



## **Southeast Regional Partnership For Planning And Sustainability (SERPPAS) Talking Points**

- \* Rapid population growth in the Southeastern United States is resulting in increasing urban sprawl. The conversion of land into developed communities has resulted in the loss of agricultural land, critical wildlife habitats, and working landscapes such as farms, forests, and fisheries. Sprawl has also increased encroachment on military installations, which hinders the military's ability to train effectively. It is, therefore, essential for communities to engage in the sustainable use of natural resources to balance and optimize the health and safety of the environment and surrounding communities, while promoting economic development and military readiness.
- \* In 2005, the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) was formed to address regional planning and compatible use issues.
- \* The mission of the SERPPAS Partnership is to seize opportunities, solve and prevent problems in a value-adding way that will provide mutual and multiple benefits to the partners. Additionally, SERPPAS aims to sustain the mission and secure the future for all partners, the region, and the nation.
- \* Partners include environmental and natural resource offices from NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, DoD and Military Services, other federal agencies, and regional federal agency representatives from the Southeast Natural Resources Leadership Group (SENRLG).
- \* SERPPAS focuses on regional solutions and the interdependent use of entire ecosystems.
- \* Preservation of agricultural and forest lands can protect critical habitat, as well as buffer military bases from incompatible development that may hinder DoD's ability to test and train troops.
- \* SERPPAS focuses on promoting regional planning with the help of a good GIS map. By developing strong working relationships between installations and the surrounding communities, SERPPAS partners are able to address conservation, economic, and sustainability issues.

SERPPAS also focuses on: Promoting compatible use of military, agricultural, and forestry lands; mapping marine/coastal regions and identifying interested stakeholders; examining policy and possible legislation to support the mission of SERPPAS, including maintaining working lands; promoting resource use (air, land, water, and frequency) that is both compatible with and complementary to military, community, and environmental requirements; preserving the longleaf pine habitat including the protection of species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker and gopher tortoise, forests, farmlands, and recreational areas.