

State of South Carolina

GOVERNOR HENRY MCMASTER



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South Carolina Floodwater Commission

NATIONAL SECURITY TASK FORCE

BACKGROUND

The South Carolina military community collectively creates an economic impact to the state of \$24.1 billion. South Carolina is home to eight major military installations and numerous facilities, supporting 62,520 in Department of Defense (DoD) personnel with \$2.6 billion in payroll. \$2.1 billion in DoD contracts is currently being executed among 752 firms within the state.

In recent years, extreme weather events have impacted numerous Department of Defense (DoD) installations, causing power outages and damage due to flooding, high winds and storm surges. The most substantial damage has occurred in areas where, for mission reasons, facilities are located within the areas designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as those within the 1% annual chance of flood boundary.

Executive Order, E.O.13653, issued in November 2013, requires each Federal agency to evaluate its climate change risks and vulnerabilities so as to manage the short and long-term effects on its missions and operations. The John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) 2019 requires that all military installations include energy and climate resiliency efforts in their master plans to ensure the anticipation of, the preparation for, and the adaptation to utility disruptions. Storms and tidal flooding are disruptive and devastating. The loss of power can have consequences for maintaining mission-critical operations. The NDAA FY 19 requires the disclosure of flood risk of new construction and prohibits new military projects from being developed in the riskiest floodplain areas.

It is critical to our security and future economic prosperity that South Carolina take proactive steps to ensure the security of these federal installations.

The shifting hazard of increased flooding amplifies risks for people, valuable assets, essential infrastructure, and important economic industries such as energy production and shipping. **This task force will be charged with identifying potential risks associated with flooding events and making recommendations to prepare for and minimize those risks.** Extreme weather events could make critical facilities unusable or necessitate costly or manpower-intensive workarounds that would be unacceptable to military operations. A flooding event also poses risk for human security, for example through impacts on migration, culture, territorial integrity, and national security.

To prepare for and respond to such risks, SC policy makers across all levels of government, federal to local, need efficient, actionable evidence in support of critical decisions. Policy and operational perspectives are of importance, including coastal resource planners, government officials across scales and contexts, military and national security experts, and industry and private-sector leaders.

List of the Federal Installations in SC

- Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort
- Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Eastern Recruiting Region
- Coast Guard Sector Charleston
- Joint Base Charleston
- Fort Jackson
- McEntire Joint National Guard Base
- South Carolina National Guard
- Shaw Air Force Base

OBJECTIVES

1. Assessment of coastal erosion and potential flooding risks to federal installations in SC.
2. Integration of flood risk management into planning processes.
3. Develop and promote coastal resilience planning tools, making them readily available for policy and decision-makers.
4. Identify and propose incentives for communities from building or staying in harm's way through forward-looking zoning and land-use choices.

DELIVERABLES

- Develop a preliminary Screening Level Vulnerability Assessment to be used to determine the flood-risk. Conduct a level assessment to determine installation vulnerabilities to flood-related security risks with the goal of identifying serious vulnerabilities and developing necessary adaptation strategies. Establish action for the identified risk from the vulnerability assessment, the adaptation strategies developed for vulnerable installations, and the estimated costs associated with implementing these strategies.

Include close cooperation with federal military installations to mitigate potential risks to their critical infrastructure.

- Develop and promote coastal resilience planning tools, making them readily available for policy and decision-makers. The availability of a menu of recommended tools tailored for particular risks and geographic locations would allow communities to better identify their risks, assets, and vulnerabilities; evaluate existing and needed levels of protection; and assess the cost of their action or inaction. It would also allow for regional collaboration and communication and the sharing of failures as well as best practices.
- Identify and propose incentives for communities more forward-looking zoning and land-use choices. The communities in SC need support in incorporating the future risks of climate change as they conduct critical short and long-term risk assessments and engage in resilience and adaptation planning. To reduce future flood damages and promote public safety, communities need to make land-use and zoning decisions that account for future flood risk. Communities can promote resilient building through sharing co-benefits and responsibility with public and private stakeholders.

TIME FRAME

May 2019 - Assessment of coastal erosion and potential flooding risks to federal installations in SC

August 2019 - Develop and promote coastal resilience planning tools, making them readily available for policy and decision-makers.

March 2019 - Identify and propose incentives for communities to more safe, forward-looking zoning and land-use choices.