

# National Training Center

**SOLDIERS FIELD CARD  
TRAINING AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Fort Irwin, California**

Created in 1980, the National Training Center is a significant asset to the U.S. Army. It is an enduring installation dedicated to providing a realistic training environment focused on honing warfighting skills in soldiers and leaders in a force projection Army for the 21<sup>st</sup> century battlefield. The NTC is also very important in the eyes of the public (situated as it is between two National Parks and the newly created West Mojave National Preserve) due to its specially adapted native vegetation, wildlife, and its long historic and cultural background. For many reasons, this 1,004-square mile Mojave Desert habitat is an important piece of land and the following criteria should be followed.

### **VEHICLE MOVEMENT**

- ?? Stay on the established roads during deployment to and from training ranges. Observe the posted speed limits.
  
- ?? Avoid crushing the native vegetation when off-road maneuvers are necessary. Stay on tank trails whenever possible.
  
- ?? Stay out of OFF LIMITS areas such as dry lake beds, springs, erosion control areas, critical habitat for the desert tortoise and historical sites. These areas are marked on installation maps and on maneuver area maps.
  
- ?? Remember that the more vegetation that remains alive today, the less dust you will have to breathe and eat tomorrow.

### **LITTER**

- ?? Police all areas for litter before and after training activities.
  
- ?? Use only the chemical toilets and leave them in their original condition and location.

?? Dispose of all litter in the authorized disposal locations. Ravens and coyotes naturally feed on the desert tortoise, especially the eggs and babies. Any action that increases the populations of these two scavengers may lead to the extinction of the tortoise.

?? Do not feed the coyotes. A fed coyote will become a dead coyote because it will cease hunting and move to the cantonment area where it will be destroyed.

?? Police all barbed, commo, concertina, and trip wires after training activities. Return all wire and other recyclables to your unit's issuing officer or other facility.

?? Trenches, defilades, tank traps, and fighting positions must be filled to original grade and excess material leveled after each battle (in accordance with NTC Regulation 350-3).

?? All painting of rocks, boulders or other natural/cultural NTC resources is prohibited except, with proper permission, in the rock pile at the entrance of the installation. (Removal or destruction of native American artifacts may result in fines or penalties.)

## **PETROLEUM, OIL, AND LUBRICANTS**

?? POL products must be managed and disposed of in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

?? Immediately report size, location, and type of POL spill to Range Control (38.90 Mhz or 380-3875) and DPW Environmental at 380-5290/4501.

?? Take immediate action to control, contain and clean up the spill. Quick action to dig a small spill can save large expenses in soil excavation.

?? Questions concerning operation of washracks, spills/cleanup procedures, and hazardous waste procedures should be directed to DPW Environmental at 380-5290/4501.

## **DESERT TORTOISE PROTOCOL**

?? Allow desert tortoise to proceed uninhibited unless they are in imminent, life-threatening danger. Follow up notification of location of sighting (GPS is possible) to DPW Environmental at 380-3740/4760 or ITAM office at 5202.

?? If a tortoise is in danger, injured, or killed, immediately contact an Observer Controller or Range Control (38.90 Mhz or 380-3875) and DPW Environmental at 380-3740/4760.

?? Don't touch, pick up or harass a desert tortoise. This may cause the tortoise to pass all of the water it has stored and eventually die. (Intentionally harming a tortoise may result in fines or penalties.) Only handle a tortoise in an emergency.

?? The Mojave Desert ecosystem in general, and Fort Irwin specifically, is filled with some of nature's most specialized and interesting organisms. As a visitor here, try to leave their home in better condition than you found it. If you would like to know more, contact the ITAM office at 380-5903/5202.

## **GENERAL**

?? All springs are strictly off-limits (squares). Off-limits marked by SIBER Stakes.

?? Lakes (dry lake beds) are off-limits except for Langford Well Lake and Red Pass Lake.

?? Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat South of the UTM 90 Grid Line and Brinkman Wash is off-limits.

?? Desert tortoise may be seen at almost any location on the installation. Refer to desert tortoise protocol for guidance.