

Fort Bragg – U.S. Army Special Operations Command, North Carolina



ACUB Approval Date: 1 July 2008

Installation Description: The 1st Special Warfare Training Group (A) of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC), Fort Bragg, North Carolina, trains Soldiers to survive in today's asymmetrical battlefield. The Survive, Evade, Resist, and Escape (SERE) course trains Soldiers in survival fieldcraft, evasion, and escape techniques, and resistance to interrogation. The course is taught 25 miles southwest of Fort Bragg at Camp Mackall, with the final phase being a four-day field training exercise (FTX). The ability to realistically apply the skills taught in the SERE course is an essential link in the Soldier's complete understanding of the fundamentals of successful survival and evasion. The SERE FTX is conducted through maneuver agreements on private lands in the Carthage area of North Carolina through informal land use agreements. These lands are some of the most pristine in the state of North Carolina, with clean water and an environment essential to teaching students to survive off the land. Although located in a transitional zone representing both Piedmont and Sandhills types of ecosystems, the lands currently used for the FTXs are outside of the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) habitat for which Fort Bragg is a critical land manager.

Challenge: The lands which have historically served as a location for the SERE FTX are facing an imminent risk of land use conversion and clear cutting, which threatens the training realism required for the FTX. The pace of development, rising land values, and maintenance costs have pressured landowners to reconsider allowing the Army to use their lands for training. It will be impossible to operate the SERE course and secure the USASOC training mission purely based on informal agreements with landowners.

ACUB Objective: Fort Bragg and USASOC are implementing a comprehensive ACUB program to protect the natural landscape in the region which supports FTXs. The objective of the program is to protect land through both acquisition and conservation easements where the landowner is a willing participant. Land that is protected through the ACUB program will provide a permanent realistic setting for future SERE students to complete their FTXs, as well as protect high conservation value land.

Cooperative Agreement Partner: Sandhills Area Land Trust

Partner Mission: The Sandhills Area Land Trust (SALT) is a community-based non-profit organization that offers assistance and education to help the public and landowners find ways to protect their lands and natural resources in the face of ever-growing development pressures.

Bragg-USASOC	Funds Obligated	Acres Protected	Military Funds Expended	Partner Funds Expended	Total Expended
In FY12	\$0	102	\$864,261	\$188,147	\$1,052,408
Through FY12	\$10,116,217	1,517	\$5,874,980	\$403,006	\$6,277,986