



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT
110 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0110**

**ARMY EARTH DAY MESSAGE
April 22, 2021**

As our Army and our nation prepare to celebrate Earth Day, we are reminded of the devastating effects of extreme weather events and climate change.

Last year, wildfires burned more than 5,000 acres in the west, sending migrating birds and wildlife looking for a safe haven often found on military installations. More intense and powerful hurricanes and tropical storms pummeled our installations across the Gulf Coast and along the East Coast. Historic floods and severe droughts have affected our installations the Midwest.

Climate change is a direct threat to our Army. To combat that threat, we are proactively engaged in developing mitigating strategies to deal with the effects of climate change across the Army.

The Army's climate assessment tool, distributed nationwide is helping identify specific issues so our installations can update their master plans, natural and cultural resource management plans and take action to combat these threats.

The Army's Installations Strategy sets the conditions for improving installation infrastructure, modernizing our installations, and improving climate resiliency.

Our operators have the tools to help factor climate risks into operational risk management decisions to become more climate resilient. The effects of climate change may be unavoidable, but with improved infrastructure and resilient installations, we can minimize operational impacts and maintain Army readiness.

Earth Day isn't just what we do on April 22, it's what the Army does every day where informed leaders take actions to protect vulnerable Army facilities, infrastructure, and environmental resources. To learn more about what the Army is doing for Earth Day 2021 visit <https://aec.army.mil/index.php/earth-day>.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.E. Surash", is positioned above the printed name.

J.E. Surash
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the
Assistant Secretary of the Army
Installations, Energy and Environment