SIKES ACT IMPROVEMENT
ACT OF 1997

- Enacted 18 November 1997
- Product of three-plus years of discussion
- Agreed to by DoD, USFWS, IAFWA
**SIKES Act Improvement**

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NEED FOR AMENDMENTS

- Broaden scope of natural resources program
- Integrate program with ops & training
- Embrace tenets of conservation biology
- Invite public review
- Strengthen funding for conservation
KEY ELEMENTS

- Sec Def directed to carry out natural resources program...
  -- Previous program discretionary
  -- Previous program focused on fish & game conservation
  …unless installation not home to significant natural resources
- Mil Deps required to prepare and implement INRMPs for relevant installations
  -- Broader in scope than cooperative plans
  -- “Must fund” requirements
- INRMPs prepared in cooperation with DoI/FWS and State fish & wildlife agencies
  -- Anticipated a truly collaborative process
KEY ELEMENTS, cont.

- INRMP shall reflect “mutual agreement” of the parties
  -- Goal: agreement re entire plan
  -- Requirement: agreement re elements of plan within scope of USFWS’s and State’s legal authority

- Sikes Act neither enlarges nor diminishes parties’ legal authorities
KEY ELEMENTS, cont.

- Required elements of plan:
  -- Natural resources management
  -- Habitat enhancement
  -- Integration of activities
  -- Public access and sustainable use
  -- Specific goals and objectives

- Plus requirements from DoDI
  -- Embrace principles of ecosystem mgmt
KEY ELEMENTS, cont.

- Program and INRMP must:
  -- Be consistent with the use of installations to ensure military preparedness; and
  -- Ensure no net loss in capability of installations to support military mission
- Obvious tension left unresolved
PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

- Must provide opportunity for public comment on [at least the initial] INRMP
  -- NEPA as means for soliciting?
- Parties must review no less often than every five years
- Sec Def annual Report to Congress
BOTTOM LINE

- Congress expects that:
  -- Plans will be developed and revised cooperatively;
  -- Plans will be implemented; and
  -- Public will have access to installations to enjoy natural resources...
  -- But military preparedness CANNOT be compromised