



# REPI

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM

## STATE FACT SHEETS | SOUTH CAROLINA



SOUTH CAROLINA

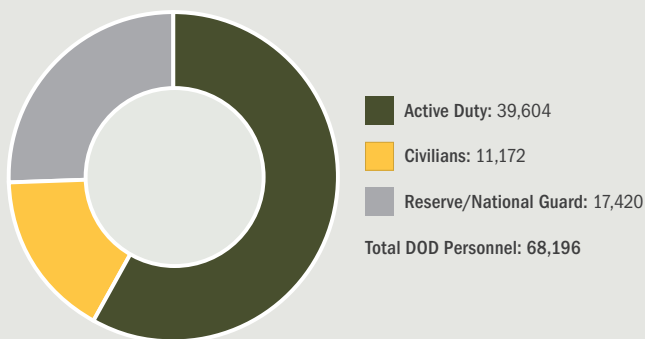
### OVERVIEW

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, the state of South Carolina received \$6.5 billion in Defense spending, which provides direct funding for the Department of Defense (DOD) personnel salaries, defense contracts, and construction of military facilities in the state. This spending by DOD personnel, contractors, and their families creates significant economic activity, attracts related industries and investments, and generates important state and local government tax revenues.

The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program is a key tool used by DOD and its partners to protect the military's ability to train, test, and operate in the state. The Department created the REPI Program in response to the development of lands and loss of habitat in the vicinity of or affecting its installations, ranges, and airspace that can lead to restrictions or costly and inadequate training and testing alternatives. Through the REPI Program, DOD works with state and local governments, conservation organizations, and willing private landowners to address these challenges to the military mission and the viability of DOD installations and ranges. The REPI Program has benefited from broad bipartisan support both in the U.S. Congress and among groups representing state and local officials. From FY 2005 through FY 2024, DOD and its partners have contributed over \$107.5 million supporting four REPI projects in South Carolina.

### DOD IN SOUTH CAROLINA

**DOD Personnel** (as of 30 Sep 2023)



### Federal Defense Spending and Economic Impact (in FY 2023)



**\$6.5 billion**  
in Federal  
Defense  
spending

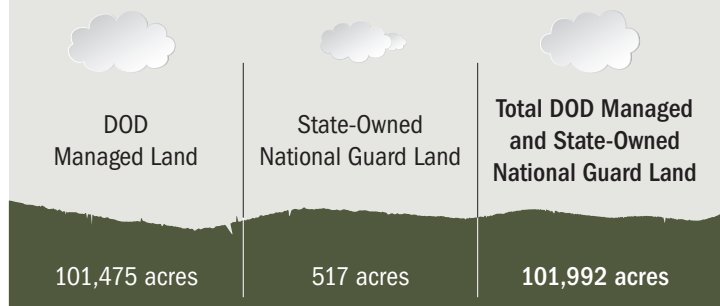


**2.0%**  
of state Gross  
Domestic  
Product



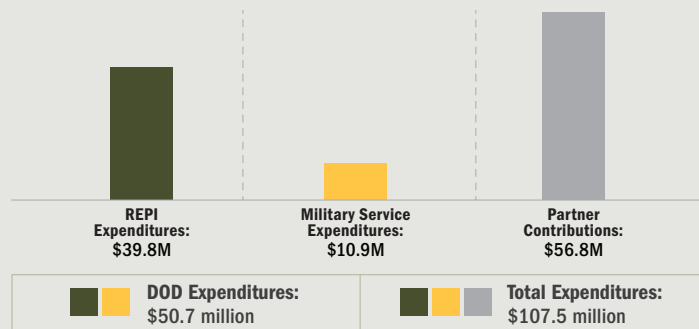
**\$3.3 billion**  
in payroll contributed  
**\$3.2 billion**  
in contracts awarded

### Acres of DOD Managed and State-Owned National Guard Land (as of 30 Sep 2023)



### REPI PROJECTS\* IN SOUTH CAROLINA

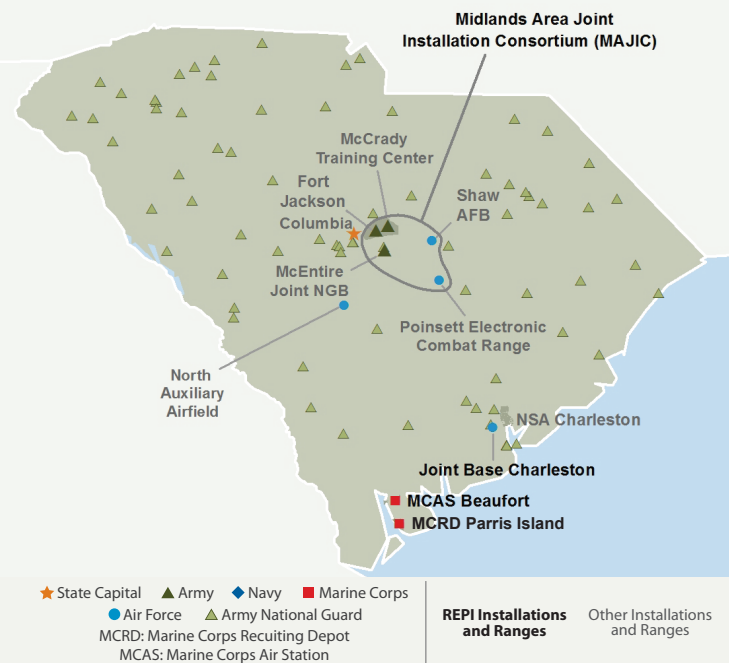
**Funding Summary** (from FY 2005 through FY 2024)



*Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding.*

\* REPI projects refer to any action authorized by 10 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) § 2684a to include the acquisition of real property interests in land from willing landowners to prevent incompatible development or improve military installation resilience. REPI projects involving the Army or Army National Guard are also termed Army REPI partnerships. Those involving the Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force, are also termed encroachment partnering agreements. Eligible entities include conservation organizations and state and local governments.

**Total Acres Protected (FY 2005 through FY 2024): 35,312**



## MILITARY PRESENCE

- The military community contributes **\$34.3 billion** annually to South Carolina's economy, supporting 254,095 jobs and generating \$14.6 billion in labor income.
- MCAS Beaufort serves as the operational hub for **Marine Aircraft Group 31 (MAG-31)**, overseeing all active duty USMC F/A-18 air operations on the East Coast. MAG-31 comprises four F-18 squadrons, one F-35B Training Squadron, and other Marine Corps support units including Marine Wing Support Squadron 273, which provides vital aviation ground support both domestically and abroad.
- The 628<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing (ABW) serves as the host unit of Joint Base Charleston and consists of two operational groups and a wing staff directorate, employing **2,600 military and civilian personnel**. The 628<sup>th</sup> ABW offers installation support to over 60 DOD and federal agencies, catering to a community of over **70,000 Airmen, Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, Coast Guardsmen, civilians, dependents, and retirees**. Additionally, it deploys expeditionary Airmen to combatant commanders in aid of joint and combined operations.
- Located on **8,095 acres** in Beaufort County, including more than 4,000 acres of salt marsh and tidal streams, MCRD Parris Island is the Marine Corps' **second oldest post and one of the most visited military facilities in the world**.

## REPI PROJECTS

Installation	County	Congressional District
Joint Base Charleston	Charleston	6th
MCAS Beaufort	Beaufort	1st
MCRD Parris Island	Beaufort	1st
MAJIC (MCAS)	Kershaw, Richland, Sumter	2nd, 5th, 6th

For all REPI Project Profiles visit: [www.repi.mil/BufferProjects/ProjectList.aspx](http://www.repi.mil/BufferProjects/ProjectList.aspx)



MCAS Beaufort hosts training on aircraft such as the F/A-18 Hornet (left). Preserved wetlands near the installation help to protect area water quality (top).

## Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS)

- The REPI Program supports regional partnerships such as SERPPAS to identify common issues and solutions for mutual benefit.
- SERPPAS partners work to prevent encroachment around military lands, encourage compatible resource-use decisions, and improve coordination among regions, states, communities, and military services.
- South Carolina is a member of SERPPAS along with the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and North Carolina. For more information, visit [www.serppas.org](http://www.serppas.org).

## Key REPI Partners

- Beaufort County
- Beaufort County Open Land Trust
- Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program
- Charleston County
- City of Beaufort
- City of Columbia
- City of Sumter
- Coastal Conservation League
- CoWaSee
- Ducks Unlimited
- Governor's Military Task Force
- Kershaw County
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- North Carolina Coastal Federation
- Open Land Trust
- Palmetto Conservation Foundation
- Richland County
- Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program
- South Carolina Conservation Bank
- South Carolina Department of Commerce
- South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- Sumter County
- The Central Midlands Council of Governments
- The Compatible Lands Foundation
- The Congaree Land Trust
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy of South Carolina
- The Trust for Public Land
- U.S. Department of Agriculture — Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Data Sources

- **For Economic Impact Information:**
  - South Carolina Military Base Task Force
  - "The Economic Impact of South Carolina's Military Community: A Statewide and Regional Analysis, June 2022": [www.scdva.sc.gov/sites/scdva/files/Documents/Economic%20Impact%20Final%20June%202022.pdf](http://www.scdva.sc.gov/sites/scdva/files/Documents/Economic%20Impact%20Final%20June%202022.pdf)
- **For Land Information:** Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, Real Property, Business Systems & Information Directorate: "Base Structure Report — FY24 Baseline" (as of 30 Sept 2023)
- **For Federal Spending and Personnel Information:** Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation: "Defense Spending by State — Fiscal Year 2023": [www.oldcc.gov/dsbs-fy2023](http://www.oldcc.gov/dsbs-fy2023)
- **For REPI Projects Information:** "2025 REPI Report to Congress": [www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Reports\\_to\\_Congress/REPI2025RTC.pdf](http://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Reports_to_Congress/REPI2025RTC.pdf)



# REPI

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
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## PROJECT PROFILES

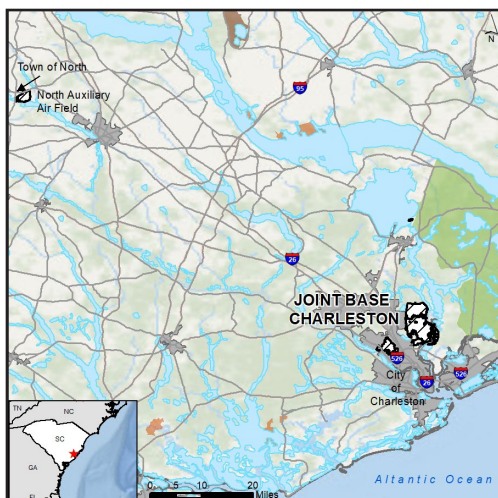
U.S. AIR FORCE | SOUTH CAROLINA



### JOINT BASE CHARLESTON

**Located about 65 miles northwest of Joint Base Charleston near the rural Town of North, South Carolina, North Auxiliary Air Field (NAAF) houses one of the only airstrips with adequate darkness to support night assault training operations.**

These operations include assault landing as well as personnel and cargo airdrop exercises essential to the training of C-17, C-5, and C-130 pilots. Although NAAF is remotely located, its proximity to Columbia and Charleston subjects it to encroachment pressures caused by sprawling development.



With the help of its partners, NAAF will acquire conservation and restrictive use easements surrounding the installation to ensure that agricultural and low-density residential properties remain compatible. This project will safeguard night vision and military drop operations by reducing the potential for light pollution. These easements will also help landowners maintain their livelihood at a time when agriculture is declining in the area.

NAAF has partnered with Ducks Unlimited for this project to participate in the Southeast

Wetlands Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to restore and enhance lands containing key waterfowl habitat including grasslands, managed coastal wetlands, bottomland hardwood forests, and freshwater marshes. The land surrounding NAAF's airfield is predominantly open space, some containing rivers and marshes — ideal habitats for local bird species — making it a well-suited addition to this initiative.

### BENEFIT SUMMARY

#### COMMUNITY

- Preserves open space and agricultural land
- Provides habitat for local species

#### MILITARY

- Prevents flight operations from additional noise complaints
- Mitigates noise concerns and improves operational safety
- Preserves aviation maneuver and night flying training that produce significant noise or require minimal light pollution



*Globemaster III from the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., performs a combat landing during an incentive flight recently (top). Airmen volunteer to cleanup the marsh at Waterfront Park for trash and debris carried in from the ocean (bottom).*

### KEY PARTNERS

- Ducks Unlimited
- Charleston County

### CONTACT

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE:  
(843) 963-5608

### FAST FACTS FROM FY 2020 THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: In Progress

Authority	Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	2	363	\$0.6 million

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding

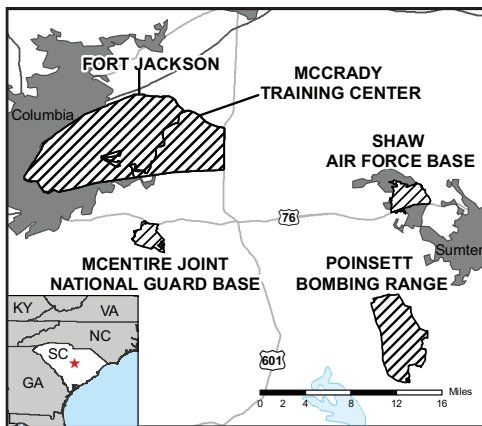




## MIDLANDS AREA JOINT INSTALLATION CONSORTIUM

Comprised of five military installations, the Midlands Area Joint Installation Consortium (MAJIC) formed in 2007 in response to a pressing need to protect training resources at Fort Jackson, Shaw Air Force Base, McEntire Joint National Guard Base, Poinsett Bombing Range, and McCrady Training Center.

The area between the installations in the Midlands area of central South Carolina creates a 670-square-mile focus area for military operations, and the installations are used by personnel from all four Services for an array of training purposes.



MAJIC combines these installations' efforts to prevent increasing urban encroachment that could result in complaints about noise, dust, and smoke from military exercises. By reducing duplicative efforts and sharing lessons learned, MAJIC is working to ease development pressures and possibly receive credits for red-cockaded woodpecker recovery in order to alleviate current pressures on training.

These coordinated efforts are preventing houses from being

developed in several areas that feed directly into the Wataeree River basin. Maintaining undeveloped areas ensures the basin can capture and detain stormwater runoff, reducing the likelihood of recurrent flooding and roadway damage. Additionally, the project preserves several areas important for military operations: under flight approach or helicopter routes, in locations that would result in noise complaints from live-fire artillery and vehicle maneuver training, and where light would affect night vision equipment for air-to-ground range operations.

### BENEFIT SUMMARY

#### COMMUNITY

- Protects working lands that benefit the economy
- Supports existing regional planning efforts, including a Joint Use Land Study and "green corridors" for wildlife migration
- Protects endangered species

#### MILITARY

- Protects on-installation live-fire artillery/bombing, vehicle maneuver, and helicopter training that produces significant amounts of noise
- Supports the ability to train for multi-Service missions



Preserved buffer land benefits vehicle maneuver exercises (top) and F-16 training (bottom).

### KEY PARTNERS

- Central Midlands Council of Governments
- City of Columbia
- City of Sumter
- CoWaSee
- Governor's Military Task Force
- Kershaw County
- Palmetto Conservation Foundation
- Richland County
- South Carolina Conservation Bank
- South Carolina Department of Commerce
- South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- Sumter County
- The Central Midlands Council of Governments
- The Congaree Land Trust
- The Conservation Fund
- U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service

### CONTACT

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE AT FORT JACKSON:  
(803) 751-5272

### FAST FACTS FROM FY 2009 THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: In Progress

Authority	Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	46	23,433	\$26.9 million

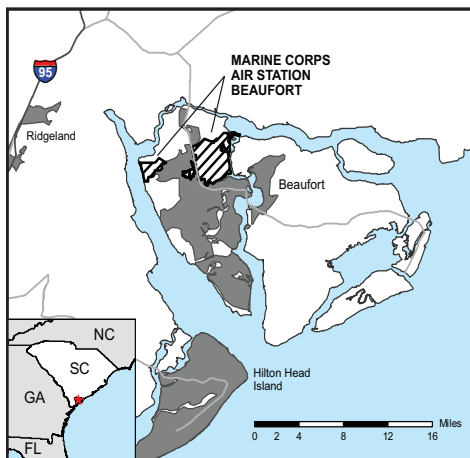
Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding



## MARINE CORPS AIR STATION BEAUFORT

**With its land and water ranges supporting a valuable mix of scenarios for training military aviators, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort sits strategically along the Atlantic Ocean.**

With the only East Coast Marine F/A-18 squadrons, the base relies on adequate land and air space to sustain its training capabilities. The base's mission will take on even more importance in the future given the planned stand-up of MCAS Beaufort as a Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Training Center.



MCAS Beaufort has partnered with Beaufort County and the Beaufort County Open Land Trust to ease significant encroachment pressures, particularly within the Air Installation Compatible Use Zone, which helps define noise and safety considerations around the installation. In addition to safeguarding the mission, such as by preventing a residential subdivision from being built in an Accident Potential Zone, REPI funds are helping to protect an endangered plant species and improving water quality and wildlife habitat.

MCAS Beaufort also established the first multi-partner REPI agreement in the Marine Corps, building on a positive relationship with conservation groups, local landowners, and local government. The Air Station has worked to combine its REPI efforts with a suite of tools to sustain its mission, including using the 10 U.S.C. § 2869 land exchange authority and working with local government to initiate a Transfer of Development Rights program.

### BENEFIT SUMMARY

#### COMMUNITY

- Protects working lands, benefiting the local economy
- Supports regional planning objectives, including a Joint Land Use Study
- Alleviates safety concerns
- Provides habitat for threatened and endangered species
- Protects water quality

#### MILITARY

- Preserves training capacity for fixed-wing aircraft and night flying
- Prevents workarounds that would reduce training realism or effectiveness
- Allows for future mission growth



MCAS Beaufort hosts training on aircraft such as the F/A-18 Hornet (top). Preserved wetlands near the installation help to protect area water quality (bottom).

### KEY PARTNERS

- Beaufort County
- Beaufort County Open Land Trust
- Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program
- City of Beaufort
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- The Nature Conservancy of South Carolina
- The Trust for Public Land

### CONTACT

COMMUNITY PLANS AND LIAISON OFFICE:  
(843) 228-7119

### FAST FACTS FROM FY 2005 THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: In Progress

Authority	Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	23	11,516	\$80.6 million

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding