



Environmental Newsletter | Summer/Fall 2023

NAVIGATING ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS: TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT VARIOUS TYPES

By Lisa Gonzales, Environmental Program Manager (SPS)
63d Readiness Division

Environmental inspections are necessary aspects of mission readiness and sustainability within the 63d Readiness Division (RD). Knowing the types of inspections your facility/shop/unit might undergo and Best Management Practices are instrumental to environmental compliance.

Environmental inspections at military operations play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of communities, ecosystems and natural resources. These inspections are carried out to monitor compliance with various regulations that are designed to protect the environment. They focus on activities that could potentially harm the environment, such as hazardous material storage and storm water management. Following are some of the different types of inspections that may be conducted by an external agency. If an inspector schedules a visit or arrives unannounced at a 63d Readiness Division facility, please contact your Area Contract Environmental Specialist (ACES) or appropriate Program Manager (PM) immediately, as they can help guide you through the process—even if they are not on-site.

Hazardous Materials Inspections Federal hazardous material inspections oversee the storage, handling and transportation of hazardous and regulated wastes. These inspections ensure proper measures are in place to prevent environmental harm that may occur from mismanaged wastes. They ensure that inspection records, plans, training records, signage and required permits are kept on-site. They also

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The 63d Readiness Division (RD) mission is to provide base operations support enabling the Operating Force to optimize resources towards a focus on readiness, training, mobilizing, and deploying America's Soldiers to fight, survive, and win our Nation's wars and exercise command and control of assigned units. Our vision is to lead and execute as an intrinsic and indispensable regional partner embracing change and leveraging the talents, agility and innovation of an adept workforce towards unsurpassed facilities, services and support. The 63d RD supports over 40,000 Army Reserve Soldiers in the states of Calif., Nev., Ariz., N.M., Texas, Okla. and Ariz.



Above, Environmental Program Manager (SPS) Lisa Gonzales reviews the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan with USAR personnel, June 2023. Marina, CA.
Perlita R. Dicochea

inspect to ensure that storage tanks of all sizes are labelled and stored correctly.

City or county governments may conduct inspections of oil/water separators if they have adopted rules regarding connections to sanitary sewers. These inspections are conducted to see if the oil/water separator effluent is tested regularly to ensure that no hazardous substances are entering the sanitary sewer intake.

Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) Inspections

(California only) A CUPA is a local agency certified by CalEPA to implement and enforce state hazardous waste regulatory management programs. These inspections cover a range of topics including hazardous waste management, aboveground storage tanks and CUPA business plans. The business plan must be readily available for review. The inspector will check to see that hazardous wastes are stored correctly, aboveground storage tanks are in good condition and secondary containment is intact.

Storm Water Inspections National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) industrial storm water inspections are conducted by state or county inspectors to monitor the discharge of pollutants from industrial facilities into water bodies. These inspections aim to maintain water quality by regulating the release of harmful substances and preventing contamination of rivers, lakes, oceans and underground aquifers. During a storm water inspection, any permit materials—including Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) and No Exposure Certifications (NECs)—must be readily available for review. It is critical that these documents are available and easy to locate.

The inspector will also conduct a site walk to determine if Best Management Practices (BMPs) are implemented. BMPs include, but are not limited to the following:

- maintaining a clean and operable wash rack
- properly storing equipment and scrap metal
- having filter socks that function (if applicable)
- correctly storing hazardous materials
- keeping secondary containment intact
- minimizing tracking from vehicles

- containing trash and debris
- keeping dumpster and trash can lids closed
- placing drip pans under leaking vehicles
- properly cleaning up spills
- keeping spill kits stocked

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Inspections MS4 inspections focus on stormwater management within counties and municipalities. These inspections are conducted by county inspectors to ensure that runoff from urban areas does not carry pollutants into water bodies. WQMP (Water Quality Management Plan) inspections are conducted by city inspectors to assess their efforts in managing stormwater runoff and preventing pollution. These inspections involve evaluating the implementation of strategies to minimize the impact of urban development on water quality. Inspections for these county and city programs are similar in scope to NPDES inspections noted above.

External environmental inspections are essential for upholding environmental protection and safety standards. Each type of inspection serves a unique purpose, whether it concerns preventing water pollution and hazardous waste leaks or ensuring proper stormwater management. By staying prepared for these inspections, we can work together to preserve our environment and create a safer and healthier world for current and future generations.

For questions about inspections at your shop/unit, please contact Lisa Gonzales at lisa.m.gonzales42.ctr@army.mil or by mobile at 714.520.1318. ♦

ENVIRONMENTAL CHIEF'S DESK

HELP US HELP YOU: HOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM SUPPORTS MISSION READINESS, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND YOUR SUCCESS

By Morey U. Moore, CIV, Environmental Chief, 63d RD DPW



There are several key areas in which the environmental team supports mission readiness, environmental stewardship and your success. Part of your success involves awareness of your environmental responsibilities and direct participation in helping us help you. Below, I have identified a few key areas we can work on together to strengthen partnerships, cooperation and a sense of ownership of our workplace environments.

COMMUNICATION Transparent communication is at the top of the list of ways to help us, the environmental team, help you. The more details that are provided in our exchanges regarding projects and plans that may have impacts on the environment, the better the outcome.

Your knowledge of what information is relevant to share with the environmental team is strengthened by environmental training. Training helps you comprehend the ebb and flow of customer service, environmental compliance and your environmental responsibilities. The more one's environmental responsibilities are understood, the greater the cooperation from every entity within the 63d Readiness Division's areas of responsibilities.

CUSTOMER SERVICE It is important that the environmental team provide the best possible service to our customers—Soldiers and Civilians. I often refer to important items as those that ensure the Army Reserve receives the necessary tools to accomplish the mission. Among these tools, each member of the environmental team serves as an important asset providing customer service and leadership to help you make informed decisions. Simplifying customer service by providing multiple examples, SOPs, illustrations, hands-on, has always been a part of our customers' success and approachability has been a few of our guiding resources.

TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNICATION We are all in the same fight, and we are each responsible for the outcome. Successful outcomes can be accomplished by setting benchmarks that are achievable while leaving room for customers to be a part of the process. This combination—achievable benchmarks and inclusion—contributes to improvements and over-all success.

“Your knowledge of what information is relevant to share with the environmental team is strengthened by environmental training.”

RESPONSIVENESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AND AVAILABILITY In today's evolving commitment to customer service feedback, there are many ways to communicate with you. Our communication tools include in-person meetings, meetings via Teams, social media, newsletters, posters, flyers, trainings and SOPs to show our customers that we are committed to doing what is best for the environment and what is in line with environmental policies.

TRAINING Through training, the environmental team demonstrates how awareness and sustainability helps you to set the standard for success. In our training courses, we encourage cooperation and participation, building pride in a program that leads to an ecologically conscious and sustainable workforce.

SOLDIERS' INVOLVEMENT Soldiers are critical to the environmental team's goals as they aid in moving forward environmental initiatives and fostering a sense of ownership and pride in implementing environmental policies and procedures. The same pride that military personnel exude each day they put on their uniforms continues to march forward—even when the situation may not be popular.

UTILIZING TECHNOLOGY TO ENGAGE CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS The ever-evolving people power shortage has required the development of other techniques to ensure that customers have solutions at their fingertips. One such method includes a review of the training presentation binders received during the environmental training course or reviewing an established step-by-step SOP. These are only a couple of the many ways to ensure that all involved may navigate the growing landscape for customers to resolve issues when the environmental team is not available to answer right away.

Ultimately, the future of customer service is not just about resolving environmental issues; it's also about fostering strong relationships between Soldiers and Civilians and the planet. ♦

US ARMY RESERVE CENTER

ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM SUMMER WORKSHOP

June 12-16, 2023 | Monterey County, Calif.



Above: Peter Grunow, Natural Resources Program Manager (SPS), educates the team about native plant species at the USAR Center, Marina, Calif.



Above: A conservation project for native plant species at the USAR Center, Marina, Calif.



Above: Part of the environmental team of the 63d Readiness Division meets for the biannual workshop, Marina, Calif.



Above: Endangered native Calif. plant species at the USAR Center, Marina, Calif.



Above & Below: Lisa Gonzales, Environmental Program Manager (SPS)



Above: The Environmental Team takes a close look at endangered species and soil erosion at the USAR Center in Marina, Calif.



Above: Lisa Gonzales, Environmental PM (SPS), leads a mock spill with USAR personnel at Marina ARC



Above: Lisa Gonzales, Environmental PM (SPS), leads a mock spill with USAR personnel at Marina ARC

STORY SUBMISSIONS

Do you have a story idea for the next issue of *The Guardian*?

Please submit to usarc-63rd-dpw-env@army.mil.

Visit us at www.facebook.com/63RD.

ENDANGERED SPECIES CORNER

Horkelia Cuneata

By Peter Grunow, Natural Resources Program Manager (SPS), 63d Readiness Division

Perlita R. Dicochea contributed to this story.

The *Horkelia cuneata*, or Kellogg's Horkelia, is a perennial herb native to Calif. and limited, or endemic, to the Golden State. This plant is considered rare, threatened, or endangered by the California Native Plant Society. Kellogg's Horkelia is found at the 63d Readiness Division's (RD) Army Reserve facility in Marina, Calif. We protect this herb as part of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for conservation.

BACKGROUND Kellogg's Horkelia is a very small delicate species. It blooms with five white petals from February through July and is low water tolerant and lives in northern coastal scrub, coastal sage scrub, and closed-cone pine forests. Individual Horkelia plants typically grow in dense clusters. Their stems are long and thin and can grow up to almost a meter but are normally less than half that length. Kellogg's Horkelia grows only in coastal California and only in fine, sandy soils between Point Reyes and Santa Barbara.



Above, a photo of a *Horkelia cuneata* flower. See image at www.clflora.org/app/taxon?crn=11738. Cara Wilcox

SURVEYS The numbers of individuals are counted each year during annual natural resource surveys in the spring. The Horkelia plants currently growing at the Army Reserve unit in Marina live in two sites, or two populations. The clusters of plants at these two sites are close to one another, and we have not found any other sites beyond these two for a number of years.



Above, Horkelia plants in bloom at the Army Reserve Center in Marina, California, February 2023. Peter Grunow

Horkelia plants are tracked in the INRMP and updated annually. The 63d RD's first surveys for the plants were conducted in 1999 and have been recorded almost annually since 2003. While *Horkelia cuneata* numbers at CA012 Marina have increased in some years, there has been a decline at the facility since 2018. The 63d RD follows recommendations provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services during its review of the 63 RD's INRMP.

PROTECTION Both areas where the plants are growing currently are are land marked off by signage, courtesy of the Environmental Division. These signs describe the endangered species and restricted activities of the area. No military training occurs in the area where these plants grow or in any suitable habitat for the Horkelia. Herbicides are not applied near the Horkelia plants. The 63d RD also helps sustain the plants at Marina by removing invasive non-native weeds, such as the Ice Plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*). In fact, the 63d RD has removed over 90% of the Ice Plant that used to occupy the property. The fence

around the Military Equipment Parking (MEP) lot separates it from the growing Horkelia and vehicles are not used where the Horkelias grow.

FUTURE CONSERVATION In addition to continued surveys, future conservation efforts regarding the Horkelia at Marina will include the updating and replacement of signage. Erosion at the site and above where most of the Horkelia currently grow will be remediated so that the populations are not harmed or undercut. The 63d RD is also scheduling the hand pulling of non-native plants that are a threat to the Horkelia.

Due to its designation by the California Native Plant society as "seriously threatened" within the state, its locations and numbers are tracked by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in their California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). While not yet on the Federal endangered species list, it could be added in the future due to factors such as its small range and population.

If you have questions about endangered plants or other species, please contact 63d RD Natural Resources Program Manager (SPS) Peter Grunow at

peter.e.grunow.ctr@army.mil. ☎

Below, endangered species signage at the Army Reserve Center in Marina, California, June 2023.

Perlita R. Dicochea



ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

HAZARDOUS WASTE ACCUMULATION POINTS: HOW TO OPERATE WITH EASE

By Alexander L. Brady, Environmental Compliance Branch Chief
63d Readiness Division DPW-Environmental

Would you like to turn your Hazardous Waste Accumulation Points (HWAP) or Areas into an asset and make them work for you and your shop/unit? I will go over the main considerations you want to look at when setting up or adjusting your HWAP.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION Your HWAP should be in the control of the Environmental Officer who shall lead in determining the right location for your HWAP. Location is very important for movement and ease of conducting maintenance operations in your shop area. Your HWAP needs to be in an area that is easy to access for everyone in the shop to place their hazardous waste. This can be done by posting signs for visibility and when you have safety meetings, your HWAP location can be an agenda item. Two other considerations to think of when picking your location is how easy it is to replace drums and clean.

MATERIALS NEEDED A particular list of items are needed for every HWAP, which needs to be near it or in the general vicinity. The entire maintenance shop/unit needs to have and be aware of the locations of the following:

- Labels (state specific)
- Secondary Containment
- Spill Kits/ with Drum Repair Kit
- Granular Absorbent
- Absorbent Pads/Socks
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
- Inventories
- Accumulation Log
- Spill Log
- Weekly Inspections Log
- Work Site Specific Spill Plan (WSSSP)

Additional great-to-haves include:

- Drum Funnels with Locks
- Drum Liquid Measuring Gauge

OPERATING YOUR HWAP: This seems easy right? You might think 'All I have to do is place my used materials into the drum and mark down how much I placed into the drum, right?' After a while it will become this easy. However, the first step in making your HWAP easy to operate is ensuring you take an Environmental Training class with the 63d Readiness Division Environmental Team.

Everyone who uses petroleum, oils and lubricants (POL) or other chemicals, if afforded the opportunity, should attend Environmental Training. In fact, Environmental Officers (EOs) (required for company level and above units) are required to attend the training (AR-200-1), and facility coordinators are also required to attend (63d PAM 420-1). Additionally,

HWAP—Continued on next page

DEFINING THE TERMS

A Hazardous Waste Accumulation Point (HWAP) is defined as a shop, site, or other work center where HWs are accumulated until removed to a Hazardous Waste Storage Area (HWSA) or shipped for treatment or disposal. An HWAP may be used to accumulate no more than 55 gallons of HW, or one quart of acute HW, from each waste stream. See <https://api.army.mil/e2/c/downloads/406735.pdf>.

HWAP—Continued from page 6

EOs can use the training resources and the 63d RD's Environmental Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) as a guide to hold work site specific training for the shop/unit to review how to use the materials needed in the HWAP. The SOP and other resources can be found on the Sharepoint Env Public Document Library at <https://armyeitaas.sharepoint-mil.us/teams/usarc-63rd-dpw/DPWPublicDocumentsLibrary/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fteams%2Fusarc%2D63rd%2Ddpw%2FDPWPublicDocumentsLibrary%2F2%2E%20Environmental%20%28ENV%29&viewid=5810fe3e%2D7944%2D4450%2Db3fe%2D05a3fc980b75>.

Training will give you the know-how in using the materials needed, how to fill them out properly and what to look for when inspecting the HWAP. Your Area Contract Environmental Specialist (ACES) can also help fine-tune your HWAP set-up via a Site Assistance Visit (SAV).

Other Considerations: After you have set up your HWAP there are a few other items you might want to consider:

- The most important of these considerations is to calculate the quantity of material the shop uses and has onsite.
- Second, consider whether the quantity of material used and onsite meets your mission's essential needs.
 - ▶ If the answer is, "We have too many materials" then ask, "What can I do to resolve this?"
- Maintenance schedules are another significant item to consider, because if you need to reconsider your generator status (please refer to the Environmental Compliance Report in the last issue of *The Guardian*), it would benefit you to review how you complete your maintenance while still meeting mission goals.

To help guide you in addressing the problem of having too many materials or figuring out maintenance schedules, you are encouraged to talk to your ACES—they will help you determine the options available to you and your shop/unit. For training, you may contact Environmental Training PM (SPS), Pam Brady. Please see the table below for each region's ACES.

Region 1	Leon Smith	leon.c.smith12.ctr@army.mil	Region 4	Jennifer Ahl	jennifer.ahl@specprosvcs.com
Region 2	Jerome Jackson	jerome.k.jackson2.ctr@army.mil	Region 5	Sergio Rangel	sergio.rangel@specprosvcs.com
Region 3	Vacant	pamala.h.brady.ctr@army.mil	Region 6	Vacant	pamala.h.brady.ctr@army.mil

If you have questions about your HWAP or other environmental compliance items, please contact me at alexander.l.brady.civ@army.mil or (719) 516-6770 or feel free to reach out to any Environmental POC. ♦



A HWAP located at Ft. Hunter Liggett, CA. September 2023.
Perlita R. Dicochea

Did You Know?: ENVIRONMENTAL HOLIDAYS

By Perlita R. Dicochea, Environmental Outreach Program Manager (SPS)
63d Readiness Division

Throughout the calendar year, there are local, national and transnational days that recognize various aspects of the environment. Environmental holidays are opportunities to promote awareness. Below are a few that occur in the fall.

- World Animal Day—October 4
- Energy Efficiency Day—First Wednesday of October
- International E-waste Day—October 14
- International Day of Climate Action—October 24
- International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict—November 6
- National Recycling Day—November 15
- National Hiking Day—November 17
- World Fisheries Day—November 21
- Wildlife Conservation Day—December 4
- World Soil Day—December 5 ♦

Image credit: ricova.com/en/june-5-celebrate-world-environment-day

ARMY RESERVE MISSION RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY (ARMRS) TRAINING 2023

FORT SNELLING, MINN. | MAY 9-11

By Perlita R. Dicochea, Ph.D., Environmental Outreach Program Manager (SPS), 63d Readiness Division

The Environmental Team of the 63d Readiness Division joined over 200 U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers, Civilian employees and government contractors at Fort Snelling, MN, for the third Army Reserve Mission Resilience and Sustainability (ARMRS) Training. As noted by SSG Bob Yarbrough, 88th Readiness Division, quoted in the Army Reserve NEWS, "The purpose of the training was to improve communication and cooperation between different elements of the Army Reserve's Engineer Corps: energy, water, solid waste, environmental, and real estate programs, in order to better serve units through facility construction and maintenance."

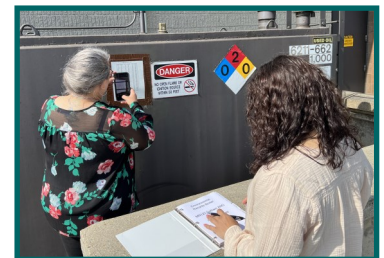
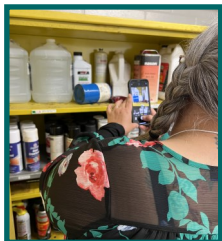
Army Reserve NEWS reports that ARMRS trainings have taken place about every two years since 2017, with the exception of a pause in 2021 due to COVID restrictions. Read the complete story at usar.army.mil/News/News-Display/Article/3399290/2023-army-reserve-mission-resilience-and-sustainability-training/.

See more photos from the environmental team's experiences at the 2023 AMRS Training below, including snapshots of Air Force planes and helicopters on display at Fort Snelling. ♦



Above: Deputy Environmental Division Chief Cameron Dixon (left) is awarded a Star Note (top) and photographed (below) at the 2023 ARMRS Training, May 2023. The award was presented by Chief Financial Officer and Director for Resources, Installations and Materials Stephen K. Sullivan. Fort Snelling, Minn.

Perlita R. Dicochea



Above Left: Contract Program Manager (SPS) Pam Brady participates in a mock inspection. **Above Middle:** A joint session at 2023 ARMRS Training. **Above Right:** Contract Program Manager (SPS) Pam Brady & Compliance PM (SPS) Lisa Torralba during a mock inspection exercise.

All images were taken at Fort Snelling, Minn., May 2023. *Perlita R. Dicochea*

HOW TO PROPERLY DRAIN OIL AND FUEL FILTERS

By Leon Smith, Region 1 ACES, 63d Readiness Division

Cindy Scott, Hazardous Waste Program Manager, 63d Readiness Division, contributed to this story

Below are some tips to properly drain oil, and fuel filters for the Units Equipment Concentration Sites and Army Maintenance Support Activities.



The Gray Oil Filter Crusher has 22,000lbs of force, reducing filter size by up to 75%. AMSA 19, Riverside, Calif., Jan. 2024.

Michael Rios

Oil Filters: When disposing of oil filters, ensure that you allow oil filters to drain at least 24 hours in approved container (see picture 1) for 24 hours before you crush. The reason that you allow oil filters to drain for 24 hours is if you crush filters before they are drained, you will have a lot of oil still inside of the crushed filter.

Fuel Filters: Allow 24 hours to drain in an approved container. Once they are drained (see picture 2), I recommend that you transfer into another container with lining for preparing for turn in.

When properly drained, fuel and oil filters can be placed in the same drum for shipment.

DO NOT CRUSH FUEL FILTERS IN OIL CRUSHER—this mistake may contaminate used oil.

If you follow the above tips, you will be in compliance when it comes time to turn in your waste. Please contact me at leon.c.smith12.ctr@army.mil or at 501.247.8745 if you have any questions on this topic.

For more information on managing used oil and fuel filters, go to epa.gov/recycle/managing-reusing-and-recycling-used-oil or dtsc.ca.gov/management-of-waste-gasoline-and-diesel-fuel-filters-fact-sheet. ◊

BLOOD AND FIRE: A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 63D READINESS DIVISION

By Perlita R. Dicochea, Ph.D., Environmental Outreach Program Manager (SPS)
63d Readiness Division

The nickname "Blood and Fire," represented in the insignia of the 63d Infantry Division and now the 63d Readiness Division, refers to former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill's powerful statement at the Casablanca Conference in early 1943 that "the enemy would bleed and burn in expiation of their crimes against humanity." This same year, Major General Louis Hibbs organized the 63d Infantry Division, which was activated at Camp Blanding, Florida. Inspired by Churchill's statement, General Hibbs employed "blood and fire" as the 63d Infantry Division's insignia and motto.

The 63d Infantry Division deployed to southern France in December 1944 to partake in World War II, moving into Germany by February 1945. After the war, the 63d Infantry Division was deactivated in 1945, then reactivated and assigned to the Army Reserve in 1952 and headquartered in Los Angeles, California. Once again deactivated in 1965, the division was reactivated and re-designated as the 63d Army Reserve Command (ARCOM), which included Army Reserve units in southern California, Arizona and Nevada. From 1990 to 1991, Soldiers from the 63d ARCOM served in Operation Desert Shield, which aided in defending Saudi Arabia, and Operation Desert Storm, which was fought in Iraq.

In 1995, the 63d was redesignated as the 63d Regional Support Command (RSC) and later redesignation as the Regional Readiness Command (RRC), supporting foreign and domestic Army missions including NATO operations in Bosnia and Kosovo.

In 2008, the 63d RRC merged with the 90th RRC and became what is known today as the 63d Readiness Division, headquartered in Moffett Field, California, and includes California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. The original 63d Infantry Division's "blood and fire" insignia and motto continues to represent the 63d Readiness Division today.

Learn more at usar.arm.mil/Commands/Geographic/63rd-Readiness-Division/About-Us/our-history/ and encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-63rd-infantry-division. Learn more about General Hibbs at albertatribune.com/2002/11/he-led-the-hot-shots-of-the-blood-and-fire-division. ◊



The 63d Readiness Division's insignia, "blood & fire," dates back to 1943. usar.army.mil

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY: MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE

By Margaret Magat, Ph.D., Cultural Resources Program Manager (SPS)
63d Readiness Division

Each October, on the second Monday of the month, the Federal holiday named Columbus Day is observed throughout the United States. However, the holiday is also known as Indigenous People's Day, celebrating the Indigenous communities of the Americas—such as the Alaskans, Hawaiians and Native Americans—their histories and cultures. Over a dozen states celebrated Indigenous Peoples' Day on Oct. 9, 2023, including Alaska, Minnesota, Vermont and Maine. It is widely celebrated in over 100 cities, including Seattle, Denver and Berkeley, where Indigenous Peoples' Day was first recognized in 1992 (Delkic and Betts 2023; Zotigh and Gokey 2020).

The observance of Indigenous People's Day (also known as Native American Day in South Dakota or American Indian Heritage Day in Alabama), is intended to re-focus the attention on the Native peoples of the Americas. This focused attention is part of larger community-based movements by and for Native peoples to reclaim their histories and places within the dominant historical narrative, a narrative that has long focused on Christopher Columbus' arrival to the "New World." Indigenous peoples have been in the Americas all along, and they have survived along with their cultures and heritage despite the genocidal repercussions of Columbus' colonial explorations beginning in 1492.

According to Kyle Mays, an associate professor of American Indian Studies at University of California, Los Angeles, Indigenous People's Day "is about reclaiming histories. It's acknowledging the history of dispossession and violence against Indigenous people" (Golden and Fernando 2023).

For Native American activists like Cliff Matias, cultural director for the New York-based Redhawk Indigenous Arts Council and member of the Taino and Kichwa nations, celebrating Indigenous People's Day on what is known as Columbus Day is intentional and significant. "We celebrate our survival of Columbus and all that he brought," Matias said (Golden and Fernando 2023).

Indigenous People's Day has been recognized by President Joseph R. Biden Jr. who has issued a proclamation to observe it for the last three years, the first U.S. president to do so (The White House 2023). This year, President Biden called for the nation to commemorate the day in recognition of the many contributions of Indigenous peoples and he pledged his continued support of "Tribal sovereignty and self-determination" (The White House 2023). He emphasized the continuing importance of the relationship between the Federal Government and Tribal Nations and the significance of honoring "the solemn promises the United States made to fulfill our trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations" (The White House 2023).

President Biden also declared Oct. 9 as Columbus Day, to commemorate the voyage of Christopher Columbus to the Americas in 1492, over 531 years ago. Columbus is believed to have been born in Genoa, Italy—although he also sailed for the court of Queen Isabella I and King Ferdinand II of Spain. Hence, Columbus Day is also seen as a celebration of Italian heritage for Italian Americans, which is recognized with parades in New York and San Francisco and other events in Chicago, Boston and Denver.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY—Continued on next page

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY KEY FACTS

➤ The idea for an Indigenous People's Day was first proposed in 1977 at the United Nations International Conference on Discrimination against Indigenous Populations in the Americas. It called for the recognition that Native Americans are the first inhabitants of what is now the United States and the rest of the Americas (Zotigh and Gokey 2020).*

➤ Berkeley, Cali., was the first city to recognize the holiday on Oct. 10, 1992, to protest the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the Americas. Columbus' explorations have been seen by many indigenous groups as the beginning of colonization and violence against their ancestors (see Delkic and Betts 2023; Golden and Fernando 2023; DeSilver 2023; Zotigh and Gokey 2020).

➤ Today Indigenous People's Day is celebrated by more than 100 cities in the U.S. and 17 states such as Oregon, Alaska, Iowa, Michigan and South Dakota (Delkic and Betts 2023). Places such as Maine, New Mexico, Vermont and D.C. all renamed Columbus Day as Indigenous People's Day in 2019 (DeSilver 2023; Zotigh and Gokey 2020).

**See cited references on page 10.*



The Berkeley, CA community joins to commemorate Indigenous Peoples' Day in October 2019. See the full story at [KQED.org/news](https://www.kqed.org/news). Christopher Burquez

For Nick Tilsen, Oglala Lakota and president and CEO of the NDN Collective, an Indigenous advocacy group based in South Dakota, commemorating Indigenous Peoples' Day does not mean that Italian-American heritage and history should be ignored; rather, it should be recognized another way. According to Tilsen, this is not an "either-or" issue. "Italian-Americans have made so many contributions to America, and that should be celebrated..." Tilsen proclaims (Golden and Fernando 2023). Tilsen and other Native Americans might prefer that Italian-Americans celebrate in other ways (Ibid), revealing a tension between the two holidays.

Even so, each year the number of communities observing Indigenous Peoples' Day is growing as do efforts to recognize it officially as a Federal holiday. Most recently in Congress, a bill has been introduced to establish Indigenous Peoples' Day as replacement for Columbus Day, with backing from 56 House Representatives and several Senators. The Navajo Nation, the biggest tribe in the nation, and the Cherokee Nation are just two of the tribes that support this bill (Delkic and Betts 2023).

How may one appropriately celebrate Indigenous People's Day? You might plant native flora and fauna, attend an Indigenous People's Day event or find out about the Indigenous peoples in your local area. For more suggestions, go to <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-museum-american-indian/2020/10/07/indigenous-peoples-day-2020/>.

If you have questions related to cultural resources at your unit/site/shop, please contact me at annamargaret.r.magat.ctr@army.mil or (719) 317-6117. ♦

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*Some references listed above may require a subscription to access.

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES



JENNIFER AHL
Area Contract Environmental Specialist
Region 4, AZ/NM/NV/EI Paso (SPS)
63d Readiness Division

Jennifer Ahl is a California native with over eighteen years of experience in Wildlife and Environmental Science. She spent much of her career managing SSP's (Species Survival Plans), with a focus on marine mammals and cartilaginous fish and their habitats. Her responsibilities included Aquatic Life Support operations, Water Chemistry and animal husbandry. Ahl also has a passion for the conservation of Birds of Prey and earned her falconry license after training under a lead California falcon expert. In the public sector, she has experience in Conservation and Compliance with special districts in which she focused on water conservation plans for California. Ahl has spent thirty-six years as a professional ballet dancer and teacher. She enjoys traveling and hiking with her husband, Paul, and two dogs, Sawyer Wayne and Miles Tanner, as well as watching football and hockey.

Jennifer Ahl may be reached at 559.392.3508 or Jennifer.Ahl@specprosvcs.com.



SERGIO RANGEL
Area Contract Environmental Specialist
Region 5, Southern California (SPS)
63d Readiness Division

Sergio Rangel was born in Santa Barbara, California. He has over ten years of professional experience in environmental hazardous waste as well as in the Department of Transportation (DOT) industry by supporting the Department of Defense (DoD). Rangel's specific areas have been in disaster response, search and rescue and hazardous waste operations. He is Confined Space Entry/Rescue Certified; he completed the OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Training; and he is CPR Certified and HAZCOM Certified over the water. Rangel really enjoys being out in the field and prides himself in his work ethic. In previous employment, Rangel has produced quality results implementing proactive work habits and effective communication skills in high stakes situations. Rangel loves being with his daughter and his hobbies include soccer, hiking and other outdoor activities.

Sergio Rangel may be reached at 805.586.5514 or Sergio.Rangel@specprosvcs.com.

Above image credits: Background-Ruidoso, NM, www.city-data.com; Above left-Courtesy of Jennifer Ahl; Above right-Courtesy of Sergio Rangel.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH: PRESIDENT JOE R. BIDEN JR.'S 2023 PROCLAMATION

By Perlita R. Dicochea, Ph.D., Environmental Outreach Program Manager (SPS)
63d Readiness Division

On Nov. 1, President Joe R. Biden Jr. issued a proclamation on National Native American Heritage Month, 2023. Below is an excerpt from the proclamation.

"During National Native American Heritage Month, we recognize the invaluable contributions of Native peoples that have shaped our country and honor the hundreds of Tribal Nations who continue exercising their inherent sovereignty as vital members of the overlapping system of governments in the United States. We also recommit to supporting Tribal sovereignty; upholding the Federal Government's solemn trust and treaty responsibilities; and working in partnership with Tribal Nations to advance prosperity, dignity, and safety for all Native peoples.

...Native people were pressured to assimilate, banned from practicing their traditions and sacred ceremonies, and forced from their homes and ancestral homelands. This violence and devastation cost countless lives, tore families apart, and caused lasting damage to Tribal communities and institutions.

Despite centuries of violence and oppression, Native peoples remain resilient and proud. Today, Native Americans are essential to the fabric of the United States. They serve in the United States Armed Forces at higher rates than any other ethnic group. They continue to steward so many of our great lands. Their contributions to science, humanities, arts, public service, and more have brought prosperity for all of us. Their diverse cultures and communities continue to thrive and lead us forward."

Read the complete proclamation at www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023. ♦



Image credit: redbubble.com

Environmental Officers (EO/Alt. EO)

By CTR Pam Brady, Training Program Manager (SPS)

Regulatory Citations: AR 200-1 1-23(h), 1-25(e), 1-28(f) and Glossary; ATP 3-34.5 (4-8), (5-3), (5-40), Appendix B-41, Appendix G-2, Appendix H.

Definitions: EO – The Environmental Officer is an assigned additional duty to aid unit commanders or supervisors in ensuring environmental compliance. The designated person also coordinates with the 63d RD Environmental Division for requirements, clarification, and assistance. The EO is critical to the commander's environmental program.

Q Who needs an EO?

A Units that are company-level or above AND all 63d RD facilities need to appoint EOs. Additionally, any organization that handles, stores, or manages hazardous materials, hazardous wastes and/or other regulated wastes are required to appoint an EO. These organizations could include facilities, units, ECSs, AMSAs, BMAs, or OMSs. Also, any unit, regardless of size, that is the sole occupant of a facility is required to appoint an EO.

Q How is an EO appointed?

A An EO appointment must be in writing, and a primary and alternate EO should be appointed. Commanders should assign EO duties to persons with ranks/grades appropriate to the activity's mission and the responsibilities that will be required of the EO. A copy of the signed EO appointment memo shall be provided to the Area Contract Environmental Specialist (ACES) for the facility. The EO must attend a course provided or approved by the 63d RD Environmental Division (contact Pam Brady, pamala.h.brady.ctr@army.mil, for scheduling). An EO memo template and the Training Schedule can be found in the Training Program folder at the 63d RD SharePoint Public Environmental Library, <https://armyeitaas.sharepoint-mil.us/teams/usarc-63rd/DPWPublicDocumentsLibrary/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fteams%2Fusarc%2D63rd%2Ddpw%2FDWPPublicDocumentsLibrary%2F22E20Environmental%20%28ENV%29%2FEnvironmental%20Training&viewid=5810fe3e%2D7944%2D4450%2Db3fe%2D05a3fc980b75>.

Additional *supplemental* training can be received through the online Environmental Officer course provided by the Army Engineer School, <https://engineer.wood.army.mil/>, type "Environment" into the search box under the "All Courses" tab, and the Course# is 052_ENV_EO_CONUS. This training is an asset to performing EO duties, but is not a requirement in the 63d RD, and it does NOT replace the need for 63d RD Environmental Training.

Q What are the responsibilities of the EO?

A The EO's areas of responsibility include, but are NOT limited to, the following actions. See ATP 3-34.5, Environmental Considerations, Appendix H, for additional information.

- Advises his organization or unit on environmental compliance during training, operations, and logistics functions.
- Serves as the subject matter expert to the commander on environmental considerations.
- Coordinates between his organization/unit and the RD Environmental staff.
- Updates and maintains the environmental portion of the SOP.
- Ensures adequate troops are trained in environmental compliance at ALL times, especially during the transfer of personnel.
- Performs environmental self-assessment inspections.
- Identifies and reports environmental requirements that affect readiness or mission requirements. Executes corrective actions to solve these problems.
- Reports ALL instances of non-compliance through the chain of command within 24 hours. ♦

Environmental Training I

By CTR Pam Brady, Training Program Manager (SPS)

Regulatory Citations: 40 CFR 112, 122, 262.16 (b)(9)(iii), 262.17 (a)(7), 273.16, 279.22 (d), others; 29 CFR 1910.120, 1910.1200; AR 200-1; and state and local environmental regulations

Q Who is required to attend Environmental Training?

A All personnel located at 63d RD facilities who handle, store, or manage hazardous materials, hazardous wastes, or other regulated wastes and the supervisors of those personnel. Additionally, Environmental Officers (EOs), all 63d RD facility coordinators, and shop supervisors are required to attend. Initial environmental training is required for personnel that have 1) never attended 63d RD-specific environmental training or 2) haven't attended either the initial or refresher training during the preceding 12 months. For newly assigned personnel, the training is **required within 6 months** of job assignment, during which time personnel must work under a trained supervisor.

Q What about California?

A Due to the regulatory stringency in Calif., personnel operating at facilities in Calif. must attend an environmental course hosted at a Calif. facility. Conversely, personnel operating at facilities outside Calif. cannot attend a course hosted at a Calif. facility.

Q What has changed from FY23?

A The 16hr initial course has been extended to a 20hr course. This change is needed to provide more robust, comprehensive, and effective training at a pace that is more suitable for the end user. Personnel that have additional environmental responsibilities will be required to attend 24 hours of training. See below for more information.

Q How do I meet the initial training requirement?

A Anyone requiring environmental training, as described above, is required to attend an initial 20hr Environmental Course. This course fulfills the training requirement for our general audience, such as those handling hazardous materials or generating regulated or hazardous wastes. It will typically be held from 0800-1700 Tuesday and Wednesday and from 0800-1130 on Thursday. For key personnel with additional environmental responsibilities, such as EOs, facility coordinators, shop supervisors, etc., an additional half day training is required. This additional half day will be held immediately following the conclusion of the 20hr initial course, typically after lunch on Thursday, the third day. It is open to all students but required for those described above. This additional "Environmental Officer/Leadership" training will consist of 63d RD-specific requirements, such as SOPs and 63d RD forms, and other regulatory requirements needed to perform tasks with additional environmental responsibilities. The half day is NOT a standalone course, but must be coupled with the 20hr course to qualify as EO training.

Q After completion of the initial training, is anything else required?

A Yes. A refresher course is required annually. The refresher course provides an overview and/or update of the topics covered in the initial training. If personnel do not maintain their refresher training, the initial course will have to be repeated to bring their records current.

Q How do I enroll in these courses?

A Enrollment will be accomplished through the USAR Training Tracker, which is utilized USAR-wide to efficiently manage environmental training. The tracker can be found at <https://arngwebcass.ngb.army.mil/EATS/Welcome.aspx>. It will provide registration, training histories, and certificates. Personnel can utilize PKI Login with their CAC to access the tracker. If this does not work, we may need to grant your account access. Please send your first/last name, army.mil email, UIC, activity/unit name, and the facility of assignment to the Training POCs listed below. Full instructions on how to register can be found in the USAR Training Tracker User Documentation guide, available by request from the Training POCs.

TRAINING TRACKER ENROLL TODAY

To enroll in environmental training courses, personnel can utilize PKI Login with their CAC to access the USAR Training Tracker.

The Tracker can be found at <https://arngwebcass.ngb.army.mil/EATS/Welcome.aspx>.

Environmental Training-Continued on next page

Environmental Training II

By CTR Pam Brady, Training Program Manager (SPS)

Regulatory Citations: 40 CFR 112, 122, 262.16 (b)(9)(iii), 262.17 (a)(7), 273.16, 279.22 (d), others; 29 CFR 1910.120, 1910.1200; AR 200-1; and state and local environmental regulations

Q Who can register for courses in the 63d Readiness Division?

A You will only be able to register for courses in the 63d RD if your facility is in the 63d RD footprint. If you cannot find your facility/unit/activity from the dropdowns or have any other questions, please contact the Training POCs listed below.

One person can register multiple students in the tracker, but to access certificates and histories after class, each individual will need their own access.

Q Who funds the TDY?

A Funding for travel required to attend environmental training is the responsibility of the unit/activity that requires training. However, to increase the number of required EOs needed to support environmental compliance, the 63d RD DPW is providing funding in FY24 for primary and alternate facility and unit Environmental Officers ONLY. Other required positions will have to be funded by their organizations. To be eligible for EO funding, the EO appointment memo signed by the site/unit commander must be provided to the Training POCs listed below. Once approved, the DTS Line of Accounting will be provided.

POC Names & Phone Numbers:

Pam Brady, pamala.h.brady.ctr@army.mil, 870.329.5824

Perlita Dicochea, perlita.r.dicochea.ctr@army.mil, 719.516.6790



Above: In the center, from left to right, stand environmental training workshop instructors Tom Smith and James Lauber with workshop students at the James E. Rudder U.S. Army Reserve Center, San Antonio, Texas. April 2023. *Perlita R. Dicochea*

63d RD Environmental Training

FY 2024

Bridge in Sacramento, California—Shutterstock.com

FY24 TRAINING SCHEDULE

63d RD Environmental Training is required for all personnel located on 63d RD property who actively handle or store hazardous materials, hazardous wastes, or other regulated wastes and the supervisors of those personnel. Additionally, Environmental Officers, all 63d RD facility managers, and shop supervisors are required to attend. After initial training, an annual refresher is required. To enroll in training, contact Pam Brady, pamala.h.brady.ctr@army.mil, (870) 329-5824. Personnel operating in facilities located in California must attend training held in California (listed with an asterisk below). Conversely, courses held in California are only open to personnel operating at facilities located in California.

20-Hr Hazardous Waste/Environmental Compliance Course-Initial

Tues & Wed, 0800-1700, & Thurs, 0800-1130

DATE	LOCATION	DATE	LOCATION
23-25 January 2024	Houston, TX	14-16 May 2024	Barling, AR
30 Jan—1 Feb 2024	Sacramento, CA	4-6 June 2024	San Diego, CA*
12-14 March 2024	San Antonio, TX	16-18 July 2024	Grand Prairie, TX
23-25 April 2024	Tustin, CA*		

Environmental Officer/Leadership Course

(Facility Coordinators, Shop Supervisors, Environmental Officers, Others as Needed)

Thurs, 1300-1700

DATE	LOCATION	DATE	LOCATION
25 January 2024	Houston, TX	16 May 2024	Barling, AR
1 February 2024	Sacramento, CA*	6 June 2024	San Diego, CA*
14 March 2024	San Antonio, TX	18 July 2024	Grand Prairie, TX
25 April 2024	Tustin, CA*		

The EO/Leadership Course is not a standalone and is supplemental for required personnel.

* Personnel operating in facilities located in California MUST attend training held in California

‡ Weekend tentative

FY24 TRAINING SCHEDULE *continued*

8-Hr Hazardous Waste/Environmental Compliance Course—Refresher

DATE	LOCATION	DATE	LOCATION
17 January 2024	Los Alamitos, CA*	30 July 2024	Fresno, CA*
18 January 2024	Los Alamitos, CA*	6 August 2024	Camp Pendleton, CA*
31 January 2024	Robstown, TX	27 August 2024	Las Vegas (Sloan), NV
1 February 2024	Robstown, TX	27 August 2024	San Antonio, TX
6 February 2024	El Paso, TX	28 August 2024	San Antonio, TX
7 February 2024	El Paso, TX	29 August 2024	Marana, AZ
20 February 2024	Houston, TX	17 September 2024	Barstow, CA*
22 February 2024	Beaumont, TX	18 September 2024	Barstow, CA*
26 March 2024	Austin, TX	18 September 2024	Gatesville, TX
26 March 2024	Camp Parks, CA*	19 September 2024	Gatesville, TX
28 March 2024	Sacramento, CA*		

* Personnel operating in facilities located in California MUST attend training held in California

‡ Weekend tentative



SOLDIER BEHIND THE NAME: GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON

Army Reserve Center, CA002 | Bell, Calif.

By Thomas Smith, Environmental Compliance Specialist, Whitetail Environmental Contractor



General George S. Patton, 1945.
See image at
www.britannica.com/biography/George-Smith-Patton. U.S. Army Photo

Near the north bank of the Los Angeles River in Bell, Calif., sits the CA002 Army Reserve Center, named to memorialize George S. Patton, the World War II General in the United States Army.

In 1885, George Patton was born in nearby San Marino, just 16 miles southwest and across the Los Angeles River from CA002 ARC. A memorial plaque honors General Patton in Lacy Park. People young and old, walking hand-in-hand through this beautiful park, stop to read the George S. Patton marker, surrounded by the lush vegetation, open grass spaces, palm trees and a rose garden.

Patton, the son of San Marino's first Mayor, was born and raised on the family farm in what is now Huntington Park. He became one of the most brilliant and aggressive military commanders in American history. He attended Virginia Military Institute and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1909.

Patton served as aid to General John J. Pershing during the 1916 Mexican Punitive Expedition, intended to capture Mexican Revolutionary Pancho Villa. While the mission failed, General Patton led a raid in which three of Villa's men were killed.

This expedition is known as the first time the U.S. Army employed automobiles in combat. In World War I, General Patton was wounded while courageously leading a tank corps in combat.

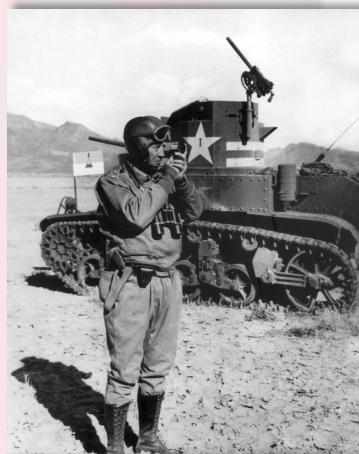
In World War II, as the Western Tank Force and Seventh Army Commander, his troops were victorious in Sicily and North Africa. Afterwards, as Commander of the Third Army, General Patton showed his military brilliance by landing and proceeding through France after the Allied invasion of Normandy in June 1944 to a decisive victory in Germany. In *Britannica*, General Patton is described as "a brilliant but hot-tempered U.S. Army General who was arguably the Allies' most gifted tank commander."

Throughout his life—in his military career, in his writings and poetry and even in various sports—General Patton has been described as steadfast, staunchly devout, often-times profane and flamboyant, with a genuine twist of controversy. He was described by his men as "Old Blood-and-Guts." To be sure, it is noted in various historical texts that General Patton displayed "emotional instability" and "erratic behavior," particularly in his later years.

General Patton's military leadership, humanity and human imperfections are fully embraced at the General George Patton Museum, located at Fort Knox, Kentucky, which reopened in 2018 after nearly a year of renovations. In an August 2018 story published by Fort Knox News, Museum Curator Nathan Jones states, "He was deeply loved by the Soldiers who served under him, and he was an emotionally driven person who was deeply religious and openly cried in front of his staff."

General Patton was truly a man for his time and an authentic American Hero. As he requested, he is buried with his fallen comrades in the American Military Cemetery at Hamm, Luxembourg.

For further reading about General Patton, go to www.britannica.com/biography/George-Smith-Patton. To learn more about the General Patton Museum, read the U.S. Army's story at www.army.mil/article/21007. ♦



U.S. General George Patton standing to the side of an M2 medium tank in Tunisia, 1942. See image at www.britannica.com/biography/George-Smith-Patton. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Lost Maples State Natural Area, Texas—[The 5 Best Trails For Fall Foliage In Texas \(onlyinyourstate.com\)](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SPECIALISTS—UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DIVISION CHIEF-HQ, 63d RD

Morey Moore
(719) 516-6782 office
(650) 636-3669 mobile
morey.u.moore.civ@army.mil

Deputy Environmental Chief-N Little Rock, AR

NEPA/Conservation/Budget/COR
Cameron Dixon
(719) 516-6377 office
(215) 880-7709 mobile
cameron.l.dixon.civ@army.mil

Compliance Branch Chief/Disposals-HQ, 63d RD

EPAS/Waste/Permits/EPCRA/Air/Disposals
Alex Brady
(719) 516-6770 office
(205) 420-2378 mobile
alexander.l.brady.civ@army.mil

Environmental Protection Specialist-N Little Rock, AR

James Wilson
(719) 516-6365 office
james.e.wilson.civ@army.mil

Environmental Contractors (SPS)—Program Managers

Pam Brady

Contract Program Manager/Training Branch Chief
Training/EPAS Support/Database/EQCC
North Little Rock, AR
(719) 516-6376 office
(870) 329-5824 mobile
pamala.h.brady.ctr@army.mil

Lisa Torralba

Compliance Support Program Manager
HQ, 63d RD
(719) 516-6978 office
(805) 710-9069 mobile
lisa.m.torralba.ctr@army.mil

Stephano Murguia

NEPA Program Manager/CSS
HQ, 63d RD
(719) 516-7100 office
stephano.l.murguia.ctr@army.mil

Peter Grunow

Natural Resources/GIS Program Manager
Wildlife Biologist
HQ, 63d RD
(719) 516-7014 office
peter.e.grunow.ctr@army.mil

Margaret Magat

Cultural Resources Program Manager
Sacramento, CA
(719) 317-6117 office
annamargaret.r.magat.ctr@army.mil

Lisa Gonzales

Storm Water/SPCCP/Biologist
Pest Management Coordinator
Southern California
(714) 520-1318 mobile
lisa.m.gonzales42.ctr@army.mil

Cindy Scott-Dees

Hazardous Waste/RCRA Program Manager
Fort Sill, OK
(515) 441-2662 mobile
(580) 595-0188 alt mobile
cindy.a.scott3.ctr@army.mil

Perlita Dicochea

Outreach Program Manager
HQ, 63d RD
(719) 516-6790 office
(408) 771-9045 mobile
perlita.r.dicochea.ctr@army.mil

Area Contract Environmental Specialists (SPS)

Leon Smith

Region 1, Arkansas & Oklahoma
North Little Rock, AR
(501) 247-8745 mobile
leon.c.smith12.ctr@army.mil

Jerome Jackson

Region 2, North Texas
Grand Prairie, TX
(214) 538-5932 mobile
jerome.k.jackson2.ctr@army.mil

Vacant

Region 3, South Texas
Beaumont, TX
(870) 329-5824 mobile
pamala.h.brady.ctr@army.mil

Jennifer Ahl

Region 4, AZ/NM/NV/El Paso
Phoenix, AZ
(559) 392-3508 mobile
jennifer.ahl@specprosvcs.com

Sergio Rangel

Region 5, Southern California
HQ, 63d RD
(805) 586-5514 mobile
sergio.rangel@specprosvcs.com

Vacant

Region 6, Northern California
Sacramento, CA
(870) 329-5824 mobile
pamala.h.brady.ctr@army.mil

Environmental Contractors—Whitetail Environmental

Carmen Call

NEPA Specialist
(510) 326-6912 mobile
carmen.a.call.ctr@army.mil

ON THE COVER: Lake Catherine, Arkansas—[Lake Catherine Page \(ejphoto.com\)](#)



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