



Direct DOD to Report on Military Base Flood Mapping

As Congress works to enact a bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act that protects our national security and military readiness, American Flood Coalition Action (AFCA) urges consideration of the following request.

Need: Why does DOD need flood maps for its military installations?

The Department of Defense (DOD) has cited¹ recurrent coastal and riverine flooding as among the greatest natural threats to U.S. military installations and infrastructure. Major storms and flooding are a national security threat multiplier in terms of reducing force capabilities, inflicting significant damage to military installations, and limiting DOD's ability to support disaster response and recovery efforts across impacted communities.

To manage these threats, DOD requires accurate flood maps for its assets that reflect future conditions. Congress has charged DOD, the fifth largest federal U.S. landholder, to assess flood risk at all of its facilities, but progress on this priority is unknown. For example, information is not clearly available on how often DOD updates flood maps, what resources it uses for mapping, and whether DOD maps are aligned with FEMA flood maps for communities surrounding military facilities. Congress needs to understand the state of flood maps for military installations in order to provide DOD with the resources it needs to address associated risks from major storms and flooding.

Solution: Direct DOD to report on their efforts to map flood risk to military installations.

AFCA supports language in bipartisan Amendment #963, offered by Rep. David Rouzer to H.R.7900, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, as a starting point to help Congress understand the extent of flood mapping of military installations. DOD would be required to submit to Congress a report detailing the extent of its flood mapping efforts, how frequently it updates maps, what resources are used, and whether DOD coordinates efforts with FEMA.

Amendment #963 to H.R.7900, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023²

SEC. 3__. REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FLOOD MAPPING EFFORTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Congressional defense committees a report on the flood mapping efforts of the Department of Defense. Such a report shall address—

- (1) how frequently the Department updates such flood maps;
- (2) the resources used to undertake flood mapping projects; and,
- (3) whether, and if so, how, such maps are incorporated into broader flood maps of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

1. Department of Defense. [Report on Effects of a Changing Climate to the Department of Defense](#). 2019.

2. [Amendment #963](#), offered by Rep. David Rouzer, to [H.R.7900](#), National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

Allow Stormwater Reuse and Reduce Flooding on Military Bases

As Congress works to enact a bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act that protects our national security and military readiness, American Flood Coalition Action (AFCA) urges consideration of the following request.

Need: Why should stormwater reuse be an eligible purpose for DOD stormwater management projects?

When military facilities are flooded, our national security and military readiness are at risk. A 2019 Department of Defense (DOD) analysis found that up to 60 military installations are at risk to repetitive flooding,¹ and a 2019 Government Accountability Office analysis identified 102 bases as vulnerable to not having sufficient water available to meet their mission needs.²

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2022³ established a program at DOD to implement stormwater management projects that retrofit buildings, improve defense access roads, and protect surrounding waterways and ecosystems that are vulnerable to flooding. However, stormwater reuse is not considered an eligible purpose under existing authorization.

Stormwater reuse projects are a great way to address both flooding and water supply issues at bases. These projects repurpose ponding water or stormwater runoff, which minimizes infrastructure damage and pollution from related flooding while enhancing an installation's water supply security.

Solution: Expand DOD eligibility for stormwater reuse projects.

AFCA supports using language in bipartisan Amendment #849 offered by Rep. Bobby Scott to H.R.2670, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, as a starting point to protect military installations from flooding. This authorization update would allow DOD to more effectively manage stormwater and mitigate flooding on military installations while also capturing and storing stormwater for the purpose of recharging aquifers that supply military bases with potable water.

Amendment #849 to H.R.2670, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024⁴

Section 2815a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) storing water and recharging aquifers related to water supply security for military installations.”;

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1. Department of Defense. [“Report on Effects of a Changing Climate to the Department of Defense.”](#) 2019.

2. Government Accountability Office. [“Water Scarcity: DOD Has Not Always Followed Leading Practices to Identify At-Risk Installations.”](#) 2019.

3. Section 2803. [Pub L. No. 177-81, Sec. 2803.](#)

4. [Amendment #849](#), offered by Rep. Bobby Scott, to [H.R.2670](#), National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024.

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (7), (8), and (9), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) A military installation resilience project under subsection 2391(b)(5)(D) of this title.

“(6) A military installation resilience project under section 2684a of this title.”;

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) PROJECT PRIORITIES.—In selecting stormwater management projects to be carried out under this section, the Secretary concerned shall give a priority to project proposals for—

“(1) minimizing the runoff of untreated stormwater into freshwater systems;

“(2) protecting military installations and defense access roads from stormwater runoff and water levels resulting from extreme weather conditions; and

“(3) recharging aquifers supporting water supplies to military installations.”;

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) Capturing and storing stormwater for use in recharging aquifers supporting the water supply security of a military installation.”; and

(5) in subsection (e), by striking “section 9 2391(d),” and inserting “section 2391, 2684a,”.

Direct DOD to Report on Compound Flood Risks at Military Bases

As Congress works to enact a bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act that protects our national security and military readiness, American Flood Coalition Action (AFCA) urges consideration of the following request.

Need: Why is a report on compound flooding necessary?

Risk assessments often focus on natural hazards, such as coastal flooding or extreme rainfall, as separate, isolated events. Compound flooding, when two or more flood events occur simultaneously or in close succession, can cause far greater damage versus an individual event. For example, at Nebraska's Offutt Air Force Base, intense riverine flooding, fueled by melting snowpack upstream, combined with extreme rainfall to overwhelm the airstrip and dozens of facilities in 2019.¹

Focusing risk assessments on singular flood events fails to comprehensively address the amplified risks when multiple flood hazards collide. A report on compound flooding would bridge this gap by providing a holistic understanding of the risks faced by military installations while offering potential solutions.

Solution: Direct DOD to submit a report on compound flooding at military installations.

AFCA supports directing the Secretary of Defense to submit a report assessing the risks relating to flooding, including compound flooding, that affect military installations. This report should analyze the flood and compound flood risks facing military installations and surrounding communities, evaluate how these risks facing installations may change over time, and offer recommendations for strategies and projects to reduce flood and compound flood risk.

Report on flood and compound flood risks that threaten military installations

(a) Report Required. Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Congressional defense committees a report assessing the risks relating to flooding and other disasters, including compound flooding that occurs when multiple flood hazards converge, that threaten to endanger military installations and civilian infrastructure that surrounds installations.

(b) Elements. The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following;

(1) An analysis of available Federal and State data relating to flood risk, as applicable to military installations and civilian infrastructure surrounding installations, including data relating to riverine flooding, coastal flooding, storm surge, extreme precipitation, flash flooding, compound flooding, and other natural hazards.

(2) An evaluation of military installations' changing vulnerability to flood and compound flood risks by 2050 and 2100, using data such as those available from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Army Corps of Engineers, and other Federal agencies.

(3) An inventory of present and future-projected flood and compound flood risks for each military installation, to include the fiscal exposure of repairing or replacing facilities at risk of damage from disasters.

(4) Potential mitigation strategies for such flood and compound flood risks and applicable costs, including construction activities, structure fortification activities, and structure relocation activities that enable adaptation to these risks.

1. NBC News. ["U.S. Military Knew the Flood Risks at Nebraska's Offutt Air Force Base, but Didn't Act In Time"](#)