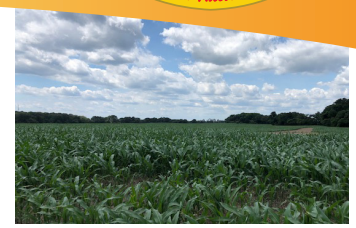


# Protecting Land for Mission Capabilities



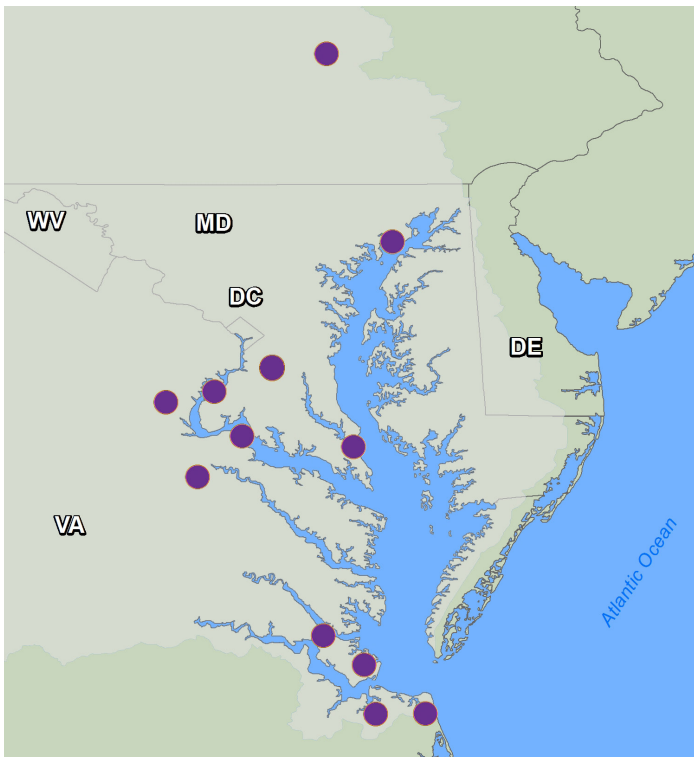
## The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program

The Department of Defense's (DoD) readiness and warfighting capabilities depend on the sustainment of operational areas for realistic testing and training. However, conditions both inside and beyond the fence line can negatively impact the use of military installations for those purposes. Nearby incompatible development or regulatory restrictions that inhibit military activities can lead to inadequate training and testing alternatives or costly workarounds that pose a threat to the military mission. To prevent or mitigate these threats, the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program funds cost-sharing agreements with state and local governments or conservation organizations to promote compatible land uses and preserve habitat near installations. This is primarily achieved through the purchase of easement rights or property interests.



TOP LEFT, PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, LANGLEY. TOP RIGHT, PHOTO PROVIDED BY NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER. BOTTOM LEFT, PHOTO PROVIDED BY NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER. BOTTOM RIGHT, PHOTO PROVIDED BY NAVAL SUPPORT FACILITY DAHLGREN.

The purpose of the REPI program is to mitigate encroachment pressures. Since the program began, over 36,000 acres have been protected around 12 DoD installations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



As of 2018, 12 installations have partnerships through the REPI program.

Many DoD installations contain large tracts of natural land that often serve as habitat for threatened, endangered, and other at-risk species. Land development that destroys or fragments habitat around installations increases DoD's burden to protect remaining habitat inside the fence line, potentially leading to increased restrictions on operations. By preserving nearby or ecologically related habitat, DoD keeps its commitment to protect wildlife while also sustaining its military mission.

## The REPI Program Chesapeake Bay Connection

For installations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, REPI partnerships have supported the restoration outcomes identified in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Under the Protected Land goal of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership committed to protect two million acres of land by 2025. As of 2018, there are 12 DoD installations with active REPI partnerships in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Altogether, they have protected over 36,000 acres through the REPI program.





## REPI Program Authority

The REPI program implements actions authorized by Congress through Section (§) 2684a of Title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.), which is referred to as the 2684a authority, to mitigate or prevent encroachment around installations.

Projects implemented under the 2684a authority must demonstrate a clear link to mission-related benefits by limiting development or use that is incompatible with the mission of the installation and/or preserving habitat to relieve current or anticipated restrictions on military activities. In FY2019, the 2684a authority expanded to include agreements that maintain or improve the resilience of military installations. In this context, resilience refers to the ability of an installation to prepare for and recover from extreme weather events or other changes in environmental conditions.

## Other Authorities for Land Conservation

Since the 2684a authority was enacted in 2002, other legislation has expanded the types of projects that can be integrated or combined with REPI to increase land protection and conservation. The following sections outline these other tools to manage encroachment:

**Sikes Act Section 103A.** In 2015, Congress expanded DoD's authority under Section 103A of the Sikes Act to allow installations to support natural resource management beyond installation boundaries where it benefits the military mission. Sikes does not provide for the acquisition of property outside the fenceline. Sikes supports natural resource management opportunities outside the fenceline on private, state or federal lands.

**MOU-Sentinel Landscapes Program.** The Sentinel Landscapes Program was established in 2013 through a Memorandum of Understanding between DoD, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior and codified in statute through Section 317 of the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. The objective of the partnership is to address shared cross-boundary issues linking military readiness, conservation, working lands, and communities with state and federal partners. Because of the multi-faceted value of the land it contains, the REPI program values and prioritizes projects within a Sentinel Landscape. The Middle Chesapeake Sentinel Landscape, which includes parts of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia around Naval Air Station Patuxent River, is one of seven that exist throughout the country.

**OEA Compatible Use Program.** Under a separate authority, the OEA offers technical and financial assistance to state and

local governments to undertake a Compatible Use Study (formerly known as Joint Land Use Studies) and implement its recommendations. A JLUS may identify an issue that could be resolved through the REPI program that is in line with the program's objectives. Furthermore, the collaborative nature of the JLUS process directly aligns with the spirit of partnership supported by the REPI program, and the REPI program gives consideration to projects resulting from a JLUS.

**Land Exchange Authority.** Through 10 U.S.C. §2689, installations may sell excess or closed property in exchange for an agreement to acquire real property under the REPI program's 2684a authority. Excess or closed property would be the result of base realignment or closure. The acquired property could be utilized to prevent encroachment.

**Conservation Credits.** According to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, installations can accrue conservation credit to offset restrictions by contributing to a species' recovery on non-DoD land. Species habitat protected through the REPI program could create credit for installations. Under 10 U.S.C. §2694c and §2694d, DoD may also purchase credits from conservation/mitigation banks and in-lieu fee programs to offset impacts of mission-related activities.

## Getting Involved in REPI

A partnership through the REPI program is a powerful tool to achieve multiple benefits by preventing encroachment, supporting mission readiness, and protecting natural resources. It can be paired with other land conservation programs to enhance those benefits and outcomes for DoD installations. The essential elements of a REPI partnership are an agreement with an eligible partner, a landowner willing to sell (fee simple or easement), a contribution from the partner for their portion of the project cost, a demonstrated benefit to compatible land uses or habitat, and a clear link to the mission. Project proposals should demonstrate that each element is in place as part of a larger, cooperative partnership with stakeholders. Installations interested in establishing REPI partnerships should follow these steps and submit proposals according to the organizational structure for their service.

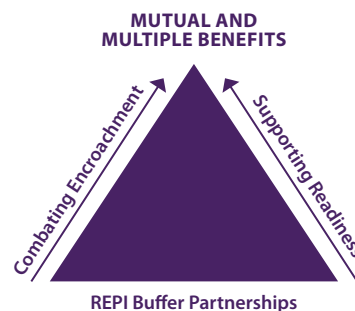


Figure adapted from the REPI Program's Guide for State, Local, and Private Partners (March 2016).

## About this Publication

For more information, check out the REPI primers (<http://repiprimers.org/>) on the REPI website or the FY2019 REPI Report to Congress at [https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/2019\\_REPI\\_Report\\_to\\_Congress\\_FINAL.pdf?ver=2019-02-21-121034-590](https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/2019_REPI_Report_to_Congress_FINAL.pdf?ver=2019-02-21-121034-590).

For more information about Sentinel Landscapes, go to: <https://sentinellandscapes.org/about/>