The Army Regional Environmental and Energy Offices were established in 1995 to support Army and DOD readiness, training, and testing. The offices engage with state legislators, federal and state regulators, and nongovernmental organizations on behalf of the DOD and the Army to enable military installation training, testing, operations and readiness. The offices also conduct strategic communications to promote greater understanding of the Army’s commitment to sustainable practices and energy security.

**REEOS ENABLE ARMY AND DOD READINESS AND TRAINING THROUGH:**

- **State Legislative and Regulatory Support**
  - Monitoring and engaging on state legislative and regulatory activities
- **Mission Sustainment Support**
  - Coordinating and communicating Army and unified DOD positions, facilitating projects, and addressing issues that can affect military sustainment
- **Energy Program Support**
  - Providing legal and technical expertise for Army’s renewable energy, energy security, and Net Zero programs
- **Outreach and Partnerships**
  - Developing cooperative partnerships and educating stakeholders on issues that support long-term sustainability of the military

**NEW REG / LEG PROPOSALS REVIEWED—FY14**

- Regulations: 7,814
- Legislation: 2,585

**REGIONAL REVIEWS**

Monthly regional Reviews publish environmental and energy related developments for DOD/Army leaders and installation staff. Covering every U.S. state and territory, Reviews give early notice of legislative and regulatory activities relevant to DOD interests. The information also helps installations meet ISO 14001 environmental management system requirements. The REEOs distributed more than 3,500 state legislative and regulatory Reviews each month in FY14.

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**SUSTAINING READINESS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH STATES**
On October 1, 2014, operational control of the REEOs officially transitioned from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and Environment to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Each Regional Office director reports to a USACE Division: REEO-Northern to the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, REEO-Western and REEO-Central to the Northwestern Division, and REEO-Southern to the South Atlantic Division.

The REEOs’ core mission has not changed. REEOs continue to execute the mission on behalf of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health consistent with DOD Instruction 4715.02.

The REEOs monitor and engage state regulatory and legislative officials in support of mission sustainment. The offices act as integrators and facilitators—helping the Army make wise use of available funds, eliminate unnecessary environmental requirements, and ensure compliance with state regulations. REEOs protected military training and testing operations by working with state legislators and regulators to ensure unique military needs will continue to be met in a sustainable way.

- Coordinated military comments supporting proposed changes to a Colorado air regulation to decrease the number of activities requiring permits. The Colorado regulatory agency adopted the regulation, resulting in cost avoidance for military installations.
- Worked with South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to prevent unnecessary higher fees on the military’s underground storage tanks.
- Submitted coordinated comments to North Carolina officials restating DOD’s long-held objections to a new regulation on vehicle inspections. Officials agreed to discuss other options with DOD.
- Helped to defeat bills in Kansas and South Dakota that would have limited duration of conservation easements, making military installations more vulnerable to encroachment.
- Engaged on a pair of Kansas bills, one exempting privatized utility systems located on military installations from property taxation, another facilitating remediation projects at military sites. Both bills became law.
- With DOD REC support, three California groundwater bills were signed into law, protecting installations by including the military in a strengthened state groundwater management process. Changes also require federally reserved water rights to be respected during adjudication.
- Coordinated discussions among federal facilities and EPA to aid installations in meeting requirements of EPA’s Chesapeake Bay total maximum daily load for water bodies, helping DOD to present one voice to regulators in the Bay watershed.

REEOs supported the President’s renewable energy goals by working with the Army and DOD to achieve energy security.

- Coordinated with Army Energy Initiatives Task Force and Georgia Power to enable the utility to build and operate three 30 megawatt solar photovoltaic generating plants on three Georgia Army installations. The “Georgia 3X30” renewable energy projects could be in service by 2015.
- Facilitated resolution of issues that could affect progress at Army installations where Army is scouting for large-scale renewable energy development. Worked with Army in AL, AZ, CA, MA, MD, and NC to reduce acquisition times for projects in the pipeline.
- Initiated and hosted the first Regional Energy Partnership in Atlanta with Departments of Energy and Defense, federal agencies, and others to collaborate on facilitating agencies’ energy needs.
- Successfully engaged on a Utah bill that makes it easier to attract developers for renewable energy projects on Utah military installations.

REEOs advocated for mission readiness by maintaining partnerships with federal agencies, EPA regions, state regulatory agencies, legislatures, tribes, and nongovernmental organizations.

- Participated in partnerships among military Services, EPA, and state regulatory agencies such as New Mexico Environmental Division and Maryland Department of Environment. These partnerships help streamline regulatory processes, improve coordination, and minimize DOD mission conflicts.
- Sponsored the Front Range Environmental Managers Forum in Colorado to discuss water and other issues with EPA, DOD, regional installations, and nongovernmental agencies. Collaboration often enhances installation permitting compliance and preserves installation resources.
- Participated in regional meetings of the Hawaii Clean Water Partnership, Chesapeake Bay Action Team, Gopher Tortoise Partnership, and other stakeholder groups to promote environmental conservation and enhance mission readiness.
- Launched new training in the Garrison Leaders Course to highlight the key role garrison leaders have in defending Army’s interests by engaging with state and local officials.
- Introduced the REEOs’ function and services via webinar to state and federal agencies and installations. Published articles in ASA (I&E)’s The Communicator and the Environmental Council of the States’ ECOSWIRE describing the role and influence of the REEOs and DOD RECs in effective government relations.
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Outreach & Partnerships: Regional Environmental and Energy Offices (REEOs).