OVERVIEW

North Carolina received $9.8 billion in Defense spending in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, which provides direct funding for DoD personnel salaries, defense contracts, and construction of military facilities in the state. This spending by DoD personnel, contractors, and their families creates significant economic activity, attracts related industries and investment, and generates important state and local government tax revenues.

The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program is a key tool used by DoD and its partners to protect the military’s ability to train, test, and operate in the state. DoD created the REPI Program in response to the development of lands and loss of habitat in the vicinity of or affecting its installations, ranges, and airspace that can lead to restrictions or costly and inadequate training and testing alternatives. Through REPI, DoD works with state and local governments, conservation organizations, and willing private landowners to address these challenges to the military mission and the viability of DoD installations and ranges. The REPI Program has enjoyed broad bipartisan support both in the U.S. Congress and among groups representing state and local officials. Through FY 2016, DoD and its partners have spent over $127 million on REPI projects at 6 installations in North Carolina.

REPI PROJECTS* IN NORTH CAROLINA

Funding Summary (through FY 2016)

Total Expenditures: $127,883,839

* REPI projects refer to any action authorized by 10 USC §2684(a) to include the acquisition of interests in land from willing landowners to prevent incompatible development and protect habitat or any other natural resources management. REPI projects involving the Army or Army National Guard are also termed Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) partnerships. Those involving the Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force, are also termed encroachment partnering agreements. Eligible partners include conservation organizations and state and local governments.

Total Acres Protected (through FY 2016): 39,754
MILITARY PRESENCE

- The North Carolina Department of Commerce reported that military related activities directly or indirectly generated 578,000 jobs, $34 billion in state personal income, and $66 billion in gross state product in FY 2014.
- Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point is the largest Marine Corps Air Station, occupying over 29,000 acres.
- Seymour Johnson Air Force Base houses the 4th Fighter Wing, as well as the multi-role, all-weather F-15E Strike Eagle and the 916th Air Refueling Wing.
- Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base is home to II Marine Expeditionary Force and the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command.
- Fort Bragg hosts the only U.S. airborne corps and airborne division, the “Green Berets” of the Special Operations Command, and the Army's largest support command, with nearly 48,000 active duty personnel.
- As the only East Coast rotary wing installation, Marine Corps Air Station New River and tenant commands are vital in the training, readiness, and deployment of worldwide Marine Corps aviation forces.
- North Carolina has approximately 775,000 veterans that reside in every county across the state.
- Behind agriculture, the military is the second largest economic driver in the state.
- North Carolina is home to more than half of all U.S. special operations forces.

REPI PROJECTS

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For all REPI Project Profiles visit: http://www.repi.mil/BufferProjects/ProjectList.aspx


Remotely located in eastern North Carolina, Dare County Bombing Range is the primary training range for F-15E aircraft crews from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and the primary backyard range for F/A-18 squadrons operating out of Naval Air Station Oceana. The range is an electronic combat, day-night, and air-to-ground training site critical to both installations and Army and Navy special operations teams (including SEALs). Together, the Air Force and Navy are working to protect land near and under special use airspace, military training routes, and bombing run flight tracks near this important range.

Easements acquired with The Nature Conservancy will prevent incompatible uses such as wind energy development in areas near the range identified by range and air installation compatible use zone studies. The protected land includes forested wetlands, which are important for numerous species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, red wolf, and area-sensitive songbirds. Keeping the range isolated and in its natural state ensures that special operations teams can continue their weapons training and Joint Tactical Air Control exercises.

Buffering the range also allows the Services to expand on current training capabilities, with Navy SEALs planning future riverine training and the Air Force developing a military operations in urban terrain target area, similar training that prepared fighter crews for close air support missions in Afghanistan. Sustaining these capabilities is only possible through partnership with The Nature Conservancy to protect Dare County's significant undeveloped wetlands and forest landscape.

**BENEFIT SUMMARY**

**COMMUNITY**
- Protects working lands
- Brings together new partners in support of coordinated regional planning efforts
- Preserves habitat within a green corridor

**MILITARY**
- Avoids or reduces less-realistic workarounds that would otherwise limit training capacity
- Increases operational safety
- Supports multiple Service missions

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For more information about REPI, please see [http://www.repi.mil](http://www.repi.mil).
For more information about REPI, please see http://www.repi.mil.

Fort Bragg is one of the Army’s premier installations and among the most actively used military complexes in the world, home to the 82nd Airborne and U.S. Army Special Operations Forces. Fort Bragg is also home to rare, mature longleaf pine habitat for the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW). Meanwhile, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure realigned up to 40,000 troops and their families—along with the resulting economic growth—to the post, increasing the challenges of managing growth in the North Carolina Sandhills area.

When habitat-destructive residential development occurred years ago immediately adjacent to Fort Bragg’s training areas, particularly along the southern installation border, the Army was compelled to set aside training land exclusively to protect dwindling RCW habitat. Since then, Fort Bragg has helped pioneer conservation buffer partnering by creating the North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership. This partnership helped provide a model for REPI partnerships.

Fort Bragg’s efforts with The Nature Conservancy and other stakeholders helped achieve the recovery target for the sandhills RCW population segment, the first such documented recovery of a RCW sub-population. As the population recovers, restrictions placed on used training land at Fort Bragg are being virtually eliminated. The preserved habitat has provided a number of other additional benefits to Fort Bragg and the surrounding community, including expanding Cumberland County’s only state park.

KEY PARTNERS
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- North Carolina Department of Agriculture
- North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation
- North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- Sandhills Ecological Institute
- The Nature Conservancy

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2016
- Acres preserved: 20,774
- Transactions conducted: 72
- Total funds expended: $68.4 million
- Project status: In Progress

CONTACT
Public Affairs Office
(910) 396-5600
As the home of the Joint and U.S. Army Special Operations Commands (USASOC), Fort Bragg supports essential training for some of the nation’s most elite warfighters. Fort Bragg, Pope Army Airfield, and Camp Mackall, located 25 miles southwest of Fort Bragg, and their surrounding environs, provide rural terrain where Special Forces can train for their highly classified tactics and activities. It is here that soldiers conduct Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) training.

Any development of the area surrounding Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall would threaten SERE field training exercises, which require students to forage on the land and evade the general public. The Army performs its exercises on these lands under agreement with landowners. To protect the required isolation and vegetative cover, the Army is working with the Sandhills Area Land Trust to keep agricultural and forested lands undeveloped throughout the training area.

In addition to enabling Special Forces to learn and train in survival field craft, evasion techniques, resistance to interrogation, and escape, this REPI project is a priority for local and state conservationists. The area includes riparian buffers and mature basic mesic forest, a rare forest type and habitat for a rare species and recreational opportunities. Keeping this historically rural area in agricultural production also contributes to the area’s economy, providing jobs and food for the region, including soldiers and personnel at Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall.

**BENEFIT SUMMARY**

**COMMUNITY**
- Protects working lands and local character that benefit the economy
- Preserves habitat for rare and notable species
- Provides recreational opportunities

**MILITARY**
- Protects the ability to perform sensitive special operations training
- Protects operational security

**KEY PARTNERS**
- North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund
- North Carolina Department of Agriculture
- North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation
- North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership
- Sandhills Area Land Trust
- The Nature Conservancy

**FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2016**

- Acres preserved: 2,896
- Transactions conducted: 12
- Total funds expended: $12.3 million
- Project status: In Progress

**CONTACT**
Public Affairs Office
(910) 396-5600

For more information about REPI, please see http://www.repi.mil.
A critical asset for its combined training and operational capabilities and the largest air station in the Marine Corps, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point supports carrier landing practice, unmanned aerial systems, and ground maneuver training. Its range complex includes Piney Island Bombing Range, whose land and water ranges provide electronic and special warfare training. There are no other water-based ranges in the United States so close to nearby stationed aircraft along with ground-based units within flight range to off-shore operating areas. This proximity allows those aircraft and ground units to effectively conduct joint operations.

Located along the Neuse River, large tracts of forest and farm land with water access near the installation are desirable for residential subdivision. Partnering efforts aim to stem encroaching development and conserve 25,000 acres around the Cherry Point Range Complex with the support of the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust, the state of North Carolina, and other partners. Easements protect local agricultural forestry use, which is compatible with the military mission. The land also includes valued recreational areas and a farm central to the prosperity of a local cooperative.

The Marine Corps has also implemented an innovative regional approach to its installations in Eastern North Carolina by creating REPI’s first multi-installation agreement, facilitating collective projects with state and non-profit partners at MCAS Cherry Point, MCAS New River, and Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

**BENEFIT SUMMARY**

**COMMUNITY**
- Supports existing regional planning, including a Joint Land Use Study
- Protects habitat for wildlife and water supply
- Provides recreational opportunities for tourists and area residents
- Preserves local character

**MILITARY**
- Preserves live-fire, maneuver, and helicopter training capacity through the buffering of high-noise areas
- Preserves night flying training capacity that requires minimal light pollution
- Improves operational safety

For more information about REPI, please see http://www.repi.mil.
The Department of Defense’s largest amphibious training facility, Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune comprises 156,000 acres along the Atlantic Ocean, including 98 maneuver areas, 34 gun positions, 50 tactical landing zones, a state-of-the-art urban terrain facility, 78 live-fire ranges, and 11 miles of beach capable of amphibious operations. Units based here include the II Marine Expeditionary Force and the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command. Adjacent to Camp Lejeune and part of this base complex is Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) New River, which supports aviation combat units of fixed-wing, rotary, and tiltrotor aircraft.

Areas near the base complex are rich in habitat and working lands, but also attract commercial and residential development. Camp Lejeune has worked with a variety of partners within the Onslow Bight Conservation Forum to preserve buffer land near the base. The preservation of this land helps to safeguard the base’s invaluable training lands, ranges, and training routes, while sustaining the North Carolina coastal plain and assisting red-cockaded woodpecker recovery.

The Marine Corps has also implemented an innovative regional approach to buffering activities for all Marine Corps installations in eastern North Carolina by creating REPI’s first multi-installation agreement. The agreement facilitates collective projects with state and non-profit partners at MCAS Cherry Point, MCAS New River, and MCB Camp Lejeune.

**BENEFIT SUMMARY**

**COMMUNITY**
- Supports regional planning objectives through innovative partnering and a Joint Land Use Study
- Preserves land within established conservation corridors
- Provides habitat for species
- Protects water quality and supply

**MILITARY**
- Preserves on-installation live-fire and maneuver training
- Ensures the ability to conduct helicopter training and other activities that generate significant noise

For more information about REPI, please see [http://www.repi.mil](http://www.repi.mil).