Leveraging the Farm Bill to Promote Compatible Land Uses Near Military Bases

January 14, 2020
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST
• NACo is the only national organization representing county government in the country.

• NACo works with all 3,069 counties to build and maintain healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient communities.

• Counties are responsible for many things that impact the everyday lives of our residents, including environmental management and regulatory compliance, economic development, and local land use planning.
Webinar Objective

• To educate county officials and local Department of Defense partners about the importance of working together to ensure that local community development is compatible with the training and defense mission of nearby military installations, and that the activities of DOD installations meanwhile do not negatively impact the health and well-being of community residents.
Today’s Presenters

Kristin Thomasgard, U.S. Department of Defense
Readiness & Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program

Dan Kessler, Assistant Director of Transportation
North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)
Today’s Presenters

Patrick Dunn, South Sound Program Director
Center for Natural Lands Management

Jimmy Bramblett, Deputy Chief of Programs
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Kristin Thomasgard, Program Director, U.S. Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program
Key DoD Programs

❑ Office of Economic Adjustment

Administers a Compatible Use Program, to encourage cooperative land use planning between military installations and the surrounding communities


❑ Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse

Protects DoD's mission capabilities from incompatible energy development by collaborating with DoD Components and external stakeholders to prevent, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts on military training, testing, and readiness operations
The Department of Defense’s Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program is a key tool for promoting innovative and land conservation partnerships that benefit national defense, neighboring communities and the environment.

Realistic combat training, pristine test environments, and operational capability are keys to keeping our service members safe. However, encroachment issues are creating obstacles that threaten military activities.

- Parachute training is halted when housing developments are built near drop sites.
- 80% of military bases have surrounding development that is higher than the national average.
- Weapons testing and training causes noise, dust, and smoke complaints from nearby communities.
- Urban sprawl decreases habitat and may cause federally protected species to seek sanctuary on military lands.
- Night training is compromised when light pollution from nearby commercial areas spreads.

Flight testing, training, and operations are impeded by cellphone towers, wind farms, and developments.
Under REPI authority, over 688,000 acres have been protected to sustain military readiness at 110 installations in 33 states through compatible land use projects, landscape partnerships, and stakeholder engagement.
Leverage Funding

Since 2003, $962 million in DoD funds have been leveraged with $854 million in partner funds to preserve compatible land use and protect important habitat around installations and ranges.
Taking It Further – More Opportunities

- **“Funds as Match” authority**
  Allows DoD funds to be considered a non-federal match for USDA or DOI conservation programs

- **Promote and enhance resilience**
  Congress expanded 10 USC § 2684a in the FY2019 National Defense Authorization Act to include agreements that enhance or improve military installation resilience

- **Natural resources stewardship and long-term management**
  10 USC § 2684a(d)(3) or 16 USC § 670c-1 support current and future cost of natural resource management, monitoring, and enforcement

- **2020 REPI Challenge**
  Up to $15M in DoD funds for projects that preserve and enhance military installations or range capability, and maintain installation resilience (specifically coastal resilience). Open to all eligible partners at DoD installations.
Getting Involved

REPI Program:  www.repi.mil
REPI Mapper:  www.repimapper.org
Sentinel Landscapes:  www.sentinellandscapes.org
Siting Clearinghouse:  www.acq.osd.mil/dodsc/
Office of Economic Adjustment:  www.oea.gov
Save the Date

AUGUST
10-13 | 2020
San Antonio, TX

Sustaining Military Readiness Conference
Restoring Readiness Through Planning and Partnerships

Join your colleagues to share lessons learned and best practices to support and enhance military readiness.
www.smrconference.org
Questions & Discussion

For more information:

Kristin Thomasgard
REPI Program Director
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Sustainment)

kristin.j.thomasgard.civ@mail.mil
571-372-6835 (office)
Dan Kessler, Assistant Director of Transportation, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)
Military Community Planning In North Texas

NACo – DOD Webinar

January 14, 2020

Dan Kessler, North Central Texas Council of Governments
Defense Spending in North Texas

$18.89 Billion
DOD Contract Spending in North Texas
(Collin, Dallas, Tarrant, Hunt Counties)

59% of State Total
DOD Contract Spending in North Texas

4 of Top 10 Counties
DOD Contract Spending in North Texas

Tarrant County
Ranked First in DOD Contract Spending in North Texas- $9.2 Billion – 39% of Total

NAS Fort Worth JRB Contributes $3.9 Billion to the North Texas economy
Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth (NASJRB)

- Recommissioned in 1994 with Closure of the Dallas Naval Air Station
- Part of the U.S. Navy Installations Command Southeast Region
- Home to over 40 Department of Defense Commands
- Over 10,000 Reservists Train and Drill on Weekends
- 3,000 Full-Time Military Personnel
- Troop Deployments Occur Worldwide from NASJRB
- Aircraft Operate in the Brownwood/Brady MOA
- Shared Runway with Lockheed Martin
Aircraft Operations at NASJRB

Annual Flight Operations 25,000+
Lockheed Martin Fort Worth - Air Force Plant 4

- Government Owned Contractor Operated
- Manufactured over 3,600 F16 Jet Fighters
- Employment Approaching 17,000
- Currently Manufacturing the F35 Joint Strike Fighter
NCTCOG Military/Community Planning in North Texas

- 2008: NASJRB Joint Land Use Study (DOD)
- 2012: Regional Coordination Committee Transportation Assessment (FHWA/FTA TPF)
- 2013: Planning for Livable Military Communities (HUD)
- 2017: Regional Joint Land Use Study (DOD)
- 2020: Regional Joint Land Use Implementation Grant (DOD)
2008 JLUS - Defending the Sound of Freedom (DOD-OEA)
Status of Key Implementation Actions

Form Regional Oversight Committee
Host Community Strategies
Planning Updates
Zoning Changes
Building Regulations

Height of Structures
Light Surrounding NAS Fort Worth, JRB
Review Public-Use Facilities
Storm Water Drainage Assessment
Real Estate Advisory Service

Real Estate Disclosure
Surface Transportation Access
Development Review
Public Purchase of Land
Other Encroachment Mitigation Efforts

Updates to Noise and Safety Zones
Funding of Recommendations

Dark Green = Completed
Light Green = Efforts Started or Ongoing
Grey = Not Started

JOINING FORCES
2013 Planning for Livable Military Communities (HUD)

Moving from Compatibility to Sustainability

- Focus on Community Vision and Regional Priorities
- Economic Development/Market Analysis
- Detailed Housing Assessment
- Land Use Assessment
- System of Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements
- Individualized Guides for Updating Comprehensive Plans
- Formation of the Western Tarrant Alliance
Approximately 150 actions identified with some overlapping strategies. Desire for more coordination and strong support for military missions.

Establishing more formal channels of communication and coordination processes for all installations and surrounding communities; develop a region-wide forum.

Building on the collaboration among NAS Fort Worth JRB and neighboring communities and refining existing compatibility tools.

Addressing aviation and security risks associated with unmanned aircraft systems (UAS or drones).

Addressing aviation and radar interference risks associated with incompatible utility-scale energy infrastructure siting.

Promoting regional and statewide compatibility solutions.
Land-Use Analysis
Land-Use Analysis
CURRENT AND FUTURE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS IN WESTERN TARRANT COUNTY

Project Status
- Red: Completed
- Blue: Upcoming Planning Initiative
- Orange: Planning/Design Study Underway
- Green: Under Construction
- Blue: Upcoming Planning Initiative

$ Indicates Transportation Project All or Partially Funded for Construction

Base Access Improvements
1. Commercial Vehicle Gate Construction
2. NASJRB Main Gate Construction
3. Meandering Road Design $

Area Road Improvements
4. Westworth Village Bike Trail $
5. SH 199 TxDOT Corridor Project $
6. FM 1220 (Azle Ave) Corridor Plan
7. SH 199 TxDOT Corridor Plan
8. SH 183 TxDOT Corridor Plan
9. IH 30 Capital Asset Management $
10. Las Vegas Trail Design $
11. Bomber Spur Bike Trail Plan
12. IH 20 Frontage and CTP Connection Plan
13. IH 820 Access Enhancements
14. IH 20 Auxiliary Lanes $

Legend:
- Red: Completed
- Blue: Upcoming Planning Initiative
- Orange: Planning/Design Study Underway
- Green: Under Construction
- Blue: Upcoming Planning Initiative

Map:
- North
- To Azle
- To Weatherford
- NAS Fort Worth
- Lake Worth

Scale: 0 to 4 Miles
2020 JLUS Implementation Grant (OED-DOD/RTC)

- Active parcel compatibility maintenance initiative
- Regional Coordination Committee
- Homeowners Relations
- Land Use, Zoning, Building Codes
- Military Operations Monitoring
- Environmental Protection
- UAS Education and Outreach
- Regional Forum
- Statewide JLUS Partnership
- Continued Emphasis on Transportation Improvements
Closing Thoughts

- Role of NCTCOG/MPO Military Base Planning
- Importance of Communication Among Partners
- Emphasis on Planning and Funding Partnerships
- Our Job as a DOD Subgrantee is to Be a Force Multiplier
Patrick Dunn, South Sound Program Director, Center for Natural Lands Management

Joint Base Lewis McChord (in red)
Sentinel Landscape Partnerships

Joint Base Lewis-McChord
Sentinel Landscape
Sentinel Landscape Partnerships

Genesis of Sentinel Landscapes

• Recognition that REPI not enough
  • Need to broaden partnerships
  • Need to widen scope of land uses that can play a role in conservation
  • Need to leverage funds from additional sources
  • Need to avoid more Camp Pendletons
    ▪ Military installations becoming species “lifeboats” in seas of incompatible land uses

24 January 2018
Sentinel Landscape Partnerships

What are Sentinel Landscapes?

*Sentinel Landscapes are working and natural lands important to the Nation’s defense mission*

Places where preserving the working and rural character of key landscapes:

- Strengthens the economies of farms, ranches, and forests
- Conserves habitat and natural resources
- Protects vital military test and training missions
Joint Base Lewis-McChord - Sentinel Landscape
Conservation

Puget Sound
Nisqually River
Thurston County
Pierce County
Sentinel Landscapes Partnership
Joint Base Lewis-McChord

**Vision:** A South Puget Sound region with sustainable military operations at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), a vibrant agricultural economy, and effective conservation of rare species and their habitats.

**Mission:** The JBLM Sentinel Landscape brings together Federal, **State, and local governments, non-governmental organizations, and landowners** in the South Puget Sound region to collaboratively sustain JBLM’s military mission, protect the agricultural economy, and conserve rare species and their habitats.
Sentinel Landscapes Partnership
Joint Base Lewis-McChord

Goals

1) Increase military training flexibility on JBLM by creating opportunities to conserve prairies and listed species outside of JBLM.

2) Maintain the South Puget Sound agricultural landscape by promoting mutually beneficial projects that support local agricultural viability, sustainable community development and prairie conservation on working lands.

3) Protect and enhance rare species and their habitats, beyond JBLM’s boundaries, to promote rare species conservation and minimize chances of further species listings within the Sentinel Landscape.
Sentinel Landscapes Partnership
Joint Base Lewis-McChord

Accomplishments

• Military: JBLM ACUB a winner of 2013 REPI Challenge; two new conservation reserves acquired; added stewardship endowment to manage these in perpetuity. (Goals 1 & 3)

• Working Lands: Three new NRCS conservation easements within the Sentinel Footprint, protecting 312 acres of privately-owned agricultural land. Agreement in works to protect another 385 acres of agricultural land. (Goal 2)

• Conservation: First Taylor’s checkerspot (Federally-listed) reintroduction on an ACUB site headed for successful establishment; second reintroduction begun on another ACUB site. (Goals 1 & 3)
Jimmy Bramblett, Deputy Chief of Programs, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Helping People Help the Land
NRCS Delivery System

NRCS Field Office Locations, 2017

Note: Includes field office locations where technical assistance is provided directly to producers and landowners, including co-located offices. Other USDA facilities not included.

Legend
- NRCS - 2,429
- Federal land

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Resource Assessment Division
Map ID: 13740 February, 2017
Source: Office Information Profile
Sentinel Landscapes

• The collaborative Sentinel Landscape Partnership supports efforts to promote working lands, protect wildlife habitat, and ensure military readiness at military bases across the country.

• This partnership has permanently protected over 224,000 acres of land and helped implement sustainable management practices on an additional 1.6 million acres of land within sentinel landscapes.
EQIP

Program Purpose

Primary Goals:

1. Financial Assistance to address resource concern(s)

2. Almost 200 conservation practices available

NRCS is Currently Accepting EQIP Applications
APPLY thru FRIDAY, DEC. 15, 2017
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Active Contracts by County - FY 2000-2018 as of 6/30/18

Number of Contracts

- 0
- 1 - 15
- 16 - 30
- 31 - 45
- 46 - 60
- 61 - 100

*There are a total of 76,347 Applications represented on this map.

Map Source:
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil Science and Resource Assessment (SSRA), Resource Assessment Division (RAD), Beltsville, MD, August 2018

Data Source:
Prohibits Application Summary Report 06/30/2018

Map ID: m14121_R&D
Conservation Stewardship Program
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Projects by Year
- 2014/2015: 115
- 2016: 84
- 2017: 78
- 2018: 94
- TOTAL: 371

Partners by Year
- 2014/2015: 1142
- 2016: 749
- 2017: 752
- 2018: 870
- TOTAL: 2979

Funding by Year
- 2014/2015: $372,455,190
- 2016: $225,278,240
- 2017: $229,359,480
- 2018: $221,298,400
- TOTAL: $1,048,391,310

GOAL: Exceeded
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

• Purpose
To provide state, local and American Indian tribal governments vital options to protect watersheds and vital infrastructure, benefiting communities in every state and territory in the nation
Watershed Rehabilitation Program

• Purpose
  Provides technical and financial assistance to rehabilitate and extend service life of dams originally constructed with assistance of NRCS Watershed Programs
Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Debris Removal

Before

After
Locally-Led
Voluntarily Driven
Science-Based
Questions?