



BECOMING AN ACUB PARTNER

The ACUB program represents a powerful tool and unique opportunity to work in cooperative conservation partnerships with states, local governments and public or private organizations to achieve a common goal of sustainability. Together, we can address incompatible land uses, preserve sensitive habitats and working lands and promote sustainability.

PARTNER ELIGIBILITY

In accordance with 10 USC §2684a, an eligible partner is a state government or private organization whose purpose is land or natural resource conservation.

This includes land trust organizations; state, county, and local agencies;

non-governmental organizations; and the private sector.

ACUB partnerships enable private lands in the vicinity of Army installations to be preserved as conservation lands and maintained by land trusts or an appropriate state conservation agency.

Conservation organizations are becoming the military's most effective neighbors by collaborating to protect land adjacent to military installations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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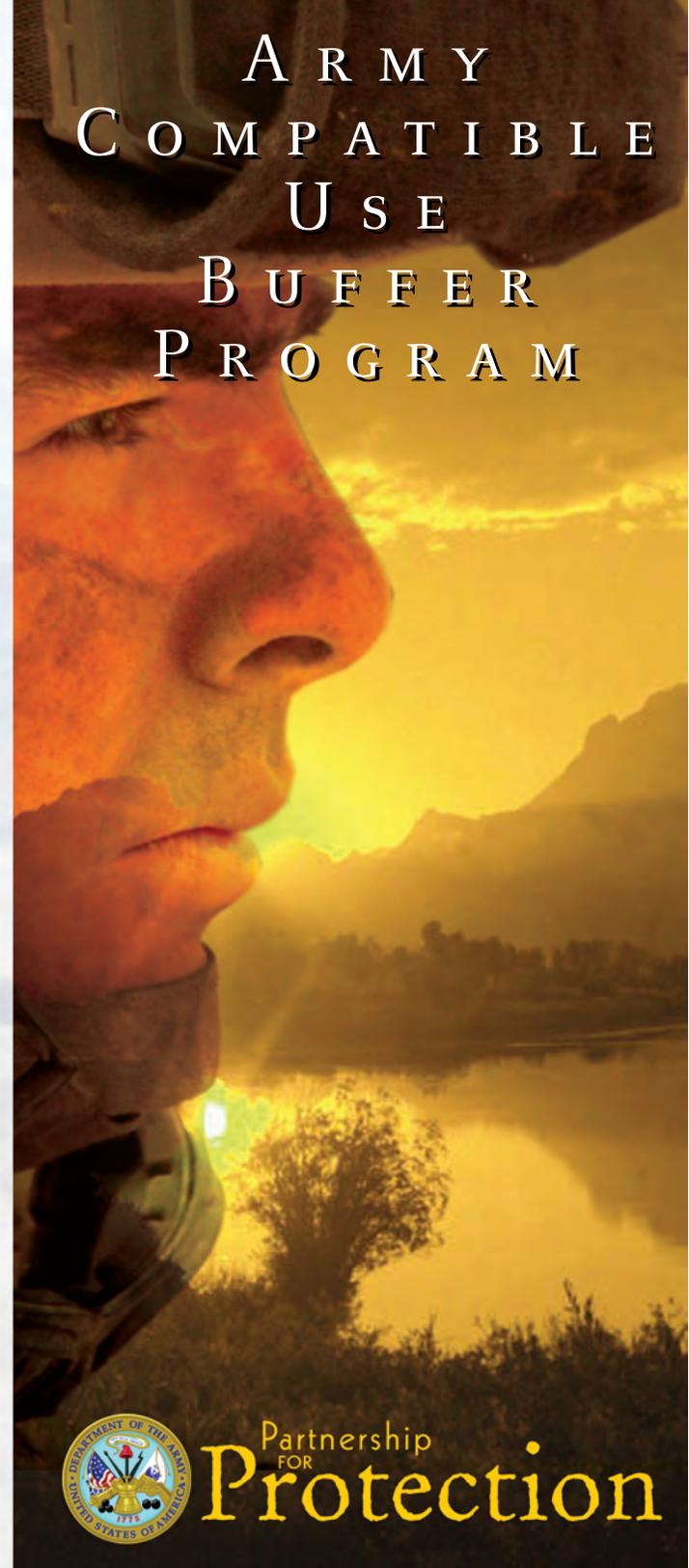
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OR, VISIT THE ACUB WEBSITE AT:

<http://www.sustainability.army.mil>



ARMY COMPATIBLE USE BUFFER PROGRAM



Partnership
FOR
Protection

Land around military installations is being rapidly developed, leading to habitat fragmentation, conflicts with land use, and restrictions that can compromise military readiness.

ACUB PROGRAM DEFINED

The Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program is a tool to sustain natural habitats and protect an installation's accessibility, capability and capacity for Soldier training and testing. It is an integral component of the Army's sustainability triple bottom line: mission, environment and community. The program helps to achieve conservation objectives and support Soldier's "boots on the ground" through partnerships with public and private organizations and willing landowners. Title 10, Section 2684a of the United States Code allows the Department of Defense to enter into agreements to establish buffer areas around training and testing areas. The Army implements this authority through the ACUB program, which is managed jointly at Army

Headquarters level by the offices of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and the Director of Training.

The ACUB program allows an installation to work with partners to encumber land to protect habitat and training without acquiring any new land for Army ownership. Through ACUBs, the Army reaches out to partners to identify mutual objectives of land



conservation and to protect critical open areas. The program allows the Army to contribute funds to the partner's purchase of easements or properties from willing landowners. These partnerships preserve high-value habitat and limit incompatible land use in the vicinity of Army installations.

NEED FOR ACUB PROGRAM

The United States originally established military installations in rural areas far from population centers. As the nation's population has grown, incompatible development now abuts many installations. Noise, dust, and smoke from weapons, vehicles, and aircraft prompt citizen complaints about military training. Commanders frequently are required to choose between being good neighbors and meeting training and testing requirements. Noise concerns, the presence of cultural and historic resources, and endangered species can result in training restrictions affecting military readiness. This is referred to as encroachment.

Encroachment is defined as urban development surrounding military installations that affects the ability of the military to train realistically. More than 40 percent of installations report encroachment issues.

BENEFITS

- Army realizes greater testing and training flexibility and reduced encroachment
- Partner gets financial support for land conservation, such as working lands preservation and endangered species and key natural habitats protection
- Private landowners realize financial incentives and tax benefits while preserving land legacy and heritage for future generations

PROCESS

Army Headquarters has formalized an ACUB process that is initiated locally at the installation level but reviewed, approved, and funded centrally. For ACUBs, the cooperating partner purchases easements or fee-simple property from a willing seller with funds contributed by the Army and other partners. These areas provide a permanent natural buffer between military training lands and residential or commercial activities. The partner, not the Army, receives the deeded interest in the property and provides for long-term habitat management. Pursuant to the terms of the Cooperative Agreement and with landowner permission, the installation may retain access rights to conduct compatible military training.

SUCCESS

The Army's ACUB partnerships include over 30 local and national conservation groups, state and county governments, and other federal agencies, providing more than \$115M in contributions to the ACUB program. Together with our ACUB partners, the Army is permanently preserving over 83,000 acres of buffer lands around Army installations — helping to "sustain the mission, secure the future."

