



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT BLISS
1741 MARSHALL ROAD
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79916

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29 January 2020

POLICY MEMORANDUM # 19

SUBJECT: Fort Bliss Recreational Hunting Program

1. References:

- a. AR 190-11, Physical Security of Arms, Ammunition and Explosives, 17 January 2019.
- b. AR 190-13, The Army Physical Security Program, 27 June 2019.
- c. AR 200-1, Environmental Protection and Enhancement, 13 December 2019.
- d. AR 215-1, Morale Welfare and Recreation, 24 September 2010.
- e. AR 350-19, The Army Sustainable Range Program, 30 August 2005.
- f. AR 385-10, The Army Safety Program, 24 February 2017.
- g. Fort Bliss Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, February 2016.
- h. DA PAM 385-64, Ammunition and Explosive Safety Standards, RAR 10 October 2013.
- i. HQ, 1AD and FB Regulation 385-10, 17 September 2017.
- j. HQ, 1AD and FB Regulation 385-63, 7 May 2019.
- j. Sikes Act, 19 December 2014.

2. Purpose: This document prescribes responsibilities, policies and procedures for hunting on the Fort Bliss Training Complex (FBTC). All persons who use the FBTC for hunting must comply with all policies and procedures described in this document. The primary use of Department of Defense (DoD) lands and waters is to support mission related activities in accordance with (IAW) AR 200-1 (Environmental Protection and Enhancement), the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP), the Sikes Act, and Army directives and policies when compatible with the military mission, installation safety and security, ecosystem sustainability, natural resources management, and fiscal responsibility.

3. Scope: This guidance applies to all personnel assigned to or visiting FBTC, to include but not limited to all DoD civilian and military personnel, residents, tenants, contractors, customers, state and federal employees. This guidance identifies program

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responsibilities and procedures specific to the FBTC, and is not an official reference for state hunting rules and policies. Persons planning to participate in hunting activities must become familiar with and knowledgeable of the applicable state hunting laws. This guidance supersedes all previous FBTC hunting guidance and policies.

4. Responsibilities:

a. Fort Bliss Garrison Commander exercises command authority over all Fort Bliss installation activities, and thus determines broad policy for the Fort Bliss Recreational Hunting Program.

b. Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division (DPW-ED) is responsible for natural resource management. The DPW-ED will:

(1) Manage and monitor all natural resources including fish and wildlife and their habitats.

(2) Coordinate natural resource management on FBTC with local, state, federal agencies and other Fort Bliss directorates.

c. Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS) maximizes opportunities for hunting and fishing consistent with training safety requirements. DPTMS will:

(1) Authorize big game hunting schedule.

(2) Authorize hunting areas maps.

(3) Authorize range safety briefings, as needed.

(4) Record entry and departure of permittees onto and from the FBTC.

(5) Collect hunter harvest information at check out.

(6) Report violations to the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) Game Warden.

d. Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) is responsible for access, security policies and procedures.

(1) DES Physical Security will:

(a) Perform a background check on all permittees.

(b) Register weapons and vehicles.

(c) Issue access passes, maintain current and accurate records of accesses issued, as required.

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(2) DES Game Warden will:

- (a) Provide conservation law enforcement for recreational activities on FBTC.
- (b) Provide information and hunter safety briefings, as needed.
- (c) Escort or direct hunters on population management hunts.
- (d) Maintain records of hunters cited for violations.

e. Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (DFMWR) provides quality-of-life programs that directly support readiness by providing a variety of community, Soldier, and Family support activities and services. DFMWR will:

- (1) Promote hunting opportunities and disseminate information to Fort Bliss Soldiers and the community.
- (2) Coordinate the availability of hunter education courses.
- (3) Collect fees, when applicable.

f. Office of the Staff Judge Advocate will provide legal advice regarding Army and DoD regulations, policies, and directives related to natural resource management, the enforcement of federal and state environmental laws, and this regulation.

g. United States Army Garrison Fort Bliss Installation Safety will develop policy and procedures for integration of Safety and Occupational Health issues.

h. Permittees will understand and comply with all state and federal laws, as well as Army and installation policies, and regulations concerning recreational activities and other authorized activities, including those related to personal weapons and hunting on the installation. For the purpose of this policy, permittees are defined as hunters and non-hunting companions accompanying licensed hunters. Permittees will:

- (1) Have required state hunting licenses, specific and required stamps.
- (2) Have the required FBTC Recreational Access Permit before hunting on the installation.
- (3) Obey the FBTC rules and all state and federal regulations.
- (4) Report hunting violations to Range Operations.

5. Procedures: Hunting on the FBTC is regulated by state and federal laws, Army and Range polices and regulations and with the INRMP. Hunting seasons, dates, areas, closures, species, licensing, weapons restrictions, and bag limits are established by, and in compliance with state regulations. New Mexico and Texas State hunting regulations must be obeyed while hunting on FBTC. These regulations are posted on

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the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department websites.

a. General: The recreational use of training land and ranges is subject to Fort Bliss Regulations 385-63, AR 190-11, AR 190-13, and AR-350-19, as well as all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

(1) In accordance with DES security policies and Army regulations, criminal history background checks will be completed for all persons seeking to access the FBTC prior to being issued an access permit.

(2) Permittees will read and sign acknowledging they have read and will abide by the FBTC Rules and the Range Safety and Unexploded Ordnance brief on the back of the FBTC Access Permit.

(3) Permittees will read and sign the release and hold harmless agreement (back of the FBTC Access Permit).

(4) Military training events have priority over any and all hunting events.

(5) Hunting in the FBTC is authorized in designated areas 365 days per year, as long as they do not interfere with military training events.

(6) Legal sporting arms: shotguns, bow and rifle. Rifles are only allowed during specific big game draw hunts.

(7) Permittees can check into open hunt areas up to two hours prior to sunrise and must check out no later than two hours after sunset, unless camping is authorized.

(8) Permittees can scout the hunting areas prior to the hunt date when the areas are open.

(9) All New Mexico and Texas hunting regulations, including legal shooting hours, are applicable while hunting on Fort Bliss.

(10) All hunters must complete a state sanctioned hunter safety course or equivalent before individuals participate in hunting activities on FBTC.

(11) All permittees (small and big game) are required to wear solid or camouflage style florescent orange clothing with a minimum of 144 square inches appearing on both the chest and back.

(12) Guides and outfitters are permitted. Guides on McGregor Range must be registered with Las Cruces, New Mexico Office of the Bureau of Land Management. Guides are also required to obtain access passes before entering the FBTC.

(13) Camping and campfires are permitted at designated locations. Campfires will have a retaining wall (minimum of 6 inches high and no more than 36-x-36-inches wide), and will be attended at all times when burning or smoldering.

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(14) Areas scheduled for rifle hunts will not be used for any other activity.

(15) For the purpose of this policy, utility vehicles are included with the description of all-terrain vehicles (ATV). ATVs are for on-road use only, and not permitted off-road for game retrieval on McGregor Range (TAs 10-33). ATVs may be used for off-road use on the Dona Ana (TA 3-7) and on the south training areas (TA 1-2) for big game retrieval only. ATV operators must provide proof of ATV safety training, and ATV must have a valid state registration. All safety equipment will be used while riding ATVs, to include boots, gloves and helmets.

b. Type of Hunting:

(1) Small Game:

(a) Small game, furbearers and non-game may be hunted on FBTC. Game birds including dove and quail are found throughout the installation. Waterfowl occasionally occur on playa lakes and earthen tanks when there has been adequate rainfall. In addition to game birds, coyote, fox, rabbit, badger, bobcat, and other furbearers and nongame mammals can be hunted on both the New Mexico and Texas portions of Fort Bliss.

(b) Small game seasons, and the regulations controlling them on Fort Bliss, are the same as those in the states of New Mexico and Texas. New Mexico regulations apply to hunting areas on McGregor Range and Doña Ana Range –North Training Areas, both of which are in New Mexico. Hunters should obtain copies of the New Mexico small game rules available from license vendors, or online at <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/index.htm>. Texas regulations apply to the South Training Areas. Hunters should obtain a copy of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual for rules and regulations on hunting in Texas. The Wildlife Outdoor Annual is available from license vendors, or online at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>.

(2) Big Game:

(a) Barbary sheep, deer, elk, javelina, pronghorn, and oryx may be hunted on FBTC. Most big game hunting opportunities are allocated by a draw system conducted by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Occasionally, special draws for big game on the Texas portion of FBTC are held at the Fort Bliss Rod and Gun Club. Rifles are allowed only during specific big game draw hunts.

(b) New Mexico big game hunting regulations and seasons apply to hunting areas on McGregor and Dona Ana Ranges—North Training Areas located in New Mexico. Hunters should obtain copies of the New Mexico Big Game Rules and Information booklet available from license vendors, or online at <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/index.htm>. Texas big game hunting regulations apply to the South Training Areas located in Texas. Hunters should obtain a copy of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual for rules and regulations on hunting in Texas. The Wildlife Outdoor Annual is available from license vendors, or online at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>.

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(c) Military Only hunts: Current active duty military hunt opportunities include NM big game draw hunts for Barbary sheep, deer, elk, javelina, pronghorn and oryx. These hunts take place on McGregor Range (NM Game Management Unit 28) including a population management oryx hunt opportunity on Dona Ana for those permanently assigned to Fort Bliss. Refer to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish website and Big Game Rules & Information booklet for application procedures.

c. Hunting Access to the Fort Bliss Training Complex:

(1) Each adult desiring unaccompanied access to the FBTC for recreational hunting purposes must obtain a FBTC Recreational Access Permit, regardless of their military or civilian status. When available, hunters will use automated registration systems.

(a) FBTC Access Permit and Weapons Registration are available at the Buffalo Soldier Visitor Control Center, Airway Blvd/Airport Rd intersection, (915) 568-3215.

(b) Applicants are required to pass a National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) background check.

(c) FBTC recreational access permits may be issued only to persons 18 years of age or older.

(d) Persons under the age of 18 are not permitted unaccompanied access to the FBTC. They must be registered on the FBTC permit of the accompanying adult.

(e) All persons that access the FBTC for recreational hunting purposes without a valid FBTC Recreational Access Permit will be considered trespassing and may be prosecuted accordingly, regardless of their military or civilian status.

(2) IAW FB REG 385-63, the Installation Range Officer may at his/her discretion withdraw or suspend FBTC recreational access privileges if warranted.

d. Access and Control: Permittees entering the FBTC will contact Range Operations, (915) 744-9546/9547.

(1) The following information will be provided to Range Operations:

(a) Name and Access Permit Number of each person in vehicle.

(b) Name of all minors in the vehicle, (for verification they are registered under accompanying adults in the Access Permit list).

(c) Vehicle license plate number.

(d) All firearms in vehicle, including calibers.

(e) Point of Contact phone number.

(f) Training Areas to access.

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(2) Range Operations will assign an Access Control Number that will apply to all individuals within the same vehicle.

(3) Upon exiting the FBTC, all hunters or recreationists are required to call Range Operations and provide the following:

(a) Access Control Number.

(b) If hunting, report game that was harvested.

(4) Failure to check off of the FBTC may cause Range Operations to initiate search and rescue procedures, the cost of which may be billed to the missing person(s).

(5) Unauthorized vehicles found in the FBTC may be towed at the owner's expense, and the driver may be subject to trespassing charges and/or revocation of access permit.

(6) FBTC personnel do not provide vehicle recovery.

6. Prohibited Activities:

a. Trapping or baiting of game animals.

b. Touching, kicking or otherwise disturbing any debris found on the Range. Such debris could be unexploded ordnance or a protected item.

c. Possession or consumption of alcohol, or hunting under the influence of alcohol.

d. The collection, vandalism, and theft of historic or prehistoric artifacts or structures, metal detecting, woodcutting, mineral and fossil collection. Painting or tagging any natural feature or manmade structures on the FBTC.

e. Hunting or discharge of firearms within a radius of 200 meters (656 ft.) of any facilities or structures (i.e., buildings, campsites, storage areas, etc.). No hunting is authorized within a 500-meter (1640-ft.) radius of ammunition storage areas.

f. Recreational shooting (i.e., cans, bottles, targets or target practice). Recreational shooting and target practice may be accomplished at the DFMWR Rod and Gun Club.

g. The collection of animals or plant materials, and/or the harm or harassment of wildlife during any recreational or non-hunting activity, other than those game animals being legally pursued by a licensed hunter. The definition of wildlife includes all bird, mammal, amphibian and reptilian species.

h. No rifles of any caliber or type are allowed on the range at any time except during specified big game hunts.

i. Registered hand guns are allowed only on FBTC; and limited to legal calibers in accordance with state hunting regulations.

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j. It is unlawful to lend, borrow or use another individual's hunting license.

k. Permittees will not remove, tamper with, or bypass any road barricades on the installation.

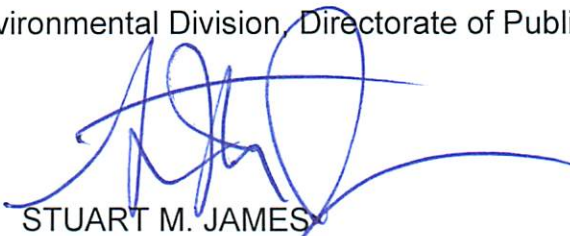
7. Enforcement:

a. Permittees are responsible for complying with all applicable state, federal, Army and installation hunting rules, laws and regulations.

b. Violations of this guidance, or other applicable laws or regulations, may result in the automatic revocation of FBTC hunting privileges, permanently being barred from the installation, and/or civil or criminal prosecution under state and federal laws.

8. This policy is effective upon signature and remains in effect until superseded or rescinded. This policy will be permanently posted on all unit and directorate bulletin boards.

9. The point of contact for this policy is Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, at (915) 568-3134.



STUART M. JAMES
COL, AR
Commanding