



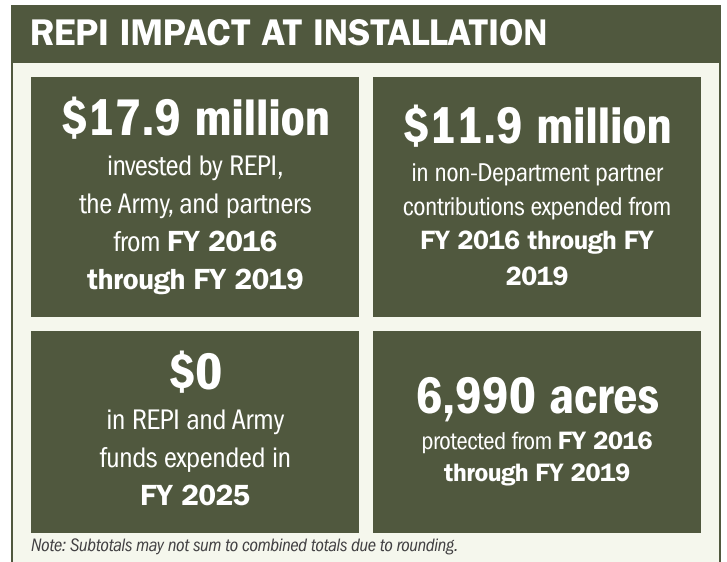
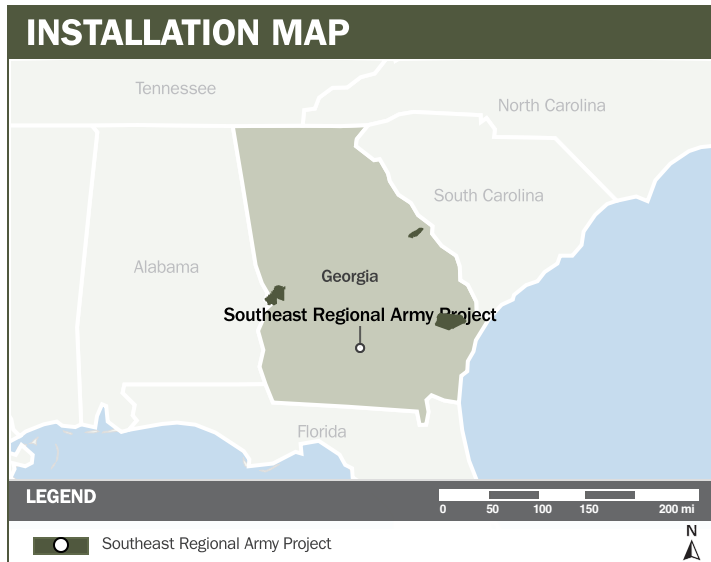
# SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ARMY PROJECT

## ABOUT THE INSTALLATION

The Southeastern United States is home to a network of vital national defense assets, including several of the Army's largest and most mission-critical training installations. In Georgia alone, Fort Moore, Fort Gordon, and Fort Stewart support a wide range of training and operational requirements, including the Infantry School, primary flight training, tracked and armored vehicle maneuver, artillery, small-to-large-caliber weapons, and airborne drop zones. Together, these installations form a regional training ecosystem essential to Army readiness.

## STRENGTHENING MISSION READINESS THROUGH REPI INVESTMENTS

The Department of War (DoW) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program has played a critical role in supporting Fort Bragg's long-term operational success. Through strategic land conservation and partnership-driven investments, REPI funding helps prevent incompatible development, preserve training flexibility, and sustain mission-essential capabilities beyond installation boundaries.



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### INCOMPATIBLE DEVELOPMENT—10 U.S.C. § 2684A

- The Southeast was once dominated by longleaf pine forests that supported exceptional biodiversity. As these forests declined, military installations became refuges for many rare species. Their increasing reliance on installation land creates potential conflicts with the need to meet demanding training requirements.
- Mechanized maneuver training, for example, can impact burrows used by the gopher tortoise, a candidate species whose potential listing as threatened or endangered could impose significant training restrictions across the region. Preventing such a listing and mitigating impacts in advance, requires innovative, landscape-scale solutions.





# SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ARMY PROJECT

## PROJECT OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

- To address this challenge, the Army is partnering with the State of Georgia and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect high-value gopher tortoise habitat, identified through statewide population surveys. While the goal is to preclude a federal listing, the partners are also developing a conservation crediting process to support Army installations should a listing ultimately occur. Once complete, this crediting framework will serve as a model for other at-risk species and Department of Defense installations nationwide.

## KEY FISCAL YEAR MILESTONES AT SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ARMY PROJECT\*

- 2015** First REPI project established, initiating regional efforts to protect mission critical habitat and reduce encroachment risks.
- 2016** The REPI Partner, Georgia DNR, acquired the ~7,000-acre Lentile tract and began managing it as the Alapaha River Wildlife Management Area. Planned conservation efforts were focused on long-leaf pine habitat restoration.
- 2019** REPI funds were used to fund a long-term endowment resulting in 1,967 gopher tortoise credits available to installations in Georgia, including Forts Benning, Stewart, and Gordon.
- 2019** Project completed, marking the successful conclusion of the initial Southeast Regional Army REPI effort.
- 2020** \$1.1M in timber harvest proceeds from this project were used to help fund the long-term endowment at Fort Benning.

\* These milestones demonstrate how the installation is strategically utilizing the REPI Program to mitigate encroachment risks and enhance mission assurance. While not exhaustive, the list highlights the various approaches installations are using to preserve critical testing and training capabilities essential to national defense.



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