Sustainability
Why We Need Public Support -- and How to Get It

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Fundamental Conflict

Encroachment

Others limiting ability of DoD units to operate in a way that causes resource allocation away from direct mission accomplishment
Plane Falls Amid Homes in Leesburg

Fatal Crash in Residential Area Is the Town’s Third in Nine Months
Encroachment Pressures

- Commercial Development
- Archeological Digs
- Frequency Management
- Wilderness Designations
- Population Encroachment
- Fire Season
- Noise Abatement
- Air Space
- Breeding Seasons

Ability to Train

Reduced Flexibility
Fundamental Conflict

Sustainability

Ability to train and operate our units in a realistic manner using live fire when necessary

Ability to maintain the training lands entrusted to us in a manner that protect human health and natural resources
Training and Testing are More Important Than Ever

• The threats we face are many and varied

• The ability to field and use advanced military technology is fundamental to U.S. warfare

• Our weapons and tactics require large battlespaces

• With the Operational Tempo and Personnel Tempo up; ready access to training is essential

We must train as we fight; because we fight as we train
"You can do a lot with computer models, but at some point you have to use real animals."
Why Do We Need Public Support?

- Citizen lawsuits and citizen rage will shut us down
  - MMR, east and west
  - Viequez

- More energy and resources are used in battle than during peace – we need to maintain peace with our neighbors
How Do We Get Public Support?

• Recognition that DoD is not an “island” and has responsibilities to work with others to accomplish mutual goals

• Requires:
  – Intra-discipline coordination – operators and environmental staffs, etc.
  – Inter-service coordination
How Do We Get Public Support?

• Identify and Engage opinion leaders at all levels
  – Local, Tribes, States, Federal, NGOs
  – Engage is not a “one-way” word
• Establish long-term relationships built on mutual trust
• Identify areas of mutual interest or conflict
• Look for “mutual gains” solutions
To be successful we need to engage in public involvement – before they engage us!!
To Maintain Public Support

Maintain right relationships

Engage early

*Always, always* tell our own news
-- good or bad