

# FREEDOM SOARS

## DEFENDING OUR NATION AND OUR ENVIRONMENT

The Department of Defense (DoD) is steward of approximately 25 million acres of public lands. These air, land, and water resources directly support DoD's military training and readiness capabilities. They also harbor pristine habitats for a wide variety of unique species, including over 200 threatened and endangered plants and animals, as well as a wealth of opportunities for recreational and other renewable uses.

The bald eagle is a premier example of what our military does to protect wildlife. By restoring and creating habitat for eagles, building platforms for nests, establishing protection zones around nests, and monitoring bald eagle movements, military installations around the country have provided a healthy and safe environment so these magnificent flyers can flourish. By helping the eagle soar again, our military has demonstrated their ability to protect native wildlife while defending our nation. In the military's eyes, there are many ways to let freedom soar, and conservation of our natural heritage is just one of them!

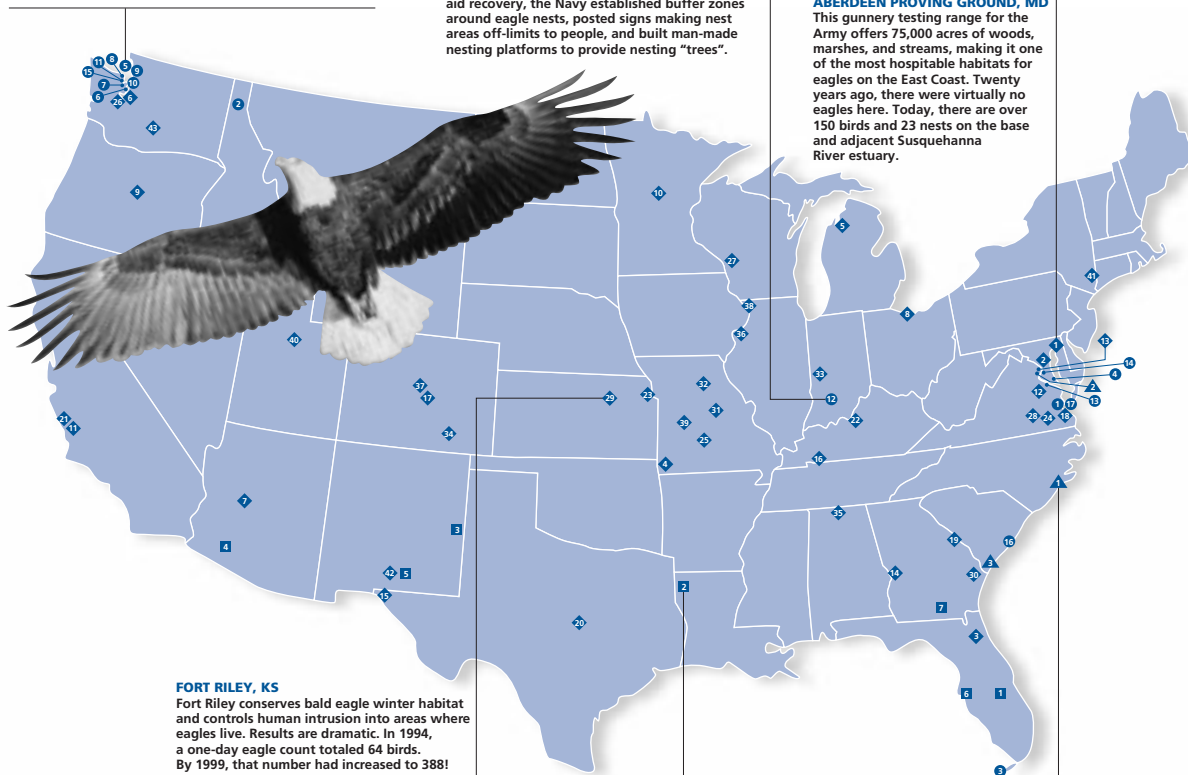
To learn more about our nation's symbol, you can visit the following websites: Defense Environmental Network and Information Exchange (DENIX) at <http://www.denix.osd.mil>, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Program Welcome Page at <http://endangered.fws.gov>.



**NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND, WA**  
Working with Washington State's Department of Fish & Wildlife and local Audubon Society volunteers, base biologists studied eagle movements and behavior for 18 months. Some eagles were fitted with backpacks carrying satellite transmitters that gave biologists very accurate information about where the eagles went, while other eagles were tracked with color coded and numbered leg bands. The information has helped the base better protect important nesting, roosting, and foraging habitats.

**NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER CRANE, IN**  
In 1984, one of the first six eagle pairs to nest successfully in the state of Indiana settled at the Navy's base in Crane, IN. By 1993, eagles were successfully producing eaglets on the base. To aid recovery, the Navy established buffer zones around eagle nests, posted signs making nest areas off-limits to people, and built man-made nesting platforms to provide nesting "trees".

**ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD**  
This gunnery testing range for the Army offers 75,000 acres of woods, marshes, and streams, making it one of the most hospitable habitats for eagles on the East Coast. Twenty years ago, there were virtually no eagles here. Today, there are over 150 birds and 23 nests on the base and adjacent Susquehanna River estuary.



**FORT RILEY, KS**  
Fort Riley conserves bald eagle winter habitat and controls human intrusion into areas where eagles live. Results are dramatic. In 1994, a one-day eagle count totaled 64 birds. By 1999, that number had increased to 388!

**BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, LA**  
A pair of bald eagles has returned to Barksdale for the past 15 years. To encourage the return of bald eagles, the base removes aquatic weeds and stocks fish in Flag Lake.

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, NC**  
Signs of bald eagle recovery continue. Camp Lejeune discovered its first bald eagle nest on base in spring 2000 after years of watching the occasional eagle fly by.

### AIR FORCE

- 1 Avon Park Air Force Range Avon Park, FL
- 2 Barksdale Air Force Base Shreveport, LA
- 3 Cannon Air Force Base Clovis, NM
- 4 Goldwater Air Force Range Gila Bend, AZ
- 5 Holloman Air Force Base Alamogordo, NM
- 6 MacDill Air Force Base Tampa, FL
- 7 Moody Air Force Base Valdosta, GA

### ARMY

- 1 Aberdeen Proving Ground Aberdeen, MD
- 2 Adelphi Army Research Labs Hyattsville, MD
- 3 Camp Blanding, Starke, FL
- 4 Camp Crowder, Neosho, MO
- 5 Camp Grayling, Grayling, MI
- 6 Camp Murray, Tacoma, WA
- 7 Camp Navajo, Flagstaff, AZ
- 8 Camp Perry, Port Clinton, OH
- 9 Camp Rilea, Warrenton, OR
- 10 Camp Ripley, Little Falls, MN
- 11 Camp Roberts, Paso Robles, CA
- 12 Fort A.P. Hill, Bowling Green, VA
- 13 Fort Belvoir, Lorton, VA
- 14 Fort Benning, Columbus, GA
- 15 Fort Bliss, El Paso, TX
- 16 Fort Campbell, Oak Grove, KY
- 17 Fort Carson Colorado Springs, CO
- 18 Fort Eustis, Newport News, VA
- 19 Fort Gordon, Augusta, GA
- 20 Fort Hood, Killeen, TX
- 21 Fort Hunter Liggett, King City, CA
- 22 Fort Knox, Radcliff, KY
- 23 Fort Leavenworth Leavenworth, KS
- 24 Fort Lee, Petersburg, VA
- 25 Fort Leonard Wood Waynesville, MO
- 26 Fort Lewis, Lacey, WA
- 27 Fort McCoy, Sparta, WI
- 28 Fort Pickett, Blackstone, VA
- 29 Fort Riley, Junction City, KS
- 30 Fort Stewart, Glennville, GA
- 31 Ike Skelton Training Area Jefferson City, MO
- 32 Macon Training Site, Macon, MO
- 33 Newport Chemical Depot Newport, IN
- 34 Pinyon Canyon Maneuver Site, La Junta, CO
- 35 Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL

### NAVY

- 36 Rock Island Arsenal Rock Island, IL
- 37 Rocky Mountain Arsenal Commerce City, CO
- 38 Savanna Army Depot Savanna, IL
- 39 Truman Training Site Clinton, MO
- 40 Utah Army National Guard Draper, UT
- 41 West Point Military Academy West Point, NY
- 42 White Sands Missile Range Las Cruces, NM
- 43 Yakima Training Center Yakima, WA

### MARINE CORPS

- 1 Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville, NC
- 2 Marine Corps Base Quantico Dumfries, VA
- 3 Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Beaufort, SC

### NAVY

- 1 AFETA Camp Perry Williamsburg, VA
- 2 David Taylor Research Center Bayview, ID
- 3 Naval Air Station Key West Key West, FL
- 4 Naval Air Station Patuxent River Lexington Park, MD
- 5 Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, WA
- 6 Naval Fuel Depot Manchester Manchester, WA
- 7 Naval Hospital Bremerton Bremerton, WA
- 8 Naval Magazine Indian Island Port Hadlock, WA
- 9 Naval Radio Station Jim Creek Arlington, WA
- 10 Naval Station Everett Everett, WA
- 11 Naval Submarine Base Bangor Silverdale, WA
- 12 Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane, Loogootee, IN
- 13 Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Colonial Beach, VA
- 14 Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Indian Head, MD
- 15 Naval Undersea Warfare Station Keyport Silverdale, WA
- 16 Naval Weapons Station Charleston, Goose Creek, SC
- 17 Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Yorktown, VA

1940

Congress passes the Bald Eagle Protection Act making it illegal to kill, harass, possess (without a permit) or sell bald eagles.

In 1782, Congress selects the bald eagle as the nation's symbol.

North America is the only continent that has bald eagles.



1963

Fewer than 500 pairs of bald eagles reside in the lower 48 states.

Bald eagle populations are healthy in Alaska and do not exist in Hawaii.

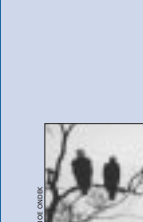
1967

The bald eagle is declared an endangered species in the southern half of the United States.



Eagle nests can be as big as 10 feet across and can weigh as much as 2000 lbs.

1972



The insecticide DDT is banned.

Eagles feeding on fish contaminated by DDT produced weak-shelled eggs that cracked, broke, or failed to hatch.

1973

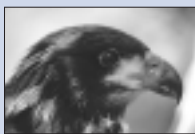
A strengthened Endangered Species Act passes. The number of bald eagle pairs rises to almost 800 by 1974.

Bald eagles mate for life and often return to their huge nests year after year.

1978

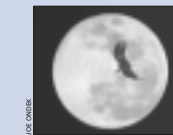
The bald eagle is listed as a threatened species in Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin, and as endangered for the rest of the continental United States.

Bald eagles usually lay 2 to 3 eggs each year which hatch in about 35 days. Eaglets fly within 3 months.



1981

Bald eagle pairs now number over 1100 in the lower 48 states, a huge increase.



Adults can grow to 3 feet tall and have an 8 foot wingspan.

1991

Bald eagle pairs triple since 1981 to over 3300 pairs.

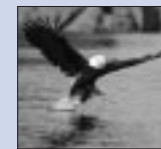
1995

Bald eagle downlisted to threatened status throughout the continental United States.

1998

Recovery goals surpassed! Over 5700 bald eagle pairs are in the lower 48 states.

Great fishers, eagles nest near water for a constant food source.



1999

The bald eagle reaches fully-recovered status, leading to a proposal to remove it from the Federal endangered species list.

2000

Delisting efforts underway.

Even when delisted, the bald eagle and its habitat will still be protected under the Bald Eagle Protection Act.