



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
JOINT BASE LEWIS MCCHORD YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER
970 FIRING CENTER ROAD
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON 98901-9399

IMLM-YTC-ZA

1 April 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Joint Base Lewis-McChord Yakima Training Center (YTC) Policy Statement #28, Outdoor Recreation

1. Joint Base Lewis McChord Yakima Training Center, hereafter referred to as YTC, is open to the public for a variety of recreational activities including hunting, bird watching, mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, falconry, archery target range and fishing at the Juvenile Fishing Pond.
2. The purpose of this Policy Statement is to inform recreational users and hunters of the laws, regulations, and policies applications governing any recreation activity on YTC.
3. Public access for recreational purposes is administered by the Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Program located at the Gymnasium (Building 502).
 - a. All vehicle operators entering and while on YTC are required to have a current driver's license, proof of insurance and vehicle registration.
 - b. All recreational users must register at the YTC Visitor Center (Building 101) located at the main gate, upon entering YTC. YTC Police will issue a numbered vehicle placard that must be displayed on the vehicle dash at all times. All users must enter and leave through the main gate. Upon leaving YTC recreational users must turn in the placard and report game taken at the Visitor Center. Individuals using the John Wayne Trail are exempt from this requirement, but still must register at the designated trail heads.
 - c. Vehicle operators must follow all state driving laws. All motor vehicles entering and leaving the installation are subject to inspection without the requirement of a search warrant. Recreational users are required to carry a cell phone down range for safety and emergency purposes.
4. All provisions of the policy are subject to change by YTC authorities. All hunting regulations for Game Management Unit (GMU-371) are set forth in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Hunting Seasons and Regulations pamphlet and are applicable to YTC. The WDFW and YTC Police carry out enforcement. Violations of WDFW Hunting Seasons and Regulations or provisions set forth in this Policy Statement may result in the loss of hunting privileges on YTC and penalties that may include criminal prosecution, being barred from YTC, and/or disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for persons subject to that code.

This policy statement supersedes Policy Statement #28 dated 1 April 2015.

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5. All general recreational users 15 years and older are required to possess and carry a YTC Outdoor Recreation Card at all times while on installation. All cards expire 31 March each year. All hunters, passengers or disabled hunter companions, regardless of age, are required to possess and carry at all times a YTC Outdoor Recreation Card. Recreational users exempt from the requirement to possess a YTC Outdoor Recreation card are those only using the John Wayne Trail or youth 15 and younger only using the Juvenile Pond.

a. Organized group events for recreation purposes must be registered and approved in advance by contacting the YTC Recreation Specialist at (509) 577-3208.

b. YTC Outdoor Recreation Cards are issued at the Gymnasium (Building 502) during normal duty hours of operation. Typical hours are Mon-Fri, 0500-2100; Sat-Sun, 0800-1800 except on holidays. Individuals are required to view the YTC Recreational User Policy briefing, fill out a registration form, and pay an administrative fee to receive an Outdoor Recreation Card. Card holders will receive a copy of the policy and a Recreation Map depicting the Training Areas and other recreational points of interest.

6. Recreational users are allowed on YTC two hours before sunrise or two hours after sunset and hunters are allowed two hours before legal hunting hours and shall be off YTC no later than two hours after the end of legal hunting hours as defined in the current State of Washington Hunting Seasons and Regulations pamphlet.

7. YTC is divided into multiple Training Areas and the Selah Canyon Reserve (SCR). Training Area access to the public is determined on a daily basis by Range Operations in coordination with YTC Police.

a. Recreational users may register to use up to three open Training Areas to include the SCR per visit at the YTC Visitor Center. Users are not required to select contiguous Training Areas.

b. Recreational activities are restricted to the Training Areas for which the individual is registered.

c. Hunting or stopping in other Training Areas while in transit is not allowed.

d. Individuals wishing to change the Training Areas for which they are registered may call YTC Police at (509) 577-3236 or return to YTC Visitor Center in person.

e. Hunters may call YTC Police at (509) 577-3236 after 1700 for information on access for the next day.

8. Travel through other Training Areas open to public access is permitted to gain access to a registered Training Area. Travel through closed Training Areas on designated primary roads (Main Supply Routes) is permitted only after the route has been approved by YTC Police. Use of roads designated as closed is not permitted. Travel through an Assembly

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Area is permitted if coordinated with YTC Police personnel at time of check in to verify access routes, road closures, and determine alternate access routes if necessary.

9. The entire installation or designated portions thereof may be closed to the public as directed by the Installation Commander.

10. CLOSED AREAS: The following areas are closed to recreational activities:

a. Impact Areas, Dud Area, the Multipurpose Training Range (MPTR) and the Multipurpose Range Complex (MPRC). These areas are fenced, marked with signs, and are extremely dangerous.

b. The Hoffman Range Complex which encompasses Ranges 1, 2, 3, 73, and the Multipurpose Training and Exercise Facility (MTEF) formerly Yakima Research Station.

c. Training Areas designated as closed by Range Operations.

d. Training Areas 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16 are closed to all types of recreational activity between 1 Feb and 15 June to protect nesting sage grouse from disturbance.

e. Hanson Creek Road, between UTM Coordinates (GS18008750) and (GS28008420), is closed to all vehicle traffic between the hours of 1500 and 0900 from 8 Dec to 24 Mar.

11. RESTRICTIONS: The following restrictions apply to all recreational users at YTC:

a. The John Wayne Trail is off limits to all unauthorized motorized vehicles.

b. Carrying a loaded firearm or shooting from or across the John Wayne Trail is not permitted.

c. Seibert stake areas are off limits to all vehicles. Colored markers mounted on fence posts mark these areas. The white, yellow, and red stakes are used to delineate sensitive resource areas and hazardous areas. Foot travel and hunting in these areas is permitted unless otherwise posted.

d. Recreational "non-highway vehicles" (e.g., motorcycles, off road motorbikes, ATVs, snowmobiles, watercraft, motorhomes, RV's) are not allowed in Training Areas or Assembly Areas for recreational purposes and are not allowed in the back of pickups or trailers in any Training Areas.

e. Recreational off-road driving is not permitted.

f. Accessing adjacent private property from YTC while signed in as a recreational user of YTC is not authorized even with permission from the landowner. Accessing YTC from adjacent private property is not permitted.

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g. It is unlawful to handle, tamper with, or remove any item of ammunition or explosives found on YTC. Discovery of ammunition or explosives must be reported to YTC Police.

h. Taking pictures of facilities, buildings, military equipment, or training activities is prohibited.

i. Under no circumstances shall any archaeological or Native American cultural sites be disturbed. Disturbance of such sites is punishable under Federal Statute.

j. Trapping is not permitted.

k. Baiting of wildlife for any purpose is not permitted.

l. Individuals found in closed areas will be escorted off the installation and are subject to prosecution for trespass.

m. It is unlawful to litter.

n. It is unlawful to damage or tamper with government-owned or leased property, equipment, and buildings. Buildings, structures, and military training devices are off limits.

o. It is unlawful to remove soil, gravel, rock, vegetation, or artifacts.

p. Capturing, attempting to capture, or removing any live wildlife species from YTC is not permitted.

q. The railroad right-of-way along the Columbia River is private property. Access or trespass across this property from YTC is not authorized. There is no authorized access to the Columbia River from YTC.

r. No alcoholic beverages are allowed in YTC Training Areas. Possession of any type of alcoholic beverage is prohibited while in possession of a firearm.

s. Horseback riders and mountain bicyclists must remain on existing roads and trails. Hunters may use horses while hunting or scouting on YTC. For the safety of the horse and rider, riding is restricted to existing roads and trails except when retrieving harvested game. Trailering to areas is permitted for horses and mountain bicyclists. Mountain bicyclists shall wear helmets for safety during riding.

t. The purposeful setting of fires, except for survival, is prohibited.

u. Drone and game camera use is prohibited.

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12. PRECAUTIONS:

a. Troops may be encountered while down range. Recreational users must stay 400 meters (440 yards) from Soldiers, military vehicles, and equipment at all times. Hunting is not permitted within 400 meters (440 yards) of any building or facility on the installation.

b. Reduce speed to 10 mph or less when passing dismounted troops and/or parked tactical vehicles. During hours of darkness, care must be taken when passing military vehicles as they may be maneuvering under blackout conditions; oncoming headlights may temporarily blind the drivers of these vehicles.

c. Range road conditions on YTC require extreme caution. Although two-wheel drive vehicles are permitted, a 4-wheel drive vehicle equipped with chains, a shovel, jack, and a spare tire is recommended. The government has no liability for vehicles damaged during recreational activities. Drivers are responsible for retrieval of stranded or disabled vehicles.

13. FIREARMS INFORMATION:

a. All hunters must register their firearms, one time, in person with the YTC Police (Building 159). Persons found in violation may have firearms(s) confiscated. Hunters may bring their cased firearm(s) on post with them when registering it, but may not bring firearms into the police station; instead, they should be prepared to provide information on the make, type, serial number, caliber/gauge, model number, barrel length, overall length, and finish of each firearm. Hunters must carry their weapon registration with them at all times.

b. All firearms must be unloaded (chamber and magazine) and cased when not in use. Cases must fully enclose the firearm and all fasteners must be engaged. Weapons cannot be transported in a manner that would allow the driver or passenger easy access. Weapons will be loaded outside of the vehicle and always be aimed in a safe direction. Handicapped hunters registered with the State are permitted to shoot from a vehicle as long as all WDFW regulations are followed (e.g., the vehicle is off the road, stopped and turned off). Handicapped hunters should refer to WDFW regulations for further details.

c. Modern rifles and muzzle loading rifles are not permitted in Assembly Areas 1, 2 & 3.

d. Concealed weapons permits are not valid on military installations. Concealed weapons may not be carried on YTC. All firearms legal for hunting in the state of Washington are legal for hunting on YTC during the appropriate seasons as defined within WDFW Hunting Seasons and Regulations pamphlet.

e. Possession of firearms on YTC is allowed only during open hunting seasons. Archers with a YTC Outdoor Recreation Card may access the installation with archery equipment to practice at the YTC Archery Range. Archers entering the installation to hunt must follow the rules described above for hunting on YTC. The Installation Commander may authorize firearms and archery equipment for use on established ranges or during installation sponsored events.

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14. EMPHASIS and CLARIFICATION:

- a. The Cantonment Area is off limits to hunting.
- b. All hunters and any guest accompanying hunters must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of Fluorescent Hunter Orange exterior clothing above the waist during all modern firearm seasons, including the period covered by Master Hunter special hunts (August 1 through January 20). During these seasons, hunters, regardless of hunting method, must wear adequate Hunter Fluorescent Orange at check-in and while hunting.
- c. Anyone hunting on YTC and persons riding in a vehicle with hunters must have a YTC Outdoor Recreation Card. Hunters must have the recreation card, firearm registration form, valid Washington State hunting license, and all applicable stamps, permits, and/or tags and have the vehicle day placard posted on their windshield. Hunters will cooperate fully with all YTC personnel.
- d. Training Areas 1-4 are open to all types of falconry. Falconry in all other areas must comply with the flying from the fist restriction. Hunters are reminded that jackrabbit and sage grouse hunting seasons are closed throughout the state.
- e. Hunters must receive permission from YTC Police before tracking wounded game later than two hours after legal hunting hours as set forth in the WDFW Hunting Seasons and Regulations pamphlet. Hunters may seek permission to track wounded game after sunset by calling (509) 577-3236. Hunters are expected to make every reasonable effort to retrieve wounded game unless the animal travels into an area that is off limits or onto private property. Tracking a wounded animal into any impact or dud areas is strictly prohibited under all circumstances. Hunters must get permission from YTC Police to enter other closed areas. Permission from private landowners must be obtained to retrieve game from private property.
- f. No permanent structures (blinds) may be built. Temporary blinds may be constructed for hunting, but must be removed at the end of each day. No live or dead vegetation may be cut for use in construction of a blind.
- g. Any game animals (including coyotes) taken on YTC must be retrieved and reported to YTC Police Visitor Center using game check cards provided by the DPW Environmental Division prior to departing YTC. Collection of additional biological data may be required upon request by DPW Environmental Division.
- h. Training of hunting dogs is not allowed on YTC from April 1 to July 31. Individuals are responsible for the actions of their dogs. Dogs must be under the owner's direct control at all times. Dogs may not accompany deer or elk hunters.
- i. Scouting for game prior to hunting season is encouraged and permitted on the installation. All access procedures must be followed.

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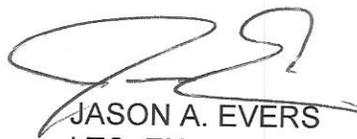
15. JUVENILE FISHING POND:

- a. The Juvenile Fishing Pond, located in the Cantonment Area, is available for children 15 years and younger. The pond is stocked annually and is generally open from May to October for fishing from the shore.
- b. Prohibited on the pond are boats, rafts, tubes or swimming by people or dogs.
- c. YTC daily limit catch is three fish per day per child. Only children are allowed to fish. Any fish caught must be kept.
- d. Users of the Juvenile Fishing Pond will be issued a day pass at the YTC Visitor Center that must be displayed in the vehicle's windshield. Juvenile Pond users do not need to view the Outdoor Recreation Booklet or be issued a YTC Outdoor Recreation Card.
- e. Cleaning fish in the pond and surrounding area is prohibited.

16. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- a. Policies and procedures regarding the use of the John Wayne Trail are found in YTC Policy #30, John Wayne Trail.
- b. Additional information concerning recreational activities on YTC can be obtained by calling the YTC MWR Office at (509) 577-3208.
- c. Recreationists can refer to the YTC Outdoor Recreation Home Page at <http://www.lewis-mcchord.army.mil/yakima/> for the YTC Policy.

17. Point of contact is the YTC Recreation Specialist at (509) 577-3208.


JASON A. EVERS
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Commanding

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