



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Arkansas Military Department Receives DEQ's NStEP Recognition**

**NORTH LITTLE ROCK**—The Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment's (E&E) Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recognizes the Arkansas Military Department for its commitment to environmental leadership by awarding the Military Department Platinum membership in the Arkansas Natural State Environmental Program (NStEP).

The Military Department has committed to going beyond compliance with state and federal environmental regulations to implement environmental improvements. For example, the Military Department has resolved to reduce energy usage in all of its existing state buildings, with an annual energy reduction goal of 2.5 percent each year until 2025.

“The Arkansas Military Department represents one of Arkansas’s environmental leaders committed to inspire and challenge other organizations in our state to achieve higher levels of environmental performance,” stated Becky Keogh, E&E Secretary.

As a Platinum member of NStEP, the Military Department has pledged to complete three environmental improvement projects within three years of its acceptance into the program. Projects can range from internal improvements, such as energy, utility, or waste reduction, to community projects such as wildlife habitat restoration or serving as an environmental mentor for another organization.

In addition to Camp Robinson and Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Centers, the Military Department has facilities throughout the state. These facilities support the mission of the Arkansas Army and Air National Guards to provide trained and ready forces for state emergencies and to support our nation in the event of war. The National Guard provides emergency response and disaster recovery assistance, federal and local law enforcement support, weather analysis, and homeland security.

**About the Natural State Environmental Program (NStEP)**

NStEP is a voluntary environmental stewardship program of DEQ. The program offers benefits and incentives to members who go beyond compliance with state and federal environmental regulations and who are committed to continual environmental improvement. Membership is open to all Arkansas organizations with a minimum of twenty full-time employees, including manufacturers, institutions of higher education, municipalities, government agencies, and nonprofits. The program offers four membership levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

More information is available on DEQ’s website at [www.adeq.state.ar.us/nstep/](http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/nstep/) or by calling 501.682.0015.

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