

# Meridian earns SECNAV Energy, Water Award

By Penny Randall  
Staff Writer

Naval Air Station Meridian was among Navy Region Southeast's 16 non-BRAC installations to be recognized recently by the Secretary of the Navy with an Energy and Water Management Award.

"These awards reflect our significant progress in making energy and water conservation a high priority in our everyday mission of supporting the fleet, family and warfighter," Commander Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Tim Alexander said.

"This marks the first time all non-BRAC installations in Navy Region Southeast have received recognition. Energy is one of Region Southeast's major focus areas, and installation efforts have positively positioned us to execute a comprehensive energy strategy that will help us become the Navy's leading region in energy and water conservation."

NAS Meridian joined Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla.; Naval Air Station Key West, Fla.; Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas; and Naval Support Activity Panama City, Fla., who were all Gold Level award winners, indicating a very good to outstanding energy program.

"Thanks to everyone on base for supporting our energy conservation program," said Meridian Public Works Officer Lt. Cmdr. Lance Coe. "We achieved the Secretary of the Navy's Gold Energy rating for FY10 and

hope to continue the superior efforts shown by all. To achieve this rating required a diligent effort by our tenant commands and their building energy monitors to efficiently operate our facilities and propose projects to reduce energy and water consumption."

Evaluation criteria to achieve the Gold Level Energy Award included command policy and organization; energy management; training, design and construction; renewable and new technology; energy and water management programs; and energy and water performance.

"Keep up the great work and we'll achieve platinum status next year," Coe said.

Leading the way was Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, one of only seven Navy or Marine Corps shore commands worldwide to be recognized as a platinum level award winner, signifying an outstanding energy program and an exceptional year of energy project execution.

"Kings Bay is doing some innovative things to reduce energy and water consumption," Alexander said. "From a new wastewater treatment plant with water savings of \$60,000 a year, to the innovative use of solar technology to augment that plant with energy savings of \$116,000 a year, the installation is realizing truly significant energy use reduction."

Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay will be recognized at an award ceremony Oct. 6 at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"Energy and water management are critical to the accomplishment of the Navy's mission and our nation's energy independence

and security," Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus said in a Navy-wide message. "Energy specifically is one of my top priorities and your performance has significantly advanced progress toward achievement of our goals."

The awards program also has a blue level award for commands with a well-rounded energy program. Navy Region Southeast commands winning awards in this category included Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss.; Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas; Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas; Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans; Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla.; Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Milton, Fla.; Navy Supply Corps School Athens, Ga.; Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Naval Weapons Station Charleston, S.C.; Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division at Naval Support Activity Orlando, Fla.; and Naval Station Mayport, Fla.

"Leaders on every level of the Navy Region Southeast team have made great efforts to motivate team members, communicate energy initiatives, and push for execution of energy projects," Alexander said. "Your efforts reflect our commitment to the country and the goals set forth in the Energy Independence and Security Act and associated Executive Orders. The team effort of all of our Sailors, civilians, and contractors in the Southeast are making a difference."

Stephen Strickland, Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs, contributed to this story.