



# Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst Press Release

Telephone: (732) 323-2620,  
Pager: 1-888-646-2851  
Fax: (732) 323-7676

News Release No. 2-3  
Date: 17 Feb 2004  
[www.lakehurst.navy](http://www.lakehurst.navy)

Contact: Thomas Worsdale, Public Affairs Officer  
Patricia Odoardo, Public Affairs Officer

## Base to compete worldwide

## Navy Lakehurst Named Best in the Northeast

February 17, 2004—Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst has been chosen as the Navy's Northeast Region nominee for the coveted Commander-in-Chief's (CINC) Installation Excellence Award for 2003.

Lakehurst's selection this year represents the third year in a row it has been selected to compete at this level for the award. Established in 1984, the CINC Installation Excellence Award recognizes the outstanding efforts of personnel in the operation and maintenance of U.S. military installations worldwide. The award recognizes one installation from each Military Service and Defense Logistics Agency that has made the best use of available resources to accomplish its assigned mission and has focused on innovative management actions to increase productivity of its work force as well as enhance the quality of life for personnel.

Lakehurst's chief mission is to conduct advanced research and development programs in support of air-platform operations worldwide. Lakehurst also provides training areas for Navy and other Federal and State agencies in support of national defense priorities. As the largest Naval Aviation facility in the Northeast, located on 7430 acres in the New Jersey Pine Barrens, and sharing a common border with Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base, the three bases create a unique 42,000 acre contiguous tri-service military reservation in the active Northeast corridor. This Joint Installation Partnership (JIP) arrangement allows for facility sharing and interoperability, with minimum encroachment potential – a one-of-a-kind situation within the Department of Defense. Based on these assets, Lakehurst, this year, became home to the new Air Force Eagle Flag exercises, which train troops from all services to establish, operate and defend expeditionary airfields.

In 2003, Electromagnetic Aircraft Launching System (EMALS) testing began at Lakehurst, a technology that may reduce catapult energy use by 79%. Lakehurst's engineers won the Navy's E-Gov award in 2003 for development of the innovative AutoREAD system, which allows electronic record-keeping during inspection of the arresting gear system on aircraft carriers. AutoREAD may save \$2 million annually per carrier.

Lakehurst leads the way in environmental stewardship, winning the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Environmental Planning Award and a NJ Environmental Excellence Award. IN 2003, Lakehurst's catapult steam plant converted from fuel oil to natural gas, saving over \$60,000 per year. Nineteen obsolete buildings were demolished on base, saving over \$575,000 annually in maintenance and energy costs. The Secretary of the Navy also presented Lakehurst with the 2003 Safety Award and Lakehurst's world-class Fire Department won five major awards in 2003.

Lakehurst's Self-Help team won the Bronze Hammer Award for the second consecutive year, expending over 24,000 man-hours on 30 projects with a savings of over \$1.2 million. The Sea Bees completed a renovation project on the barracks, saving over \$1 million in labor costs.

The employees at Lakehurst have also done an exceptional job at supporting the local community by participating in the Read Across America program, school career days, Earth Day events, 9/11 benefits, a Thanksgiving Gift Basket fundraiser and a Giving Tree Holiday Gift collection program for underprivileged children.

The Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst is a joint base with a heritage of service and serving as a model for the future. By being selected as the Northeast Region's choice for outstanding Naval facility in 2003, Lakehurst continues to demonstrate its imaginative and innovative management actions that promote support to the fleet and the Department of Defense through enhancements in readiness, quality of life, quality of service and business processes.