



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
**COMMANDING OFFICER**  
**NAVAL AIR STATION**  
**700 AVENGER AVENUE**  
**LEMOORE, CALIFORNIA 93246-5001**

**IN REPLY REFER TO:**

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Ser N00/0121  
April 19, 2011

Honorable Willard Rodarmel  
Mayor  
City of Lemoore  
119 Fox Street  
Lemoore, CA, 93245

Dear Mayor Rodarmel;

NAS Lemoore extends an invitation to the City of Lemoore to pursue a Readiness Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI), partnership opportunity, Enclosure (1). Environmental constraints and incompatible development around military installations can conflict with and "encroach" on operational requirements. Such encroachments are a serious threat to Navy combat readiness. The Navy defines encroachment as *"Primarily any non-Navy actions planned or executed which inhibits, curtails, or possess the potential to impede Navy activities."*

To mitigate encroachment, 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.

In order to achieve the highest levels of combat readiness, Naval Air Station (NAS) Lemoore must maintain rigorous and realistic training, testing, and operational programs, which often involve intensive land use or prevention of intensive land use outside the fence line or beneath low level Ground Control Approach (GCA) corridors.

Historically, encroachment threatened the future of a military installation, leading to closure or to increased restrictions on the installation's activities. Employment statistics from Kings County Economic Development Corporation

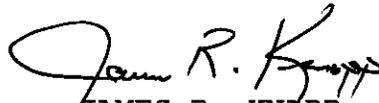
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indicate that unemployment rates for Kings County teeter at over 14 percent. Additionally, they indicate that for Employment by Industry, "Government" is the largest employer in the region. Per the 2008 NAS Lemoore Economic Impact Assessment, the installation contributes over 1B dollars to the local economy. Additionally, NAS Lemoore provides over 13,500 full-time jobs, over 23,000 part-time jobs and provides support service to over 8,000 retired military veterans and their families. The Navy and the City should continue to work together in order to maintain NAS Lemoore's strategic and economic capacity now and in the future.

My staff and I appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response. I'm confident that through REPI partnership, NAS Lemoore and the City of Lemoore will allow our community to grow, provide for the health and safety of our citizens, and allow our installation to continue operating in safe and encroachment free operating environment.

My point of contact for this matter is Mr. Roman V. Benitez, who can be reached at (559) 998-2939 or [roman.bentiez@navy.mil](mailto:roman.bentiez@navy.mil).

Sincerely,

  
JAMES R. KNAPP

Enclosure: 1. REPI Fact Sheet



# 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.