

WINNERS OF THE 2024  
COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S ANNUAL AWARD FOR  
INSTALLATION EXCELLENCE

**ARMY WINNER**

United States Army Garrison Fort Cavazos  
Texas

U. S. Army Garrison Fort Cavazos, Texas, nicknamed “The Great Place,” is the Army’s premier installation in the Strategic Support Area to train and deploy armored forces, and the only installation in the United States capable of stationing and training two armored divisions. A Power Projection Platform and one of the only two active Mobilization Force Generation Installations in the Army; they are home to the III Armored Corps Headquarters (HQs), 1<sup>st</sup> Army-Division West HQs, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, the 13<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Sustainment Command, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Regiment, and numerous other brigade-sized tenant organizations comprised of nearly 36,000 Soldiers.

Fort Cavazos is an inseparable part of the larger local community. Throughout the Army, there is no other installation that has built a stronger relationship with the civilian community than the one between Fort Cavazos and Central Texas. In fiscal year 2023, the installation conducted several programs designed to enhance quality of life for on and off-post communities that offer Soldiers and families opportunities to enjoy safe, affordable activities that enhance overall community well-being, readiness and morale.

In fiscal year 2023, Fort Cavazos excelled in the award category of Fiscal Stewardship. The Garrison conducted acquisition reviews that focused on contract reforms and cost savings initiatives. New enterprise level contracts for the Closed-Circuit TV and Computer Aided Dispatch resulted in cost savings of an estimated \$434,000. New Intergovernmental Support Agreements between the Army, Air Force, Navy and the Texas Department of Transportation to provide maintenance services along with bulk procurement of goods is expected to save \$3.7 million. A partnership with the Killeen Fire Department reduced the need for a fire station to cover a non-contiguous housing area, saving over \$16 million. A partnership with Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport has been extremely successful, providing a significant cost reduction of over \$500,000 annually.

The Garrison’s aggressive energy management program and energy reduction strategies are saving the Army more than \$3 million annually. The installation’s energy management program includes three Energy Savings and Performance Contracts, efficient lighting upgrades, renewable energy, energy management systems, as well as behavior modification efforts through education and outreach.

United States Army Garrison Fort Cavazos other noteworthy installation achievements include winning three Army Community Partnership Awards in the areas of firefighting, emergency management, and airfield maintenance; and the Army Exceptional Organization Safety Award.

The United States Army Garrison Fort Cavazos is recognized as an Army Community of Excellence that continuously strives to execute its vision to be the Army’s model for readiness, training, and deployment while simultaneously providing realistic and responsive Quality of Life services to Soldiers, families, civilians, and honored retired Soldiers.

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**NAVY WINNER**

Naval Air Station Whiting Field  
Florida/Alabama

Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NASWF), serves as the Navy's primary pilot training facility and home plate for its largest Air Wing, Training Air Wing FIVE. NASWF's mission is to train the Warfighters of tomorrow. Over 1,200 flight students from the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Allied Forces train here each year. The installation's footprint spans two states and four counties, includes three independent tower-controlled airfields and supports 12 Navy Outlying Landing Fields. Every Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard helicopter pilot earns their Wings of Gold at NASWF, producing nearly 600 new aviators annually.

Naval Air Station Whiting Field's workforce set the benchmark of excellence in mission, force protection, quality of life, communication, innovation, asset management, environmental stewardship, energy reduction and is touted as the Navy's standard in Community Outreach. In fiscal year 2023, NASWF's team enabled the completion of over a million flight operations, making it one of the busiest air complexes in the world and accounted for 18 percent of all U.S. Navy world-wide flight hours!

In the award category of Command Initiatives, NASWF pursued multiple enterprises to protect and enhance military missions and quality of life onboard the installation through such initiatives as Military Strategic Studies, Installation Resiliency Reviews, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analyses, 5G technology application, Child Care Support, Inter-Governmental Support Agreements, holding Airport Development Summits, Renewable Energy Planning, and other pursuits.

In fiscal year 2023, Team Whiting promoted opportunities that built community relationships by participating in local venues to educate the public on the strategic significance of Whiting's mission. Sailors, Marines, DoD civilians and family members participated in numerous county and state-wide events and donated more than 10,000 volunteer service hours.

Naval Air Station Whiting Field noteworthy achievements in FY 2023 also include the Orville Wright Aviation Achievement Award, Chief of Naval Air Training Aviation Training Excellence Awards for Advanced Squadron, Safety and Instruction, SECNAV's Energy Gold Award, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection Public Water System Plant Excellence Award, Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Award, DoD Education Activity Award, Navy Surgeon General's Health Promotion and Wellness Award for Safety, National Recreation and Parks Administration Gold Medal; Unaccompanied Housing "A" List, Crystal Customer Service Award, Florida Clean Marina Designation, and Tree City USA,

Naval Air Station Whiting Field is a proactive and progressive installation in workforce development and community-military partnering. The Team onboard Naval Air Station Whiting Field remains steadfast in their commitment to provide the highest standards of service and support to the Fleet, Fighter and Family.

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**MARINE CORPS WINNER**

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point  
North Carolina

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point is home to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing and Fleet Readiness Center East. More than 53,000 people make up the total Cherry Point population that includes active duty and retired Marines, families and the civilian workforce. The air station and its associated support locations occupy approximately 29,000 acres. The heart of MCAS Cherry Point is its massive four-point runway system, which is designed to provide multiple approach and departure advantages to aviators. Reaching further out from the main air station area is Cherry Point's system of ranges and auxiliary landing fields, which provide unique littoral training opportunities as well as aviation and naval combatants across all U.S. and some foreign military services. Cherry Point's influence in the region stretches even further with its air traffic control services that covers more than 9,000 square miles of airspace for military, civil and commercial air traffic.

In fiscal year 2023, MCAS Cherry Point achieved excellence in installation management through administrative discipline, asset and project management, innovative business practices, community engagement, and meritorious personnel service. Notably, Cherry Point demonstrated unparalleled excellence through its management of the \$1.1 billion F-35 transition program, with the key milestone of welcoming the first operational squadron during the spring of 2023 and the successful occupancy of the \$53 million flight simulator facility.

MCAS Cherry Point reduced its carbon footprint with the implementation of a Utility Energy Service Contract that enhanced energy resilience, hardened control system cybersecurity, improved energy system reliability, and reduced the air station's energy consumption.

In the award category of Quality of Life, MCAS Cherry Point helped families of Marines and Sailors become more familiar with the customs and everyday lifestyle of the military through classes that cover a wide variety of topics through the installation's L.I.N.K.S. program (an acronym that stands for Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge, and Skills). Cherry Point offered over eighty quality of life enhancing programs and provided Service Members and their families with many outstanding events that included Rocktoberfest, Trunk or Treat, Spring Fling, and Back to School.

MCAS Cherry Point's FY 2023 achievements also included the Federal Energy Management Program Spotlight Award, Navy Surgeon General's Health Promotion and Wellness Award, National Alliance for Youth Sports Better Sports for Kids Quality Program Provider Award, and the Cherry Tree House was selected by the Boys and Girls Club of America as the recipient of the Rachael Ray Foundation grant for \$5,000 to support the Healthy Habits program.

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point's sustained excellence across a wide range of base support functions and in community relations exemplifies the commitment shared by all Marines, Sailors, and civilians to the base's mission. This enduring commitment to excellence will ensure Cherry Point's premier stature and vital contribution to National defense long into the future.

*Semper Fidelis*

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**AIR FORCE WINNER**  
Mountain Home Air Force Base  
Idaho

Mountain Home Air Force Base located near Mountain Home, Idaho is home to the 366th Fighter Wing (nicknamed the “Gunfighters” since 1967). The Wing’s primary mission is to provide mission-ready Gunfighters to conduct military operations anytime, anywhere. The wing comprises 4,200 military and civilian members that support 18 squadrons of F-15 Strike Eagles. Team Mountain Home distinguished itself by providing excellent mission support, innovative services, and exceptional quality of life for its Airmen and their families. The foundation for its success is predicated on the base’s commitment to excellence and innovation.

Mountain Home led the Air Force in fiscal year 2023 by improving operations, achieving cost savings, and encouraging innovation to the point where innovation is a part of every Gunfighter’s DNA. Such a culture empowers Gunfighters to think outside the box and shape their future. In tackling innovative initiatives, the installation piloted several novel ideas to increase the efficiency for the unit’s Airmen. The improvements include replacing antiquated technology with scanners and cellphones to cut delivery times for mission-critical aircraft supplies by 66 percent. The team adopted and advanced the use of the all-in-one forward refueling tool, the STARCART, employing it at numerous forward operating locations during Exercise RAGING GUNFIGHTER. In a partnership with Forts USA, the base developed a collapsible cargo deployment shelter. Dubbed “the dog house,” this shelter is a self-sustained, single-pallet-position facility that houses joint inspections and load planning operations.

The installation has been keenly focused on improving the installation’s resiliency through efforts to increase water and energy security. Mountain Home partnered with the Idaho Department of Water Resources to access Snake River water. The base is involved in multiple energy initiatives to increase power resiliency that includes upgrading a major power switching station, conducting backup power exercises with a neighboring hydro-electrical plant to ensure electric needs can be met in case of a catastrophic power grid failure, and pursuing geothermal solutions for energy needs. The 366<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing’s Innovation Cell developed a Solar Portable Power Cell to provide a self-sufficient power source on deployed environments and field training exercises.

In fiscal year 2023, Mountain Home AFB won numerous awards including the General Thomas D. White Award for Natural Resources Conservation; Air Force Science and Engineering Award, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team of the Year, Fire Prevention Program of the Year, Safety Program of the Year, National Defense Transportation Award, and Security Forces Outstanding Squadron Award; Brigadier General Michael A. McAuliffe Housing Excellence Award; Major General Clifton D. Wright Award for Operations Flight; and the American Legion Spirit of Service.

Mountain Home’s workforce continues to set a standard of excellence for the Air Force as they fulfill their mission to prepare Airmen professionally and personally, for expeditionary operations and foster an environment that promotes integration of all facets of wing operations.

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**SPACE FORCE WINNER**

Patrick Space Force Base  
Florida

Patrick Space Force Base (SFB) is at the forefront of supporting missions critical to the defense of the Nation, delivering warfighting capabilities through unrivaled combat service and base operations support. Space Launch Delta 45 is comprised of a Medical Group, 11 Squadrons, 19 Delta Staff Agencies and a geographically separated detachment which enable space launch operations for the Department of Defense. Further, Patrick SFB encompasses many mission partners including the 920th Reserve Rescue Wing, 333rd Recruiting Squadron, Air Force Technical Applications Center, Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, National Reconnaissance Office, and the Naval Ordnance Test Unit.

The Space Launch Delta authored a cross-coast concept of operations to streamline launch control capabilities by syncing Patrick Space Force Base and Vandenberg Space Force Base mission commands into a single focal point. The effort added redundant coverage, cut manpower needs by 50 percent, increased mission assurance by 110 percent, and drove standardization of training across both ranges. The Guardians at the Space Launch Delta nailed the first DoD Falcon Heavy launch and the first DoD Falcon Heavy booster reuse. Additionally, the Space Launch Delta crafted the initial mission assurance plan for United Launch Alliances next generation Vulcan Rocket by validating over 100 launch tasks, authored 300 requirements, and overseeing the first static-fire test. These efforts postured the nation to end our reliance on Russian manufactured engines and exponentially increase our space launch capability.

Across the installation, the Guardians are innovating. The services team produced the Space Force's top childcare program! They seized \$335,000 in grants and created a free voluntary pre-kindergarten program for 472 parents, saving \$1 million in off-base costs. The Weather Squadron actualized a new 3-D software which automated real-time launch forecasting with improved weather analysis which greatly improves space launch operations. The Medical Group targeted workflow innovation by securing a new high speed pharmaceutical robot that's capable of filling 100 prescriptions per hour, boosting operations by 25 percent, and saved 200K man-hours. The Inspector General Office leveraged academia to create a 'Defend the Mission' initiative focused on enabling launch operations during contested and degraded environments. The initiative ultimately enabled a 196 percent launch surge!

Other significant installation awards in Fiscal Year 2023 include the Major General Eugene L. Eubank Award for Support Squadron and the Security Forces Unit Award.

The Space Guardians at Patrick Space Force Base provide outstanding mission support through innovation and programs dedicated to mission readiness through efficiencies and cost control, while maintaining a focus on the importance of providing a "quality of life" environment for families and single Guardians. The U.S. Space Force mission statement is "to secure our Nation's interests in, from, and to space." The Guardians at Patrick Space Force Base dedicate themselves daily to that charge.

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**DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY WINNER**

Defense Supply Center Columbus, Ohio

Defense Supply Center Columbus (DSCC) is a 520-acre Defense Department facility located in Central Ohio, providing installation management and services for 30 tenants and approximately 9,000 personnel. DSCC is the headquarters for Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) Land and Maritime supply chains managing 2.5 million items and supporting more than 21,000 military units and federal and civil agencies. DLA Land and Maritime maintains operational control of the installation in conjunction with DLA Installation Management – Columbus to uniquely capitalize on the synergy of state, federal and defense organizations such as the Ohio Army National Guard Regional Training Institute, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, and the Veterans Administration, which are co-located on or near the site.

Defense Supply Center Columbus embraced numerous initiatives to enhance Warfighter support, strategic engagement, workforce resiliency, fiscal stewardship, and professional development with the expressed goal of reinforcing excellence in the execution of supply chain logistics. In Fiscal Year 2023, DLA Land and Maritime focused its supply chain operations on military readiness while fulfilling increased demands in support to U.S. European Command's area of responsibility in alignment with DOD goals of deterring Russian aggression in Ukraine. DLA Land and Maritime delivered exceptional supply chain results in a turbulent year which saw a 23 percent increase in supply orders. This achievement was orchestrated through a series of collective actions aimed at greater synchronization with partners, improved standardization of process flows, and closer collaboration across the military services.

With the increased ops tempo, fitness and wellness became a priority for installation employees. DSCC's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Office nurtured the community by curating a diverse range of physical and mental health initiatives, fostering a supportive work environment where individuals could thrive and engage in enriching programs and events that included a new six-week Mind Body Mental Fitness Workshop, a Self-Care Fair, 5K runs, and numerous intramural sports.

The Defense Supply Center Columbus team generates novel ideas to increase work efficiencies or to improve the quality of life for all. As an example the Environmental Division planted a sensory vegetable garden at the Child Development Center. The garden provides an opportunity for the children to learn about the importance of caring for our natural environment and the food grown is incorporated into meals and snacks prepared at the center.

Other awards received for Fiscal Year 2023 performance include the DLA Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Facility/Program Excellence Award and the DLA Award for Outstanding Police Activity of the Year, and the installation continued to garner USA Tree City recognition.

It's clear the DLA Defense Supply Center Columbus demonstrates remarkable support for its customers and employees within resource constraints through innovative and results-driven management. Their capacity to cultivate a compassionate, cost-effective, and energy-efficient community while executing a complex global logistics mission in support of U.S. Forces fully justifies their nomination for this prestigious award.