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***LDEQ Secretary Giacometto and Barksdale Sign MOU to Advance Restoration of Military Lands***

**BOSSIER CITY, LA** — Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto visited Barksdale Air Force Base (AFB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between LDEQ and Barksdale AFB under the Louisiana Military Environmental Alliance (LMEA). This agreement facilitates the ongoing environmental restoration efforts and sustainability initiatives at the critical military installation, Barksdale AFB, reinforcing the State’s commitment to both environmental stewardship and military readiness.

Barksdale AFB, a 22,500-acre installation with a history dating back to 1930, is home to the 2nd Bomb Wing and Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC). Operating the B-52 Stratofortress, the base plays a crucial role in nuclear deterrence and rapid global strike operations. As a key strategic base for the U.S. military, Barksdale balances operational demands with environmental responsibility, ensuring compliance with State and Federal regulations while cultivating innovative approaches to land restoration and pollution mitigation.

“It is an honor to tour Barksdale Air Force Base, an essential pillar of our national defense, and to partner with our military officials to ensure that — in Louisiana — environmental stewardship goes hand in hand with mission readiness,” said LDEQ Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto. “LMEA has already made significant strides in facilitating remediation and compliance efforts, and the MOU that Barksdale and LDEQ are developing will further strengthen our efforts to establish sustainable environmental practices at one of our most significant military installations.”



***Secretary Giacometto tours Barksdale AFB with Senator Adam Bass, Colonel Michael Maginness, and Chief Master Sergeant Ru Hlongwane.***

## Planned Environmental Efforts and Site Remediation

As part of this collaborative effort, LDEQ is set to issue No Further Action—At This Time (NFA-ATT) determinations for several sites at Barksdale AFB, including five (5) oil-water separator (OWS) sites and one (1) underground storage tank (UST) site west of the flightline, as well as one (1) OWS site and three (3) UST sites in the East Reservation Area. These closures reflect years of remediation and progress in ensuring safe environmental conditions at the base.

Since LMEA's inception in August 2024, ten (10) sites at Barksdale have successfully reached remedial closure, underscoring the effectiveness of this partnership. More are being planned for under the new MOU.

Praising the initiative, **Louisiana State Senator Adam Bass** said, "This partnership between LDEQ and Barksdale Air Force Base is a perfect example of how Louisiana is leading the way in environmental restoration and military readiness. The Louisiana Military Environmental Alliance is an innovative model that ensures we protect our natural resources while supporting Barksdale's operational needs."

Barksdale AFB leadership echoed this commitment.

"Barksdale Air Force Base is committed to fulfilling our nation's most important mission while maintaining the highest standards of environmental responsibility," said **Colonel Michael Maginness, Commander, 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale AFB**. "We appreciate the strong partnership we've built with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and are exploring many areas that both increase mission effectiveness while making significant gains in environmental stewardship – quite frankly, many of these initiatives are win/win and we are very appreciative of the outstanding support from the State of Louisiana, local elected officials, and this great community we call home."

Through LMEA, LDEQ continues to work closely with Department of Defense- and State-owned National Guard installations across Louisiana to address environmental challenges, remediation efforts, and sustainability initiatives. This partnership supports Louisiana's military sites to conduct their military operations while promoting innovative solutions for environmental management and resilience for decades to come.

For more information on the Louisiana Military Environmental Alliance and LDEQ's environmental restoration efforts, visit [www.deq.louisiana.gov](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov).



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**About the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality**

LDEQ is dedicated to serving the people of Louisiana by providing comprehensive environmental protection to promote and protect health, safety, and welfare.