



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 11, 1960

NO. 787-60

Oxford 5-3201  
5-3176

**SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE, INTERIOR**  
**SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Secretary of Defense Thomas S. Gates, Jr. and Secretary of Interior Fred A. Seaton today signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Fish and Wildlife Resources on Military Installations at a noon ceremony in the Pentagon.

Also present were Assistant Secretary of Interior Ross Leffler, Assistant Secretary of Defense Charles C. Finucane, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Stephen S. Jackson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Errett P. Scrivner, Major General Robert W. Porter, Jr. (USA), Rear Admiral Eugene Peltier (USN), Brigadier General Robert F. Burnham, (USAF), and representatives of the national conservation societies.

Secretary Gates said:

"I am happy that we can meet here today to sign this joint Memorandum of Understanding between the Departments of Defense and Interior. It recognizes and confirms the relationship and responsibilities of the two Departments with respect to the management of fish and wildlife resources on military reservations.

"I have long been personally interested in and a firm supporter of the Department of Defense conservation program. I welcome this opportunity to affirm our intentions of doing the best possible job in providing for the wise use of the natural resources on property under the control of the Armed Forces.

"This agreement recognizes the Department of Interior as the advisor to the Department of Defense in conservation matters. The nation's conservation program is a public trust, and we welcome the advice of those persons learned in the field of resource management.

"I should also like to thank the representatives of the prominent conservation organizations here today for the valuable advice and assistance they have given to the Department of Defense in times past. As we look ahead with this more effective effort, I am sure that together we will create a more meaningful conservation program on military lands."

Secretary Seaton said:

"It is a pleasure to join in signing this Memorandum of Understanding, one which underscores again the importance of fish and wildlife conservation to the United States.

"With the Department of Defense, the Department of the Interior is delighted to exchange information which can improve conservation techniques, to plan new conservation programs, and to work with state and local conservation agencies to safeguard these valuable resources of fields and lakes and streams under military jurisdiction.

"We enter on this cooperative effort with enthusiasm and look with hope toward the beneficial results it will produce in the years ahead."

END

(Photographs of the scroll are available at Defense News Branch and Audio-Visual Division.)

# Memorandum of Understanding

between  
The Department of the Interior  
and  
The Department of Defense

for the  
Conservation of Fish and Wildlife Resources on Military Installations

**Whereas**, The Department of the Interior, functioning through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, is charged with the conservation of fish and wildlife resources throughout the United States, its territories and possessions, and

**Whereas**, The Department of Defense has jurisdiction over all military installations and facilities, and therefore has been entrusted with the responsibility to restore, preserve and improve the renewable natural resources thereon in the public interest; and

**Whereas**, The Department of Defense recognizes Fish and Wildlife as important renewable natural resources that must be preserved for our future generations along with our forests, grasslands, lakes, rivers and streams.

## NOW, therefore, it is mutually agreed that:

Toward the development of such programs, the parties to this agreement mutually recognize the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, hereafter referred to as the Service, as the appropriate Federal research authority, and the technical advisory and consulting agency for planning the development and management of fish and wildlife conservation programs on those areas presently under military control or which may come under such control in the future.

To promote effective planning, for the protection and fullest use of fish and wildlife on military installations, the Department of Defense and the Service will cooperate in the planning and conduct of conservation programs and will exchange information leading to the improvement of techniques, methods, practices and procedures of fish and wildlife conservation.

All military installations or facilities which contain suitable land and water areas as determined after consultation with authorized Federal or State conservation authorities, shall have an active, progressive program for the management and conservation of fish and wildlife resources consistent with the missions of the installations.

When valid subsisting agreements do not exist, commanders of all military installations and facilities, in accordance with Section 2671 of Title 10, United States Code, are encouraged to seek technical assistance from, and to execute appropriate cooperative agreements with Federal, State or local conservation agencies at the regional or command level to improve fish and wildlife resources on their installations, including the orderly harvest and control of the fish and wildlife populations.

The Service and the Department of Defense, consistent with their primary objectives and responsibilities, and the availability of funds and personnel, will endeavor in every possible instance, to cooperate in the development and furtherance of conservation programs of mutual interest.

July 11, 1960

  
*Fred A. Seaton*  
Secretary of the Interior

  
*Thomas Spates*  
Secretary of Defense