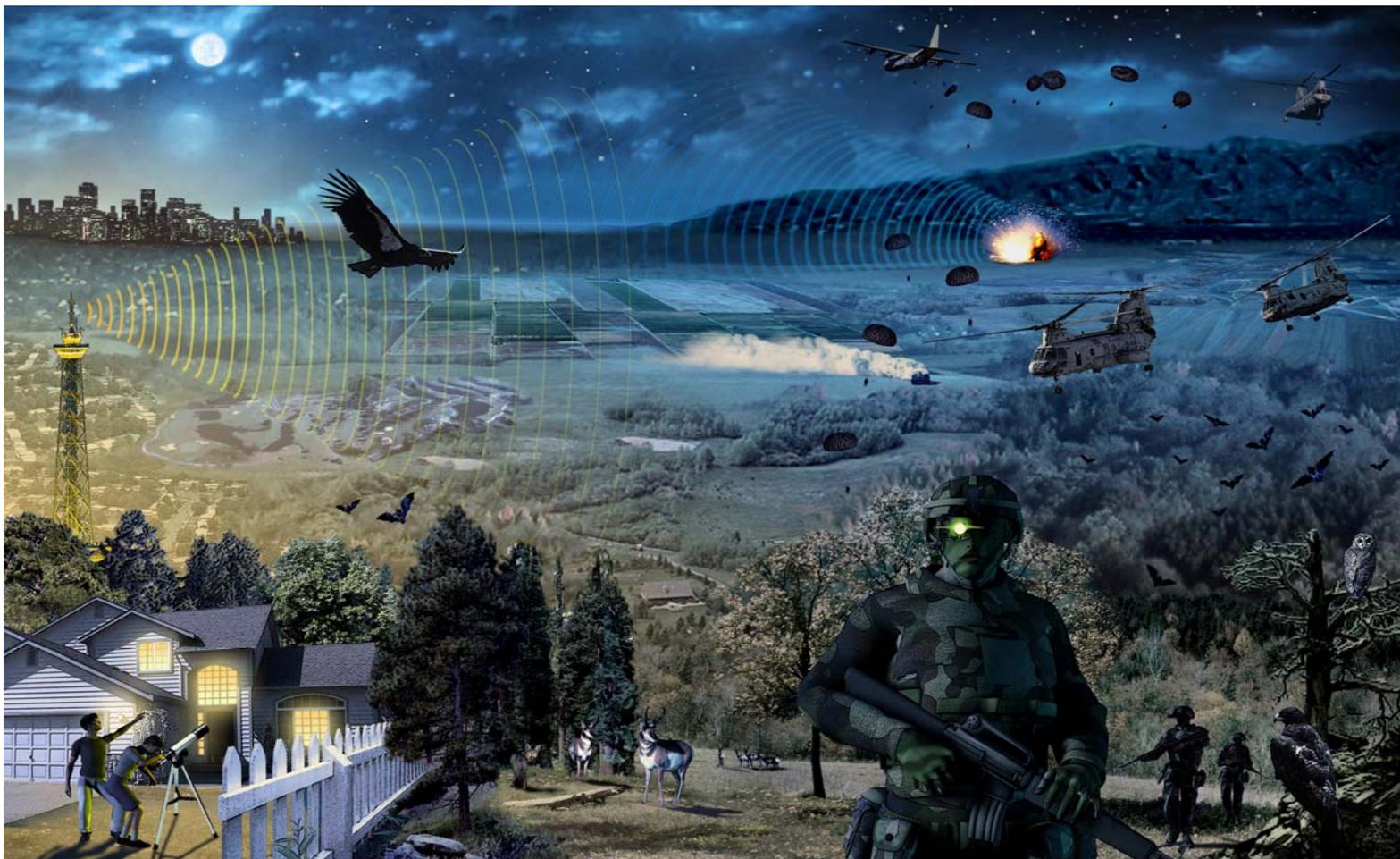




# National Training Center



## Army Compatible Use Buffers: Partnering to Manage Encroachment



—Lead — Train — Win—



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## ACUB Purpose

- To address the use or development of real property in the vicinity of a military installation for the purposes of
  - Limiting any development or use of the property that would be incompatible with the mission of the installation
  - Preserving habitat on the property in a manner that
    - Is compatible with environmental requirements
    - May eliminate or relieve environmental restrictions that would restrict, impede, or otherwise interfere, with current or anticipated military training, testing, or operations on the installation



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## Encroachment Problem

Land around military installations is being rapidly developed

Urban encroachment:

Incompatible land use and conflicts over noise, dust, training activity



Habitat loss:

Army lands increasingly carry conservation responsibilities for surrounding areas



Result: restrictions on type, timing, and location of training activities that can compromise military readiness



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## Why the Services are Interested in Conservation Partnerships

### Mutual Interests

- ✓ Improved quality of life
  - Minimize conflicting land uses
- ✓ Environmental stewardship
  - Protect wildlife habitat
  - Maintain ecological services and functions
- ✓ Sustainability of installations
  - National security





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## What is an ACUB?

An ACUB is an agreement:

- Between the Army and an eligible entity for the benefit of an installation
- To protect installations from encroachment or alleviate environmental restrictions
- That involves acquisition of land or interest
- That involves willing sellers
- Where the partner holds title/interest and is responsible for management



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## What ACUB is Not:

- *Not* a program to purchase additional Army lands.
- *Not* a program to acquire additional training areas.
- *Not* the entire solution, but an important tool to assist in mitigating the impacts of encroachment on the installation's ability to “train as we fight” and *sustain* the mission.



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## Section 2811 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2003 codified at 10 USC 2684a

- Authorizes the use of cooperative agreements for
  - **Limiting any development or use** of the property that would be **incompatible with the mission** of the installation; **or**
  - **Preserving habitat** on the property in a manner that— (A) is compatible with environmental requirements; and (B) may **eliminate or relieve** current or anticipated **environmental restrictions** that would or might otherwise restrict, impede, or otherwise interfere, whether directly or indirectly, with current or anticipated **military training, testing, or operations** on the installation



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## ACUB Eligible Entities

- A State or political subdivision of a State
- A private entity whose purpose or goal is the conservation, restoration, or preservation of land and natural resources



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## ACUB Intent

- Prevent training restrictions
- Protect Army's investment in new and modernized ranges
- Enhance readiness
- Natural resource protection is a means of protecting training



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## ACUB Benefits

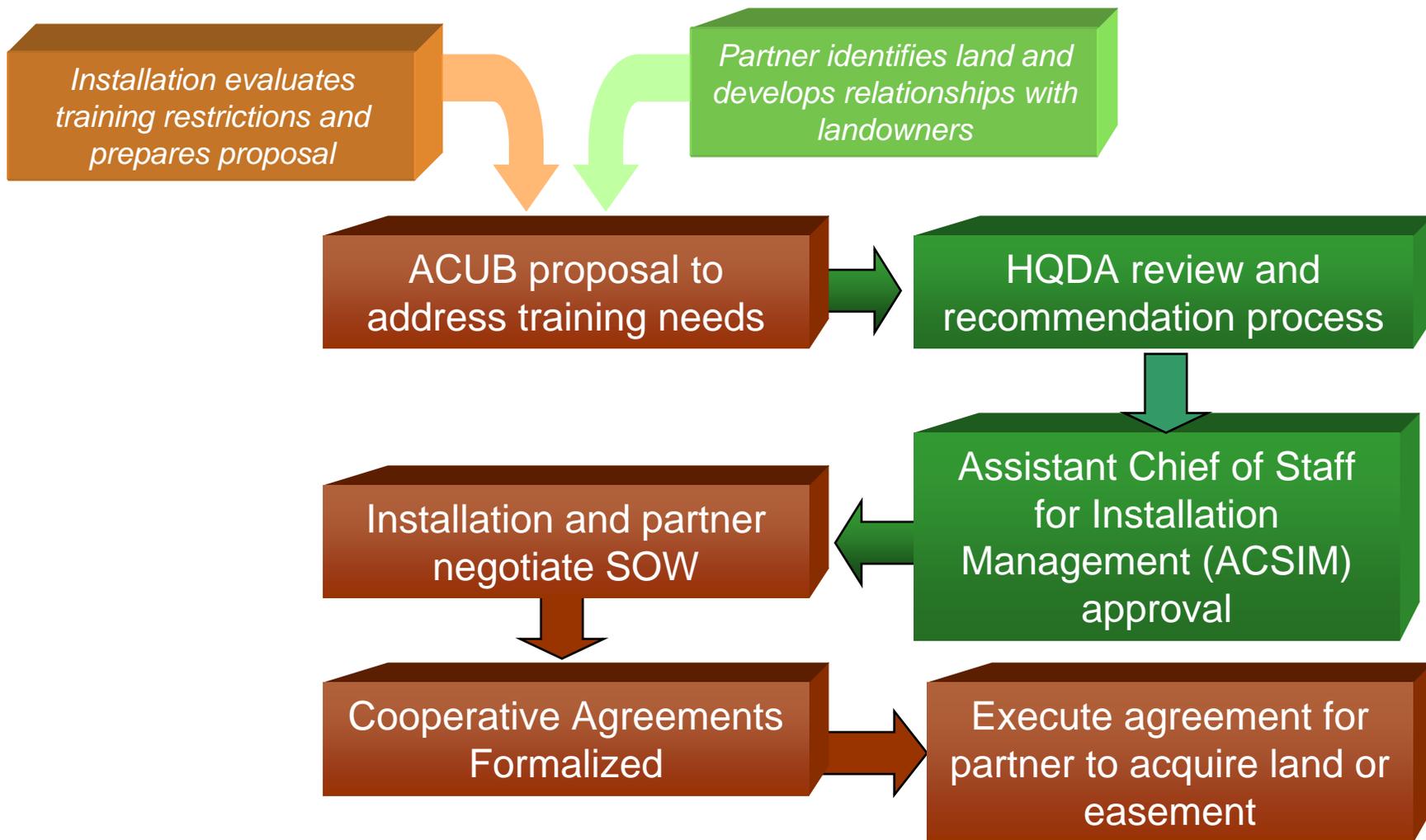
- Limit incompatible development
- Expand / protect effective training space on installation
- Protect natural resources
- Protect against / alleviate environmental training restrictions



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## ACUB Proposal Process





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## Proposal Process

1. Site Assistance Visit & Installation ACUB team development
  2. Proposal development
  3. Proposal submittal through command chain
  4. Proposal approval
- **Note: approval does not guarantee funding**
  - **Note: proposal approval process separate from cooperative agreement process**



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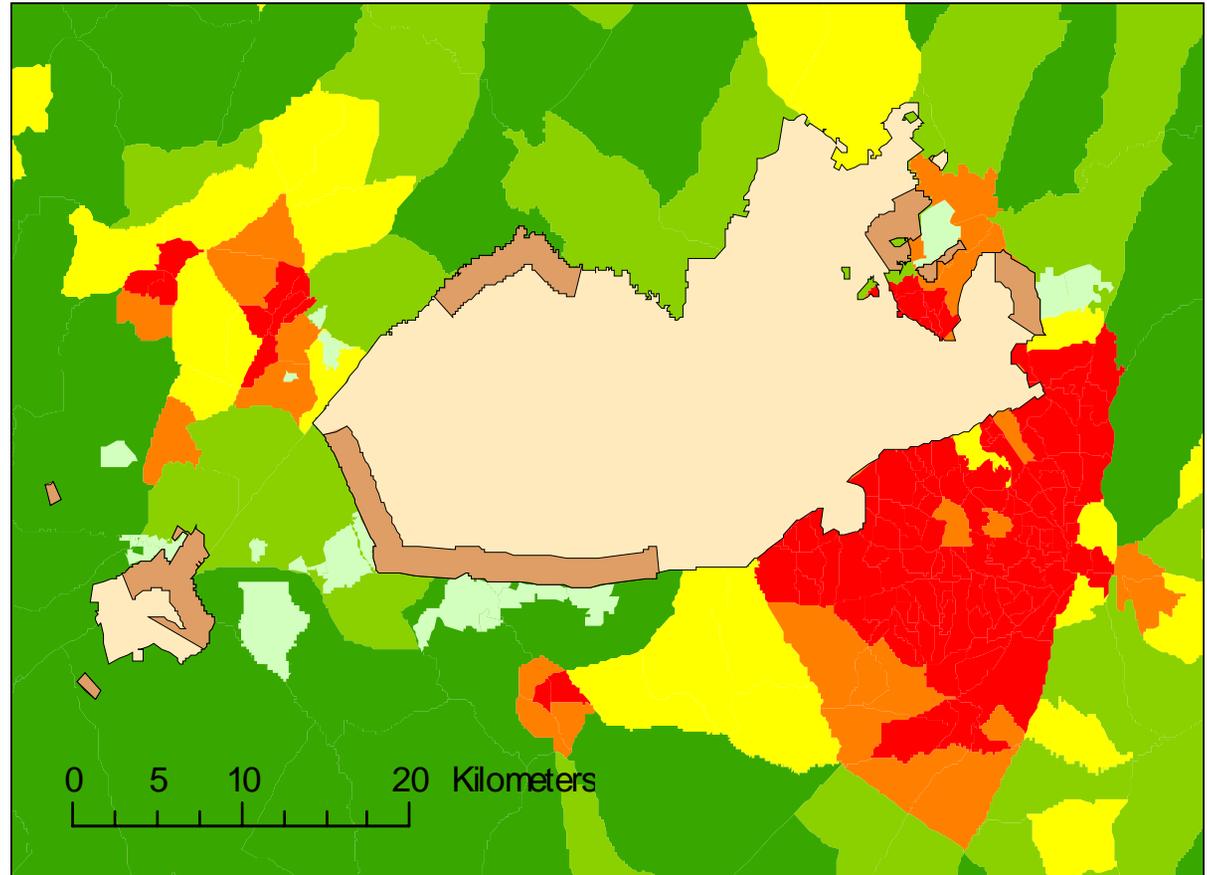
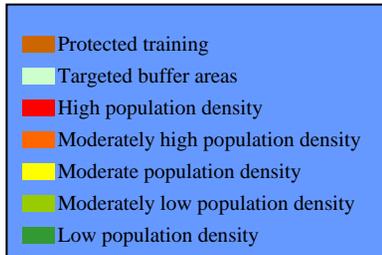


## Example – Fort Bragg

- Red cockaded woodpecker ~ 9000 acres protected
- Sprawl ~ 7 linear miles of buffer



Protected training =  
**9,390 acres** (38 km<sup>2</sup>)





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## Example – Fort Bragg



**Sandhills  
Ecological  
Institute**





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## Example of Funding Sources– Fort Bragg

- **USFWS Section 6 funding** - provided under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act for habitat acquisition.
- **Natural Heritage Trust Fund and Clean Water Management Trust Fund** - funded by the State of North Carolina.
- **NCDOT Endangered Species Mitigation funding** - provided to mitigate for the loss of RCW habitat in future highway projects.
- **CoPs funds** - Certificates of Participation (bonds) issued by the state of North Carolina for land acquisition around important military installations.
- **EEP** - The Ecosystem Enhancement Program of NCDOT/NC DENR to purchase lands or conservation easements as mitigation for future highway projects.



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## ACUB Funding

- Army \$\$
  - To date no programmatic funds
  - Dependence on end of year funds
- DoD \$\$
  - FY 2005 - \$12.5M to the services (\$6.5M to Army)
  - FY 2006 - \$40M or more





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## Summary

- ACUB is a powerful tool to limit encroachment and ensure future access to existing training lands
- ACUBs are an integral part of range sustainability and conservation of species
- Cooperative partnering with our neighbors achieves common objectives
- ACUBs allow soldiers to train as we fight





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**Bottom Line: Soldiers must train as we fight**

*Lead - Train - Win*



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**Brian Shomo  
Ecologist  
ITS Corporation  
DPW – Natural Resources  
National Training Center and Fort Irwin**

**QUESTIONS?**