

FISCAL YEAR 2017 ACTIONS SUPPORTING ARMY & DOD MISSION

FINDING COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS

DEVELOPING REGIONAL STRATEGIES

REEO-Southern, in partnership with federal and state agencies and regional organizations, developed a first of its kind conservation strategy to prevent the gopher tortoise from being listed under the Endangered Species Act, which could restrict the military's training and testing mission on its installations.

The Gopher Tortoise Conservation and Crediting Strategy encourages voluntary conservation investments that will enable the military to maintain its mission requirements even if the tortoise is listed in the future. The strategy was developed by DOD, Fish & Wildlife Service, states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group (SENRLG), Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS), Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy, and South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative.

ENSURING FORCE PROTECTION

MAINTAINING OPERATIONAL SECURITY

REEO-Western identified a California rule that would require all drinking water supply well locations in the state be included in an online database. This would pose a significant risk to installations, soldiers, and families since the exact location of installation water wells would be displayed.

REEO-Western identified which water wells would be at risk from the rule and worked with the DOD Regional Environmental Coordinator (REC) and California regulators to mutually share information in an operationally secure way. As a result, the installation's water supply wells are less vulnerable to outsider threats.

SERVING AS A FORCE MULTIPLIER THROUGH REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Through successful implementation of strategic engagements, the REEOs are setting conditions for the development and strengthening of regional strategic partnerships in support of military readiness and sustainability.

- Texas Environmental Partnership
- New Mexico Environmental Partnership
- Regulatory Environmental Group for Missouri
- Western Regional Partnership
- Alaska Statement of Cooperation
- Nevada Joint Military Affairs Committee
- Chesapeake Bay Partnership
- EPA Region III and IV Tiered Restoration Partnerships
- EPA Region V Cleanup Collaborative
- Southeast Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS)
- Southeast Natural Resources Leaders Group (SENRLG)
- Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Partnerships between DOD and Wisconsin, Ohio and Indiana
- Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy

RECOGNIZING PARTNERSHIP SUCCESSES

The REEO-Southern/EPA Region 4 Team received the EPA Bronze Award for exceptional efforts in organizing and hosting an EPA/DOD Military Installation Environmental Workshop in April 2017. The workshop brought together more than 120 attendees, including DOD representatives from 45 military installations across the southeast to provide regulatory and voluntary program updates, and discuss air, water, waste, cleanup, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other environmental-related issues. This workshop filled a communications void between installation and EPA compliance staff, satisfying both EPA and installation concerns.

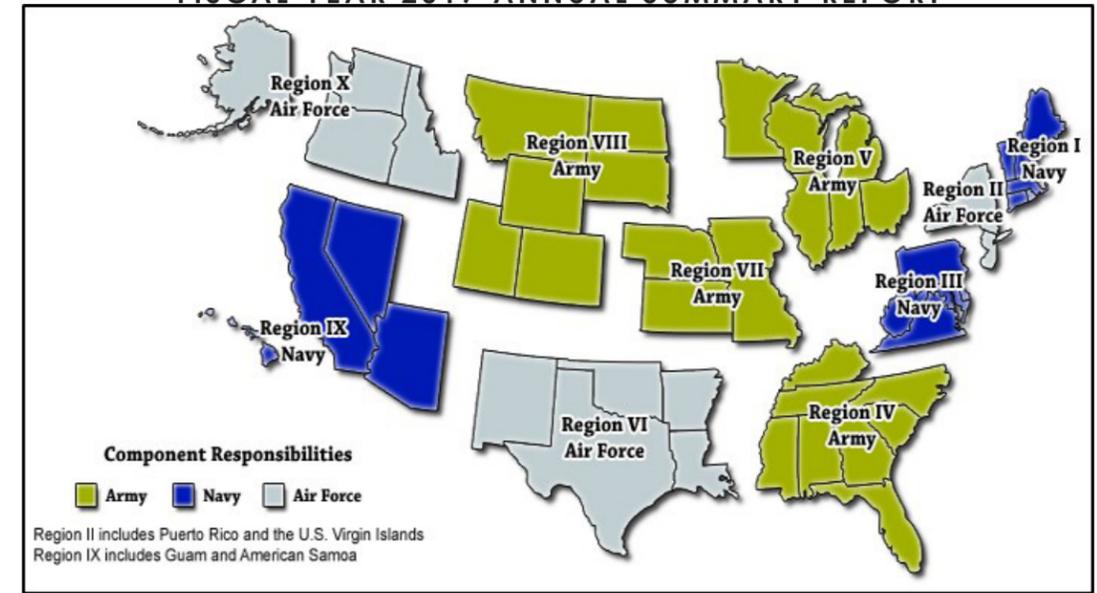
FOR MORE INFORMATION

REEO-CENTRAL (816) 389-3448 Fort Leavenworth, Kansas DOD REC Region 7	REEO-NORTHERN (410) 278-6991 Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland DOD REC Region 5	REEO-SOUTHERN (404) 562-5146 Atlanta, Georgia DOD REC Region 4	REEO-WESTERN (303) 844-0956 Denver, Colorado DOD REC Region 8
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Visit the USACE REEO Web page: <https://go.usa.gov/xnxtb>



FISCAL YEAR 2017 ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT



The Army Regional Environmental and Energy Offices (REEOs) represent the Department of Defense and Army environmental and energy interests at the state and regional level to support and advocate for military missions and facilities. The four Army Regional Environmental and Energy Offices are REEO-Northern, REEO-Southern, REEO-Central and REEO-Western. They serve as DOD Regional Environmental Coordinators (REC) in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Regions IV, V, VII, and VIII and serve as the Army REC in the other six regions.

REEO MISSION

- Execute Department of Defense (DOD) Regional Environmental Coordinator (REC) mission
- Impact state legislative/regulatory actions
- Support Army activity mission
- Advance DOD/Army interests
- Support Army Energy initiatives

SUPPORTING ARMY & DOD MISSION

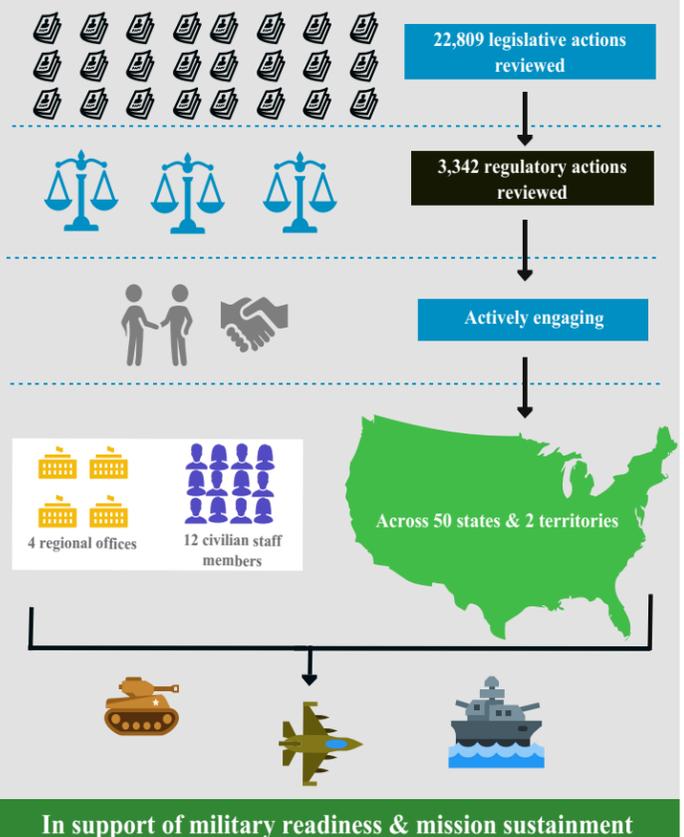
The REEO's close coordination between military and regional policymakers helps to resolve issues before they become laws and regulations. Their goal is to support the Army in establishing standards that improve Army readiness, safety, and well-being.

Key activities include:

- Monitoring and reporting on state legislative and regulatory activities that could affect installations' abilities to perform their missions
- Developing consolidated DOD responses to state and federal regulators
- Engaging state legislators, federal and state regulators, and non-governmental organizations to advance the Army/DOD's interests
- Sustaining military readiness by maintaining partnerships with states

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

Fiscal Year 2017 Activity

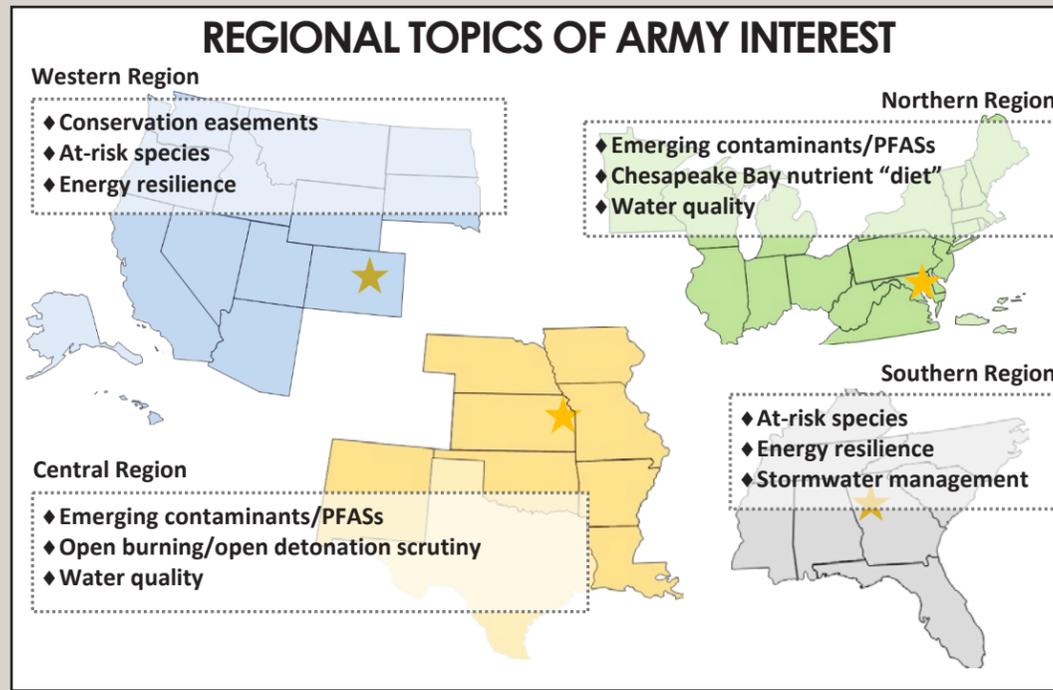


MONITORING & REPORTING

'EYES & EARS' FOR DOD

The REEOs serve as "eyes and ears" for DOD/Army leadership on state regulatory and legislative trends. As a result of REEO communication with state policymakers and monitoring activities, the REEOs published 4,346 legislative and regulatory issues of interest in the monthly regional reviews in FY17.

REEOs are tracking several topics now that may progress into bigger issues later.



TOPICS TO WATCH

TOPIC	SIGNIFICANCE TO ARMY	REEO ACTIONS
PFASs <i>per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances</i>	PFASs were previously used to extinguish fires both on and off military installations; with no federal cleanup standards, some states are setting their own	Engaging state policymakers about their concerns with PFASs; communicating how installations are addressing PFASs
Cooperative Federalism	As the U.S. EPA puts more regulatory responsibility on the states, state agencies will take a more prominent role in implementing and enforcing environmental protection programs	Cooperative federalism makes relationships REEOs build now with state regulators more important than ever
Open burning/open detonation (OB/OD) scrutiny	OB/OD is widely used in military training; some states are restricting its use	Educating state legislatures on how restricting OB/OD affects Army's training mission
Water quality	Some states are setting their own health advisory levels for lead and copper, cyanotoxins, and public water treatment system requirements	Engaging state policymakers about water quality concerns; informing installations of evolving compliance requirements
Energy resilience	Army Office of Energy Initiatives (OEI) is promoting renewable energy projects with storage capabilities to sustain power during grid disruptions	Supporting OEI development of energy programs, from assessment through operation; supporting legislative efforts to facilitate renewable energy development
Conservation easements	Some states want to limit land easements to increase tax revenue	Contesting state efforts to undermine programs that protect military assets from encroachment
Greater sage-grouse and other at-risk species	Some states are setting their own requirements for species protection using air and water permitting authorities	Working with states to protect at-risk species by relying on federal requirements specific to military lands rather than state water and air permitting
Water security	Competition for water resources often leads to conflict; some states request more information about military installation water use	Working with states to develop approaches that allow voluntary reporting of water information
Stormwater management	Some states inadvertently make military airports subject to stormwater utility fees without benefit to installations	Contesting state efforts to levy taxes on the military
Chesapeake Bay	EPA Region 3 may set more restrictive total maximum daily load (TMDL) requirements	Working with state regulators to meet requirements while avoiding conflict with the military mission

FISCAL YEAR 2017 ACTIONS SUPPORTING ARMY & DOD MISSION

SUSTAINING TRAINING CAPABILITIES

- MAINTAINING MILITARY BUFFER ZONES**
REEO-Central identified Texas House Bill 7 and Senate Bill 14 that could negatively affect Army installations by removing the habitat of an at-risk bird species and limiting land available for military buffer zones.

Through REEO-Central coordination efforts with Fort Sam Houston, Camp Bullis, and the city of San Antonio, the legislation was defeated. As a result, the trees continue to provide habitat for the golden cheeked warbler, reducing the potential for the warbler to migrate on-post and restrict training.

- PROTECTING CONSERVATION EASEMENTS**
REEO-Central identified Kansas House Bill 2199 that would have limited the use of conservation easements that relieve encroachment pressures, endangered species habitat loss, wind turbine interference with airfield operations, light pollution, and on-post training restrictions.

Through REEO-Central's coordination efforts with Fort Riley, the Governor's Military Council, Kansas Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Flint Hills Land Owners Association, Kansas Livestock Association, and legislators, actions to block the bill began early in the legislative process and resulted in it being defeated.

SETTING FUTURE CONDITIONS

- SHAPING DIALOGUE ON ENERGY PROGRAMS**
REEO-Southern supported the Army Office of Energy Initiatives (OEI) in developing new sustainable energy projects at Camp Shelby, Fort Benning, Fort Jackson, and Fort Gordon in fiscal year 2017.

This has encouraged dialogue on development of state energy programs that allow DOD early engagement in project development, and avoid or mitigate potential conflict with the military mission.

- SAFEGUARDING DOD INTERESTS**
REEO-Southern identified a North Carolina bill that would make airports exempt from paying stormwater utility fees levied by cities and counties on runways and taxiways, but it did not explicitly exempt military installations.

Through REEO-Southern and its service counterpart's engagements with legislative staff, the state legislature revised the bill to include exemptions for runways and taxiways on installations.

- PROTECTING DOD INVESTMENTS**
REEO-Western identified Arizona Senate Bill 1247 that would restrict conservation easements and could adversely affect the DOD Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative's \$25.6 million buffer investment in Arizona.

As a result of REEO-Western's engagement with the governor's office to explain these risks, the bill was vetoed. The bill proposed to increase the level of taxation on landowners selling easements, thus potentially deterring future easements and impacting the military mission.

NAVIGATING THROUGH ROADBLOCKS

- FACILITATING COMPLIANCE**
REEO-Northern co-hosted a partnership meeting with the DOD and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) that resulted in the collaborative resolution of an ongoing permit issue at Crane Army Ammunition Activity. A required Resource Conservation and Recovery Act "Subpart X" permit was nearing expiration, and due to backlogged permits, was at risk of expiring before the review process could be completed. Together, both DOD and IDEM developed a path forward that would enable the state to assume review authority for the permit. The permit is currently on track for renewal.

- BREAKING THROUGH PROCESS IMPEDIMENTS**
During one of several partnership meetings REEO-Northern organized with state environmental regulators and military installations in Region 5, environmental principals from Fort McCoy met with the DOD and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to discuss renewing an expired Title V air permit. The outdated permit included monitoring requirements for non-applicable point sources, straining Fort McCoy's available manpower. As a result of this partnership meeting, the impediments within the permit were removed and the updated permit is scheduled to be awarded this year.