



MISSION SUSTAINMENT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

News You Can Use from the DoD Range Sustainment Initiative
August 2007

The Department of Defense *Sustainable Ranges Initiative* (SRI) 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 helping to safeguard America and sustain our lands and resources for years to come.

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2007 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference

Through Conservation, Compatible Land Use Planning and Encroachment Mitigation

The Conference was convened in Orlando, Florida at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort from July 30 – August 3, with nearly 1,000 attendees. This event was unique in that it brought together for the first time in a conference setting all of the various organizations that support and sustain military readiness through protection of our ability to test and train on our military ranges. The purpose was to provide a collaborative and educational forum for DoD personnel, contract support staff and partners from federal agencies, state and local government and non-government organizations. The attendees were:

- 66% DoD civilian/military
- 12% Private sector
- 10% NGOs
- 9% State/County/Local Government
- 4% Other Federal Agencies (EPA, GAO, USFWS, DOI, DOE, USDA)

Sponsors of the conference were:

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment)

- Conservation and Natural Resources Legacy Program
- Cultural and Historic Preservation
- Office of Economic Adjustment
- SERDP/ESTCP
- Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI)

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Readiness)

Director, Operational Test and Evaluation

The conference schedule included one and ½ days of workshops, a half day plenary and two days of educational sessions, followed by individual service breakout meetings and relevant field trips on the final day. Each speaker was hand-selected to present best-practices from across the DoD and the private sector on sustaining test and training ranges. The opening luncheon featured MajGen Mike Lehnert, Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations, West.

The Plenary featured OSD and Service leadership, as well as several outside speakers to include:

Hon Mark Rey, USDA Under Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment

John Nau, Chairman, White House Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Florida Lt. Governor Kottkamp

Florida Secretary of Environment
Mike Sole

North Carolina Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources
Bill Ross

The closing luncheon featured Brett Rohring, Director of Environmental Policy & Initiatives, The Walt Disney Company. OSD leadership also participated in a half day benchmarking session with Disney environment and natural resources staff.

Results and summaries of the conference sessions with highlights of speaker materials and presentations will be included in the newsletter over the next several months.

FEATURED PARTNER

Environmental Council of States

The Environmental Council of States (ECOS) is a national non-profit, non-partisan membership organization created in 1993 for the Commissioners of state environmental protection agencies. ECOS fosters communication among states and encourages nationwide cooperation between states on environmental management issues. Through ECOS, the Department of Defense (DoD) has established productive working relationships and communications with a wide network of state agencies on sustainability issues affecting the military.

One such network is the ECOS-DoD Sustainability Work Group, which was chartered in April 2004 under the auspices of the ECOS Federal Facilities Forum, to serve as a focal point within ECOS for dialogue on

sustainability issues concerning DoD installations. The Work Group is currently co-chaired by Alex Beehler, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations & Environment and Secretary Bill Ross, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

ECOS membership adopted a resolution recognizing the importance of the Work Group's contributions, defining its goal as being "[to] exchange information and ideas across state and jurisdictional boundaries and to further solutions to create sustainable bases and ranges in harmony with local communities."

The Work Group was created to serve as a forum in which ECOS and DoD could discuss and address issues and share examples of successes related to sustainability at DoD facilities, conduct research on these issues, and share information

with ECOS members regarding programs and activities.

Beyond the States, examples of Work Group members and participants include:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
National Park Service (NPS)
International City/County Managers Association (ICMA)
National Association of Counties (NACo)
Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO)
National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG)

The ECOS-DoD partnership has greatly facilitated ongoing dialogue on sustainability issues among non-traditional partners. The Work Group is currently made up of two Task Groups: Emerging Contaminants and Compatible Use & Sustainability.

In an interview with Carolyn Hanson of ECOS, who staffs the ECOS-DoD Sustainability Working Group, described the Work Group's "...ability to establish communication outside specific issues, establish contacts, and produce working relationships." Hanson went on to say that currently, 49 states are members of ECOS and that more than 20 states regularly participate in the Work Group. Hanson added that the Work Group has made much progress since its inception, and that the well-established, active

partnership has increased communication between state agencies and DoD.

Shannon Cunniff, Special Assistant on Emerging Contaminants, DoD, also expressed similar sentiments regarding the Department's involvement with ECOS. Cunniff cited her work with the Emerging Contaminants Task Group as being one of the more rewarding experiences she has had while working with the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment. This feeling being attributed to the challenge of changing perceptions of the goals for emerging contaminants by "...generating trust, friendship, and good faith" and showing members that DoD, by being involved in emerging contaminant initiatives, is "...walking the talk to do something different." Cunniff stated that prior to March 2004, a program to proactively and strategically address emerging contaminants was nonexistent within the DoD. The idea of a formal network for sharing emerging contaminants issues within DoD arose from matters related to sustainability.

The partnership between ECOS and DoD benefits the success of emerging contaminants issues by:

Improving communication
Addressing risks more rapidly
Gaining confidence

Protecting health
Wisely spending state and
federal taxpayer dollars

Through the ECOS-DoD
Sustainability Work Group, the
Emerging Contaminants Task Group
has developed a Risk
Communications Paper, a
Provisional Values Paper, and an
Emerging Contaminants Survey.
The results of these products help to:

Improve the strategic
processes and practices
Identify and mitigate
emerging contaminants
impacts
Enhance communication and
coordination among the states

Cunniff also noted that she has
received positive feedback from both
state and DoD representatives on the
progress of the Emerging
Contaminants Task Group. She said
the greatest compliment is hearing
from members that they walked
away with substance at the end of
the day and were glad they came.
“It feels good to find and build upon
areas of synergy that now exists
among the parties involved in the
working groups.”

For further information on the
ECOS-DoD Sustainability Work
Group, please visit
http://www.ecos.org/section/sustainability_work_group.

The ECOS-DoD Sustainability Work
Group recently met in Atlanta, GA,
June 20-21, and will reconvene at the
ECOS Annual Meeting in Sun
Valley, ID, September 16-18. Further
information on the Annual Meeting
can be found at

<http://www.ecos.org/section/events/?id=2302>.

Highlighted Projects of the ECOS-DoD Sustainability Work Group

Emerging Contaminants Task Group

The Emerging Contaminants Task Group is currently chaired by Eric Noack, Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, and Shannon Cunniff, DoD. The Task Group, comprised of members from the States, DoD, and EPA, has been working on four major work products:

1. ***State Survey on Emerging Contaminants***, released in September 2006, was completed by 38 states and two public health agencies. The survey results and summary were published online in January 2007 at http://www.ecos.org/section/sustainability_work_group. The State Survey sought to identify the status of state emerging contaminants programs in terms of funding, types of emerging contaminants being sampled, and agencies involved.
2. ***Provisional Values Issue Paper*** explores the existing risk assessment framework and provides recommendations for selecting toxicity values when an IRIS value is not available. This paper was sent to the ECOS Commissioners for state review in fall 2006. State comments on the paper were responded to by the drafting team and are being incorporated into the revised draft.
3. ***Resource Trigger Issue Paper*** discusses some of the key conditions, considerations, statutory authorities, or criteria that could be used to evaluate potential response actions with a related expenditure of funds for emerging contaminants that do not have health-based risk levels (e.g., reference doses or RfDs) or standards (e.g., maximum contaminant levels or MCLs).
4. ***Risk Communication Principles*** paper includes a list of five key principles that the Task Group believes all risk communicators should utilize when conveying information on emerging contaminants issues. The paper provides recommendations on effective risk communication techniques, and includes a fact sheet template and list of available risk communication resources.

Compatible Use and Sustainability Task Group

The Compatible Use & Sustainability Task Group is currently chaired by Chris Russo, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Jim Hartman, U.S. Army Northern Region Environmental Office. The Task Group continues to grow, with seven states and numerous federal and association partners participating in the following ongoing activities:

1. ***Customizable Briefing for Addressing Encroachment Surrounding Military Facilities*** is designed to educate various audiences on encroachment and sustainability issues faced by military installations.
2. ***Primer Document to Accompany Customizable Briefing*** will serve as a guide for those using the briefing and initiate a feedback loop following the delivery of such briefings. An outreach/marketing plan for delivering the briefing to various stakeholder audiences is currently underway.
3. ***Forum for a Sustainable Future***, held in November 2006, initiated a productive and collaborative dialogue among stakeholders from DoD, EPA, state and federal regulatory agencies, relevant associations of state and local officials, and non-government and industry representatives. The Task Group is now in the process of prioritizing the consolidated list of recommended action items from the Forum, identifying the appropriate proponent for each item, assigning a level of priority, determining resources needed to successfully complete the action items, and identifying a champion to advance each of the selected and prioritized action items.

2007 Region IV Environmental Protection Agency/Department of Defense/States Environmental Council

**June 18-21, 2007
Atlanta, GA**

The 2007 Region IV Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Department of Defense (DoD)/States Environmental Conference brought together senior executives, program directors, and environmental staff from the DoD, the Military Services, EPA, States and other agencies to share information, collaborate among stakeholders, and expand communication among military, state, and federal environmental decision makers and other government and non-government agencies. Conference objectives are highlighted below:

Bring together senior officials, environmental program managers and staff to collectively address environmental challenges, identify opportunities, and take actions to improve the safety, security, and well-being.

Provide top-down perspectives on environmental stewardship, sustainable installations, military readiness, organizational transformation, and long-term investment strategies.

Provide a forum for key leaders to serve as active voices in addressing the complexities of military readiness and the critical importance of ensuring a sustainable future.

Expand program coverage to encompass both environmental and public works programs to encompass shared objectives.

This year's Conference Theme: *Sustain the Mission – Preserve Our Environment – Secure Our Future* focused on the many aspects of change in order to collectively address potential challenges and opportunities. There was a lively exchange of ideas in the plenary panel comprised of senior executives from DoD, EPA, States, various other federal agencies, and non-governmental agencies. In addition, there were plenary sessions, tracks, and workshops on sustainable development, innovative technologies to preserve and protect our environment; tools to better manage our lands, initiatives to conserve energy, and actions to protect our natural resource heritage.

Jan Larkin, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Range Sustainment Outreach Coordinator, led a session titled, *Overcoming Obstacles to Sustainability*, that described successful sustainability programs and the barriers that need to be overcome to move toward success.

The session also included a panel discussion on methods to work with federal and state agencies to overcome barriers to sustainability. Panel members included representatives from DoD, private industry, the Council on Environmental Quality, and state regulatory agencies.

**Environmental Council of States-
Department of Defense
Sustainability Work Group
Meeting**

**June 20-21, 2007
Atlanta, GA**

The Environmental Council of States (ECOS)-Department of Defense (DoD) Sustainability Work Group was chartered in April 2004 to serve as a focal point within ECOS for dialogue on sustainability issues concerning DoD installations. ECOS fosters communication among states and encourages nationwide cooperation between states in environmental management. It also lobbies the U.S. Congress and U.S. EPA regarding issues of concern to state environmental leaders.

The ECOS-DoD Sustainability Work Group met in Atlanta, GA to review the progress and activities of the Work Group since the November 2006 *Forum for a Sustainable Future*, and to discuss the draft resolutions for the Compatible Use & Sustainability Task Group and the Emerging Contaminants Task

Group. The Work Group made great strides towards formalizing its goals and future tasks at the Atlanta meeting, and will reconvene at the Annual Meeting in Sun Valley, ID, September 16-18, 2007.

The Emerging Contaminants Task group is currently focusing on developing a common understanding of emerging contaminants and developing mutually acceptable processes to address them. The Compatible Use & Sustainability Task Group is working on improving communication on encroachment issues among the military, states, and local jurisdictions. Together, these Tasks Groups make up the membership of the ECOS-DoD Sustainability Work Group, which has been successful in exchanging ideas across jurisdictional boundaries, and creating sustainable bases and ranges that are compatible with the surrounding local communities.

For more information regarding the ECOS/DoD Sustainability Work Group, please visit http://www.ecos.org/section/sustainability_work_group.

Also, check out the Featured Partner article (see p.4) on ECOS in this edition of the Mission Sustainment Newsletter.

2007 National Association of Counties Annual Conference & Expo

**July 13-17, 2007
Richmond, VA**

DoD attended the 72nd National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference & Expo, July 13-17, in Richmond, VA, to highlight the Department's partnership with state and local governments, conservation organizations, and other interested stakeholders in promoting compatible land use planning near test and training areas.

NACo is a national membership organization for county governments that:

- Functions as a liaison between counties and other levels of government,
- Serves as an advocate and a resource for counties, and
- Fosters increased knowledge of county governments.

NACo has been a valuable partner in DoD's Sustainable Ranges Initiative.

At the NACo Annual Conference & Expo, DoD participated in a workshop titled, *The Mission is Not Impossible – Counties and Military Bases Can Achieve Compatible Land Use*, on July 15, 2007. The workshop addressed encroachment issues and rapid civilian development around military installations and ranges. The

aim of the workshop was to highlight how county officials and local military installations can work together to address training constraints and community concerns around training and test ranges. Workshop presenters provided examples of how county officials, military personnel, and community partners have achieved common goals of compatible land use around military installations. The main objectives of the workshop were:

- Provide ideas or approaches to implement compatible land use on properties adjacent or close to military installations.

- Describe communication processes to help both county governments and adjacent military installations meet their collaborative needs and goals.

Over 3,000 appointed and elected officials from across the country, personnel from federal, state, and local agencies, and private industry representatives attended the NACo Annual Conference & Expo.

Natural Resources Conservation Service 2007 – National Leadership Team Meeting

**July 9-12, 2007
Arlington, VA**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) held its 2007 National Leadership Team

(NLT) meeting in Arlington, VA, July 9-12. Mr. Alex Beehler, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations & Environment, and Mr. Bruce Beard, Assistant Director for Environmental Readiness, attended the meeting on July 10 as invited speakers.

Mr. Beehler and Mr. Beard both addressed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) recently signed between the Department of Defense (DoD) and NRCS in November 2006 to promote partnering efforts in land planning and conservation. The purpose of the MOU is to

Promote cooperative conservation between NRCS and DoD, and where appropriate, partnerships with other federal agencies, states, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners.

Cooperate in such a manner as to raise the public understanding of the missions of both agencies.

Establish a coordination process that fosters cooperation at every level of both agencies.

The 2007 NLT meeting highlighted the importance of building stronger partnerships between the military and other agencies and stakeholders to promote conservation and

preservation of working lands. The new alliance between DoD and NRCS, as expressed in the MOU, will allow the agencies to efficiently share and leverage information, expertise, and resources, and promote mutual interests in better land use planning and conservation.

Mr. Beehler opened his remarks by expressing his gratitude to NRCS for allowing him to be the first DoD official to speak at an NRCS National Team Meeting. Mr. Beehler discussed how DoD faces major challenges from sprawling development near military bases that increasingly encroach upon military training land, limiting access to these training and test areas. DoD is actively reaching out beyond the fence line to work proactively with partners to promote better land use planning and help preserve key buffer areas. The DoD/NRCS MOU will further enable the Department to collaboratively engage in these activities.

Full text of the MOU can be found at <https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/NCR/Documents/MOU-DoD-NRCS.pdf>

DoD releases Report to Congress on its conservation buffer program

June 2007

The Department of Defense's conservation buffer program recently released its first annual

Report to Congress. The Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) provides funding for the Services to enter into agreements with willing partners and landowners to establish compatible use land buffers adjacent to key installation test and training areas to prevent encroachment at its installations.

Protecting the military mission at installations across the nation is pivotal to providing the most realistic and successful training to our men and women in uniform, thereby ensuring the quality of national security. Key results of REPI at installations include:

- Protecting military missions at installations,
- Preventing surrounding communities from safety hazards and disruptions caused by training,
- Strengthening military/community relationships,
- Protecting threatened & endangered species habitats, and
- Preserving high value lands.

Congress has shown increasing support for the REPI program, raising its funding from \$12.5 million (Fiscal Year (FY) 2005) to \$37 million (FY2006) to \$40 million (FY2007). Part of the FY2006 requirements requires an annual assessment of this new program, its projects, and way forward.

The REPI Report to Congress captures the importance of the REPI program and its innovative efforts. To download the REPI Report to Congress, visit the Sustainable Ranges website:
http://www.denix.osd.mil/sustainable_ranges.

RAND Corporation provides the Department of Defense with an assessment of its conservation buffer program

June 2007

To evaluate the effectiveness of its expanding Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) conservation buffer program, the Department of Defense (DoD) sought an independent assessment of the program by the RAND Corporation's National Security Research Division. The National Security Research Division has conducted research and analysis in the past for DoD and the U.S. Intelligence Community. RAND's report, *The Thin Green Line -- An Assessment of DoD's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative to Buffer Installation Encroachment*, evaluates the effectiveness of the REPI program in helping its installations combat encroachment.

Congress has shown increasing interest in REPI since its inception in FY2005, and has gradually increased funding from \$12.5M in Fiscal Year

(FY) 2005 to \$40M in FY2007. However, the RAND Report suggests REPI could greatly benefit with increased funds of \$150M annually. Other suggestions by RAND include:

Increase manpower, logistical support, and policy guidance, Develop additional partnerships with state and local governments to support land conservation funding, Implement a full-time Outreach position at military bases to increase communication with the community, and Expand relations with other federal agencies for the protection of biodiversity at locations other than military installations.

Excerpts from the RAND report are also included in REPI's first annual Report to Congress.

The RAND Report can be found on the RAND Corporation's website: <http://www.rand.org>. More information about REPI can be accessed on the Sustainable Ranges website: http://www.denix.osd.mil/sustainable_ranges.

Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan/Sikes Act Training

**May 22-24, 2007
Baltimore, MD**

Natural resource managers of military installations, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), and State fish and wildlife agencies from Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states came together on May 22-24, 2007, in Baltimore, MD, to participate in a training course that explores the roles and responsibilities of these three parties in the implementation of Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs). This two-and-a-half day course, titled *Maintaining and Implementing Sustainable INRMPs*, highlights the importance of full cooperation of all parties at every stage of an INRMP's implementation – from development through review.

The Sikes Act requires installations to develop and implement INRMPs in full cooperation with the USFWS and States to ensure military operations and natural resource conservation are integrated and consistent with stewardship goals and legal requirements. Given this mandate, this course is designed to bring together field representatives from the three partners to learn each others responsibilities, perspectives and needs with respect to INRMP development. The relationships created or strengthened between the three parties during the course of

this training are intended to endure so that the most effective INRMPS are developed and maintained. Effective INRMPS, and cooperative relationships among the partners involved with their development, help to ensure healthy and viable environments so that military ranges and installations can continue to be used for training and testing with as few constraints as possible.

Feedback from participants reveals that discussions on cooperative management and creative funding sources are the highlights of the course, providing practical information that can help to implement INRMP projects in the field. Participants leave the course with a greater understanding of the Sikes Act and its history, public involvement in INRMP development, and ways to keep INRMPS current.

In addition to the most recent regional offering, this course has been offered twice on the national level. Approximately 100 individuals, representing 6 states, 32 installations, and 5 USFWS regions have participated in the training. The next regional offering is scheduled to occur in late Fall 2007. Please contact Peter Boice, DoD Conservation Team Leader, at Peter.Boice@osd.mil to learn more about this training course and its upcoming offering.

Perchlorate Handbook Release

In May 2007, the Department of Defense (DoD) released the Perchlorate Handbook to all installation-level personnel. The Navy's Environmental Data Quality Workgroup (EDQW) developed the handbook as guidance to reduce the amount of uncertainty when sampling and testing perchlorate.

Handbook users will be able to determine how to:

- Design sampling strategies,
- Sample perchlorate using different media,
- Document strategies and methods in gathering data,
- Utilize appropriate technologies, and
- Comply with the current DoD Perchlorate Policy.

The handbook is a supplement to Component-specific policies and replaces the February 2004 EDQW *Interim Guidance on Sampling and Testing Perchlorate*.

By compliance standards, the handbook follows the January 2006 policy, which adopted the maximum contaminant level for perchlorate as 24 parts per billion.

Interested parties and installation personnel may download the Perchlorate Handbook at <http://www.navylabs.navy.mil>.

FROM THE WIRES... MISSION SUSTAINMENT IN THE NATIONAL PRESS

JLUS IN THE NEWS: Deliberations underway to protect Laughlin AFB's airspace/mission

Bill Sontag

Southwest Texas LIVE!

June 30, 2007

DEL RIO, TX – Laughlin Air Force Base (AFB) is preparing for a new mission: To protect the base from encroachment through a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). The community, which has rallied support from architects, city council representatives, educators, and area business owners, hopes to find a solution to the growth in Del Rio and its potential impact on military readiness.

Base realignment and closure activities have recently added approximately 400 new community members to Laughlin AFB to support the inclusion of a new program for pilot training. *The Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals* also increased Laughlin's fleet with 28 jets to support the new program. To maintain mission readiness, Laughlin has also undertaken an Air Installation Compatible Use Zone Study to protect airspace and ground safety, in addition to the JLUS.

Community members listed the top six encroachment factors needing current and future resolution:

1. Land space/land use compatibility
2. Dust
3. Noise
4. Local civilian airspace
5. Military operational area-and-route airspace
6. Roadways

Prior to the JLUS the community was forced to review each encroachment factor on an individual basis, but with the JLUS all factors will be addressed at once.

To read this entire article and view photographs from the June 18 meeting, please visit <http://www.swtexaslive.com/node/4425>. More information can be found on the JLUS Project Web site: <http://www.westplanning.com/docs/delrio>.

REPI IN THE NEWS: Military bases can benefit by addressing sprawl issues and biodiversity

RAND Corporation Office of Media Relations

June 28, 2007

The Department of Defense's (DoD's) Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) has constructively discovered a means to:

Save biodiversity,
Create buffers between
military bases and
communities, and

Ensure the continuation of military training and testing.

According to a recent article published on the EurekAlert! Web site, REPI won favor from the RAND Corporation during their recent evaluation of the program's efficiency. The RAND report suggests more funding and outreach programs can maintain REPI's success.

In 2003 REPI began coordinating partnerships between DoD and state and local governments, and non-governmental agencies to purchase or share the cost of land development rights surrounding military bases. Buffering partnerships prevent development that might otherwise enable suburban sprawl to gradually impede readiness activities and threaten biodiversity habitats.

To date, this program has been effective at responding to environmental and readiness responsibilities, but according to the RAND report, REPI needs to become a larger program with more available resources. As land prices soar, time becomes a valuable commodity in the process to acquire buffer areas before the ability to purchase land becomes an expensive process.

To read quotes from authors of the RAND report about the issues that may impact the future of buffer zones surrounding military bases,

and suggestions for REPI's success, please visit http://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2007-06/rc-mbc062707.php.

ENCROACHMENT IN THE NEWS: Navy Secretary lauds Beaufort Marines, community

Lori Yount
Beaufort Gazette
June 26, 2007

BEAUFORT, SC – Secretary of the Navy, Donald C. Winter recently visited Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, where he was met by county officials who assured him base encroachment is being protected through land-use restrictions and land rights for buffer zones. Secretary Winter encouraged and praised timely community partnerships as being key to defending bases from encroachment.

Since 2004 a partnership between the county and federal government has bought 184 acres for buffer zones to limit developments near the base, which attributes to an estimated \$1.5 billion into the local economy. With the recent approval of a multi-million dollar bond referendum county officials are looking to buy more development rights.

This entire article and quotes from Secretary Winter's visit are available at http://www.beaufortgazette.com/local_news/story/6563590p-5842182c.html.

**CONSERVATION EASEMENTS
IN THE NEWS: \$5M land deal aims
to protect waterway**

Tony Davis
Arizona Daily Star
July 5, 2007

TUCSON, AZ – The Nature Conservancy and the federal government are buying development rights on the Babacomari Ranch, located along a tributary of the San Pedro River. The easements will not only keep the land in the hands of the Brophy family, who have been the owners since the 1930s, but will forestall any new groundwater pumping along the Babocomari River. The efforts of the conservancy, the Department of Defense, and the Bureau of Land Management will protect about 4 ½ miles of the river. The agreements are also a huge success in respect to managing Arizona's burgeoning growth and its water supply.

In addition to protecting the river, the easements will also serve as buffers for Fort Huachuca Army post to prevent land development, and safely refuge a major wildlife corridor.

To learn more about the easement purchases on the Babacomari Ranch, please access this article at <http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/190491.php>.

***Babacomari Ranch and Babocomari River are two different spellings*

**BUFFER ZONES IN THE NEWS:
Forts Riley, Sill partner with
USDA, conservation groups to
preserve buffers**

Katherine Boyle
GREENWIRE, Land Letter
July 5, 2007

Fort Riley in Kansas and Fort Sill in Oklahoma, like many other military bases, have created conservation buffers to protect the bases from encroachment and protect the environments around them. Forts Riley and Sill receive part of their funding for these buffers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Since the land being preserved on both of these sites is used for agricultural purposes, the USDA's Farm and Ranchland Protection program was able to help with funding, along with their original funding for the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI). According to the Army's Environmental Command, the main goal of these land easements is to preserve open space.

At Fort Sill, the effort will preserve 20,000 acres of ranch land, much of which is prime agricultural soil. At Fort Riley, the main focus is the preservation of native grassland, as well as some prime soil. The Army hopes to keep animal habitats thriving in an effort to protect these species, some of which are endangered.

Many officials are calling for the need to increase REPI funding for easements, which could mean more

funding from USDA and the states since the military funding serves as a matching point for other entities

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