environment, Safety and Occupational Health standards with partners).

**DEIC Project Funding.** DEIC uses Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding and is subject to O&M's inherent funding restrictions (e.g., it cannot pay for construction or purchase equipment). For this and other reasons, the program actively promotes projects that leverage other funding sources such as Traditional Commander's Activities (TCA) funds which can cover, for example, the costs of travel for foreign military personnel. In Fiscal Year 2015, DEIC's \$1.35 million budget leveraged almost \$750,000 in funding from other sources.

<sup>1</sup> DoD Directive 4715.1E, "Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health (ESOH)," dated March 19, 2005, paragraph 5.1.8.

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## Highlights of DEIC Fiscal Year 2016 projects include:

- **Supporting the Warfighter:** During 2016, EUCOM-led bilateral meetings and range site visits with counterparts from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania uncovered and resolved European Union (EU) Natura 2000 restrictions on range construction projects. Under EU regulations, construction activities in special protected areas require notification to national Ministries of Environment (MOE). The environmental components of the Ministries of Defense (MOD) were able to submit the required notifications in time to allow European Reassurance Initiative-funded projects to proceed.
- **Strengthening relationships and enhancing partner capacity:** SOUTHCOM and OSD continued robust collaboration with Chile throughout 2016, including an environmental and energy subject matter expert exchange of more than 100 people on board the Chilean naval vessel, *Aquiles*, and a workshop on mission sustainability in Santiago.
- **Promoting interoperability and force protection:** PACOM and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC) worked with the Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF) to establish environmental management procedures at training bases to improve waste management. This included a site visit to the Maafilefushi Training Island and MARFORPAC seminars with the MNDF Engineering and Medical staff on an environmental management system plan, a spill prevention and control plan, as well as a hazard communication plan and the Globally Harmonized Labelling System. As U.S. forces train in Maldives, these initiatives contributed to interoperability and force health protection.
- **Strengthening relationships:** NORTHCOM supported the 2016 Arctic Collaborative Workshop (ACW), which brought together 78 people from four countries and 34 organizations. As a biennial event, ACW focuses on developing an international community of interest (comprising government, industry and academia) to address Arctic challenges in the areas of defense, environmental safety and Arctic capability advocacy.

- **Building partner capacity:** Senegal asked AFRICOM and the United Nations Environment Programme to host a symposium on building resiliency in the face of climate change. Senegal's MOE estimates that its coastline is eroding by at least one meter per year on average, but indications are that it is up to 10 times worse in vulnerable coastal towns such as Saint-Louis. More than 85 stakeholders participated in the symposium, including representatives from the MOD, MOE, and Ministry of Justice. This was the first time these organizations collaborated on an environmental issue. This symposium promoted the capacity of military and civilian authorities to develop a whole-of-government approach for natural disaster planning, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. It focused attention on a topic of increasing concern in Africa and elsewhere: disasters exacerbated by climate change's devastating effects of erosion.

## Planned DEIC Fiscal Year 2017 projects include:

- AFRICOM will explore new developments in integrated training area management with South Africa.
- CENTCOM will execute an engagement with members of the Gulf Cooperation Council on emergency management infrastructure.
- EUCOM will conduct regional workshops in the Balkans and Baltics on environmental considerations in military operations.
- NORTHCOM will continue contacts established under ACW.
- PACOM will host its annual Pacific Environmental Security Forum and plans to continue engagements with Mongolia and Maldives.
- SOUTHCOM will execute several projects focused on environment and energy assessments.