

Environmental Standard Operating Procedure (ESOP)	
Wildlife Handling (UMW)	
Environmental Affairs (EA): Conservation (760) 830-5719, 830-7896, 830-5720	Revised: 1 October 2024

Subject: WILDLIFE HANDLING

References: (a) Combat Center Order (CCO) 3500.4, Range, Training Area, and
Airspace Program

(b) FY25 Vegetation Maintenance and Removal Environmental ESOP

Enclosure: (1) Wildlife Response Call List

1. Purpose. This document provides environmental protection procedures for handling wildlife.
2. Application. These procedures apply to any individual handling wildlife aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC).
3. Procedures. Personnel handling wildlife will confirm that their actions do not negatively impact personnel safety or natural resources without prior authorization.
4. Operational Controls.
 - a. General wildlife handling procedures are as follows:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Contact Range Control (41.95 MHz; [760] 830-6535) for wildlife issues outside of Mainside (such as Camp Wilson and training areas).
 - iii. Do not touch, handle, or capture any wildlife without specific authorization from EA.
 - iv. Do not haze, harass, harm, or kill any wildlife without specific authorization from EA.
 - v. Do not provide food, water, or shelter for any wildlife without specific authorization from EA.
 - vi. 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. Refer to Section 4.c. for procedures specific to venomous snake carcasses.

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b. Additional procedures specific to desert tortoises.

- i. Immediately report to EA Conservation the location of any injured desert tortoise anywhere aboard the MCAGCC. If outside of Mainside, first contact Range Control (BEARMAT). Remain with the injured tortoise until authorized by EA, BEARMAT, or the Provost Marshall Office (PMO).
- ii. Picking up or moving a desert tortoise can be authorized when necessary to protect the tortoise from the following situations:
 - (1) If a tortoise, especially a desert tortoise, is in immediate danger, such as being in road with oncoming vehicle traffic, move them from harm (namely, 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 Range Control (Range Radio 41.95 MHz; 760 830-6535) for instructions.
 - (2) If a tortoise is at risk, injured, or dead but not in immediate danger, remain with them until instructed by PMO or EA, if at Mainside, or Range Control if outside of Mainside.
 - (A) Before moving vehicles that have been stationary in the field, check underneath them, especially treads and wheels, as tortoises may seek shade under vehicles.
 - (B) Report encounter details to EA directly or via PMO or Range Control.

c. Additional procedures specific to snakes are as follows:.

- i. Secure the immediate vicinity, maintain visual contact of the snake until authorized personnel arrive onsite, and contact authorized personnel for removal.

Authorized personnel will only use authorized tools for collecting and transporting snakes.
- ii. Venomous snake carcasses can remain dangerous several hours after death. Dispose of snake carcasses as follows:
 - (1) In the Mainside contact authorized PMO or EA personnel to remove the carcass.
 - (2) In the range and training areas, mark and avoid the carcass. If avoidance is not feasible, contact Range Control or authorized PMO or EA personnel to remove the carcass.

d. Additional procedures specific to birds and nests are as follows:

- i. Bird nests may not be moved, damaged, or destroyed without specific authorization from EA. Contact EA Conservation regarding any birds or nests affecting operations. Moreover, refer to the Vegetation Trimming ESOP.

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- ii. EA encourages and authorizes personnel to harass birds to prevent them from building nests or otherwise occupying areas that may hinder human operations. We are authorized to use light, noise, and other harassment methods that do not directly harm the bird.
- e. Personnel authorized to handle wildlife are as follows:
 - i. Natural Resources and Conservation Law Enforcement staff within EA are authorized to handle wildlife.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. Sections 4.b., 4.d, and 6.b. identify circumstances when other personnel may become authorized to handle wildlife.
- f. Contact EA Conservation regarding specific situations or other concerns not addressed by this procedure.

5. Documentation and Record Keeping.

- a. 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.
- b. EA Conservation will maintain records of desert tortoise injury or mortality, wildlife handling events, and personnel that have received training in snake handling techniques.

6. Training.

- a. Affected personnel will be trained in this document.
- b. Personnel will receive training from EA Conservation in appropriate techniques before capturing or moving any snake. Contact EA Conservation to receive this training.

7. Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedures.

- a) Personnel bitten by any animal will seek immediate medical attention.
- b) CCO 3500.4 and its associated standard operating procedures identify emergency procedures in the range and training areas.

8. 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.

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.

