



JOINT FORCES TRAINING BASE

NEWS Release

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JFTB HONORED BY NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU FOR 2017 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INITIATIVES

LOS ALAMITOS, Calif. – For military and civilian aviators alike, one of their worst nightmares is encountering a bird strike during takeoff and landing. Damage can be catastrophic and most importantly, the lives of pilots and passengers are jeopardized.

Recognizing the potential severity and importance of mitigating the problem, Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB) has been formally recognized by the National Guard Bureau and honored as the first-place recipient for “Environmental Quality – Non-Industrial Installation” in the 2017 Army National Guard Environmental Security Awards program.

JFTB has taken a lead role in creating and implementing an Army-specific bird strike prevention initiative -- formally known as a Bird / Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard (*BASH*) Program.

Since 2015, Los Alamitos Army Airfield has been one of only two Army aviation facilities nationwide to create and implement this type of wildlife management program. As an indication of the seriousness of the problem, Dan Biteman, JFTB’s resident airfield wildlife biologist from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, captured and relocated 188 raptors from June to October of 2017 and observed 7,952 birds – including 1,583 raptors over the same period.

Raptors, include a variety of hawks, owls, falcons and vultures that are also known as birds of prey because they hunt and feed on rodents and other small animals. Biteman scares off the birds or captures them in traps set up near the airfield runways and then relocates and releases them in a habitat some 200 miles distant from the airfield.

JFTB was also recognized for additional environmental sustainability initiatives that include water conservation efforts in establishing drought-tolerant landscaping, designing storm water retention basins around new construction projects, recycling more than 5,000 tons of crushed concrete from building demolition projects, promoting environmental education through the installation’s STARBASE STEM program, securing an independent water supply source via water wells and the planned development of a solar panel-based renewable energy generation facility.

“Joint Forces Training Base takes our responsibility to be a good steward of the environment that we live and work very seriously, and we are honored to be recognized by the National Guard Bureau for our comprehensive efforts in living up to our commitment,” said JFTB Installation Commander Col. Julian Bond. “We are dedicated to inspired service at JFTB, and kudos goes to our installation’s environmental officer, Tom Tandoc, for his truly inspirational efforts in overseeing the initiatives that earned us this prestigious award.”

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