

DEEP

Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative



Diverse Partners. Common Goals. Uncommon Results.

The Department of Defense

Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative

enables the military to work with

willing partners who help provide

cost-sharing land conservation solutions

to limit incompatible development

and protect valuable open space and

habitat around key test and training areas.

Cover photo:

U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii

Funding of \$2 million from DoD's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative was leveraged into a \$14 million cooperative conservation partnership to prevent a proposed residential development near U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii. The partnership protected unique Waimea Valley habitat and cultural resources while establishing an important buffer between training lands and urban development.



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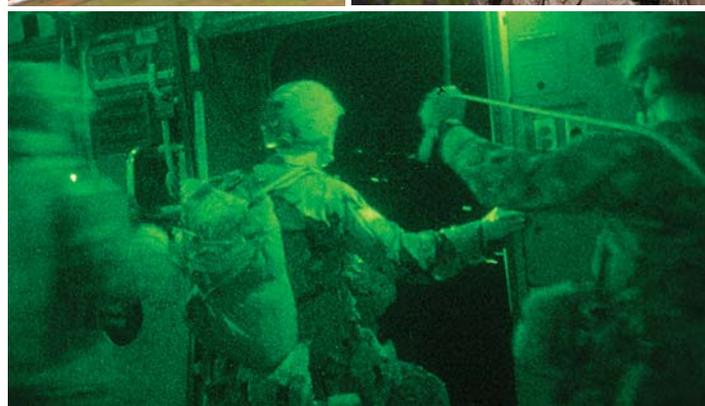
Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI)

An Innovative Approach

DoD's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative provides funding for the military to work with state and local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and willing land owners to help prevent encroachment of test and training areas. The funding leverages public/private partnerships and additional financial commitments to promote innovative land conservation solutions that benefit both military readiness and the environment.

Incompatible growth near installations can restrict testing and training

Test and training areas are vital to the ability of the Department of Defense to conduct realistic live-fire training, simulation and weapons systems testing. However, these once remote installations face encroachment from increasing urban sprawl that threatens the test and training mission, which is the cornerstone of military readiness.



- Lights from nearby developments interfere with soldiers' night vision training
- Housing developments built near drop zones halt parachute training
- Complaints from installation neighbors about noise, dust and air flights result in restrictions on needed training
- Nearby incompatible development forces endangered species inside military installation fence lines, causing test and training areas to be segmented
- Competition for radio frequency spectrum or wind energy towers in military use airspace hinders realistic testing and training

DIVERSE PARTNERS

Diverse Partners

National conservation organizations. Land trusts. Federal departments. State agencies. County and municipal governments. Regional and local community groups, environmental organizations and educational institutions.

Through the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative, the Department of Defense is reaching out to these diverse entities in order to work together on projects that protect military training lands by preserving open space or natural habitat near critical installations.

REPI partners include:

National Conservation Organizations

American Farmland Trust
Ducks Unlimited
Environmental Defense
National Audubon Society
Sierra Club
The Conservation Fund
The Nature Conservancy
Trust for Public Land

Land Trusts

Chattahoochee Valley Land Trust
Georgia Land Trust
Great Outdoors Colorado
Harford Land Trust
Kansas Land Trust
Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo, California
Land Legacy
Sandhills Area Land Trust
Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Federal Government Partners

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service

State Governments and Agencies

Alabama Department of Natural Resources
California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Transportation
California Wildlife Conservation Board
Colorado Department of Transportation
Colorado Division of Wildlife
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
Hawaii Department of Natural Resources
Hawaii Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Kansas State Conservation Commission
Kentucky Department of Natural Resources
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Department of Water and Soil Resources
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
State of Oklahoma
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Natural Resources

County and Municipal Governments

Baxter, Minnesota
Beaufort County, South Carolina
Bradford County, Florida
Churchill County, Nevada
Clay County, Florida
Comanche County Industrial Development Authority
Crow Wing County, Minnesota
Harford County, Maryland
Honolulu, Hawaii City and County
Jacksonville, Florida
Lawton, Oklahoma
San Luis Obispo, California City and County

Regional/Local Partners

Community Works
Conservation Council for Hawaii
Georgia Conservancy
Kō'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership
Leon River Restoration Project
Morro Bay National Estuary Program
Oahu Conservation Partnership
Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota
Potawatomi Resources Conservation and Development
St. Johns River Water Management District
Sandhills Ecological Institute
Suwanee River Water Management District
Tallgrass Legacy Alliance
Texas A&M University
Windward Ahupua'a Alliance

DoD Partners to Protect Camp Ripley Land and Training



Conservation easements on more than 4,600 acres near Camp Ripley were purchased by a partnership that included DoD, the Minnesota National Guard Bureau, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy. These easements led to the formation of a noise buffer zone by preventing development on three parcels of bordering lands. The noise buffer land now serves as a key area for habitat and recreation.

“These buffer projects represent an extraordinary win-win partnership bringing together federal, state, local and nonprofit groups to achieve their mutual interests of supporting the vital ongoing military operations at Camp Ripley while conserving important Mississippi River frontage and one of the state’s largest and most diverse areas of wildlife and species of concern.”

Peggy Booth
Scientific and Natural Area Program Supervisor
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

COMMON GOALS

Common Goals

DoD wants to protect key test and training areas in order to ensure the readiness of America's military.

State and local governments may want to protect valuable open space and habitat or ensure the viability and economic benefits of an installation.

A land trust, conservation group or environmental organization typically wants to conserve unique habitat or open space.

A local farmer, rancher or owner of a private forest may want to preserve a treasured way of life as well as conserve the land from urban development.

REPI projects help diverse groups come together to meet mutual interests.



Public/Private Partnership Works Together to Buffer Fort A.P. Hill Training Sites



The Department of Defense partnered with the Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Virginia Outdoors Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create a land buffer around Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia. The Army installation has a year round live-fire training and maneuver center that is utilized by all Armed Forces branches.

Conservation Easement Protects Fort Carson Training, Preserves Working Ranch



Colorado rancher Gary Walker and his family stand with U.S. Army Soldiers from Fort Carson. DoD's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative helped fund a conservation easement that preserved Mr. Walker's ranch and ensured a compatible neighbor for four major firing ranges on the installation.

"We've talked about this easement protecting the rare plants and wildlife habitat that are here, and helping Fort Carson, but there's a third element for my family, and that's protecting the ranching economy and traditions of this place."

Gary Walker
Rancher

Source: *Nature Conservancy Magazine*

UNCOMMON RESULTS

Uncommon Results

Since its establishment, DoD's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative has produced uncommon results.

Military readiness enhanced, natural habitat preserved

The REPI program has led to compatible land uses near military test and training areas across the country.

Key results have included:

- Enhanced military readiness by limiting incompatible development near training installations
- Preservation of test and training space at critical installations
- Protection of high-value regional habitat near training areas
- Increased partnership with new allies
- Strengthened military/community relationships

Leveraging for Success

REPI funding often serves as the catalyst for financial investments by project partners. The initiative promotes partnerships between DoD and organizations that can provide substantial financial and technical support for joint conservation efforts that leverage citizen tax dollars to sustain both military training and natural habitat.

REPI Project Funding Sources*

Success Leveraging Program Dollars



*Based on average from program's first year

Naval Air Station Fallon Protects TOPGUN Training



DoD's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative and the Navy developed a 50/50 funding partnership with Churchill County, Nevada to acquire the development rights to agricultural land near NAS Fallon to ensure compatible land uses near takeoff and landing areas. The ongoing purchase of easements will help protect TOPGUN and carrier air wing training from encroaching urban development in the nation's fastest growing state.

1,000 Acres near Camp Lejeune Saved from Development



\$500,000 from DoD's REPI project served as the catalyst for a nearly \$5 million purchase of land to buffer Marine Corps training at Camp Lejeune from existing houses and proposed residential development. The action, which grew out of a regional planning effort, allowed military training to continue, lessened noise impacts on surrounding communities and created a new recreational area in North Carolina.

Partnerships between the military and communities across a test or training installation's fence line offer effective "win-win" solutions to the problem of encroachment. Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative partnerships preserve military readiness, promote smart growth strategies, and help protect the natural environment.

Through REPI, the Department of Defense is safeguarding America and sustaining our lands and resources for years to come.

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