

Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI)

Department of Defense- Sustainable Ranges Initiative

“DoD’s REPI Program is about working with states, communities, and conservationists in a positive way to promote win/win land use approaches and solutions.”

-Alex Beehler, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health)

In the face of increasing urban sprawl, the Department of Defense (DoD) developed the Readiness and Environmental Protection (REPI) program. Launched in 2004, REPI is part of DoD’s overall Sustainable Ranges Initiative, a multi-level effort designed to ensure the future use of military training



land by addressing issues of potential encroachment on military training. This effort emphasizes the need for installations to

look outside the fence to work constructively and creatively with communities and other stakeholders.

REPI has already led to more than two dozen conservation buffer projects across the country. The projects aim to:

- Foster partnerships with new allies
- Preserve test and training space
- Provide funding to assist military installations in working with state and local governments or non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Acquire conservation easements from willing sellers
- Preserve high-value habitat
- Limit incompatible development that threatens to jeopardize military readiness

Congress has shown increasing support for the REPI Program, raising its funding from \$12.5 million in FY2005 to \$37 million in FY2006, and to \$40 million in FY2007. FY06 funds are supporting projects at more than 20 locations. FY05 projects secured 14,689 acres of buffer lands through a commitment of \$9.0 million in REPI funding, \$13.9 million in contributed Service funding, and \$35.95 million in leveraged funding from non-DoD sources.

Examples of REPI Successes:

- **Fort Carson, CO-** A conservation easement brought about through the Army and several partners protects 4,960 acres of land on the southern border of Fort Carson, keeping viable a private working ranch and allowing the military to continue use of its major firing ranges.

- **Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC-**

The Marine Corps and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

partnered to protect more than 1,000 acres near Camp Lejeune. The land- which had been slated for development- has become a wildlife preserve for the public to enjoy and its preservation has allowed for continued training at the base.

