

# Partnering with DOD to Advance Coastal Resilience in Georgia

Coastal Georgia Colloquium  
October 16, 2024

*Michelle Covi, PhD  
Coastal Resilience DOD  
Liaison*



Since 2014 DoD has identified climate change as a critical national security issue and threat multiplier, and a top management challenge.

### **LOE 1: Climate-Informed Decision Making**

Integrating adaptation and resilience into planning process

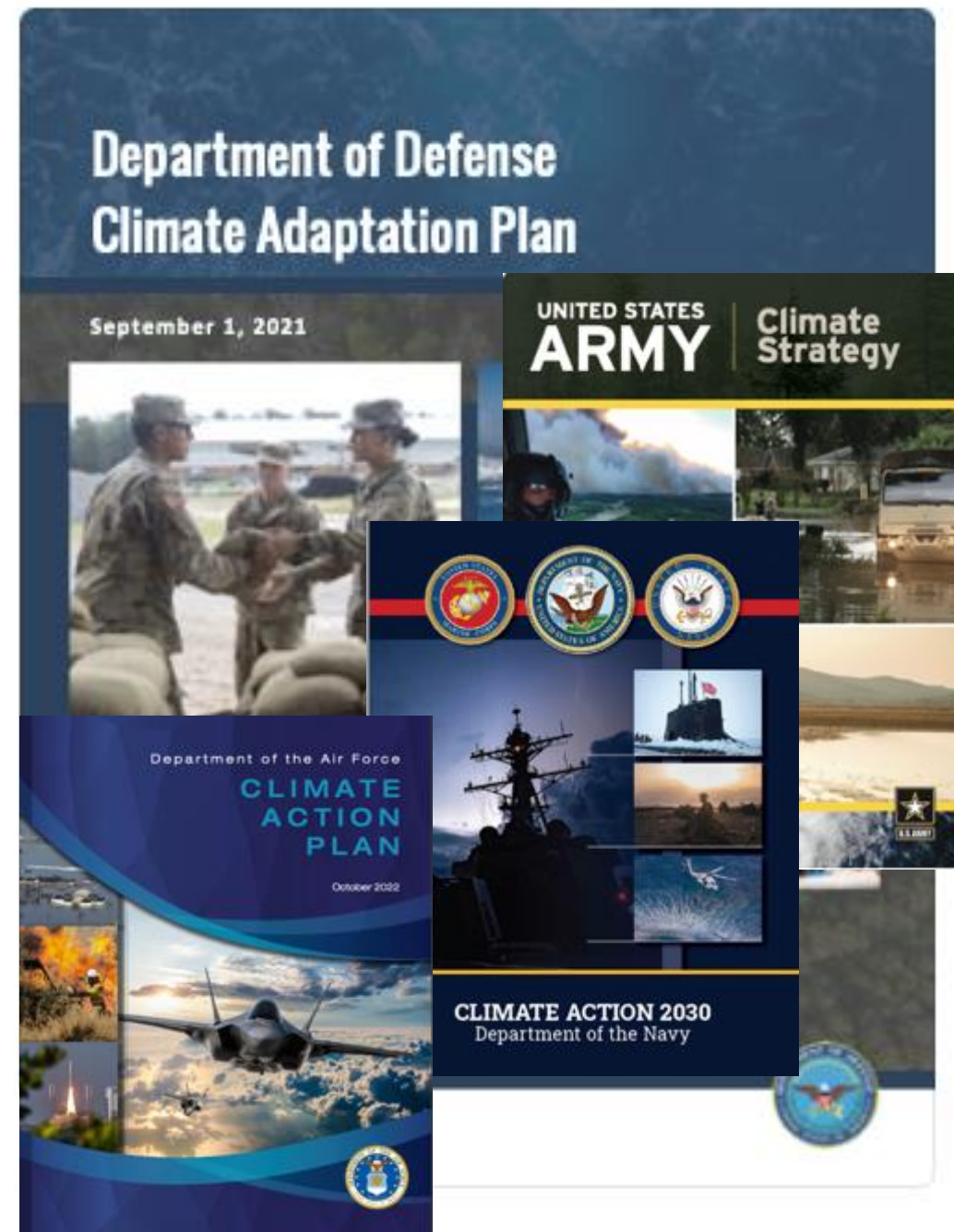
### **LOE 3: Resilient Built and Natural Infrastructure**

Installation Resilience  
Ecosystem Services

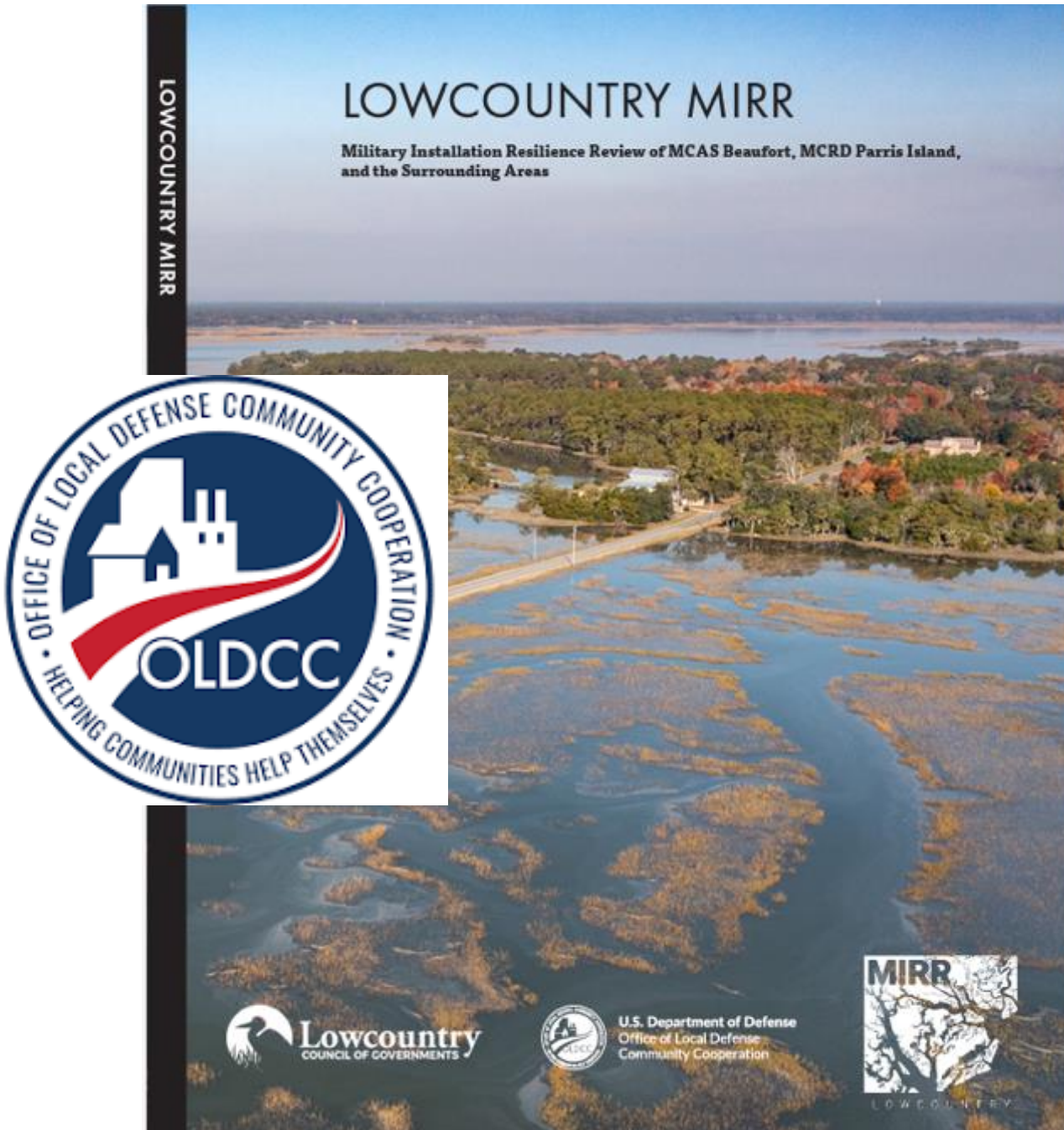
### **LOE 5: Enhance Adaptation and Resilience Through Collaboration**

Community Resilience

<https://www.defense.gov/spotlights/tackling-the-climate-crisis/>







## Climate Resilience in Communities- funded by DOD

2019 National Defense Authorization Act provides funding for resiliency efforts by state and local governments to address climate threats that impact military installation or operations.

Programs in DOD that provide funding for off- installation resilience projects.

- Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC.gov)
- Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI.mil)



# REPI

READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM

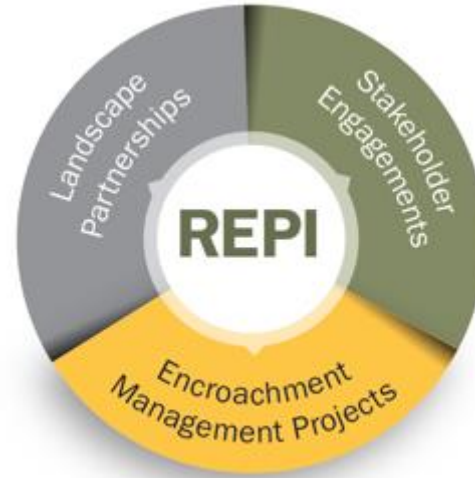
Since 2003, DOD has secured \$1.4 billion with over \$1.3 billion in non-Department partner contributions to protect 1.2 million acres of land, safeguarding vital test, training, and operational assets and capabilities in **124 locations in 37 states and territories.**

DOD REPI funds can be used as non-federal match for programs such as FEMA- BRIC within defense communities.

# REPI Program Components

## Landscape Partnerships (\$\$)

- Sentinel Landscapes ([sentinellandscapes.org](http://sentinellandscapes.org))
- Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability ([serppas.org](http://serppas.org))
- Western Regional Partnership ([wrpinfo.org](http://wrpinfo.org))
- Americas Longleaf Restoration Initiative ([americaslongleaf.org](http://americaslongleaf.org))



## Stakeholder Engagements (\$)

- Internal DoD coordination and collaboration – DoD Natural Resource and Water Resources & Resilience Programs, Office of Local Defense Community Coordination, Military Departments, etc.
- External coordination and collaboration with Federal agencies, State agencies, Local communities, NGOs, Academic Institutions, Foundations, etc.

## Encroachment Management Projects (\$\$\$)

- Installation and range level implementation
- Installation resilience justification (added in the FY19 National Defense Authorization Act)
- Matching funds from **ANY** conservation or resilience program of **ANY** federal agency



Partnership created in 2005 to promote better collaboration in making resource-use decisions across boundaries:

- 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 and connect issues and solutions at a regional scale to result in greater impact across the region

SERPPAS leverage resources so opportunities are created, increased coordination of efforts helps avoid duplication and helps spread good ideas across the region

[serppas.org](http://serppas.org)



Marine Extension and  
Georgia Sea Grant  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Sea Grant



## SERPPAS Strategic Plan Objectives – Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation

- ✓ Connect installations and communities with resources for resilience planning and projects
- ✓ Develop and share resources on authorities, funding, tools, partnerships
- ✓ Support the development, implementation and evaluation of nature-based solutions for climate resilience
- ✓ Explore ways to partner for large landscape impact
- ✓ Collaborate with other SERPPAS focus areas for climate resilience





## Assessment of Needs and Interests of Sea Grant Specialists to Work with their Local Military Installations



Sea Grant Coastal Resilience DoD Liaison  
**Michelle Covi**  
March 15, 2022



## Best Practices and Guidance for Engaging with Military Installations for Climate Resilience in Defense Communities



Photos: (top left) Sarah Spiegler, (bottom left) Matt Bilsie, (left) Matt Bilsie

Sea Grant Coastal Resilience DoD Liaison  
**Michelle Covi**  
June 30, 2022





# SERPPAS /Sea Grant DOD Resilience workshops



PROJECT: Stormwater mitigation  
in Turkey Creek - flooding  
issue in surrounding communities

LEAD:  
PARTNERS - PLACE; DE Q; city of Gulfport;  
airport; Base;  
Community association; Keesler;  
NCBC Gulfport

CHALLENGES: Finding lead eligible entity  
Exposure to partners  
Reaching out to community  
Primer of problem solving

NEXT STEPS: Boundaries of problem;  
What's feasible; Ongoing solutions/proposals



# SERPPAS: NBS Regulatory Needs and Best Practices Sub Work Group

**Purpose:** Identify best practices and policy alternatives for efficient, coordinated, transparent, and successful project review and permitting by local, state, and federal agencies for nature-based infrastructure and restoration projects associated with DOD and within the SERPPAS geography.

## Organizing & Key Members

Co-Lead: Andy LoSchiavo, Senior Environmental Specialist USACE SAD

State Co-Lead(s): NC, GA, FL and MS state CZM programs  
Federal agencies, Navy Region SE, USAF, NGOs  
SERPPAS, UGA IRIS

SERPPAS/CRRAWG Sub-workgroup on NBS Regulatory Best Practices and Needs

## Overview of Living Shoreline Permitting and Regulatory Review in North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi

### Executive Summary

In the southeastern coastal United States, Department of Defense (DOD) installations and surrounding communities face significant challenges from coastal erosion, flooding, and sea-level rise. Waves driven by wind, boat traffic, and storms can destroy fragile landforms along the coastline, not to mention sea walls and other traditional or “grey” infrastructure. In many installations and in their surrounding communities, this erosion can put important infrastructure at risk of failure – from runways to access roads to utility lines – creating risks to military readiness, training activities, and other ongoing support operations. Coastal erosion also alters ecological systems and functions that might make environmental compliance obligations more difficult, for instance those related to endangered species and water quality management. Owing to these risks, DOD’s Defense Climate Assessment Tool (DCAT), which is used across the entire DOD enterprise to develop screening-level analysis of climate vulnerability for any given installation, declares coastal erosion “a significant problem.” This said, DOD recognizes coastal erosion as a problem that “may be reduced or eliminated through structural and nonstructural measures.”<sup>1</sup>





# Beneficial Use of Dredged Material for Coastal Resilience

- Policy/Regulatory Best Practices
- Navy SE and NSB Kings Bay priority
- USACE-led studies with consultants to determine source of sediments
- REPI-funded GT-UGA project to assess restoration potential of natural infrastructure along with hydrodynamic conditions and sediment dynamics (NFWF-NCRF 2022)





Goal: To enhance the long-term abundance, health and resilience of the approximately 1 million acres of salt marshes within the South Atlantic states to ensure no overall loss of the benefits these wetlands provide to fish, wildlife and people.

[marshforward.org](http://marshforward.org)

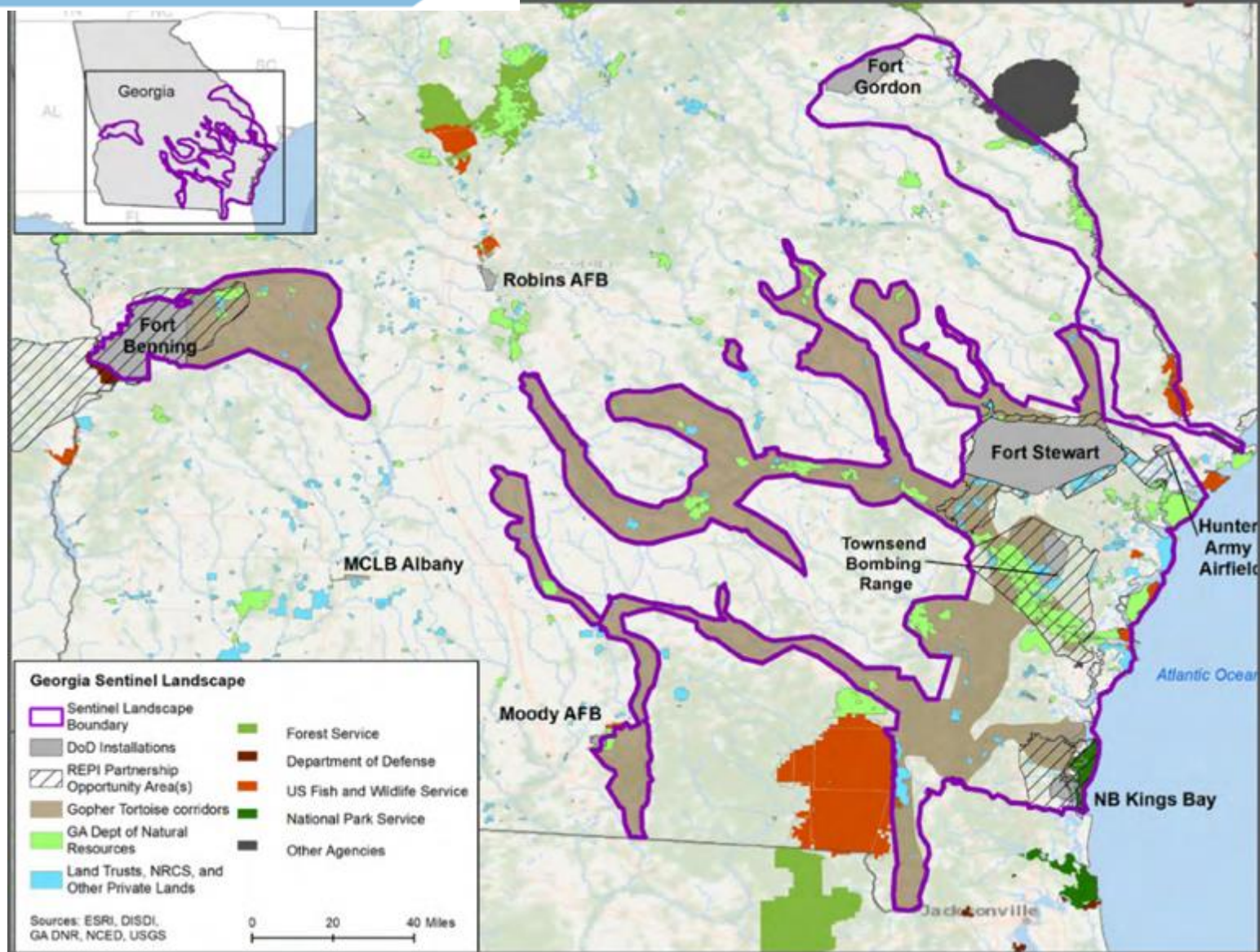




# SENTINEL LANDSCAPES

## Georgia Sentinel Landscape

- Established in 2018
- Total area: 6,387,436 acres
- 9 military installations
- More than 20 partner organizations





## **Department of Defense Coastal Resilience Projects in Georgia**

- REPI-funded St. Mary's Downtown “spine” restoration project (NFWF-NCRF 2023)
- REPI- funded Legacyworks/GA Conservancy SASMI community engagement to develop restoration priorities
- OLDCC-Funded UGA- DCRP Fort Stewart- HAAF regional study of flood risks to transportation and housing
- NOAA- CAP –funded Townsend Bombing Range/ Georgia Sentinel Landscapes flood risk scenario planning project
- Proposals



Questions?

CONNECT WITH US:



@GACoast.UGA



@GACoast\_UGA



@gacoast.uga



[gacoast.uga.edu](http://gacoast.uga.edu)



Subscribe to  
our newsletter