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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND PENNSYLVANIA PARTNER IN ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

NORFOLK, VA. – Department of Defense officials will join Pennsylvania Department of Environmental (DEP) officials and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in signing a partnership charter tomorrow for a cooperative agreement that promotes the use of pollution prevention and other environmental techniques at military facilities.

"The Department of Defense installations have always been, and always will be, integral parts of the communities that surround them," said Rear Admiral Stephen Turcotte, Department of Defense Regional Environmental Coordinator for EPA Region 3 and Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic. "We are proud of our environmental efforts and take pride in our relationships with local communities. We view this partnership as a further indication of our commitment to the citizens and environment of Pennsylvania."

"This cooperative agreement will strengthen the ability of each of us to take positive steps that conserve our natural resources," said DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty. "Together, the Department of Defense, DEP and EPA can share information and become more effective in our efforts to improve the quality of the environment for everyone in the Commonwealth."

Members of the partnership will meet regularly to provide a forum to share ideas and discuss regulatory issues, updates and educational opportunities. Attending the meetings will be environmental managers from defense installations, and state and federal environmental regulators who are committed to achieving measurable environmental improvements by improving communications between their agencies.

About two dozen participants will sign the charter at a ceremony at 2 p.m. at the Defense Distribution Center in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

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MEDIA NOTE: Media desiring to cover the charter signing ceremony, please contact Jackie Noble at the (717) 770-6223 no later then 9 a.m. on Thursday, December 18.