

A New Mission: Strategies to Reduce Climate Impacts on Military Operations in Coastal North Carolina



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Addie Thornton serves as the program manager for the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability or SERPPAS. SERPPAS is a unique six-state partnership comprised of military services, state and federal natural resource agencies that promotes collaboration in making resource-use decisions supporting national defense, the conservation of natural resources and working lands and sustainable communities. In this role, Addie prepares information regarding regional SERPPAS efforts, coordinates the logistical and content-related details for the Steering Committee and Principals' meetings in the Southeast, builds relationships with partners to work together on strategic priorities and monitors progress. She also facilitates the development and implementation of the SERPPAS Strategic Plan and helps to ensure that SERPPAS pursues and achieves the goals set out. Addie received her Bachelor of Science in natural resources policy and administration from North Carolina State University.



Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS)

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Operations in Coastal NC***

2019 NC Coastal Resilience Summit

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SERPPAS as a Solution

- ▶ Partnership created in 2005 to promote better collaboration in making resource-use decisions and includes:
 - ▶ State environmental and natural resources agencies
 - ▶ Department of Defense (OSD and all military services)
 - ▶ Federal environmental and natural resource agencies
- ▶ SERPPAS partners with NGOs, private industry, and other regional partnerships to collaborate on large landscape scale initiatives
- ▶ SERPPAS works to prevent encroachment around military lands, encourage compatible resource-use decisions, and improve coordination among regions, states, communities, and military services
- ▶ SERPPAS includes the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi

Effective Working Relationships + GOOD MAP = Mutual & Multiple Benefits

Seize opportunities and solve problems in value-adding ways that provide mutual and multiple benefits to the partners, sustain the individual and collective missions of partner organizations, and secure the future for all the partners, the region, and the nation





Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS)

Mutual and multiple benefits...



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



GEORGIA
FORESTRY
COMMISSION



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY





Value of Unconventional Partnerships

- ▶ Build trust between partners to create effective working relationships – beyond state and agency boundaries
- ▶ Connect issues and solutions at a regional scale – result in greater impact across the region
- ▶ Leverage resources (monetary and in-kind) – more flexibility and opportunities created
- ▶ Sharing lessons learned and increased coordination of efforts helps avoid duplication and helps spread good ideas across the region – often avoids future conflicts

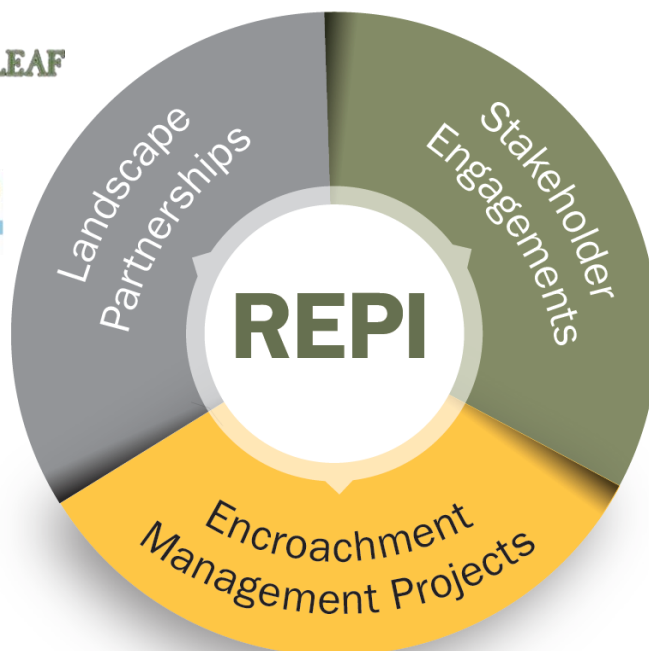


Regional Impact

- ▶ Range-Wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine
- ▶ Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Translocations
- ▶ Comprehensive Strategy for Prescribed Fire in the Southeast
- ▶ Gopher Tortoise Crediting Strategy
- ▶ Governor's South Atlantic Alliance



DoD Readiness & Environmental Protection Integration Program





DoD: Holistic & Systematic Approach

- ▶ DoD Directive to consider the threats of a changing climate in all planning processes – infrastructure and land management focus
- ▶ NR Conservation Program Policies
 - ▶ INRMPs must incorporate climate change impacts
 - ▶ Emergency management consider weather and climate – managing risks and response
- ▶ Tools & Guidance
 - ▶ Updated Unified Facilities Criteria – building codes, master planning, high performance and sustainable buildings, minimum flood criteria, green infrastructure – all to consider climate impacts
 - ▶ Water resilience in installation energy plans
 - ▶ Guidebook for DoD NR Managers – how to consider climate change into planning
 - ▶ Will be releasing top 10 most vulnerable installations per service report



New Opportunities – FY19 National Defense Authorization Act

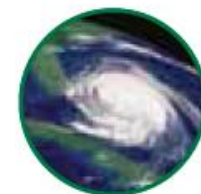
- ▶ New NDAA Language: ‘Military Installation Resilience’
 - ▶ DEFINITION OF MILITARY INSTALLATION RESILIENCE.—Section 101(e) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:
 - ▶ “(8) MILITARY INSTALLATION RESILIENCE.— The term ‘military installation resilience’ means the capability of a military installation to avoid, prepare for, minimize the effect of, adapt to, and recover from extreme weather events, or from anticipated or unanticipated changes in environmental conditions, that do, or have the potential to, adversely affect the military installation or essential transportation, logistical, or other necessary resources outside of the military installation that are necessary in order to maintain, improve, or rapidly reestablish installation mission assurance and mission-essential functions.”

SERPPAS Resiliency – Managing Risks

▶ Prescribed Fire



▶ Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation



▶ Sentinel Landscapes in the SE



▶ Energy Development and Siting



▶ Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species





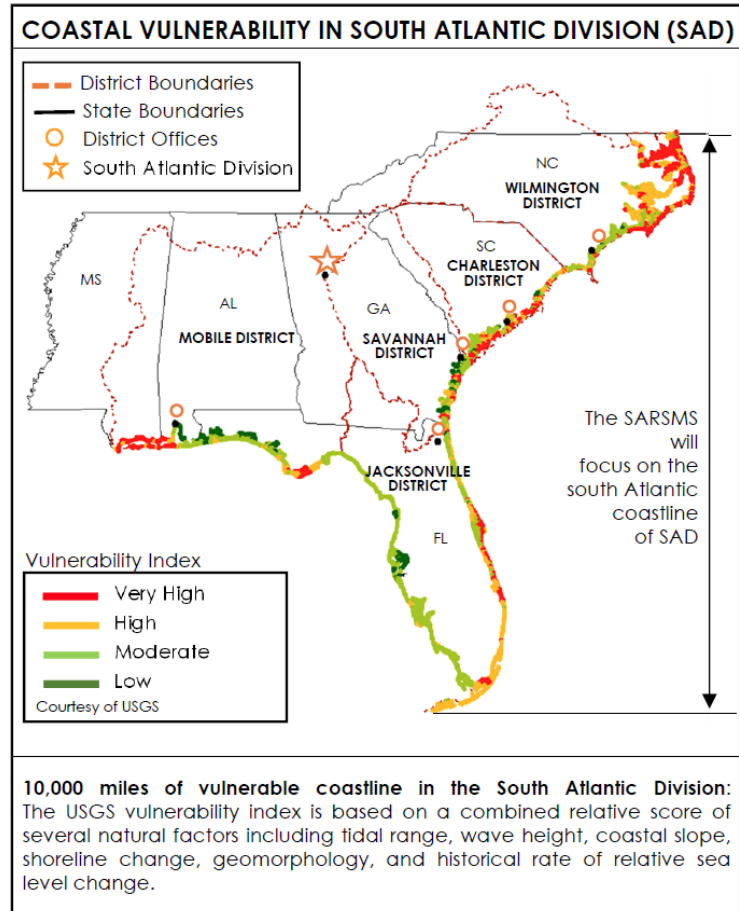
SERPPAS Strategic Plan – Coastal Resiliency and Regional Adaptation

- ▶ Seek input from military services on baseline conditions and most significant risks to natural and built environment that threaten mission sustainment, with emphasis on coastal installations.
- ▶ Set up a SERPPAS engagement process to discuss and understand identified risks and relate to most significant risks to natural resource conservation and working lands/waters to identify partnership opportunities.
- ▶ Provide information on knowledge, tools and methods to better manage risks to the ability to utilize military lands for their intended purpose.
- ▶ Establish a collaborative program to work with coastal and marine stakeholders to protect and sustain military compatible shoreline and marine space, the coastal economy and communities and natural resources.

▶ US Army Corps of Engineers – South Atlantic Coastal Study (WRDA 2016)

\$16M to study the risks and vulnerabilities of the coastal areas in the SAD to increased hurricane and storm damage as a result of SLR

- ▶ Help ensure that military assets and missions are identified as part of the study
- ▶ Link to critical stakeholders that can provide data, tools and information that already exist





SERPPAS Current Efforts

- ▶ **Collaborating Towards Coastal Resilience in the Southeast** – Initiative led by SERPPAS and Sea Grant Programs from AL, FL, GA, MS, NC and SC
 - ▶ Continue developing existing legal and policy development capacity within Sea Grant programs
 - ▶ Host a summer workshop in 2019
 - ▶ Produce a short work plan from the workshop that outlines findings, next steps, and processes for continued engagement among partners.
 - ▶ Produce a law review article for a special issue of the *Sea Grant Law and Policy Journal* describing the findings from the workshop and the important role that increasing coastal resilience plays in furthering military readiness.



Collaborating towards Coastal Resilience in the SE

August 2019

- ▶ Increase understanding of SERPPAS goals and needs for military readiness on the coast
 - ▶ DoD and Military Service challenges and priorities
- ▶ Increase understanding of legal and regulatory frameworks influencing local coastal decision-making
 - ▶ Legal baselines for partnering on resilience projects
- ▶ Increase understanding of innovative engineering options that incorporate natural systems, and identify next steps for further partnership and implementation
 - ▶ Inform the 'Good Map' on where we can focus resilience efforts – strong emphasis on critical infrastructure

- ▶ Potential use of REPI and OEA funding for Joint Land Use Studies and projects to include military installation resilience
- ▶ Using Sentinel Landscapes to pilot resiliency projects – NC and GA have coastline and coastal installations and already established local and federal partnerships that can be leveraged
- ▶ Expand SERPPAS membership to include the state emergency management agencies– emergency and disaster response agencies are critical to ensuring community resiliency

Thank you!

www.serppas.org

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