

Msn

Environmental Standard Operating Procedures (ESOP)	
Wildlife Handling (UWM)	
Environmental Affairs (EA): Conservation (760) 830-5720	Revised: 1 October 2023

Subj: WILDLIFE HANDLING

Ref: (a) CCO 3500.4, Range, Training Area, and Airspace Program

Encl: (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 (Combat Center).

3. Procedures. Personnel handling wildlife shall ensure their actions do not negatively impact personnel safety or natural resources without prior authorization.

4. Operational Controls.

a. General wildlife handling procedures.

- i. Use the enclosed Wildlife Response Call List to make appropriate contact regarding wildlife issues at Mainside. Combat Center residents contact Liberty Military Housing (760-368-4500; after hours: 888-578-4141) to control insects, pigeons, house mice, and domestic rats.
- ii. Contact Range Control (41.95 MHz; 760-830-6535) for wildlife issues outside of Mainside (i.e., 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 (i.e., rattlesnakes), by placing the carcass in a sealed bag (e.g., yard waste bag), placing the sealed bag in a solid waste collection container, and notifying EA. See 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 Combat Center. If outside of Mainside, first contact Range Control (BEARMAT). Remain with 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:
 1. Immediate danger (e.g., in road with oncoming vehicle traffic) - for desert tortoises in immediate danger, move the tortoise from immediate harm (e.g., off the road), and remain with the tortoise until instructed by the Provost Marshall Office (PMO: 760-830-6800), or Environmental Affairs (EA: 760-830-5720). If outside of Mainside, immediately contact Range Control (Range Radio 41.95 mHz; 760-830-6535) for instructions.
 2. At risk, injured or dead - Injured, dead, or at risk of but not in immediate danger, remain with the tortoise until instructed by PMO or EA, if at Mainside, or Range Control if outside of Mainside.
- iii. Prior to moving vehicles that have been stationary in the field, check underneath them as tortoises may seek shade under vehicles including treads.
- iv. Report encounter details to EA directly, or via PMO or Range Control.

b. Additional procedures specific to snakes.

- i. Secure the immediate vicinity, maintain visual contact of the snake until authorized personnel arrive on site, and contact authorized personnel for removal.
- ii. Authorized personnel shall use appropriate tools for collecting and transporting snakes. These tools include safe handling and transport items such as snake hook, snake tongs, and appropriately sized containers with secured lids (e.g., 5-gallon snake buckets with screw lids).
- iii. Venomous snake carcasses can remain dangerous several hours after death. Dispose of snake carcasses as follows:
 - a. In Mainside contact authorized PMO or EA personnel for removal of the carcass.
 - b. In the range and training areas, mark and avoid the carcass. If avoidance is not feasible, contact authorized PMO or EA personnel for removal of the carcass.

c. Additional procedures specific to birds and nests.

- iv. Bird nests may not be moved, damaged, or destroyed without specific authorization from EA. Contact EA Conservation regarding any birds or nests affecting operations. See Vegetation Trimming ESOP.
 - v. 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.
- c. Personnel authorized to handle wildlife.
- 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.c., and 4.d. identify circumstances when other personnel may become authorized to handle wildlife.
- d. Contact EA Conservation at (760)830-5720 regarding specific situations or other concerns not addressed by this procedure.
- c. Documentation and Record Keeping.
- a. Personnel handling any wildlife shall 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 shall maintain records of desert tortoise injury or mortality, wildlife handling events, and personnel that have received training in snake handling techniques.
- d. Training.
- a. All affected personnel shall be trained in this document.
 - b. Personnel shall receive training from EA Conservation in appropriate techniques prior to capturing or moving any snake. Contact EA Conservation to receive this training.
- e. Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedures.
- f. Personnel bitten by ANY ANIMAL shall seek immediate medical attention.
 - g. Refer to reference (a) and its associated SOPs for emergency procedures in the range and training areas.

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.

