



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY**  
**INSTALLATIONS, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**  
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**WASHINGTON DC 20310-0110**

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MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Observes World Water Day

1. On 22 March 2022, the world will celebrate World Water Day, recognizing the critical importance of water in every aspect of our lives and environments. Much like our neighboring communities, Army readiness is dependent on the sustainability of the water resources to operate today and preserve our operating flexibility in the future. This year's World Water Day theme is "groundwater – making the invisible visible." This reminds us that the readiness of every Army mission depends upon resilient and safe water supply for our Army, Soldiers, Civilians, Families and communities, and that the value of sustainable water resources is visible in every Army mission.

2. World Water Day provides an opportunity to recognize the great efforts made by Army installations to support and protect Army missions, environments, and communities through responsible management of water resources. The Army prioritizes effective stewardship and security of water sources serving installations, and coordinates with the other Services and the Office of the Secretary of Defense to develop methods of assessing aquifer and watershed health.

3. The Army supports the protection of water resources by:

a. Enacting Policies for Groundwater Protection and Comprehensive Water Management. The Army has robust policies in place that require Army installations to control sources of pollutants and contaminants to protect groundwater and to conduct comprehensive water evaluations to increase water efficiency and resilience.

b. Reducing Demand. Through its investments in water efficiency projects, the Army has reduced annual potable water use by 11.3 billion gallons in fiscal year 2021 compared to the fiscal year 2007 baseline, representing a 26% drop. While consumption increased slightly from fiscal year 2020 to fiscal year 2021, the Army continues to work to become more efficient, a key to the Army's commitment to support sustainable groundwater supplies across the US.

c. Prioritizing Army Installation Modernization. The Army Installations Strategy (AIS) outlines how the transformation of our installations will meet the Army's needs today, tomorrow, and into the future. In alignment with the AIS, the recently released Army Climate Strategy guides installations to prepare for simultaneous readiness challenges of increased flooding as well as increased water scarcity.

d. Planning for Resilient Water Resources. Every mission on Army installations depends on safe, reliable, and sustainable water resources. The Army Installation Energy and Water Strategic Plan recognizes that the strategic goals of Resilience, Efficiency, and Affordability

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must frame the Army's approach. Army Installation Energy and Water Plans will guide our installations towards more resilient, efficient, and affordable water management.

4. Please celebrate your achievements and continue your focus on improving water management and security. The Army of tomorrow will appreciate the efforts taken today to recognize water's direct link to readiness.



PAUL W. FARNAN

Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army  
(Installations, Energy and Environment)

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