

Environmental Standard Operating Procedure

Originating Office: Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Office	Revision: 26 February 2016 Supersedes: 31 January 2015	Prepared By: Mindivity, a division of EM-Assist, Inc.	Approved By: Brent Husung
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Title: Urban Wildlife Management

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to provide environmental guidelines for urban wildlife management.

2.0 APPLICATION

This guidance applies to all individuals involved with urban wildlife management aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) Twentynine Palms.

3.0 REFERENCES

- 50 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations)
- Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended.
- Migratory Bird Treat Act (MBTA)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Combat Center Order 5090.1F, Environmental Protection
- **Combat Center Order (CCO) 5090.5C, Subject: Integrated Contingency and Operations Plans (ICOP) for Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.**

Documents that are controlled by MCAGCC in accordance with *EMP-12, Document Control*, are shown in **bold**.

4.0 PROCEDURE

4.1 Discussion:

Management of wildlife and its habitat is critical to the mission of the installation. All personnel who conduct business or training aboard the installation must comply with urban wildlife management rules and regulations.

4.2 Operational Controls:

The following procedures apply:

1. Do not touch, handle, or harass any wildlife anywhere aboard the installation whether in Mainside, Housing, Barracks, or Training areas.

2. Do not disrupt the normal behavior patterns of any wildlife anywhere aboard the installation, including by breeding, feeding/watering, or sheltering the wildlife.
3. You must receive an Urban Wildlife briefing before conducting activities in training areas aboard MCAGCC. The Urban Wildlife briefing is included in the Natural Resources briefing given to all Marines, civilians and contractors who enter the training areas.
4. Call the installation Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (NREA) office if wildlife must be moved or handled. This includes the following: bats, migratory birds, desert tortoise, snakes, small and large mammals and native rodents. Other animals such as English House Sparrows, Pigeons, or European Starlings are pest species and are dealt with by PWD pest control. PWD pest control also deals with bees, wasps, ants, and other nuisance pest species.
5. All personnel permitted aboard the installation to handle or touch wildlife must be properly trained to do so. Unauthorized personnel should not handle wildlife. Authorized personnel are NREA biologists, Combat Center Fire Department personnel, and Provost Marshals Office staff (Military Police).
6. If a Desert Tortoise is seen in any training or work area, you must:
 - a. immediately stop all training within the vicinity of the training,
 - b. notify your chain of command or supervisor,
 - c. do not attempt to move or handle the animal, unless it is in immediate danger, until authorized to do so by Bearmat or NREA
 - d. call BEARMAT or the NREA office,
 - e. report the sighting, time and location,
 - f. do not resume training or work until cleared by NREA or BEARMAT.
7. Immediately call NREA or BEARMAT if wildlife appears in a training area or work area that you feel may be a threat.
8. All wildlife that poses a threat to the installation or personnel, including vector control, will be handled by the appropriately trained personnel. Vector control is conducted by PWD pest control
9. Do not attempt to kill or capture any wildlife even if it poses a threat. Call the NREA office for instructions.
10. If you are wounded by any wildlife aboard the installation, (e.g., bitten, scratched, etc.) and feel it is a life threatening emergency, try to identify what the wildlife looks like and immediately call 911 or 830-3333 (Combat Center Fire Department dispatch) so they know how to treat the wound, but do not attempt to capture rattlesnakes.
11. All but three (3) species of birds (European Starling, English House Sparrow and Pigeon) aboard the installation are protected by Migratory Bird Treaty Act. However, you are not allowed to harm **any** bird on the installation. Contact the PWD Pest Control office, if pigeons become a nuisance in your area.

12. Inspect **all** vehicles before driving to ensure no wildlife is underneath them.
13. Close all hangers, K-Spans, and other large building openings whenever possible to discourage nest building. NREA has MBTA guidance to discourage nest building. If a nest is found and has eggs present contact NREA before any action takes place.
14. If you feel a nest is preventing training, other activities, or if you feel a nest is in danger, contact NREA for instructions. They will coordinate the movement of the nest.
15. If a person is bitten by a rattlesnake, you should:
 - a. keep the victim calm,
 - b. go to the nearest hospital without delay,
 - c. remove rings and other constricting jewelry,
 - d. keep bite area at lower level than the heart,
 - e. do not cut the wound or apply tourniquet,
 - f. there is no need to identify the snake. The antivenin works for all poisonous snakes found in this area,
 - g. mark time of bite,
 - h. obtain a tetanus shot.
16. Scorpion stings are rarely life threatening; however, if stung by a scorpion, seek medical attention.
17. Africanized honeybee stings, Black Widow, and Desert Recluse bite victims should seek immediate medical attention.
18. The Desert Tortoise is a threatened species protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended. Serious criminal and civil penalties can result from harming or harassing them in any way.
19. Turnover folder information must be kept for this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).
20. If there are any specific situations or other concerns not addressed by this procedure, contact MCAGCC NREA office Natural Resources Branch.

4.3 Documentation and Record Keeping:

The following records must be maintained:

1. Inspection and training records.

4.4 Training:

All affected personnel must be trained in this Standard Operating Procedure.

1. General Environmental Awareness training.

4.5 Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedures:

Refer to Combat Center Order (CCO) 5090.5C, Subject: Integrated Contingency and Operations Plans (ICOP) for Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

4.6 Inspection and Corrective Action:

The Environmental Compliance Coordinator (ECC) shall designate personnel to perform inspections. The ECC shall ensure deficiencies noted during the inspections are corrected immediately. Actions taken to correct each deficiency shall be recorded on the inspection sheet.

Urban Wildlife Management - Inspection Checklist

Date:	Time:
Installation:	Work Center:
Inspector's Name:	Signature:

Inspection Items	Yes	No	Comments
1. Are personnel briefed on avoiding contact with any Desert Tortoise? <i>(CCO 5090.5C_; Endangered Species Act.)</i>			
2. Are personnel briefed on proper procedures should they come in contact with a Desert Tortoise in a training or work area? <i>(CCO 5090.5C_; Endangered Species Act)</i>			
3. Are personnel briefed on avoiding contact with any wildlife on the installation without permission? <i>(CCO 5090.5C_)</i>			
4. Are personnel briefed on what to do if a person is bitten by a rattlesnake? <i>(CCO 5090.5C_)</i>			
5. Are personnel instructed that to harm, touch, kill, capture, or in anyway attempt to harm most bird species aboard the installation is a violation of the MBTA? <i>(CCO 5090.5C_; MBTA)</i>			
6. Are personnel instructed to inspect all vehicles before movement? <i>(CCO 5090.5C_; MBTA)</i>			
7. Are personnel briefed on how to handle suspected nests or nesting areas? <i>(CCO 5090.5C_; MBTA, 50 CFR)</i>			
8. Are personnel briefed on proper procedures for keeping nests or nesting areas from interfering with daily tasks and training? <i>(CCO 5090.5C_; MBTA)</i>			
9. Are training and inspection records maintained and available for inspection? <i>(MCO P5090.2A 9104.1(k)(5)- inspection only)</i>			

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN:

Environmental Compliance Coordinator

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____