



MAGTFTC-MCAGCC 29 Palms

Environmental Standard Operating Procedure



1 October 2025

Wildlife Handling (UMW)

Application and Purpose

Personnel handling wildlife will confirm that their actions do not negatively impact personnel safety or natural resources without prior authorization.

These procedures apply to any individual handling wildlife aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC).

This document provides environmental protection procedures for handling wildlife.

Operational Controls

The following controls apply:

- General wildlife handling procedures are as follows:
 - Use the enclosed Wildlife Response Call List to make appropriate contact regarding wildlife issues at Mainside. MCAGCC residents should contact Liberty Military Housing ([760] 368-4500; after hours: [888] 578-4141) to control insects, pigeons, house mice, black rats, and Norway rats.
 - Contact Range Control (BEARMAT) (range radio: 41.95 megahertz (MHz); [760] 830-6535) for wildlife issues outside of Mainside (such as Camp Wilson and training areas).
 - Do not touch, handle, or capture any wildlife without specific authorization from Environmental Affairs (EA).
 - Do not haze, harass, harm, or kill any wildlife without specific authorization from EA.
 - Do not provide food, water, or shelter for any wildlife without specific authorization from EA.
 - Dispose of dead wildlife, except venomous snakes (such as rattlesnakes) by placing the carcass in a sealed bag, such as a yard waste bag. Place the sealed bag in a solid waste collection container and notify EA. See below for additional procedures specific to venomous snake carcasses.
- Additional procedures specific to desert tortoises.
 - Immediately report to EA Conservation the location of any injured desert tortoise, or one that voids urine, anywhere aboard the MCAGCC. If outside of Mainside, first contact BEARMAT. Remain with the injured tortoise until authorized by EA, BEARMAT, or the Provost Marshall Office (PMO).

- Picking up or moving a desert tortoise can be authorized when necessary to protect the tortoise from the following situations:
 - If the tortoise is in immediate danger, such as being on a road with oncoming vehicle traffic, move them from harm (in this example, move them off the road) and remain with them until instructed by the Provost Marshall Office (PMO: [760] 830-6800) or EA Conservation. If outside of Mainside, immediately contact BEARMAT (range radio 41.95 MHz; [760] 830-6535) for instructions.
 - If a tortoise is injured or at risk but not in immediate danger, remain with them until instructed by PMO or EA, if at Mainside, or BEARMAT, if outside of Mainside.
 - Before moving vehicles that have been stationary in the field, check underneath them, especially treads and wheels, as tortoises may seek shade under vehicles.
 - Report encounter details to EA directly or via PMO or BEARMAT. In the report include the tortoise location, its status, and the contact information for the individual who encountered the tortoise.
- Additional procedures specific to snakes are as follows:
 - Secure the immediate vicinity, maintain visual contact of the snake until authorized personnel arrive onsite, and contact authorized personnel for removal.

Authorized personnel will use only authorized tools for collecting and transporting snakes.
 - Venomous snake carcasses can remain dangerous several hours after death. Dispose of snake carcasses as follows:
 - In Mainside, contact authorized PMO or EA personnel to remove the carcass.
 - In the range and training areas, mark and avoid the carcass. If avoidance is not feasible, contact BEARMAT or authorized PMO or EA personnel to remove the carcass.
- Additional procedures specific to birds and nests are as follows:
 - Bird nests may not be moved, damaged, or destroyed without specific authorization from EA. Contact EA Conservation regarding any birds or nests affecting operations. Refer to the Vegetation Trimming ESOP for additional information.
 - EA encourages and authorizes personnel to harass birds to prevent them from building nests or otherwise occupying areas that may hinder human operations. Personnel are authorized to use light, noise, and other harassment methods that do not directly harm the bird.
- Personnel authorized to handle wildlife are as follows:
 - Natural Resources and Conservation Law Enforcement staff within EA are authorized to handle wildlife.

- PMO and fire department personnel are authorized to handle wildlife to mitigate a threat to personnel when Natural Resources and Conservation Law Enforcement staff are otherwise unavailable.
- Sections 4.b., 4.d, and 6.b. identify circumstances when other personnel may become authorized to handle wildlife.

Contact EA Conservation regarding specific situations or other concerns not addressed by this procedure.

Training Requirements

Affected personnel must be trained in this document and the following:

- Personnel will receive training from EA Conservation in appropriate techniques before capturing or moving any snake. Contact EA Conservation to receive this training.

Recordkeeping

The following records must be maintained for 3 years:

- Personnel handling any wildlife will report the handling event to EA Conservation. This information is critical to support annual permit reporting compliance with regulators for desert tortoises, birds, and other wildlife.
- EA Conservation will maintain records of desert tortoise injury or mortality, wildlife handling events, and personnel that have received training in snake handling techniques.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedures

- Personnel bitten by any animal will seek immediate medical attention.
- Combat Center Order 3500.4 and its associated standard operating procedures identify emergency procedures in the range and training areas.

Inspection and Corrective Action

The Environmental Compliance Coordinator (ECC) will confirm unit adherence to this ESOP. The ECC will confirm that unit personnel are trained in this ESOP and maintain appropriate documentation in accordance with this ESOP. If this ESOP contains an enclosed inspection checklist, designated personnel will conduct the inspections using this ESOP as guidance and document the inspections via the enclosed checklist. If deficiencies are discovered during an inspection, the ECC will ensure immediate corrective action is taken and that all deficiencies and corrective actions are recorded on the enclosed checklist.

References

- (a) Combat Center Order 3500.4, Range, Training Area, and Airspace Program
- (b) FY25 Vegetation Maintenance and Removal Environmental ESOP

Use and Version Control

ESOPs are used to augment instructions contained in official orders and directives, and, where necessary, provide for sufficient control of the installation's significant practices. Environmental Affairs maintains the authoritative, current version of this and other ESOPs on the installation's website: <https://www.29palms.marines.mil/Staff-Offices/G-4-Installation-Support-Directorate/Environmental-Affairs/#environmental-sops>.

WILDLIFE



RESPONSE

Wildlife management at MCAGCC is a joint effort between Environmental Affairs (EA), Provost Marshall's Office (PMO), Public Works Division (PWD) and Lincoln Military Housing (LMH). PMO Desk Sergeant and PWD Help Desk are the lead contacts*.

**DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CATCH, HARM, OR KILL
ANY WILDLIFE ON BASE.**

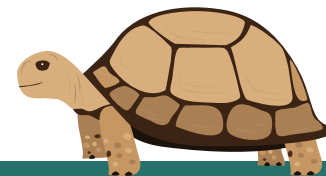
Animal	Lead	Phone Number
Tortoises, Birds, Snakes, Bats, Coyotes, other Wildlife	PMO	760-830-6800
Domestic Animals, Road-Kill	PMO	760-830-6800
Insects, Pigeons, House Mice, Rats*	PWD	760-830-6271

*Contact Liberty Military Housing (760-368-4500; after hours: 888-578-4141) for insect, pigeon, house mice and domestic rats in housing.





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DO

DO: Secure desert tortoises from immediate harm (e.g., vehicle traffic) until the Provost Marshall Office (PMO), Environmental Affairs (EA), or Range Control responds.



DO: Remain alert to and avoid venomous snakes (rattlesnakes) until PMO, EA, or Range Control responds.

DO: Check for bird nests before performing work such as landscaping, and report bird injuries or mortalities to PMO and EA.



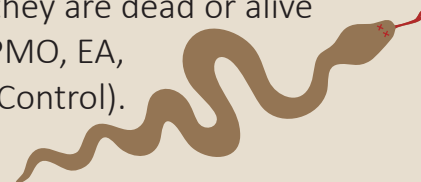
DO: Seek immediate medical attention if bitten by any animal.

DO: Report injury or mortality of desert tortoises, birds, and other wildlife to EA to support permits for the installation.



DON'T

DON'T: Handle venomous snakes, whether they are dead or alive (contact PMO, EA, or Range Control).

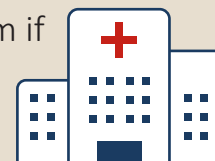


DON'T: Touch, handle, feed, water, haze, harass, harm, kill, or capture (i.e., don't mess with) any wildlife without specific authorization from EA.



DON'T: Hesitate to contact Range Control if bitten by a rattlesnake when downrange.

DON'T: Hesitate to visit the hospital emergency room if bitten by a rattlesnake at Mainside.



DON'T: Forget to check under vehicles, from front and back, for tortoises and other wildlife that may seek shelter between or under vehicle tires and tracks.

