

Florida is home to three Combatant Commands and over 20 bases that represent all branches of the U.S. military. The state provides more than 180,000 square miles of [irreplaceable training grounds](#)¹ for U.S. pilots over the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.

Climate change, however, poses clear risks to these security assets. Scientists and the Pentagon agree: climate change threatens Florida's military installations, and these risks are expected to worsen in coming decades. Florida's bases must prepare its infrastructure and personnel to maintain force readiness and protect national security.

The military [ranks](#)² eight Florida bases as among the most threatened in the U.S. by climate change: [Air Force bases](#)³ Eglin, Hurlburt Field, Homestead, MacDill, and Tyndall, Patrick Space Force Base, Naval Air Station Key West, and the Marine Corps' Support Facility at Blount Island.

Climate-Related Threats to Florida Military Bases

These are the climate threats facing Florida, according to a DoD [report](#)⁴ that analyzed military bases across the U.S.

- [Rising sea levels](#)⁵
- [Extreme heat](#)⁸
- [Recurrent flooding](#)⁶
- [Drought](#)⁹
- [Extreme weather](#)⁷
- [Wildfires](#)¹⁰

Environmental issues have historically garnered bipartisan support. Congress must again take the climate threats to U.S. military installations in Florida seriously. Inaction, or action taken too slowly, will be costly in terms of dollars and national security. Initial [measures](#)¹¹ taken by the Department of Defense must be expanded.

Northeast Florida

Northeast Florida is home to [NAS Jacksonville](#),¹² the third largest naval facility in the nation; [NS Mayport](#),¹³ the third largest fleet concentration area in the United States; and [Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island](#),¹⁴ a key logistic base. Northeast Florida, specifically, is under threat from rising sea levels, flooding, hurricanes, and extreme heat. NS Mayport, for example, would be almost entirely underwater from a Category 2 storm surge.

Military bases contribute [\\$12 billion per year](#)¹⁵ to the local economy, making them an important part of the community. This interdependence extends to resilience to climate threats. Neither the bases nor the city can be resilient unless both are. Coordinated partnerships between local, state, and the federal government are key. Below are several federal programs to offset the cost of resiliency for local government.

- [Defense Community Infrastructure Program](#)¹⁶ – \$50 mil/FY is available to empower communities that surround military installations to strengthen operational readiness by building or strengthening vital community infrastructure (roads, schools, etc.)
- [Military Installation Sustainability](#)¹⁷ – \$12 mil/FY for community vulnerability studies that are used to enhance or fortify infrastructure outside a military base.

- [Sentinel Landscape Program](#)¹⁸ – \$60 mil/FY for land acquisition to advance sustainable land practices around bases and to strengthen military readiness, conserve natural resources, bolster agricultural and forestry economies, and increase climate change resilience.
- [Defense Access Road Program](#)¹⁹ – \$20 mil/FY for public highway improvements. DAR empowers communities to mitigate risks to infrastructure posed by recurrent flooding and sea level fluctuation when continued access to a military installation has been impacted.
- [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#)²⁰ – \$500 mil/FY for hazard prone areas. Supports communities through capability- and capacity-building to encourage and enable innovation, promote partnerships, and enable large projects.
- [Flood Mitigation Assistance](#)²¹ – \$200 mil/FY for flood prone areas. It provides funding to states, local communities, federally recognized tribes and territories. It can also be used for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program.
- [National Coastal Resilience Fund](#)²² – \$34 mil/FY for flood protection for coastal communities through green infrastructure. Restored coastal ecosystems provide valuable habitat for fish and wildlife. These same wetlands, dunes, and coral reefs also offer flood protection for coastal communities by lessening wave energy and absorbing excess waters.

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