



EPAS

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

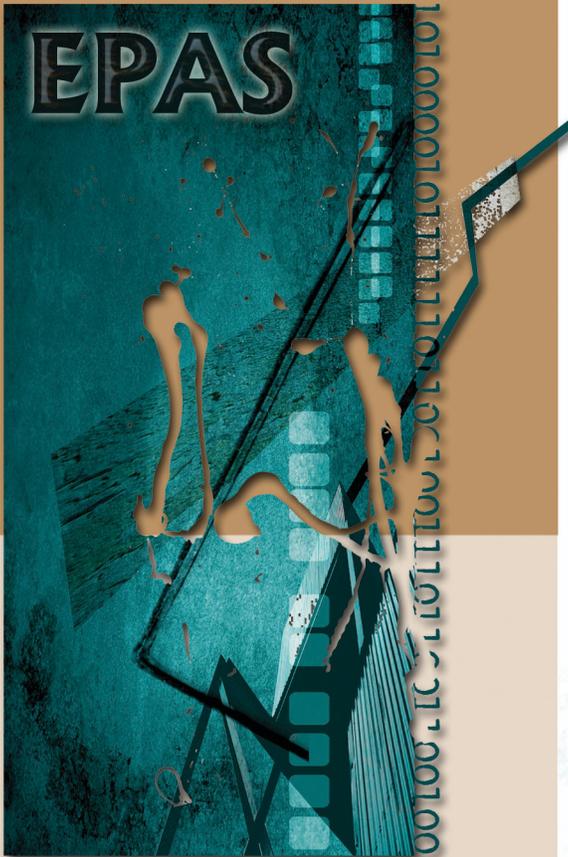
The Environmental Performance Assessment System (EPAS) program plays a vital role in the Army's proactive approach to achieving, maintaining, and monitoring compliance with environmental laws and regulations. EPAS is an environmental compliance and management auditing program that helps Army installations stay abreast of their overall environmental standing, as well as the status of environmental programs at active, Army National Guard, and US Army Reserve installations.

Specifically, EPAS allows the Army to:

- Identify an installation's compliance deficiencies and associated root causes
- Determine potential corrective actions to address deficiencies
- Identify resources to implement corrective actions
- Monitor progress of corrective actions and analyze non-compliance trends
- Increase environmental awareness across an installation

BACKGROUND

EPAS, formerly the Environmental Compliance Assessment System (ECAS) program, was developed by Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) in 1991 as recommended by the US Environmental Protection Agency in 1986. With the Army's development of environmental management systems to comply with Executive Order 13148, "Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management," HQDA expanded ECAS to include environmental management auditing. ECAS was changed to EPAS in 2002 to reflect the change. The EPAS program is mandated in Army Regulation 200-1 (Environmental Protection and Enhancement) Section 15-9.



How EPAS WORKS

Through the EPAS program, installations undergo both external and internal assessments. External assessments are scheduled and conducted based on installation risk levels associated with installation mission, past environmental performance, and sustainability challenges. Internal assessments are conducted by full-time, on-site installation staff on an annual basis.

An EPAS Web-based software application supports the analysis of data collected through the assessment process. External and internal assessment findings are compiled into the program, which then populates and helps develop various reports including:

- Installation Corrective Action Plans, which track the status, funding, and correction of internal or external findings and are presented to the Installation Commander annually for review to ensure that internal assessments are conducted and findings are corrected
- Environmental Performance Assessment Reports, which detail external findings and associated corrective actions
- Information resources to help conduct Army-wide environmental trend analysis that are provided to the Office of the Director of Environmental Programs, the US Army Environmental Center (USAEC), and the Installation Management Activity Headquarters and Region Offices

The EPAS Software Users Workgroup is open to all personnel involved with EPAS software development and use. It includes Installation Management Agency region personnel, assessing organization staff, and installation EPAS personnel.

For more information

Contact
US Army Environmental Center
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<http://usaec.army.mil>

