



ARMY COMPATIBLE USE BUFFER PROGRAM

ACUB

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND ACUB



The Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program creates land conservation partnerships between the Army and outside organizations to protect land from development that is incompatible with the military mission.

INSTALLATION BACKGROUND

The 1st Special Warfare Training Group (A) of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC), Fort Bragg, N.C. trains Soldiers to survive in today's asymmetrical battlefield. The Survival, Evade, Resist and Escape (SERE) course trains Soldiers in survival fieldcraft, evasion and escape techniques, and resistance to interrogation. The course is taught 25 miles southwest of Fort Bragg at Camp

Mackall, with the final phase being a 4-day field training exercise (FTX). The ability to realistically apply the skills taught in the SERE's course is an essential link in the Soldier's complete understanding of the fundamentals of successful survival and evasion.

The SERE FTX has historically been conducted on private lands in the Carthage area of North Carolina through informal land use agreements. These lands are some of the most pristine in the state of North Carolina; with clean water and habitat essential to teaching students to forage off the land. Although located in a transitional zone representing both Piedmont and Sandhills types of ecosystems, the lands currently utilized for the FTX's are outside of the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker habitat for which Fort Bragg is a critical land manager. The SERE training is very light, with little impact to the surrounding habitat and species.

For more information

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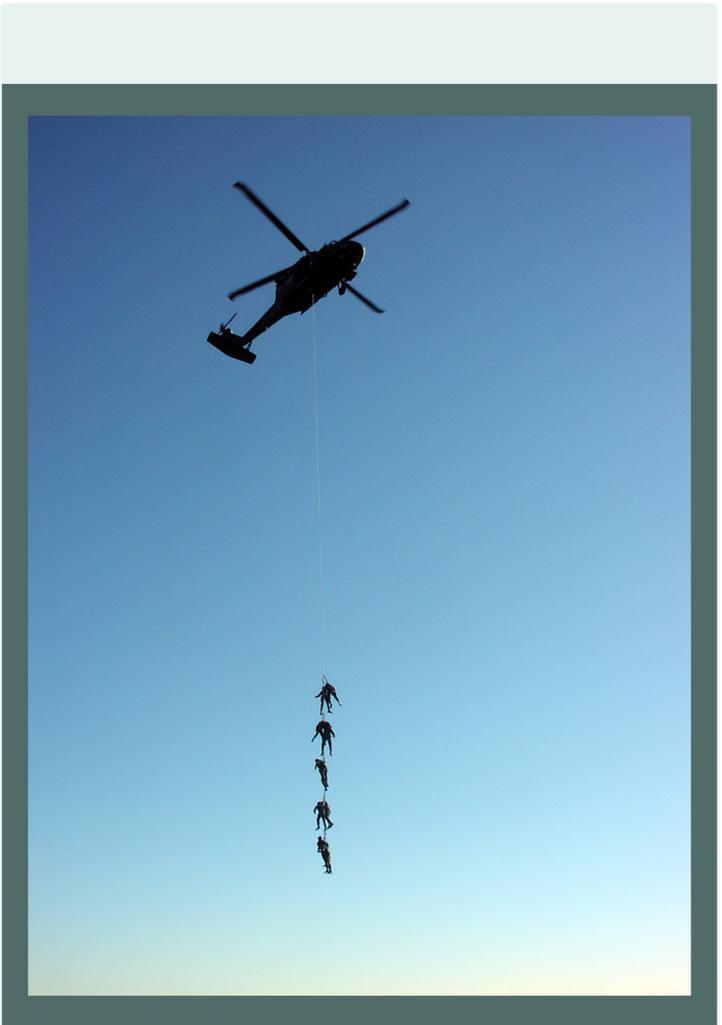
OBJECTIVE

The lands which have historically served as a location for the SERE FTX are facing an imminent risk of incompatible development. The high demand for development, rising land values in the area, and maintenance costs are pressuring landowners to reconsider allowing the Army to utilize their

lands for training. In the near future it will be impossible to operate the SERE course and secure the USASOC training mission purely on informal agreements with landowners. Fort Bragg and USASOC are implementing a comprehensive ACUB program to avoid loss of access to SERE FTX lands resulting from impending development. Conservation easements will be applied to properties where the landowner is a willing participant, ensuring that the land will remain undeveloped, thus supporting the military mission.

**PRIMARY PARTNER:
SANDHILLS AREA LAND TRUST**

The Sandhills Area Land Trust (SALT) is a community-based non-profit organization that offers assistance and education to help the public and landowners find ways to protect their lands and natural resources in the face of ever-growing development pressures. As a partner in the ACUB program, the objective of SALT is to secure key properties that will allow for continued SERE training and the conservation of valuable watersheds and wildlife habitat. For more information on the Sandhills Area Land Trust, visit <http://www.sandhillslandtrust.org/>.



For more information on ACUB accomplishments,
funding and other stakeholders
please view the ACUB website at
<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/acub/acub00.html>

