



Readiness & Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI)

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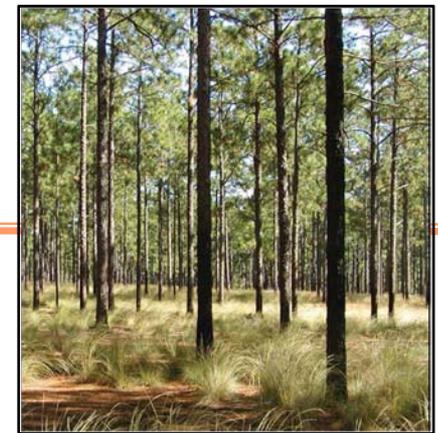
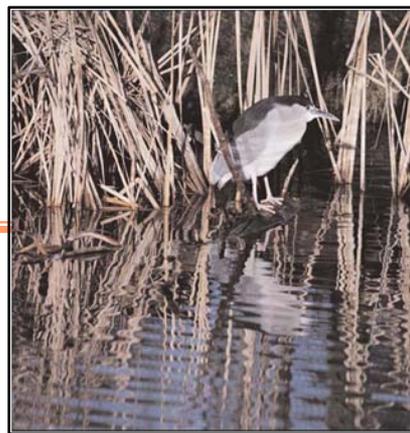


Authority: Section 2684(a) of Title 10 United States Code



Allows the Dept. of Defense to enter into agreements:

- with private conservation organizations or state or local governments,
- to cost-share the acquisition of restrictive/conservation easements,
- from willing sellers.





REPI Initiated to Implement 10 USC 2684a



- Launched in 2004 as part of DoD's Sustainable Ranges Initiative
- Dozens of Buffer Projects initiated, over 59,116 Acres Conserved (with DoD and partner funds)
- Key results:
 - Enhanced military readiness by limiting incompatible development near training installations
 - Preservation of test and training space at critical installations
 - Protection of high-value habitat in buffer areas near training sites
 - Increased partnerships with new allies
 - Strengthened military/community relationships





1,000 Acres near Camp Lejeune Saved from Development



\$500,000 from DoD's REPI project served as the catalyst for a nearly \$5 million purchase of land to buffer Marine Corps training at Camp Lejeune, NC from existing houses and proposed residential development. The action, which grew out of a regional planning effort, allowed military training to continue, lessened noise impacts on surrounding communities and created a new recreational area.



Public/Private Partnership to Buffer Fort A.P. Hill Training



DoD partnered with the Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Virginia Outdoors Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create a land buffer around Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia. The Army installation has a year round live-fire training and maneuver center that is utilized by all Armed Forces branches.



Merrimac Farms Wildlife Management Area Near Quantico



300-acre property was acquired by VA Dept of Game and Inland Fisheries, with support from Prince William Conservation Alliance, Marine Corps Base Quantico and a private landowner, as part of VDGIF's statewide network of wildlife management areas. The acquisition conserves diverse wildlife habitats (wetlands, hardwood forest and upland meadows), access to Cedar Run, and one of the largest single patches of Virginia bluebells in northern Virginia.



Support for & Growth of REPI

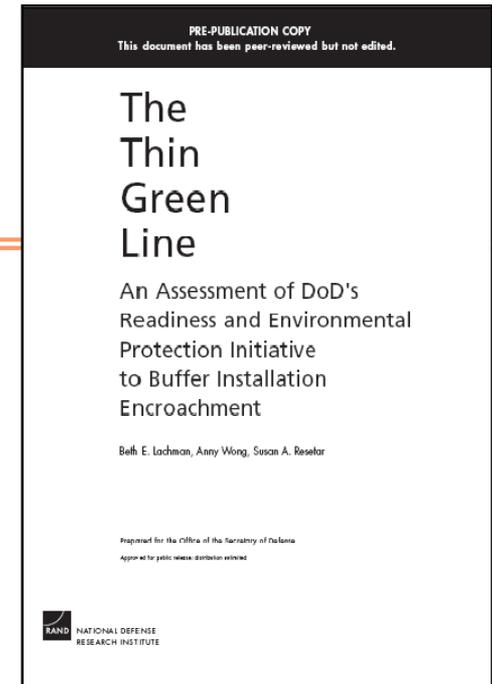


- **Congress Has Shown Increasing Support:**

- Raised funding from \$12.5 mil (FY05); to \$37 mil (FY06); to \$40 mil (FY07); to \$46 million (FY08)

- **RAND Report: “The Thin Green Line”**

- REPI appears to be effective so far
- Zoning will not substitute for buffering activities
- Limited time for buffering to have a useful effect
- Installations’ programs are understaffed
- Buffering activities must be strategic
- Implementation must be streamlined and hastened
- Community outreach is essential





FY08 REPI Proposed Projects





Navy Implements REPI through Encroachment Partnering (EP)



- Real estate-based process
- Identify local & NGO partners by attending conservation forums, regional conservation workshops, etc.
- Terms of the easements are tailored to the operational requirements of the Navy installation
- Navy has explicit right to enforce the terms of the easement against the underlying land owner

Multi-Year Agreements for EP

- DoN enters into binding multi-year EP agreement with partner to acquire fee or easements in parcels of mutual interest
- Provides DoN with multi-year funding authority; funds can be obligated and deposited in escrow account for DoN's share of EP project costs
- Requires that a site-specific conceptual plan be negotiated and executed, then approved by ASN (I&E)



Conclusion

Partnerships between the military and communities across a test or training installation's fence line offer effective "win-win" solutions to the problem of encroachment. Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative partnerships preserve military readiness, promote smart growth strategies, and help protect the natural environment.



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