



MISSION SUSTAINMENT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

News You Can Use from the DoD Sustainable Ranges Initiative

APRIL 2007

CONTENTS:

1. Upcoming Events
2. Sustainable Ranges Initiative In-the-News
3. Features:
 - Aberdeen Churchville Test Track Preserved
 - Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) Facts
 - DoD Staff Participate at 2007 Environmental Council of States (ECOS) Spring Meeting
 - Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) Principals Meeting
 - New Report on Strengthening Military-Community Partnerships
 - DoD and USDA/NRCS Sign Memorandum of Understanding
 - DoD Primers on Collaborative Partnerships Available
 - State Legislative Initiatives Resource Map Available Online
 - Partner Snapshot: The Nature Conservancy
 - New Look, New Features for the Sustainable Ranges Initiative Website
4. About the Sustainable Ranges Initiative

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 21-24, 2007

Joint Services Environmental Management (JSEM) Conference
Columbus, OH

To learn more or to register to attend, visit: www.jsemconference.com

"Maintaining Mission Capability" will be among the featured sessions at JSEM 2007.

Sponsored by the Sustainable Ranges Initiative, the session will feature two commanders who have found solutions that balance the military mission requirements with environmental concerns. Sustainability

professionals will be present to discuss innovative ways they have maintained mission capability on ranges.

Featured panel discussions will include:

- Overview of the OSD Initiative for Sustaining Mission Capability
- Sustaining Military Capability from the Operator Perspective
- Commander's Guide to Outreach: What Every New Commander & His Staff Should Know
- Innovative Ways to Maintain Mission Capability on Ranges

The Commander's Guide to Outreach will address tools for commanders and their staffs to proactively build working relationships with local communities.

JSEM 2007 is a Comprehensive Summit on the Evolving World of Environment, Energy, & Geospatial Information within DoD. Once again, JSEM will highlight the many new and innovative ways the Department of Defense, other Federal agencies, states, the defense industry, and our partners are meeting our mission needs while protecting the environment. JSEM 2007 gives us the opportunity to share ways to integrate environment, energy, and geospatial information management into Defense operations.

July 30 - August 3, 2007

**Sustaining Military Readiness Conference
Orlando, FL**

**To learn more or to register to attend, visit:
www.sustainingmilitaryreadiness2007.com**

This event will be a unique effort to bring together sustainability stakeholders in a collaborative and educational forum. The importance of this event cannot be overstated. To help facilitate participation, we are eliminating the need for any registration fees.

- Paul W. Mayberry, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Readiness)
- Philip W. Grone, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations & Environment)
- David W. Duma, Principal Deputy Director, Operational Test and Evaluation

Join DoD personnel and non-DoD partners engaged in integrating military readiness needs, natural and cultural resources management and compatible land use at the 2007 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference.

The conference will be a unique gathering of partners with expertise in sustaining military readiness through conservation, compatible land use planning, and encroachment mitigation.

Attendees will include DoD professionals from the operational, environmental conservation, and planning communities, in addition to non-DoD partners from other government and non-governmental agencies and organizations. Sustaining Military Readiness 2007 will enable attendees to participate in training opportunities, discuss projects and programs, share lessons learned, and build new relationships.

FREE REGISTRATION: To emphasize the importance of this conference and their commitment to its success, the hosts are eliminating the need for any registration fees.

August 27-30, 2007

UXO/Countermine/Range Forum 2007 - Countering Explosive Threats

Orlando, FL

To learn more or to register to attend, visit: www.theforum2007.com

The UXO/Countermine/Range Forum 2007™ assembles the best researchers, developers, policy-makers, and program planners from industry, government, and contractors to showcase cutting-edge technologies, ideas, programs and partnerships. The most difficult challenges in countering explosive threats will be addressed in technical presentations, exhibits, speeches, and networking events at The Forum.

An exceptional program is planned to showcase the latest technologies, products, and services in the UXO, countermine, and range areas. More than 150 technical papers will be presented by military, government and contractor personnel. More than 100 exhibitors from industry and government agencies world wide will present the latest products and services.

SUSTAINABLE RANGES INITIATIVE *IN-THE-NEWS*:

Washington Post

"Army Preserves a Testing Ground by Saving a Farm"

By Stephen Barr

Monday, March 19, 2007; D01

"By Pentagon standards, it's a relatively small deal. But senior Defense Department officials see it as hugely important..." Read the full article at www.denix.osd.mil/sustainable_ranges.

Harford Examiner

"Army vehicle testing site saved"

by Matthew Santoni

Thursday, March 22, 2007; A11

"A family farm in the middle of Harford County will help the Army keep testing its vehicles at a near-by parcel at Aberdeen Proving Ground. A pledge for its preservation will keep development from encroaching on the Army's loud and dusty business..." Read the full article at www.denix.osd.mil/sustainable_ranges.

The Aegis

"Churchville farm won't be developed"

by Lindsey Robbins

Friday, March 23, 2007, p. A-1

"Army and Harford County officials compromised their preservation goals to ensure the protection of 163 acres near the Aberdeen Test Center in Churchville. The Army Announced the Army Compatible use Buffer, or ACUB, Wednesday, which will establish a buffer area around the Army Test Center..." Read the full article at www.denix.osd.mil/sustainable_ranges.

Baltimore Sun

"Army Joins in Saving Farm: County, military contribute to preservation of Darlington acres"

By Mary Gail Hare

Sunday, March 25, 2007

"Four generations of the Hopkins family have lived on a Darlington farm within earshot of an Army test site on Aberdeen Proving Ground. Unfazed by the noise nearby, the family raised dairy and beef cattle and grew crops on Priestford Farm..." Read the full article at www.denix.osd.mil/sustainable_ranges.

Wall Street Journal

"Another Shade of Green: Military Aids Nature Lovers"

January 24, 2007; Page B1

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. -- When the Pentagon carved Fort Carson out of juniper-covered ranchland during World War II, the Army training camp was miles away from the town of Colorado Springs on the Front Range of the Rockies... Read the full article at

www.denix.osd.mil/sustainableranges

Tree Farmer Magazine

"The Army and a Woodpecker Save the Family Forest,"

by Alex Beehler

January/February 2007

The timber on Julian Johnson's several hundred acres in Hoke County, North Carolina, has been farmed by his family for four generations... Read the full article at www.denix.osd.mil/sustainableranges

FEATURES:

ABERDEEN CHURCHVILLE TEST TRACK PRESERVED THROUGH BUFFER PROJECT:

REPI, Army and Partner Dollars Combine to Support Effort

On March 21, 2007 a ceremony was held at the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center in Maryland commemorating the joint efforts of the Department of the Army, Harford County Government, Harford Land Trust, and the Hopkins Family Land Owners to conserve agricultural land and open space in Harford County, while maintaining a crucial military vehicle testing area in the region.

Funding was provided for the project through the Department of Defense Range and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI), and the

Army's Compatible Use Buffer Program, in addition to partner dollars.

The buffer project will simultaneously maintain testing areas for military wheeled and tracked vehicles, protect Northeast Maryland's drinking water, and preserve endangered wildlife habitats. To accomplish this, the Department of Defense and private landowners entered into a 163-acre conservation easement to restrict urban development near APG's Churchville Test Area (CTA) in northeast Maryland. The land buffer, located near Harford County's scenic Deer Creek Watershed Region, will protect the area's largest source of drinking water and continue to serve as a safe

habitat for the near-extinct Maryland Darter and the State's highest quality trout streams.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Alex Beehler, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health, said: "The new Land Buffer Zone will save 163 acres bordering the military installation from encroachment by incompatible real estate development, and will preserve a safe distance between the growing community and the military training base for many years to come."

Mr. Tad Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, who also spoke at the ceremony, noted that the buffer zone protects one of DoD's premier vehicle test tracks. "Since 1943, every wheeled and tracked military land vehicle that has gone to the battlefield was tested on the courses at CTA. This testing range can replicate terrain and climate for 80% of the real world environmental conditions," Davis said.

FACTS ABOUT THE READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INITIATIVE (REPI)

Launched in 2004, DoD's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) provides funding

for the Military Services to work with outside stakeholders and willing land owners to secure conservation easements that help prevent encroachment of test and training areas.

The program's initial year leveraged \$12.5 million of REPI funding to secure \$58 million worth of buffer land and easements, encompassing 14,688 acres at seven installations. Non-military stakeholders added \$37 million to DoD and Military Services funding.

Congress provided \$37 million in FY2006 for 20 REPI-funded projects in 17 states.

DoD STAFF PARTICIPATE AT 2007 ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF STATES (ECOS) SPRING MEETING: 19 MARCH 2007, WASHINGTON DC

ECOS is the national professional organization for state environmental and natural resource officials.

DUSD(I&E) staff participated in the ECOS Federal Facilities Forum at the ECOS Spring Meeting, on 19 March, to engage on environmental and sustainability issues of common concern. The meeting was attended by representatives from DoD, DOE, Military Services, state regulatory agencies, environmental planners, program managers, non-government

organizations, and other stakeholders.

SERPPAS website at: www.serppas.org.

Updates were presented on activities and work products from the ECOS/DoD Sustainability Work Group. Secretary Bill Ross of North Carolina took over as the new ECOS Chair of the Forum and DOE and DoD participated as co-chairs. DUSD(I&E) staff gave a presentation on ongoing activities and work products of the ECOS/DoD Sustainability Work Group. Actions items resulting from the Forum for a Sustainable Future meeting (November 2006, San Diego, CA) were also discussed. In addition, Mr. Bill Levitan, Technical Communications Officer/Advisor from DOE's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary's office, provided a report on the Office of Environmental Management, DOE.

On 27-28 February 2007 the U.S. Marine Corps Installations East and the State of North Carolina hosted a Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) Principals Meeting at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC.

At the meeting, federal and state representatives discussed issues related to longleaf habitat recovery, threatened and endangered species, and compatible resource uses for the military, state and other stakeholders in the region. Also discussed was the scoping of critical marine/coastal areas. As an added bonus, the meeting included a tour of Camp Lejeune ranges and training areas. Tour participants visited red-cockaded woodpecker habitat, an urban training facility, and enjoyed an MRE lunch in the field.

**SOUTHEAST REGIONAL
PARTNERSHIP FOR PLANNING
AND SUSTAINABILITY
(SERPPAS) PRINCIPALS
MEETING, 27-28 FEBRUARY 2007**

SERPPAS is a partnership among DOD, the States of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Alabama, and federal agencies organized to deal with the complexities of sustaining natural, environmental, economic, defense, and human resources now and in the future. Visit the

Participants included representatives from each of the four military services, OSD, five southeastern states (NC, SC, GA, FL, and AL), EPA, Southeast Natural Resource Leadership Group (SENRLG), and the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

**NEW REPORT: STRENGTHENING
MILITARY-COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS: LAND USE,
CLEAN ENERGY AND MISSION
CHANGE. NATIONAL**

**CONFERENCE OF STATE
LEGISLATURES (NCSL),
JANUARY 2007**

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) is an organization which helps policymakers and elected officials address the most pressing state issues.

In January 2007, NCSL, with funding from the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) issued a report titled *Strengthening Military-Community Partnerships. Land Use, Clean Energy and Mission Change*. The intent of this report is to inform military and state personnel about state legislative sustainability practices and to highlight strategies for dealing with base and community growth through encroachment prevention, resource conservation, joint planning, and cost-sharing for future mission changes. The report provides policy options to the Department, its military branch personnel, and state legislators for sustaining a military installation's operation through changing times.

Copies of the full report are available on the NCSL website at: <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/environment/fedfacilities/FedDOD.htm>.

The report is divided in three issue-specific sections:

1. Land Use Sustainability Practices

Issues facing military installation commanders, and state and local decision makers have expanded beyond encroachment to include broader sustainability concerns. This is particularly important in those states where military installations have been realigned and facilities face significant growth in personnel and operations. How these changes impact local communities in terms of demand for additional transportation, water and energy infrastructure, housing and schools are as important as land development issues that prompt encroachment concerns.

2. Energy and Environmental Sustainability Practices

When a defense facility commits to clean energy use—including energy efficiency and renewable resources—that facility helps safeguard its future energy needs in a landscape of ever-increasing demands. Becoming more energy independent secures an installation's overall mission, makes fiscal sense, and lessens the environmental effects on the community at large.

3. Community Sustainability Practices

This section examines community sustainability planning and cost-sharing through periods of change with installation/state/federal collaboration. As a military installation and its surrounding community become more dependent

upon one another for support during transitional phases (growth, realignment or closure), a respectful and resilient relationship that fosters communication and cooperation is essential.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW LAND
CONSERVATION
PARTNERSHIPS:
DoD and USDA/NRCS SIGN
MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING**

The Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently signed a partnership agreement to promote land conservation near military bases across the nation. The agreement particularly benefits military installations with nearby working lands, such as farms, ranches and privately-owned forests. These working lands, as conservation buffers, will now become a priority for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding as conservation buffers.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DoD and USDA was signed on November 8, 2006 at Fort Riley, Kansas where DoD and NRCS funds were combined to acquire the installation's first conservation easement at a neighboring ranch.

The effort transformed 269 acres of prairie grassland into a permanent buffer protecting training areas from encroachment by future development.

Resources:

The MOU is available at www.denix.osd.mil/SustainableRanges

View press release at: www.defenselink.mil/Releases/Release.aspx?ReleaseID=10168

**DOD PRIMERS ON
COLLABORATIVE
PARTNERSHIPS AVAILABLE**

A new series of primers is available to help military leaders partnering with organizations outside an installation's fence line address issues of incompatible land use near test and training areas.

DoD engaged several leading national organizations to develop the primer series to increase mutual understanding among the military, land trusts, and state and local governments.

The "primers" were commissioned by DoD with the hope that they will become essential reading for leaders of installations and communities addressing encroachment issues. The primers developed to date include:

Working with Local Governments

By the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and National Association of Counties (NACo)

The purpose of this guide is to offer suggestions and solutions for installation management when working with local governments. By engaging with local government officials, both formally and informally, the result will be cohesive, mutually beneficial regulations that adequately represent what is best for the entire locality.

Collaborative Land Use Planning

By ICMA and the Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech

This guide explains how and why by working together, the military, state, and local government planners can strike the appropriate balance of growth, environmental protection, and military operations.

Working with Land Trusts

By the Land Trust Alliance

This guide is designed to provide military installation leaders with insight and understanding of land trusts and how they use land purchases and conservation easements to address encroachment and urban growth.

Working with State Legislatures

By the National Conference of State Legislatures

This guide provides information to enhance the military's understanding of state legislatures, and suggests resources and tools for engaging with legislators in compatible land use planning to meet sustainability challenges with mutually beneficial solutions.

Working to Preserve Farm, Forest and Ranch Lands

By the American Farmland Trust

This guide explains how with vision and leadership, state and local governments can provide significant assistance in protecting working landscapes and achieving compatible land use around military installations.

Electronic copies are available online from the Sustainable Ranges

Initiative website at:

https://www.denix.osd.mil/sustainable_ranges. For printed copies, contact gross_kristin@bah.com.

**RESOURCE MAP ONLINE:
STATE LEGISLATIVE
INITIATIVES THAT IMPACT
MILITARY RANGE
SUSTAINABILITY**

Statewide legislation can have a significant impact on the military's ability to fulfill its mission. Given the dynamic landscape and breadth of activity in state legislatures, the Department has developed an interactive Legislative Map that is housed on the DoD Sustainable Ranges website to track state legislation. The Map tracks state legislative and administrative actions that can potentially assist ranges and installations in conservation planning and buffer protection, and sustain military readiness.

The Legislative Map resource at the DoD's Sustainable Ranges website includes:

- Enacted legislations (to date)
- Administrative actions (to date)
- Pending or proposed legislations (that are still under consideration).

It is expected that a major update of the resource map will be completed by July 2007, with plans to keep the Legislative Map regularly updated in the future.

The map can be accessed at www.denix.osd.mil/SustainableRanges.

PARTNER SNAPSHOT: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

The mission of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

TNC has a particularly long-standing relationship with DoD, dating to the 1980's. TNC's role in partnering with the Army to develop the projects at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Fort Huachuca, Arizona that served as the prototypes for the REPI program was a natural outgrowth of this long-standing partnership.

The Nature Conservancy, a national non-profit organization with chapters in every State, is one of DoD's most important partners and has participated with all of the Services as the lead or supporting partner on more than half of the projects initiated under the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative.

TNC provides funding and services, assists in generating financial and other support from local communities and governments at all levels for REPI projects, and often serves as the main contact with landowners who wish to participate in REPI projects.

Some recent examples of TNC partnerships with DoD include: La Posta Mountain Warfare Training Facility, Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Stewart,

Fort Bragg, Fort Carson, and Camp Blanding.

These projects have resulted in significant reductions in or avoidance of encroachment pressures at key testing and training ranges throughout the country while at the same time preserving habitat important to TNC's mission of preserving biodiversity.

To find out more about TNC and its military partnerships, visit www.nature.org or contact bbarnes@tnc.org.

NEW LOOK, NEW FEATURES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE RANGES INITIATIVE WEBSITE

Visit the new and improved Sustainable Ranges Initiative website for DoD directives, the latest information on buffer zones, updates on REPI, and other practical tools and information from the Sustainable Ranges Initiative (SRI). It has been fully redesigned with new features, new content and an improved, easy-to-access format. www.denix.osd.mil/sustainableranges.

ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE RANGES INITIATIVE

The Department of Defense Sustainable Ranges Initiative ensures the long-term viability and continuity of military training and testing areas while providing good stewardship for the land. Through a framework of continuing cooperative and coordinated efforts within government, and partnerships with groups beyond installation boundaries, DoD's Sustainable Ranges Initiative is safeguarding America and sustaining our lands and resources for years to come.

Sustainable Ranges Initiative
Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
for Installations and Environment - DUSD(I&E)
1225 South Clark Street, Suite 1500
Arlington, VA 22202
Tel. (703) 604-1795
Web: www.denix.osd.mil/SustainableRanges