



MISSION SUSTAINMENT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

News You Can Use from the DoD Range Sustainment Initiative
Summer 2008

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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FEATURE ARTICLES

REPI – Moving from “Initiative” to “Program”

By Mr. Steve Bonner,
DUSD(I&E)/ER&S Special Assistant
for Compatible Land Use

The Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) is now the fastest growing land conservation funding source in the federal government. In 2003, Congress granted statutory authority (10 USC 2684a) for this initiative. Since its inception in Fiscal Year (FY) 2005, REPI has increased funding from \$12.5 million to \$46 million in FY2008. Through this program, DoD works together with willing partners, such as state and local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and willing land owners, who help institute cost-sharing land conservation solutions, primarily conservation easements. Such solutions benefit military readiness and preserve natural habitat.

The military's once remote installations are now able to combat encroachment from the increasing urban sprawl that threatens the test and training mission, which is the cornerstone of military readiness. The REPI program has already allowed DoD to protect the Navy's one-of-a-kind La Posta Mountain Warfare Training Facility in California; keep training areas operational at Marine Corps Base

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and buffer live-fire training sites for the Army at Fort Carson, Colorado and other locations.

Simultaneously, some easements allow the land owner to maintain ownership of the property as a farm, forest or ranch while preventing or restricting future residential, commercial or industrial development. Other partners such as the Calhoun Conservation District near Fort Custer, Michigan are preserving undeveloped lakefront and providing recreation opportunities for the general public. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation, with the assistance of several partners, secured an easement to preserve expanded habitat for species such as the bald eagle and whorled pogonia. Additionally, private landowners around Fort Riley, Kansas are utilizing REPI funds through the USDA's Farm and Ranchland Protection Program as an alternative to selling to developers.

The DoD contributions are only a portion of the solution. The program's initial year leveraged \$12.5 million of REPI funding to secure \$58 million worth of buffer land and easements, encompassing over 14,000 acres at seven installations. It accomplished this by partnering with outside stakeholders who contributed \$37 million in addition to DoD and Military Services funding. After only three years, the total non-DoD funds

contributed to support REPI projects are over \$120 million.

REPI has now funded 91 projects nationwide, protecting nearly 60,000 acres of land. It has moved beyond the “initiative” or proof of concept stage. While the name will remain the same, REPI is a rapidly maturing “program” that can produce predictable, repeatable results for many years to come. Some of the most recent initiatives to solidify and standardize the program include:

- Publication of new program-wide guidance to ensure REPI funds go where they are most needed.
- Development of a GIS-enhanced database that will streamline program management and oversight, and eventually help digitize all aspects of project submission and selection.
- Release of the second annual Report to Congress, which offers a comprehensive look at a program that is leading the way in conservation innovation.

<https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/denix/range/Home>

The 2008 Report to Congress focuses on the military readiness imperative of REPI, and it also celebrates many partners and highlights the ancillary benefits communities and stakeholders reap from REPI projects. I encourage you to

download the document and share it with your partners and contacts – it tells an important and compelling story of the power of cooperative conservation.



Partners are encouraged to submit photographs of their REPI projects and associated events to share with SRI Newsletter subscribers.

Please email REPI updates and images to samchisen_brandi@bah.com

To download a copy of the REPI Report to Congress, please visit <https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/denix/range/Compatible:REPICongress>



Range Planning for Mission Sustainment

By U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Range Team

Before a Navy carrier battle group deploys, ships and fighting units come together for a Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX). Later in their training process they work their way through the scenarios and problems of a Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX), which can incorporate service partners and military allies. These major exercises

are coordinated and evaluated by Commander, Strike Force Training Atlantic, as steps that prepare Sailors for their missions.

On the East Coast the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility at Vieques in Puerto Rico used to be the hub for such training, much as the Southern California Offshore Range (SCORE) continues to be for sailors on the West Coast. The Navy withdrew from the Puerto Rican island in March 2003 following years of controversy with locals there – particularly after the fatal results of errantly-dropped bombs in 1999 became a rallying point for critics.

“You could send a battle group down there and within 100 miles you could get your training requirements accomplished,” said Jay Clark, team leader for the Fleet Forces Atlantic Exercise Coordination Center in Virginia Beach. “It’s a little more spread out now, but when you plan it accordingly the groups can now get better training, in my opinion, than they ever did.”

That takes ranges – nowadays, often several of them – to support major training exercises that make battle groups ready. Necessity has led to inventive thinking, long-term range-sustainment planning and the need for extensive coordination.

Dave Norris, the live training technology manager at U.S. Fleet Forces Command, said the Navy

worked under a mandate from Congress that required the sea service to have equal or better training in place before abandoning Vieques. There were drawbacks to Vieques, he noted, but it had an advantage in that planners could call that range and have different kinds of training needs fulfilled at one spot. A motto of the place was “Scheduled as Requested.”

Over the past five years, the Navy’s Atlantic Fleet has developed an expertise in coordinating widespread training areas along the coast and in the Gulf of Mexico to replace the range the Navy left. These exercises are incredibly complex, and can involve simultaneous training for surface ships, flight ops and bombing runs. The Navy established the Fleet Forces Exercise Coordination Center, commanded by Cmdr. Paul Beckley. The center schedules exercises up and down the coast and arranges assets such as at-sea targets, inland targets, electronic emitters, mobile sea ranges (specialized ships) and commercial air services – all on behalf of those who need the training.

A critical component of training is to find good targets Navy pilots can use for training. That entails using ranges such as the Navy’s live bombing range at Pinecastle and the Air Forces’ Avon Park, both located in Florida. Meanwhile, portions of the same exercise might be held in the Virginia Capes area or may

utilize targets at the Mid Atlantic Electronic Warfare Range in North Carolina. Those in need of training have embraced the “one-stop shopping” aspect that the center offers. It was another slogan the Vieques range once wore for its ability to coordinate training. Clark’s crew has earned it through hard work.

“The planners go to one person and we can usually accommodate 99 percent of what they need,” he said. “It saves them an inordinate amount of time and effort and it lets the planners know which services are or are not available.”

Without such an organizational office, Norris said training would be a “nightmare” for planners to coordinate. The center has grown as its value has been realized. In 2003, the year it was founded, the staff coordinated two exercises; this past year, that number was 111. Clark expects it to double this year.

What would it be like without their coordination? “Chaos,” Clark said.

“There’s not a single place that has everything we need,” Norris said. “By making it a traveling road show, we take the abilities of small individual ranges and, by properly integrating them, accomplish the myriad of different missions.”

Norris said each range capability and piece of training is important, and that means protecting the

Navy’s ranges through long-term planning is vital.

“We have to carefully manage the assets to make all of this work to provide that training so a battle group shows up in theater, ‘ready to go,’” he said.

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

COMMUNITY PARTNERING IN THE NEWS: Commander tells Farmers Navy wants to save land

Scott Hadly
Ventura County Star
May 23, 2008

VENTURA COUNTY, CA –
The Navy and Ventura County hope to work together in a strategic partnership to save the land around Naval Base Ventura County.

The base’s commander, Captain Brad Connors, met with the Ventura County Farm Bureau and spoke to the importance of preserving farm land around the base to prevent encroachment and maintain land stewardship

Connors and the Farm Bureau reviewed recent maps of Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, Virginia with an aerial photograph

taken in 1960. The two photographs illustrated how housing encroachment has hemmed the base on all sides. For the benefit of the Navy and the community, Naval Base Ventura County hopes to prevent this type of encroachment and maintain the agricultural buffers that currently exist in the region.

To read the entire article and quotes from Commander Connors and the Ventura County Farm Bureau, please visit

<http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2008/may/23/commander-tells-farmers-navy-wants-to-save-land/>

AIRCRAFT NOISE REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY IN THE NEWS: Fly-through testbed to help build quieter aircraft

Network World
May 19, 2008

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, NM—

The Air Force is collecting acoustics generated from aircraft in an effort to lessen the effects of noise pollution for communities close to airports and military bases.

White Sands Missile Range will be outfitted with the 3-dimensional acoustical measurement facility and may begin collecting data as soon as September 2008.

The 3D fly-through facility will be developed in two phases; the first for collecting noise from helicopters, light fixed wing, and unmanned aircraft; while the second will collect data from large and high performance fixed wing aircraft.

The new 3D technology is an improvement from traditional acoustical collection methods that used only one- and two-dimensional instruments to capture aircraft flight noise.

For details on the White Sands facility, and to read about related efforts by NASA to reduce Sonic Boom intensity, please visit <http://www.networkworld.com/community/node/27937>

LAND ACQUISITION IN THE NEWS: County hopes to buy land around Whiting Field

Jeni Senter
Florida Freedom Newspapers
April 28, 2008

SANTA ROSA COUNTY— FLORIDA

Land acquisition deals between landowners and Santa Rosa County are underway to prevent encroachment surrounding Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field.

In 2003, the county and NAS Whiting Field adopted land development ordinances based on the results from a joint land use

study. Since then, the county has been purchasing land surrounding the base to protect its mission, air space, and boundaries from development using funds from the Florida Forever program.

Several projects have sprung from the land acquisitions surrounding NAS Whiting Field, including an aviation park, and an off-road recreational area.

To read about Santa Rosa County's future land acquisition goals, please visit http://www.crestviewbulletin.com/news/land_1855_article.html/county_rosa.html

CONSERVATION IN THE NEWS: Conservation in the Rappahannock Watershed – Partnership with Military Boosts Efforts

The Trust for Public Land
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RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER – VIRGINIA

The Department of Defense (DoD), the Department of the Army, and several conservation groups have partnered together to protect boundaries surrounding Fort A.P. Hill and the Rappahannock Watershed.

Comprised of nearly 541 square miles of the Rappahannock River Valley and Fort A.P. Hill, the Watershed is home to both bald eagles and other waterfowl populations.

Eventually, several thousand acres will be protected within the watershed by coordinated partnering efforts.

To read quotes from the partners involved in this multi-agency partnering effort, please visit http://www.tpl.org/content_documents/ches_Newsletter_S08_web.pdf

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY



SERPPAS
Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability

The sixth Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) Principals Meeting was held on April 30th and May 1st in Montgomery, Alabama. Important outcomes of the meeting include signing of the SERPPAS

Charter and agreement to staff the Gopher Tortoise Candidate Conservation Agreement for formal coordination and signature. In addition, the new SERPPAS website was unveiled at the meeting. Check out <http://www.serppas.org> for updated information on the partnership's key members and projects. Notes and presentations from the Montgomery meeting will be available to Principals and Steering Committee members through this website.

WESTERN REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP



The Department of Defense's second regional pilot effort, the Western Regional Partnership (WRP), continues to build momentum after a successful first principals' meeting last fall.

Several key issues, including wildlife corridors, coordinating and sharing geographical information systems (GIS) data, border, energy, land use and disaster preparedness, were identified as starting points for potential projects under the WRP framework. The WRP Wildlife Corridor Committee has met several times and members are working

towards development of a wildlife corridor pilot project.

DoD representatives involved in border issues, land use and disaster preparedness are currently forming committees with interested stakeholders in the region as participants and co-chairs.

For more information please see <http://www.wrpinfo.org/>

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES



The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) is a bipartisan national organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the states, commonwealths and territories. The mission of NCSL is to improve the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures; promote policy innovation and communication among state legislatures; and represent the interests of state legislatures before Congress and federal agencies.

In the past, the DoD Sustainable Ranges Initiative has worked with NCSL to develop outreach materials and provide learning opportunities for local, state, and military stakeholders. In 2006 and 2007,

NCSL collaborated with DoD for the publication of three booklets, "Strengthening Military and Community Partnerships", "Supporting Defense Communities", and "Working with State Legislators: A Guide for Military Installations and State Legislators".

(<https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/denix/range/Tools>)

These are used to educate both military members and state and local governments about their respective roles and responsibilities in sustaining military installations through development of policy options and the benefits to be achieved from combined planning efforts.

Additionally, NCSL has partnered with DoD to conduct invitational Range Tours at military installations and give state and local government representatives a better understanding of operational needs. In 2007, the Naval Base Kitsap, Fort Lewis, and McChord AFB hosted a large contingent of legislators and local officials from Washington State and other western states to highlight overlapping interests and discuss paths forward. In September of 2008, NCSL will again work with the Sustainable Ranges Initiative to conduct a Range Tour and Partnership Workshop, hosted by Camp Bullis and representatives of the Texas State government, for legislators from Texas and surrounding states facing sustainability challenges.

For more information on NCSL, visit their website at

<http://www.ncsl.org/>.

MEETINGS & TRAINING RESOURCES

OUTREACH PARTNER MEETINGS

September 7-12

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) 2008 Annual Conference

Saratoga Springs, NY

<http://www.fishwildlife.org/annualmeet.html>

September 18-21

Land Trust Alliance (LTA) 2008 Rally

Pittsburgh, PA

<http://www.lta.org/training/rally.htm>

September 21-23

Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Annual Meeting

Branson, MO

<http://www.ecos.org/>

September 21-24

International City/County Management Agency (ICMA) Conference

Richmond, VA

<http://www.icma.org/>

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