



# FACT SHEET

## Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative

### Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI)

The Department of Defense (DoD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) enables the military to work with local and state governments and non-governmental organizations to limit incompatible development and protect valuable open space and habitat around key test and training areas to support military readiness. Granted statutory authority (10 USC 2684a) for this initiative by Congress in Fiscal Year 2003, DoD works together with willing partners who help provide cost-sharing land conservation solutions that benefit military readiness and preserve natural habitat.

#### **Test and training areas are vital to military readiness**

Test and training ranges are vital to DoD's ability to conduct realistic live-fire training, simulation and weapons system testing. However, these once remote installations face encroachment from increasing urban sprawl that threatens the test and training mission, which is the cornerstone of military readiness.

#### **Conservation easements help prevent encroachment**

Launched in 2004 as part of DoD's Sustainable Ranges Initiative, REPI provides funding for the military to work with state and local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and willing land owners to secure conservation easements that will help prevent encroachment of test and training areas. The easements typically allow the land owner to maintain ownership of the property as a farm, forest or ranch but prevents or restricts future residential, commercial or industrial development.

#### **More than two dozen buffer projects initiated**

Since its establishment, the REPI program has led to more than two dozen buffer projects surrounding military test and training areas across the country. Key results have included:

- 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

#### **Congress has shown increasing support**

Congress has shown increasing support for the REPI Program, raising its funding from \$12.5 million (FY2005) to \$37 million (FY2006) to \$40 million (FY2007). This funding 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.

#### **REPI funding leverages taxpayer dollars**

The program's initial year leveraged \$12.5 million of REPI funding to secure \$58 million worth of buffer land and easements, encompassing 14,688 acres at seven installations. It accomplished this by partnering with outside stakeholders who contributed \$37 million in addition to DoD and Military Services funding. FY2006 initiatives include 20 projects in 17 states.