



REPI

Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program

2019 REPI CHALLENGE AWARDS

The **Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program** fosters multi-agency initiatives and collaboration to preserve compatible land uses near military installations and ranges. These efforts preserve and enhance Department of Defense (DoD) assets and capabilities in support of military readiness through the creation of unique cost-sharing partnerships with state and local governments and private conservation organizations.

The REPI Program has protected **over 586,000 acres of land** near **106 DoD installations** in **33 states** through fiscal year 2018. Incompatible development outside military bases can leave the military with significant management and recovery responsibilities for threatened, endangered, and other at-risk species. These management challenges often diminish the DoD's ability to use its land optimally to test, train, and operate. The REPI Program designed the REPI Challenge, an annual competition that aims to:



Cultivate projects that conserve land at a greater scale and test promising ways to finance land protection.



Help the REPI Program meet its ambitious goals.



Achieve benefits not obtainable by typical REPI projects in order to protect critically important military missions.



Harness the creativity of the private sector to access and leverage unconventional sources of funding and market-based approaches.

REPI CHALLENGE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

Eight years of the REPI Challenge at 13 locations have resulted in the following benefits:

\$50.1M

in REPI funds invested to protect key military missions

\$165.9M

in partner contributions attracted to leverage DoD funds over 3:1

143,000+

protected acres of mission compatible working lands, habitat, and open spaces

2019 REPI CHALLENGE HIGHLIGHTS INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO PROMOTE READINESS IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY

This year, the REPI Challenge will award **\$8 million in program funds** to be coupled with **\$32.4 million in partner contributions** to implement a project that limits incompatible development, enhances military installation resilience, and relieves current and anticipated environmental restrictions at an installation that hosts key capabilities identified in the National Defense Strategy, including nuclear and ballistic missile defense technologies.

The selected project will enhance military readiness by protecting investments in strategic power projection platforms deemed vital to the Department's mission. This project will protect the military mission by acquiring strategically located conservation easements, while also maintaining and improving installation resilience from potential coastal flooding.

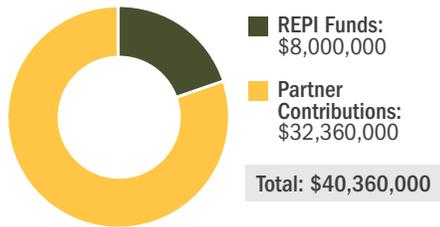


USS Tennessee departs Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay; Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Rex Nelson

THE 2019 REPI CHALLENGE PROJECT AWARDS

Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay

Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay provides essential support to Ohio Class ballistic missile and guided missile submarines. With the coming arrival of new Columbia Class ballistic missile submarines, the base will continue to be essential to the maintenance and operation of the Atlantic fleet.



Upon receiving the REPI Challenge award, the base will partner with the Nature Conservancy, The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, Open Space Institute, and private donors to protect Cabin Bluff, an 11,000-acre coastal property otherwise zoned for 10,000 homes and 1 million square feet of commercial space. This project aims to ensure compatible development within Cabin Bluff, while simultaneously improving fire management, enhancing installation resilience along the coast, protecting critical gopher tortoise habitat, and mitigating maritime and airspace operational conflicts.

A portion of Cabin Bluff will be privately owned and permanently protected by a conservation easement designed to protect the conservation values of the property, while the other portion will be managed by DNR as a publicly accessible Wildlife Management Area. All of Cabin Bluff will be conserved and restored for multiple species of concern, including the gopher tortoise, a species at-risk of being federally listed in its eastern range. By proactively protecting gopher tortoises and their viable habitat, the installation can reduce the likelihood of regulatory restrictions if listing occurs.

Cabin Bluff also contains marsh and tidal lands integral to the absorption of storm surge and tides that pose unique challenges for submarine refit, maintenance, and operations that occur at the waterline. This area additionally provides water recharge to the Floridian Aquifer system that serves four states and consistently suffers from saltwater intrusion.

