

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
AMENDMENT
FOR

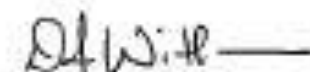
SPECIAL-USE AUTHORIZATION

Amendment# 2

This amendment is attached to and made a part of the BR1718 special use authorization for MILITARY TRAINING AREA issued to U.S. MARINE CORPS - MWTC on 11/04/2020 which is hereby amended as follows:

To extend the permit expiration date to 08/30/2022

This Amendment is accepted subject to the conditions set forth herein, and to conditions N/A to N/A attached hereto and made a part of this Amendment.



Colonel Daniel J. Wilman
U.S. Marine Corps - MWTC

12 Aug 21

Date

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DUNKELBERGER

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WILLIAM A. DUNKELBERGER
FOREST SUPERVISOR

8/29/21

Date

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United States Marine Corps
Mountain Warfare Training Center

SUP BRI-718
Appendix B
Annual Operating Plan 2021-2022

Approved by

USDA – Forest Service
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Bridgeport Ranger District

October 01, 2022

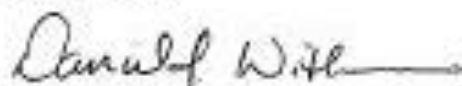
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William A Dunkelberger
HTNF Supervisor

9/29/21

Date



Colonel D.J. Wittnam
Commanding Officer, MCMWTC

23 SEP 21

Date

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Special Use Permit (SUP) Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is to establish procedures for planning, scheduling and conducting Marine Corps military training activities authorized by the US Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC) on National Forest System Lands administered by the Bridgeport Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (USFS) in accordance with SUP BRI-

A. REFERENCES

1. Bridgeport Ranger District SUP BRI-
2. Environmental Assessment for Enhancement of Operations and Training Proficiency at MCMWTC Bridgeport.
6. MCMWTC Training Center Order (TCO), 3550.1 (SOP FOR MCMWTC RTAS).
7. Marine Corps Order (MCO) 5100.29, Marine Corps Safety Program.
8. MCO P3550.10, Range and Training Area Management.
9. MCO P8020.10, Marine Corps Ammunition Management and Explosives Safety Policy Manual.
10. MCO 5090.2, Environmental Compliance and Protection Manual.
11. TCO 5090.3, Environmental Compliance Protection Standard Operating Procedure ECPSOP Manual.
12. Final Biological Opinion for the Environmental Assessment for Enhancement of Operations and Training Proficiency at MCMWTC, Mono County, California.

B. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this operating plan may be requested by submitting proposals to the Authorized Officer, Bridgeport District Ranger. Copies of amendments will be posted in each plan file.

C. CHANGES

Any changes to this special use permit will be made as an amendment to the SUP BRI- between the MCMWTC and the Bridgeport Ranger District.

D. ADDITIONAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES

For activities not authorized in BRI-, the MCMWTC will submit requests on a Request for Environmental Impact Review (REIR) form per MCO 5090.2b and forward to the USFS. The REIR shall include draft plans, drawings, and specifications at an adequate stage of development to evaluate the activity. The USFS will make the final decision on approval or disapproval on all activities and training requests proposed by the MCMWTC on National Forest System lands. The Forest Supervisor is authorized to approve or disapprove all proposed activities.

II. REPRESENTATIVES

A. MCMWTC

The MCMWTC Representative is Colonel Kevin H. Hutchison the commanding officer of the MCMWTC. MCMWTC contact information is as follows:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. CO – Commanding Officer – Col Daniel, J. Wittnam | (760) 932-1410 |
| 2. XO – Executive Officer – LtCol Rohit Y. Masih | (760) 932-1412 |
| 3. S3 Operations Officer – Major James Smolucha | (760) 932-1440 |
| 4. S3 Deputy Operations Officer – Brandon Schroder | (760) 932-1447 |

- 5. Range Control Manager – Mr. John Irvin (760) 932-1439
- 6. Environmental Director- Mr. Brent Husung (760) 932-1457
- 7. Emergency/After Hours Contact (Command Duty Officer) (760) 932-1401

B. USFS

The Bridgeport Ranger District USFS Representatives are:

- 1. Forest Supervisor (Authorized Officer for this SUP) – Mr. Bill Dunkelberger (775) 355-5310
- 2. Acting Bridgeport District Ranger –Aaron Coogan (760)616-0045 Cell (760) 932-5850 office
- 3. Military Liaison Officer (MLO) –Mr. Jed Rudelbach (775) 301-0021
- 4. Sierra Front Interagency (Minden) Dispatch Center (Emergency) (775) 883-5995
- 5. SFIDC After-hours Emergency Contact (775)721-0312 or (775) 230-4782

C. INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

In addition to regular day-to-day communications, the USFS and the MCMWTC will have a minimum of two regularly scheduled meetings, one prior to AOP submission (September) and one mid-year (April).

III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL

The land described in this plan is the property of the United States of America and is administered by the USFS. The USFS will retain administrative control of the land and its products and resources. The USFS has sole responsibility for administration of private mineral rights under the lands described in the plan and for coordinating with the MCMWTC.

1. Annual Operating Plan. The MCMWTC shall meet with the USFS MLO to review the AOP. If needed, revisions to the AOP shall be prepared jointly by the USFS and the MCMWTC, and approved by the USFS Authorized Officer and the MCMWTC Commanding Officer.

2. State Lands and Private Ownership. The MCMWTC recognizes that California State Lands and private lands are intermingled with National Forest System lands. The SUP only authorizes activities and uses on National Forest System lands, however, the same stipulations and features will apply to the appropriate land manager or owner such as Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Nevada Department of Fish and Wildlife or private land owner.

B. USFS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The USFS is responsible for all administration of the SUP, monitoring plans and approval of all plans submitted for current operation and future development of the area.

2. Periodic monitoring to ensure the MCMWTC compliance with the provisions of this plan and the SUP. The duties of the administrator monitoring activities authorized by this permit will be:

a. To periodically monitor the area and facilities for compliance with the terms of the authorized use, including safety and the AOP, Federal Regulations, and any other items of health or safety which might arise;

b. To keep a log sheet on all items inspected and noted, and to inform the MCMWTC of any items needing correction;

c. To take follow-up action to ensure compliance with items needing correction as noted on the previous inspection.

C. MCMWTC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The MCMWTC will comply with all applicable environmental laws and regulations with respect to activities or environmental conditions arising from the MCMWTC's use of the National Forest. The MCMWTC will ensure that the property is maintained in a condition that is protective of human health, the environment and is consistent with the future use of the land by the USFS. The MCMWTC will monitor the state of the permitted lands ensuring any trash or litter from military training is quickly identified and cleaned up. Special attention will be paid in the spring to clean-up the area as the snow melts. Cleanup operations known as Mountain Sweeps, will be conducted periodically to address problem areas that are identified. Larger Mountain Sweeps extending over multiple days will be conducted to clear large areas in the April or May timeframe depending on the snowpack.

2. To comply with the terms of this permit and to report any noncompliance actions to the MLO within the specified times stated in the SUP and this AOP.

3. To ensure all units and students training at the MCMWTC are aware of the terms, conditions and mitigations of the special use permit.

4. To coordinate Marine Corps consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service for items concerning the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

5. The MCMWTC will implement the additional measures and processes listed below to prevent littering in the training areas.

a. Enhanced Marking Procedures. MCMWTC will purchase long poles to better mark locations where trash is being staged, brightly colored trash bags to make locating them easier, and tarps to cover the trash making it more difficult for wildlife and winds to scatter the trash. Trash is only authorized to be staged when absolutely necessary due to weather.

b. Inspections. The MCMWTC will surge additional personnel to inspect bivouac locations and training sites prior to a unit departing. Units will not depart an area with staged trash/waste without leaving Marines to guard the site and confirm the removal of the trash/waste.

c. Spring cleanup. The MCMWTC will require units participating in future winter MTXs to plan and budget to send a 30 person working party back in the April/May timeframe after their exercise to conduct a five day Mountain Sweep. If inspections of the forest prior to their arrival date reveal the forest is clean, then their travel and Mountain Sweep will be cancelled.

d. Banta-buckets. The MCMWTC will use banta-buckets as a means of collecting and disposing of human waste during winter training. However, the use of wag bags is authorized and is the primary method when snow conditions do not support use of the sleds used to move the banta-buckets with the training units.

IV. TRAINING EVENTS

A. MOUNTAIN EXERCISE (MTX)

MTX is a Marine Corps service-level exercise held four or more times a year designed to train Marine Corps units for operations in mountainous, high-altitude, and cold weather environments. There are two exercise packages: Summer MTX, 26 days long and conducted three to four times per year, and Winter MTX, 31 days long and conducted twice per year. Each exercise is divided into three progressive training phases during which the training unit receives several classes, practices individual and small unit skills, and executes a battalion-level exercise as the

culminating event. Typical exercises include approximately 800-1,200 participants including ground, logistics, and aviation components. A detailed schedule of MTX dates can be found in Exhibit B.

Phase I: Training unit Marines receive training in company-size groups (approximately 200 personnel) on topics such as proper use and care for personal clothing and equipment, military mountaineering equipment, mountain health considerations, considerations for casualty evacuation, and mountain weather. These classes are typically taught at nearby Landing Zones (LZ) such as LZ Quail and LZ Dove following short acclimatization hikes along the road. This phase consists of one to three training days and provides the requisite knowledge to the Marines prior to beginning Phase II.

Phase II: The Marines receive training in the same company-size groups as Phase I, but remain in the field overnight and rotate between training stations over the course of 10 to 12 training days. In a Summer MTX there are four stations spread throughout the training area. Marines conduct training on rock-climbing, fixed-rope installation, rappelling, land navigation and route selection, casualty evacuation, and survival techniques. Each training group will rotate through the four stations until they have completed the training at each site. Non-tactical movements between stations are conducted along roads or established trails. Tactical movements between stations are conducted off-road/trail and require that the training company maintain tactical formations, dispersion between troops, and all-around security. In a Winter MTX there are two to three stations spread throughout the training area dependent on snow conditions. Marines conduct training on over-the-snow movement techniques (skiing and snowshoeing), land navigation and route selection, casualty evacuation, employment of crew served weapons (machine guns), conduct live-fire from skis and snowshoes, and survival techniques. Each training group rotates through the designated stations similar to a summer exercise. At the conclusion of Phase II the Marines are better acclimatized and properly trained on the individual and small-unit skill sets required to operate in a mountainous, cold-weather environment, and are ready to conduct Phase III.

Phase III: The Final Exercise (FEX) is the culminating event of MTX, consisting of seven to eight training days (including a brief preparation period) of force-on-force operations. The training unit conducts a variety of offensive and defensive actions against a live opposition force, and is required to utilize all of the skills trained during Phase I and II. It is during the FEX that all Marine Corps assets (ground, logistics, aviation) are brought together in order to create a realistic scenario for the training unit.

B. FORMAL SCHOOLS

The MCMWTC is home to multiple formal schools that provide the Marine Corps with individuals capable of performing specific tasks in a mountainous, high altitude, or cold weather environment. These courses include: Summer Mountain Leader Course, Assault Climber Course, Mountain Medicine Course, Summer Mountain Engineer Course, Mountain Survival Course, Animal Packer Course, Horsemanship and Animal Packing, Winter Mountain Leader Course, Scout Skier Course, Cold Weather Medicine, Winter Mountain Engineer Course, Mountain Communications Course, Mountain Scout Sniper Course, and Basic Cold Weather Leader Course. More information regarding the details of each course can be found in Exhibit B.

V. TRAINING ACTIVITIES

A. ABATIS TRAINING

1. Quantity Approved. Specific standing trees identified and approved for felling by the USFS.

2. Description. Students are instructed how to fall trees using chainsaws, land clearing tools, and explosives such as TNT, C4, and time fuse, in order to create obstacles. Any structures will be disassembled within five days of the end of the exercise. Stumps will be cut to the ground, no higher than six inches in height. Downed trees will be limbed and the branches will be placed in slash piles, downed trees will be cut into six to eight foot sections so that they are easily removed by wood gathers.

B. AIR OPERATIONS

1. Quantity Approved. In accordance with mitigations listed in Exhibit A, the LZ/DZ Matrix and as otherwise approved by the USFS Forest Supervisor. MV-22 operations require a four man fire-fighting detachment to be at each of the LZ's being utilized. Pre-staging of 2000 gallon non-potable water containers is required during MV-22 air operations. These pre-staged locations are LZ Woody, LZ Goose, and LZ Blackbird.

2. Description. Air Operations will be conducted in accordance with the appropriate Department of Defense (DOD) Service Directives, the MCMWTC Air Operations Manual, and FAA Regulations. All aviation operations are coordinated by the MCMWTC Operations and Environmental Sections. Most Air Operations are conducted by rotary wing and tilt-rotor aircraft to support troop movements between LZs/DZs. Other rotary wing and tilt-rotor aircraft operations that may be conducted include aerial navigation, low level terrain flight, mountain and confined area landings, external lift operations, aerial delivery/insertion of personnel and supplies by parachute, and simulated close air support. Fixed wing aircraft operations include simulated close air support and reconnaissance operations, aerial delivery/insertion of personnel and supplies. Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) will work within the parameters of the associated FAA, MOA, and other Airspace regulations and will be monitored and coordinated by the MCMWTC personnel while flying or being operated in the MCMWTC airspace/operating areas.

3. Sling-Load Operations. Sling load operations will include rotary wing aircraft attaching slings to military equipment to transport to remote locations. Sling load operations will involve the movement of non-hazardous waste equipment and will include weed-free hay, Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MRE), Water containers, etc...

4. LZ Maintenance. Deadfall and dead trees standing within established LZs per Exhibit A may be removed by MCMWTC from the area to ensure safe landings can continually be conducted to those areas with proper environmental analysis. MCMWTC may conduct additional tree falling of new growth within those areas from time to time as the need may arise due to new growth creating additional aircraft hazards. Additional tree falling of live new growth must be approved by a USFS representative.

C. AMMUNITION STORAGE

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, year-round.

2. Description. Training units at the MCMWTC may require both small arms ammunition and possibly pyrotechnic or demolition munitions. When necessary, an ammunition staging area will be established in the training area, in compliance with DOD regulations and no trace of explosives or trash will remain in the training area when disestablished. No ammunition staging area will be unmanned.

D. ANIMAL PACKING AND HORSEMANSHIP

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, most likely from April to November depending on snow pack and coverage.

2. Description. Operations utilizing horses and pack animals to extend dismounted operations. Students conduct training on animal handling, grooming and saddling, packing hitches, basic seat position and riding cues, movement on horseback, and route planning considerations.

E. AVALANCHE INITIATION/MITIGATION

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, winter season.

2. Description. Operations involving the use of military explosives such as TNT, dynamite, C4, time fuse, and detonation cord, to initiate avalanches to demonstrate counter-mobility measures in a mountainous environment. These procedures may also be utilized to mitigate avalanche threat at frequently used training sites. All operations

involving avalanche initiation will take place in approved Avalanche Initiation Sites and in accordance with MCMWTC Range Regulations.

F. BATTLEFIELD SIMULATIONS (BLANK AMMUNITION/PYROTECHNICS)

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, year-round and in accordance with fire restrictions.

2. Description. Simulation of artillery, use of smoke for screening/obscuring maneuver forces, use of flares and simulated engagements between small units during force-on-force maneuver training exercises. All battlefield simulations will be conducted in accordance with MCMWTC Range Regulations. Use of pyrotechnics may be limited depending on fire restrictions. Casings and debris will be collected upon exercise completion. Marines are authorized to patrol through the forest environment with their issued military weapons. All weapons will have BFA (blank firing adapter) attached to the end of the barrel and are usually blue, red or yellow in color.

G. BIVOUAC AND TROOP ASSEMBLY

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, year-round.

2. Description. Establishment of an area where troops eat, rest overnight, and perform minor equipment and vehicle maintenance. This may involve day and night movement of vehicles to and from the site, erecting tents, staging supplies and equipment, establishing generators and the use of wheeled and tracked vehicles. Food will consist of a combination of Tray Rations (T-Rats) and MREs. Field sanitation will consist of Port-a-Johns, use of banta buckets, or wag-bags in accordance with the MCMWTC Environmental policy.

H. BRIDGING

1. Quantity Approved. One training event using the Joint Assault Bridge annually and two events using the Medium Girder Bridge annually. Timing and location will be coordinated with MCMWTC Environmental section and approved by the USFS.

2. Description. Event lasts a single day, including setup and teardown, and involves approximately 40 Marines installing a temporary bridge over a stream or river at an approved site. The Joint Assault Bridge is a vehicle borne system that extends a bridge over a 60 ft. gap. The Medium Girder Bridge is emplaced in sections by Marines hand carrying each section into position and can span up to 150 ft. No vehicles or personnel are allowed to enter the water for either bridging event. Vehicles and personnel would not be moving into or out of the water to place the JAB, and vehicles would not move into or out of the water during MGB assembly or use.

I. COMBAT OPERATIONS CENTER (COC)

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, year-round.

2. Description. COCs are used to coordinate tactical actions in the field. They serve as the headquarters or command post for a given unit. They are scalable in size, depending on the requirements. The largest COC will not usually exceed seven large tents, 10 vehicles, five generators, and 100 personnel. Sometimes these encampments will utilize barbed-wire or concertina wire to surround tent areas. The smallest COC may simply consist of a few four-man tents and man-portable radios. COCs and RHU's are to be placed in previously disturbed areas that have been cleared by resource specialists for such use within the training areas. COCs and RHU's may be placed on snow, but only with adequate snow pack (approximately two feet).

J. COMMUNICATIONS AND SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, year-round.

2. Description. Establishment of sites for communications and/or to conduct surveillance of enemy forces, utilizing communications equipment, radio antennas, generators, tents, optics, camouflage nets, wheeled vehicles and individual combat equipment as appropriate.

K. DEMOLITIONS OPERATIONS

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, approved in accordance with the USFS fire restrictions.

2. Description. Use of military explosives such as TNT, dynamite, C4, time fuse, and detonation cord in support of mountain operations. Training involving the use of demolitions includes avalanche initiation, ice breaching, boulder reduction, and abatis training. All demolitions operations will be conducted in accordance with MCMWTC Range Regulations and appropriate Marine Corps orders, directives, and standard operating procedures.

L. FIELD MEALS AND SANITATION

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, year-round.

2. Description. Units training at the MCMWTC subsist on packaged rations such as the MREs using heating packets of powdered magnesium metal, alloyed with a small amount of iron, and table salt that heats when in contact with water, and the MRE-Cold Weather (MCW). Tray rations are self-contained systems that utilize hot water to heat food through which no gray or greasy water is generated. Human waste generated in areas not near a Port-a-John will be packed out using the banta bucket system or wag bags. Wag-Bags are the primary system of collecting and disposing of human waste. Banta-buckets are a secondary method of collecting and disposing of human waste during the winter. However, wag bags will be used when snow conditions do not support the use of the sleds used to transport the banta-buckets.

M. FIXED ROPE INSTALLATION

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, year-round.

2. Description. Instruction and training of fixed ropes with non-permanent anchors and steep earth techniques. Trees will have protective banding installed or expedient protection will be used. All banding will be removed at the conclusion of summer training.

N. ICE BREACHING (EXPLOSIVE)

1. Quantity Approved. Case-by-case approval from USFS.

2. Description. Operations utilizing military explosives to create a hole in a frozen waterway in order to demonstrate counter-mobility practices in a mountainous, cold weather environment. All operations involving use of explosives will be conducted in accordance with the MCMWTC Range Regulations.

O. ICE BREAKING AND COLD WATER IMMERSION

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, winter season.

2. Description. Ice breaking involves the use of mechanical/manual devices including drills or chain saws to create an opening in a frozen waterway. This is typically done in conjunction with cold water immersion used to train personnel on proper procedures should one fall through ice. Additionally, personnel are trained on rewarming techniques and cold weather injuries such as hypothermia.

P. MEDICAL TREATMENT AND EVACUATION (ACTUAL/SIMULATED)

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, year-round.

2. Description. Actual/simulated assessment, treatment, and evacuation of high altitude illnesses, cold weather injuries, and other injuries.

Q. MOBILE ELECTRIC POWER

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, year-round.

2. Description. Tactical generator (similar to civilian generators in operation and function) are used to generate power for various requirements. These assets are operated while set on an approved containment bladder to prevent petroleum products from seeping into the environment and may be used on occasion in the training area. Operations that require placement of structures should be limited to disturbed sites along existing roads or on already disturbed earth such as LZs.

R. OVERLAND TRAVEL BY FOOT

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, year-round. Refer to the design features designating specific areas to be avoided due to occupied habitat or limited operating periods.

2. Description. Movement of troops off-road or on unimproved trails throughout the training area. This may include employment of skis, snowshoes, and equipment sleds. Troops will avoid marshy/wet areas and avoid walking on burned vegetation when possible. When troops are crossing rivers or streams when possible they will utilize routes that minimize exposure to water (and reduce potential impact).

S. PERSONNEL/CARGO INSERTION/EXTRACTION WITHOUT LANDING

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, in accordance with the MCMWTC Air Operations Manual and MCMWTC Range Regulations.

2. Description. Operations consisting of insertion/extraction of personnel/cargo from aircraft via parachute, hoist, low altitude hover, and external load. All insertion/extraction will be conducted in accordance with the MCMWTC Air Operations Manual and MCMWTC Range Regulations.

T. RAPPELLING

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, year-round.

2. Description. Instruction and training of rappelling with non-permanent anchors or bolts and cliff rescue techniques.

U. RELOCATABLE HOUSING UNIT (RHU)

1. Quantity Approved. No more than five per location, and no more than 25 per exercise

2. Description. RHUs are used to simulate villages/buildings in other countries. They have ground contacts consisting of a footprint of one foot by one foot. In addition, some locations will include temporary walls between/surrounding the RHUs. They are temporary and can be put up or taken down in a matter of hours with no impact to the area they are in.

- RHU sites must be accessed by vehicle.

- RHU's are to be placed in previously disturbed areas that have been cleared by environmental resource specialists for such use within the training areas.
- RHU's may be placed on snow, but only with adequate snow pack (approximately two feet).

V. RIVER CROSSING

1. Quantity Approved. Two per training company during each summer MTX totaling 28 total per year.

2. Description. The unit will break down into small groups of 4-12 personnel and utilize various formations to walk or swim across the river. Four total crossings are conducted during the first event. During the station training in Phase II of each MTX, each 200 man training company will conduct two river crossing events. The first involves each 4-12 man group crossing the West Walker River four times using different techniques at the Leavitt Training Area crossing site. The second requires each group to cross the West Walker River twice at the Sonora Bridge crossing site.

3. MCMWTC Fire Department Swift Water Rescue Training Event. The FD utilizes the West Walker from LTA to Chris Flat campground for their swift water rescue. The flows are best during the Month May when the snow run-off has already began and the water flow is manageable for this training event. See Attached map for restricted area on the West Walker River.

W. ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR WITH HEAVY EQUIPMENT

1. Quantity Approved. Case-by-case approval from USFS.

2. Description. Typically consists of adding fill-dirt to top of road surface, grading and compacting, and adding/repairing V-trench to either side of the road for drainage using heavy equipment. Water bars and blow out trenches should be placed where erosion from water can occur.

3. Snow Removal: FS roads should be allowed to melt out naturally to control the erosion occurring. Mechanical snow removal must be approved by the USFS. There are many reasons why the Forest Service does not plow snow on NFS roads when it appears that they could. Plowing of snow on native or aggregate surfaced roads can lead to damage due to increased traffic on wet roads. Not plowing roads before it is appropriate protects the public from unsafe road conditions when roads are muddy or impassable, and it also prevents, costly damage that results from inevitable ruts left behind. Ruts can channel muddy run-off water into nearby creeks, causing soil erosion and damage to fisheries.

4. Snow Stake Maintenance: Snow stakes placed along FS roads within the permitted training areas shall be maintained to a safe standard or otherwise removed to prevent a safety hazard. BENT AND BROKEN SNOW STAKES MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE PERMITTED TRAINING AREA IMMEDIATELY.

X. ROAD GROOMING WITH SNOW GROOMING VEHICLES

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, during snow conditions.

2. Description. Use of a snow grooming vehicle to maintain access to training area via existing roads during snow conditions.

Y. ROCK CLIMBING

1. **Quantity Approved.** As necessary, year-round.

2. **Description.** Instruction and training of rock climbing with non-permanent anchors and cliff rescue techniques.

Z. SEARCH AND RESCUE (ACTUAL/SIMULATED)

1. **Quantity Approved.** As necessary, year-round.

2. **Description.** Use of available ground and aerial assets to locate lost/missing personnel in the training area.

AA. SIMULATED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

1. **Quantity Approved.** As necessary, year-round.

2. **Description.** Training of breaching and removal of obstacles and mines, and reaction drills to discovered/exploded explosive devices. Training will include concealment of simulated explosive devices along unpaved roads (under controller observation). Simulated explosive devices will utilize biologically safe materials, such as baby powder, and a thorough clean-up will be conducted following exercises.

BB. SMALL ARMS LIVE-FIRE

1. **Quantity Approved.** As necessary, on certified ranges and in accordance with fire restrictions.

2. **Description.** Firing of small arms weapon systems on certified ranges and in accordance with all applicable MCOs, TCOs, policies and directives. Per MCMWTC Range Regulations, all normal vehicular and foot traffic approaches to ranges and impact areas will be posted with guards who are properly instructed in their duties and appropriate signs will be posted. Use of live ammunition may be limited depending on fire restrictions. Casings and debris will be collected upon exercise completion. Public Notice signage of live-fire training events will be posted ingress and egress to the live fire range. Public engagement at a sign will occur to notify and hold the public until a cease-fire notice can be given to the trainees. Once the Range is in a cold status the public will be allowed to advance to the egress road guard and cleared from the active live fire range before the cease fire is lifted.

CC. SURVIVAL FIRE BUILDING

1. **Quantity Approved.** As necessary, dependent on fire restrictions and acquisition of a fire permit.

2. **Description.** Practice construction of survival fires using a variety of techniques such as bow and drill, magnesium fire starter, and gun powder. Training will be suspended on NF Lands during fire restrictions. Fires will always be attended, and completely drowned upon conclusion of training. Appropriate fire-fighting equipment as defined by the Risk Management process will be on site when training is being conducted. A shovel and 5 gallons of water, are required for each survival fire.

3. **Fire Permits.** Fire permits are obtained via www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit/. Only MCMWTC Instructors and personnel requiring fires are required to obtain a fire permit. All fire permits are maintained by MCMWTC Environmental for records keeping purposes.

4. **Firewood permits.** The MCMWTC is able to obtain up to two cords of firewood for the purpose of warming fires used during the survival period of each MTX.

DD. SURVIVAL FOOD AND WATER PROCUREMENT

1. Quantity Approved. Hunting and fishing as allowed by annual take permit issued by California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

2. Description. Temporary establishment of expedient traps and/or snares for training purposes, and fishing with a limited amount of line, hooks and equipment. CDFW has authorized a MCMWTC Instructor to carry a pistol sidearm to humanely kill a large mammal (i.e. bear, bobcat, deer, coyote, badger, or raccoon) caught in a snare or trap.

EE. SURVIVAL SHELTER CONSTRUCTION

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, year-round.

2. Description. Establishing temporary bivouac sites and constructing expedient shelters using materials available such as a poncho, poncho liner, space blanket, 550 cord, and dead and/or downed vegetation. Upon completion of training all shelters will be disassembled and the area returned to original state.

FF. SURVIVAL SIGNALING

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, year-round.

2. Description. Use of signal mirror, deadfall for marking, visible or infrared strobes or lights, or use of signaling fire in accordance with survival fire procedures and USFS fire restrictions. Deadfall and rocks used for marking will be returned to original locations upon completion of training.

GG. TACTICAL CONVOY OPERATIONS

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, year-round with proper notification to USFS.

2. Description. Convoy operations consisting of up to 20 military vehicles on existing roads within the permitted training areas or corridors. Training will include use of simulated explosive devices to initiate reaction drills, temporary halting, dismounted operations, casualty treatment and evacuation, and usually be conducted in conjunction with use of battlefield simulations.

HH. TECHNICAL ROPE SYSTEMS

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, year round.

2. Description. Use of rope systems to enable personnel and their equipment to overcome vertical and horizontal obstacles (cliffs, gorges, rivers, etc.). These systems are anchored to trees, rocks, and other natural anchor points. They can be tensioned to enable equipment, supplies and casualties to overcome the obstacle. All trees and vegetation will be wrapped or have expedient protection placed on them prior to the system being tensioned for load. Wraps will be removed at the end of training or at the end of the season for high use sites.

II. TEMPORARY STRUCTURES

1. Quantity Approved. No more than 10 large temporary structures per location, and no more than 30 per exercise.

2. Description. Temporary structures are typically tents, trailers, or inflatable structures that are easily set up and taken down. They can also include trailers that are pulled behind vehicles. Wheeled trailers are treated as vehicles with regard to the areas where they may be set up or used. Tents, inflatable structures, inflatable decoys, balloons, weather equipment, etc. are other types of equipment that may be used in the training areas. These structures will not exceed the level of the tree line or present a hazard to the surrounding environment.

JJ. VEHICLE FUELING AND MAINTENANCE

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, upon MCMWTC Environmental Office review and with appropriate mitigations in place.

2. Description. Transferring of fuel from bulk containers/fuel tanks to tactical vehicles or fuel containers, wheeled and tracked vehicles in the training area. Maintenance in the training areas will be restricted to basic repairs that do not involve draining engine/transmission fluid. Mechanical failure that necessitates fluid drainage will be evacuated to the Training Center maintenance facility. When able maintenance of vehicles within the training area will be limited to minor repairs that can be accomplished in a day or less. Care must be given to the location of repair activities to prevent obstructing traffic or impacting areas of road. Spill kits will be kept on hand and fuel will be located a minimum of 500 feet away from water sources. Maximum allowable fuel in the training areas shall not exceed 500 gallons. Events requiring more extensive maintenance in the training area will be coordinated with MCMWTC Environmental.

KK. VEHICLE OPERATIONS

1. Quantity Approved. As necessary, year-round.

2. Description. Movement of wheeled and tracked vehicles along designated approved roads. Driver training and other road bound operations may employ road guards for safety. Wheeled and tracked tactical vehicles will be employed to move troops and equipment to points in the training area. **Off-road use is not authorized anywhere in the training area**, including tracked vehicles, aside from over the snow operations. Snowmobiles or specially tracked and low-impact vehicles are allowed off-road on adequate snow levels (2ft or more). Driving vehicles with black-outs on at night is authorized.

LL. WATER PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION

1. Quantity Approved. Bulk water purification and return to the natural waterway on base property is approved year round (Riparian Use). Water purification off base requires case-by-case approval from USFS.

2. Description. Involves containing and distributing water in the training area, and must be reviewed and approved by the USFS on a case-by-case basis. Containment devices could include malleable rubber/canvas bladders from 3k-20k gallons in size, hardened rubber containers typically 500-gallon size, and metal containers up to 600-gallon size. Additionally, pumps are used to move water through hoses from containment areas to mobile containers. The water is then discharged to a primary user. The MCMWTC intent is to practice this function to gain experience in the effect of cold-weather and elevation gain/losses on the process. Operations that require placement of structures should be limited to existing disturbed sites and only occur within Dept. of Navy lands. The MCMWTC does not have any water rights to surface water, therefore all water collected must be returned to the stream, lake, or river that it came from.

MM. FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Boot Fire:

As a result of the Boot fire that occurred in Sept 2018, the areas that burned in TA 3 and TA 5 are off-limits to any and all training activity for a period of 3 -5 years or when the US Forest Services deems that area can be opened for activities.

Slink Fire:

As a result of the Slink fire that occurred in Sept 2020, the areas that burned in TA 1 and TA 2 are off-limits to any and all training activity for a period of 3 -5 years or when the US Forest Services deems that area can be opened for activities.

NN. COLD WATER EMERSION at JUNCTION RESERVOIR

Junction Reservoir was approved in November 2018 by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the MCMWTC to conduct the cold water emersion training conducted as part of the curriculum for the formal schools. This activity is approved until the CDFW wants to utilize the reservoir for a spawning fish hatchery.

OO. Downed Tree Removal

Downed tree removal is authorized if the tree has fallen across an approved road or trail that is authorized for training access. Coordination must occur beforehand with MCMWTC Environmental before the activity can occur.

VI. OPERATIONS AND TRAINING STIPULATIONS

The following general operating stipulations apply to the entire area authorized to the MCMWTC under the SUP-BRI-. Together, the general operating stipulations along with the special use area stipulations will provide the overall direction for military activities in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

A. FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Proposed construction or repair projects that could affect or impact National Forest System lands will be summarized on a REIR form and forwarded to the USFS MLO with the appropriate information for review. Proposals will attempt to be made no less than 90 days in advance of the start of the proposed projects to allow sufficient time for the preparation of environmental documentation, and will include draft plans, drawings, and specifications at an adequate stage of development to evaluate the project. The USFS will make the final decision on approval or disapproval of all development plans including engineering plans or drawings, construction, reconstruction plans, specifications, alterations, revisions, proposed projects, or training requests proposed by the MCMWTC on the USFS lands. The Bridgeport District Ranger is delegated the authority by the Forest Supervisor to approve or disapprove all proposed projects and development plans on USFS lands.

1. Design and Construction Oversight. The USFS will be included in the planning process of any proposed project that could affect or impact National Forest System lands. The MCMWTC will include procedures to ensure compliance with environmental requirements and measures to reduce adverse effects to environmentally sensitive resources in contract specifications for military construction projects. The Contracting Officer Representative (COR) will review environmental requirements before construction and have authority to halt construction if work is not performed in accordance with environmental requirements.

2. Utilities. The MCMWTC will arrange the use of public utilities in ways to hold the USFS harmless from such use or damage and to remove abandoned telephone lines and communications wire when no longer needed.

3. MILCON Projects. All MILCON projects will require a construction permit from the USFS, This permit will outline the details, requirements, monitoring, and oversight of the project until completion.

B. TRAINING LAND SUSTAINMENT

The MCMWTC will coordinate the repair of any damage caused by MCMWTC sponsored units/training events on National Forest System lands.

1. Operations Impact Inspection, Damage Repair, Monitoring, and Reporting. The MCMWTC will protect USFS improvements and resources as required by law, such as environmentally sensitive areas, meadows, cultural resource sites, scenic, visual quality, and aesthetic values on National Forest System lands, consistent with the authorized use, and the availability of appropriated funds. The MCMWTC shall institute a program for operations damage inspection, corrective actions, monitoring and reporting. This program will include all USFS lands authorized for use to the MCMWTC.

a. Operations Impact Inspection. The MCMWTC will conduct inspections of training areas following all training exercises in accordance with the MCMWTC Range Regulations. These results will be shared with the USFS.

b. Operations Damage Repair. Operations damage repairs will be conducted as appropriate where ground disturbance due to training has occurred. If damage due to training activities is observed, appropriate measures will be employed to repair damages at these sites, as funds allow. If needed, appropriate disciplines will be consulted in the development of a remediation plan for these sites. Care will be taken to minimize damage to existing vegetation. Erosion control and reseeding efforts will be conducted in accordance with USFS specifications, which include the use of native species. Areas in need of rest or restoration will be identified and documented annually for environmental planning and management purposes. The USFS will coordinate with the MCMWTC for temporary closures of sites needed to facilitate recovery. When able training activities in these areas will be avoided as needed to allow rest/restoration of the land. These areas will be marked appropriately for the duration of the closure as off-limits to digging and driving, and recovery will be monitored. Closed areas will be added on an annual or as needed basis to the environmental sensitive areas map provided by the USFS used to help military personnel for planning purposes.

c. Road Management Responsibility. The MCMWTC will conduct road maintenance to USFS level 3 standards on USFS designated roads; Creek Connector Road, Mountain Leader Loop, Silver Creek Road up to LZ Woody, Finley Mine Road, and Wolf Creek Road. All other roads attributed to MCMWTC will be considered Level 2 and maintained for high clearance vehicles (this is the definition of Level 2 roads). Any other roads in MCMWTC training areas outside of those described above will be maintained by the USFS as described in the Humboldt-Toiyabe Travel Management Plan. Personnel conducting road maintenance on USFS roads must receive annual road maintenance standards training. Training will be prepared and given by the USFS. Any USFS system road requiring construction, reconstruction, or decommissioning must have a roads analysis completed by the USFS.

(1) Road Upgrades. Road upgrades, changes or improvements needed as a result of military training (i.e., roads, bridges, trails, snow stakes, or general forest area) will be the responsibility of the MCMWTC. Upgrades or changes to the roads will be made by a mutual agreement between the USFS, the MCMWTC and cooperation with state agencies as appropriate. Broken snow stakes will be removed and replaced. During high snow seasons, MCMWTC upon approval from the USFS will be authorized to limb tree branches on groomed FS roads. The limbing is required to deter from vehicle / limb accidents.

(2) Safe Vehicle Operations. The MCMWTC will restrict the operation of military vehicles and control vehicle speeds to the safe standards and limits that the USFS and the MCMWTC agree upon, are consistent with the environmental conditions, standards and other uses on the USFS system roads.

2. Sustainable Range Awareness Training. The MCMWTC has an Environment, Safety and Range Regulation Awareness training program that is required for all personnel that train aboard the MCMWTC.

C. SAFETY

1. MCMWTC Safety Manager. The MCMWTC Safety Manager serves as the on-site safety advisor to the Commander and staff. He/she serves as the single point of contact for all occupational safety and health related activities, including the planning, organizing, administering, implementing, and management of safety at the MCMWTC.

2. High Risk Training Safety Officer (HRTSO). The MCMWTC HRTSO, within the Operations and Training section, reports to the Commanding Officer and ensures appropriate procedures are in place to conduct all High Risk Training in a safe manner. In conjunction with the training sections, he/she conducts Risk Management for all High Risk Training events conducted aboard the MCMWTC.

3. Risk Management (RM). RM is a Marine Corps process designed to identify hazards and mitigate risk to an acceptable level. The MCMWTC conducts this process prior to all training events. The HRTSO works closely with Academics and the training sections to standardize methods of risk mitigation and procedures for all training events.

4. Range Certifications. Live-fire and laser range certifications are conducted every three years per MCO 3550.9 Marine Corps Ground Range Certification and Recertification Program, MCO 5104.1 Navy LASER Hazard Control Program by the MCMWTC. All live-fire and laser operations will be conducted according to all current Marine Corps and DOD operating and safety regulations.

5. Airfield and Drop Zone Certifications. The U.S. Air Force conducts drop zone certifications every five years and Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) conducts airfield certifications annually.

6. Risks. The MCMWTC assumes, and manages the risks of, all natural hazard occurrences (rising waters, high winds, falling limbs or trees, avalanches, etc.) in the training area. The MCMWTC has the responsibility for inspecting training sites, improvements, rights-of-ways, and adjoining areas for hazardous conditions. After securing permission from the USFS MLO, the MCMWTC may remove identified hazards, unless the natural occurrences pose an immediate danger to personnel and equipment.

7. Warning Signs. The MCMWTC will ensure that DOD signs are posted in all areas that contain RHUs, dangerous/hazardous materials, unexploded ordnance and/or are outside of the live-fire range surface danger zones. The warning signs will be in accordance with the MCMWTC Range Regulations. Warning signs are for safety purposes only and will be temporary in nature.

8. Medical Evacuation Procedures. Medical/Casualty Evacuation Procedures are outlined in MCMWTC Range Regulations.

9. Emergency Contacts. The Bridgeport District Ranger or Acting Ranger must be notified immediately if there are any helicopter crashes, fire ignitions, rescues needed, large hazardous material spills, fatalities, or life-threatening incidents involving the general public.

10. Explosives. The MCMWTC will use explosives, incendiary devices and ammunition in accordance with USMC and DOD safety regulations. Periods of use may be restricted by the USFS when fire danger conditions warrant or when there is a conflict with public use. All explosives will be stored in a secure manner, in compliance with applicable orders, laws and ordinances.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

1. MCMWTC Environmental Office. The MCMWTC Environmental Office serves as the on-site point of contact for all environmental related activities, including the planning, organizing, administering, implementing, and management of environmental programs at the MCMWTC per MCO P5090.2B, Design Features and Compliance Manual and TCO 5090.3, which incorporate all federal environmental laws and regulations and adds Marine Corps specific policies. State and county laws and regulations and installation specific policies are incorporated in TCOs, the Environmental Management System (EMS), and various plans including the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCC). Chapters on environmental requirements are included in the TCO 5090.3 the MCMWTC Environmental Compliance Standing Operating Procedures (ECSOP) and the TCO 3550.1D, MCMWTC Range Regulations.

2. Environmental Compliance Evaluations. Environmental Compliance Evaluation (ECE) is conducted by Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps every three years, with internal evaluations (EMS Self-Audit) conducted by the MCMWTC Environmental Office annually, complemented by periodic surveillance to ensure environmental compliance.

3. Environmental Liability. The USFS will not assume any of the United States' obligations or potential liability for environmental conditions arising from the MCMWTC's use of the USFS lands appropriately or not appropriately authorized.

a. The MCMWTC and the USFS agree that any unexploded military ordnance (UXO) or discarded military munitions material (DMM) or military munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) contamination found on USFS lands permitted to the MCMWTC, currently or in the past, are likely due to the Marine Corps' activities. If the USFS encounters any environmental condition that arises from UXO/DMM/MEC the USFS shall immediately notify the MCMWTC. The Marine Corps shall be responsible for any response action necessary to meet appropriate and applicable environmental law requirements concerning cleanup of UXO/DMM/MEC, including costs.

b. The MCMWTC and USFS will cooperate on the nature and extent of any required response action, giving due consideration to the risks involved and taking into account the intended land use for the property in accordance with SUP BRI-250. The MCMWTC personnel, using USMC protocol will mark, document and recover all UXO/DMM/MEC including TNT and primers used in Avalanche Initiation. Recovery includes a sweep of the area in snow-free conditions of all unaccounted UXO/DMM/MEC.

4. The MCMWTC Sponsored Research, Monitoring, Surveys and Inventories. All research, to include monitoring, surveys and inventories, sponsored or funded by the MCMWTC on lands authorized to the MCMWTC will be coordinated with and approved by the USFS to ensure that appropriate protocols are followed. The MCMWTC will provide the USFS a brief prospectus and map showing the location(s) of the research area. The MCMWTC will provide the USFS with the findings, results, and/or a report of each project as appropriate.

5. Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) and Special Status Species Management. To be consistent and in compliance with the Toiyabe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986), the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendments (2001, 2004), the Greater Sage-grouse Bi-state Distinct Population Segment Forest Plan Amendment, and existing federal and state laws, including the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and Nevada Endangered Species Act (Nevada Revised Statute 503.584 et seq.; 244.386) the Marine Corps and MCMWTC will put into place design features that are instituted to be proactive in the conservation of the species and prevent potential impact to their habitat.

a. The MCMWTC will make every effort to ensure the protection and preservation of endangered, threatened, sensitive or conservation species of both plants and animals. It is the MCMWTC's responsibility under ESA to complete consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for activities that may affect listed species or designated critical habitat.

b. The MCMWTC will assure that military personnel will not initiate any action that may result in unauthorized take of a TES, or the adverse modification of critical habitat of any TES. Military training activities may be limited or mitigations required if any activity is planned within the boundaries of TES plant or animal species locations when such activity may have a detrimental impact on the protected species.

E. PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCESS

1. Public Safety. The MCMWTC will restrict the operation of military vehicles and control vehicle speeds to the safe standards and limits that the USFS and the MCMWTC agree upon that are consistent with the environmental conditions, standards and other uses on the USFS system roads.

2. Public Access. The MCMWTC is not allowed to close the training area to public access for military training purposes unless previously approved by the USFS. The USFS will administer any forest closure orders to support military training.

VII. SPECIAL USE AREA STIPULATIONS

A. SPECIAL USE AREA – LANDING ZONES AND DROP ZONES

Use of LZ/DZs IAW Exhibit A, The LZ/DZ Matrix and as otherwise stipulated in this AOP. Authorized DZ Operations may occur at: DZ Mill Creek, DZ Hawk (dependent on meadow conditions), DZ Cloudburst, DZ Blackbird, DZ Woody, and DZ Pickel Meadows (as approved by CDFW).

B. SPECIAL USE AREA – LEAVITT LAKE

Activity in the Training areas 10 and 11 is limited to the snow season (15 November to 15 April). Training will remain on areas with a snow pack of roughly two feet or more. Training will not occur on marshy areas during thaw, regardless of the time of year in order to safeguard critical toad & frog habitat. Number of Active military allowed to train in TA's 10 and 11 is 60 / TA for a total of 120 Maximum. Snow pack shall be at least two feet before entering TA's 10 and 11. Snow Pack shall be measured at a point in Lower Sardine Meadows and at the Leavitt Lake Road to ensure the 2 feet of snow requirement has been met.

C. SPECIAL USE AREA – LUCKY BOY PASS ROAD, BURCHAM FLAT ROAD, AND LOBDELL LAKE ROAD (TRANSIT CORRIDOR)

1. MCMWTC will inform the USFS two days prior to any scheduled exercise, and upon any incidents during training (to include collisions with wildlife or civilians).
2. Roads are not authorized for vehicle use when roads become water saturated and vehicle tires cause rutting more than two inches deep into the road surface.
3. Convoys will observe a maximum speed limit of 25 mph, and be limited to 20 vehicles.
4. If convoy vehicles stop or park, they are to do so at the extreme right side of the road in an area wide enough to allow public traffic to pass safely, with visual clearance sufficient to see oncoming vehicles. If visual clearance is insufficient, a person would be appointed to direct traffic safely.
5. Training unit's will power-wash all vehicles prior to use in order to eliminate noxious or undesirable weed seed from being carried onto the forest.
6. Prior to training, controllers will place signs and/or road guards to alert traffic from both directions of training on the road.
7. Vehicle operations are limited to the road.
8. Only blank ammunition is authorized.
9. Use of simulated explosive devices is authorized.
10. Temporary staging of personnel and equipment and defensive operations and bivouac routine is restricted to existing clearings only.
11. Use of the corral area at the Rosaschi Ranch as a staging area for 30 to 45 minutes prior to start of training is authorized in order to avoid traffic congestion.

12. No stopping or exiting of vehicles between Fletcher and Mud Springs due to critical archaeological sites and sage grouse habitat.

13. Personnel will not exit vehicles within a half mile to the East and West of LZ Swallow, located roughly 300-400 meters South of Lucky Boy Pass Road, or within a half mile to the East and West of Lucky Boy Pass Road and Masonic Road junction (Sonoma Stage Station).

14. Up to 12 convoy training events would occur annually during the summer months, each lasting approximately 14 days, and involving approximately 200 personnel.

15. MWTC shall adhere to the Bi-State Sage Grouse LOP (1 March and 30 June) to avoid disturbance of active leks.

D. SPECIAL USE AREA – PICKEL MEADOWS

1. Use of live or blank ammunition is not authorized. Limited pyrotechnics are authorized only to aid in LZ/DZ operations and in accordance with fire restrictions.

2. Off-road/trail hiking will not exceed groups of 45.

3. Troops will be supported by no more than four vehicles on Kirman Lake Road.

4. Leavitt Meadows trail may be used for small unit training.

5. Leavitt Falls may be used for technical rope, high angel small unit training.

E. SPECIAL USE AREA – SWEETWATER AIRSTRIP

No aircraft landing is allowed between 1 March and 30 June due to Sage Grouse activity.

VIII. OPERATIONS AND TRAINING DESIGN FEATURES

A. MILITARY TRAINING AND LIMITATIONS

1. **Off-Limits Areas.** The USFS may designate permanent or temporary off-limit areas including, but not limited to sensitive areas, special interest areas, recreation areas, wildlife food plots, pipeline/utility corridors, and critical or unique ecosystems, with the potential to be impacted or damaged by military training, as allowed by Federal Law.

a. **Sensitive Areas.** Environmentally sensitive areas including cultural resource sites, sensitive plant sites, wildlife food plots and designated regeneration areas will be determined by the USFS and jointly marked with the MCMWTC using a system identifiable to trainees in the field during day light and low-light conditions.

b. **Recreation Complexes.** No formal training will be conducted within the Leavitt Meadows Campground, Leavitt Meadows Pack Station, Sonora Bridge Campground and Picnic Area, Obsidian Campground, Chris Flat Campground, Bootleg Campground, Shingle Mill Campground, Levitt Falls Overlook, Emma Lake Trailhead, Hoover Wilderness Trailhead or the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), unless by case specific permit or authorization; or accompanied by a USFS representative as part of an interpretive education series or other mutually agreed activity directed at a civilian audience. Safety vehicles only are allowed in the Sonora Bridge picnic area to support River Crossing training at this location.

c. **Recreation Trails.** No driving of vehicles will be conducted on the USFS's designated non-motorized trails (i.e. Lost Cannon Cr Trail, Mill Cr Trail). No military training will occur on the Pacific Crest Trail.

d. Lakes, Streams and Rivers. The MCMWTC will coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and or California Department of Water Resources Board (CDWRB) for any activities that would affect waters of the State.

e. Wetlands and Meadows. No driving will be conducted in wetlands and meadows, except on designated roads and designated crossing points. Wetlands and meadows will be inspected for maneuver damage following training exercises and during annual inspection events. Corrective action to protect wetlands and rare/sensitive plant species will be implemented as appropriate following the guidelines of the USFS. Regulations for over-the-snow vehicles apply during the winter allowing vehicles to traverse the meadow on two feet or more of snow.

f. Stream Crossings. The MCMWTC will cross streams at approved locations. No vehicles or personnel are allowed to enter the water for either bridging event. Vehicles and personnel would not be moving into or out of the water to place the JAB, and vehicles would not move into or out of the water during MGB assembly or use.

2. Other Military Sponsored Training. The MCMWTC may sponsor other military units to train within the authorized area, provided these units abide by the same regulations and environmental restrictions as the MCMWTC.

3. Radio-Electronic Equipment Interface. The MCMWTC will operate its radio-electronic type equipment so that interference is not caused to the USFS radio-electronic type operations or to other United States government radio communications presently operating on the National Forest or adjacent to the area covered by permit as allowed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

4. Ranges/Live-Fire Areas. The MCMWTC will restrict live-fire and explosive training to established, authorized ranges as noted in in the Environmental Assessment or separate authorization. The MCMWTC will provide the USFS with an appropriate level of environmental analysis before constructing or relocating any range, surface danger zone, impact area or training area on National Forest land. Upon abandonment of range impact areas or when considered necessary by the USFS to protect other National Forest users, the MCMWTC shall provide clearance of said areas to the maximum extent practical for the safe conduct of normal USFS activities.

5. Training Land Resource Allocation and Scheduling. The MCMWTC will institute a program to identify both training and sustainment requirements for the MCMWTC's training areas.

a. Training and Sustainment Land Allocation. The Training, Exercise and Employment Plan (TEEP) will project training and sustainment requirements. The TEEP will be used as the base document for conducting semi-annual meetings.

b. Scheduling. Training and non-training activities that are mutually incompatible will be de-conflicted by the MCMWTC and the USFS MLO at quarterly meetings. Jointly scheduled activities will include, but not be limited to: training exercises, prescribed burning, threatened and endangered species management activities, timber harvesting, grazing leases, and special events.

(1) Training Schedule. The MCMWTC will attempt to confirm schedules of its planned training areas use at least 30 days in advance to reduce potential schedule conflicts between training and non-training activities to maximize the areas and time periods available for non-training activities.

(2) Emergency Flights. In emergency situations, the MCMWTC will cease flying or training activities within the air space above authorized National Forest lands when requested by the USFS or Incident Commander.

6. Orders and Directives. All training activities will be conducted in accordance with USFS requirements and Marine Corps Orders and directives.

7. Restrictions. The following actions are prohibited during training activities on USFS lands:

- a. No bivouacking within 100 feet of lake shore and streams.
- b. No cutting or damaging standing trees, live or dead without prior approval from the USFS,
- c. No leaving of refuse, debris, gear, or equipment.
- d. No use of incendiaries or pyrotechnics during fire restriction except in approved areas.
- e. No fishing unless in compliance with CDFW regulations.
- f. No feeding, harassing, capturing or petting of wildlife unless you are participating in authorized survival training with a copy of permit on your person or with an instructor.
- g. No digging or disturbing soil or vegetation without prior approval from the MCMWTC Environmental Section in coordination with the USFS.
- h. No damaging or removing of archaeological artifacts (e.g., arrowheads, stone, pottery, rocks or bones).
- i. No campfire without a permit or during fire restrictions.
- j. No Public roads will be blocked, except when the road is located near an established live fire range. The Public will be held until the range can be put into a cease fire status to allow the public to move through without incident. This hold could take up to 10 minutes.

8. Public Complaints. The MCMWTC operates a manned Duty Desk with a phone line (760-932-1401) 24 hours a day or mwtc@usmc.mil, which can be used for reporting public complaints, noise disturbances, damages to roads, or other property damages caused by training exercises. Noise complaints will be addressed by the MCMWTC Commanding Officer via the MCMWTC Community Plans Liaison Officer and/or the MAGTFTC Public Affairs Officer located at 29 Palms. Complaints of trash in the training area will be reported to the duty desk and forwarded to both the S-3 Operations Section and the Environmental Officer for action and cleanup. Signage will be maintained in the training areas providing points of contact for the public to report any trash or military equipment they locate.

9. Public Notification of Military Training.

a. Bulletin Boards. Per Force Protection and National Security policy the MCMWTC will not publish training activities in advance to the general public. However, MCMWTC may inform the public on the day of certain training or regarding non-sensitive types of training using existing bulletin boards located around MCMWTC.

b. Public Information. MCMWTC will provide appropriate personnel or signage to prevent reasonable conflict from occurring between the public and the military during live-fire or normal training activities where the reasonable potential for conflict exists. However, Force Protection, National Security Policy and National Emergencies will take precedence in the type and amount of information provided to the public regarding activities associated with MCMWTC.

B. WILDLIFE

1. General Wildlife:

- a. Notify the Bridgeport Ranger District wildlife biologist of all new detections of special status species in the training area.
- b. Avoid overflights below 1000 ft. above ground level, Bivouac and Troop Assembly, Combat Operations Center, and Mobile Electric Power and concentrated activities (group sizes larger than 25) within

designated Protected Activity Centers (PACs) during established limited operating periods (LOPs) by species.

- c. All food, including trash (i.e., food packaging, food scraps, etc.), should be stored in a manner that wildlife cannot access it and completely removed from the site at the conclusion of training activities.

2. Greater Sage Grouse, Bi-State DPS:

- a. No disturbance will be allowed within 1/4 miles of active leks from March 1 – May 15.
- b. Activities associated with the Sweetwater Airstrip including runway maintenance, landing of aircraft, Bivouac and Troop Assembly, Combat Operations Center, and Mobile Electric Power or other concentrated activities (groups larger than 25 individuals) will not occur from March 1-June 30 during the sage grouse breeding /early brood-rearing season BS EIS.

3. California Spotted Owl:

- a. If California spotted owls exhibiting breeding behavior are detected in the project area, a localized nest search will be conducted by a qualified biologist.
- b. Maintain a limited operating period (LOP) around occupied spotted owl nest sites from March 1-August 15 or until young have fledged.
- c. No disturbance will be allowed within 100 meters of the nest during the LOP.

4. Pacific Fisher Den Sites:

- a. If a fisher den site is located, maintain a limited operating period (LOP) from March 1 - June 30.
- b. No disturbance will be allowed within 100 meters of the den site during the LOP.

5. Flammulated Owl:

- a. If flammulated owls exhibiting breeding behavior are detected in the project area, a localized nest search will be conducted by a qualified biologist.
- b. Maintain a limited operating period (LOP) around occupied flammulated owl nest sites from May 15 - July 31 or until young have fledged.
- c. No disturbance will be allowed within 100 meters of the nest during the LOP.

6. Great Gray Owl:

- a. If great gray owls exhibiting breeding behavior are detected in the project area, a localized nest search will be conducted by a qualified biologist.
- b. Maintain a limited operating period (LOP) around occupied great gray owl nest sites from March 1 – August 15 or until young have fledged.
- c. No disturbance will be allowed within 100 meters of the nest during the LOP.

7. American Marten Den Sites:

- a. If a marten den site is located, maintain a limited operating period (LOP) from May 1 - July 31.
- b. No disturbance will be allowed within 100 meters of the den site during the LOP.

8. Migratory Birds:

- a. If ground disturbing activities (including tree/vegetation removal) are planned between May 15 and August 31, then the area should be surveyed for nests or evidence of nesting prior to implementation.
- b. If nests are observed, a minimum 100 foot buffer should be delineated to prevent disturbance to nests until they are no longer active.

9. Mule Deer:

- a. Avoid disturbance in known fawning areas from June 1 – August 31.

10. Northern Goshawk:

- a. If northern goshawks exhibiting breeding behavior are detected in the project area, a localized nest search will be conducted by a qualified biologist.

- b. Maintain a limited operating period (LOP) around occupied northern goshawk nest sites from February 15 – September 30 or until young have fledged.
- c. No disturbance will be allowed within 100 meters of the nest during the LOP.
- d. Bivouac and Troop Assembly, Combat Operations Center, and Mobile Electric Power or other concentrated activities (groups larger than 25 individuals) will not occur inside the Protected Activity Center (PAC) from 15 February through 30 September. Talk to Environmental or Ranger Control.
- e. Identified PACS are Silver Cr., Mill Cr. and Lost Cannon Cr.

11. Peregrine Falcon:

- a. If peregrine falcons exhibiting breeding behavior are detected in the project area, a localized nest search will be conducted by a qualified biologist.
- b. If an occupied peregrine falcon nest is located, no disturbance will be allowed within 100 meters of the nest while it is active.

12. Sierra Nevada Red Fox:

- a. If a Sierra Nevada red fox den site is located, maintain a limited operating period (LOP) from March 1 - June 30.
- b. No disturbance will be allowed within 100 meters of the den site during the LOP.
- c. To prevent red fox habituation to human food, all food, including trash (i.e., food packaging, food scraps, etc.), should be stored in a manner that wildlife cannot access it and completely removed from the site at the conclusion of training activities.
- d. If monitoring indicates impacts to the Sierra Nevada red fox from training activities, additional mitigation measures may be applied.

13. Spotted Bat and Townsend's Big-Eared Bat:

- a. No personnel shall enter a cave or adit where bat roosting or hibernation may occur without a prior survey from a qualified bat biologist.
- b. If a site is identified as a maternity colony, no disturbance will be allowed within 100 meters from April 15 – September 1.
- c. If a site is identified as hibernacula, no disturbance will be allowed within 100 meters from November 1 – April 1.

14. Bald Eagle:

- a. If bald eagles exhibiting breeding behavior are detected in the project area, a localized nest search will be conducted by a qualified biologist.
- b. Maintain a limited operating period (LOP) around occupied bald eagle nest sites from February 1-June 30 or until young have fledged.
- c. No disturbance will be allowed within 100 meters of the nest during the LOP.

C. RARE PLANTS

1. Alpine dusty maidens (*Chaenactis douglasii* var. *alpinum*):

- a. Apply 100 foot buffer to all occupied habitat during flowering season
- b. No landing of aircraft, Bivouac and Troop Assembly, Combat Operations Center, and Mobile Electric Power concentrated activities on identified species occupied habitat.
- c. No concentrated live-fire where the impact zone is in identified species occupied habitat.
- d. Occurrences in mitigated or extended Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) are authorized.

2. Bodie Hills draba (*Cusickiella quadricostata*):

- a. Apply 100 foot buffer to all occupied habitat during flowering season

- b. No landing of aircraft, Bivouac and Troop Assembly, Combat Operations Center, Mobile Electric Power, or concentrated activities on identified species occupied habitat.
- c. No concentrated live-fire where the impact zone is in identified species occupied habitat.
- d. Occurrences in mitigated or extended Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) are authorized.

3. Botrychium fern habitats (Upswept, Dainty, Slender Moonwort ferns, and Moosewort ferns):

- a. Apply 100 foot buffer to all occupied habitat during flowering season
- b. Due to the survey effort required to detect moonwort ferns, an emphasis will be placed to maintain riparian habitats including fens, wet meadows, and lakeshore vegetation, in good condition. No Bivouac and Troop Assembly, Combat Operations Center, Mobile Electric Power, or concentrated activities will occur in these areas. Evidence of impacts to riparian habitats attributed to Marine Base activities will be restored and the site will be avoided.

4. Cup Lake Draba (Draba asterophora var. Macrocarpa):

- a. Apply 100 foot buffer to all occupied habitat during flowering season
- b. No landing of aircraft, no concentrated activities on identified species occupied habitat.
- c. No concentrated live-fire where the impact zone is in identified species occupied habitat.
- d. Occurrences in mitigated or extended Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) are authorized.

5. Masonic Mountain Jewel Flower Habitat:

- a. Apply 100 foot buffer to all occupied habitat during flowering season
- b. Avoid flowering areas when setting up climbing lanes in the north of Grouse meadows on rocky cliff side, the north of the Grouse Meadows area during the May 1 - July 31 flowering season.
- c. Other restrictions apply within rare plant occupied habitat in the eastern portion of the district during planned maneuvers. This includes buffering Masonic Mountain jewel flower occurrences as described above and conducting activities outside of the occupied habitat.

6. Skypilot (Polemonium meximium):

- a. Apply 100 foot buffer to all occupied habitat during flowering season
- b. No landing of aircraft, no concentrated activities on identified species occupied habitat.
- c. No concentrated live-fire where the impact zone is in identified species occupied habitat.
- d. Occurrences in mitigated or extended Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) are authorized.

7. Transit Corridor Sensitive Species (Lucky Boy Pass, Burcham Flat Road, Lobdell Lake Road, and Masonic Road):

- a. No concentrated or disturbance activities on known sensitive species locations. These areas will be flagged prior to activities.

D. AQUATIC SPECIES AND HABITATS

1. Fishing restrictions:

- a. Mill Creek and Silver Creek, which are occupied by Lahontan cutthroat trout, are closed to all fishing. Wolf Creek Lake is closed to fishing. All anglers, including military personnel, within the training center must have a valid state of California fishing license and be compliant with CDFW regulations when fishing open waters.

2. Critical Aquatic Refuges:

- b. Critical Aquatic Refuges (CARs) occur throughout the MCMWTC training areas as protected habitat in an effort to identify and protect populations of Yosemite toad (YT) (*Anaxyrus canorus*), Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (SNYLF) (*Rana sierrae*), and Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*). CARs provide recognition to areas with at risk populations of aquatic or semi-aquatic species.
- c. Concentrated and or ground disturbing activities within CARs should be avoided especially within 100ft of a wetland area and 100 meters from known LCT, YT, and SNYLF habitat.

a. Identified CARs include:

- a. Summit Meadows (5,100 acres) for SNYLF.
- b. Silver Creek (6,000 acres) area for SNYLF and LCT.
- c. Wolf Creek (3,200 acres) supports populations of YT, SNYLF and LCT.
- d. Mill Canyon (6,404 acres) supports LCT.
- e. Koenig Lake (1,990 acres) supports YT.

3. Lahontan cutthroat trout:

- a. Fishing is not allowed in Silver Creek, Wolf Creek or Mill Creek in compliance with CDFW regulations.
- b. No concentrated or ground disturbing activities within 100 meters of occupied LCT streams.
- c. No stream crossing by motorized vehicles of occupied streams.
- d. No wading or walking up and downstream within the stream channel in LCT occupied streams. Stream crossings are allowed for small groups (< 25 people); larger groups should cross at hardened areas that contain naturally occurring boulders or downed logs.
- e. No creation of rock/log dams that could impede in fish passage.

4. Yosemite toad habitat:

- a. No disturbance during breeding which occurs 1 May to 30 July.
- b. No concentrated activities in marshy areas or wetlands located in critical aquatic refuges – minimum 100 meters from known YT habitat.
- c. No concentrated or ground disturbing activities within 100 meters of streams, lakes, or meadows occupied by Yosemite toad or within proposed critical habitat.
- d. Areas proposed as designated Critical Habitat should be treated with the same prescription as CARs.
- e. At no time should any life stage of any amphibian species be consumed during survival exercises.
- f. Known locations of Occupied YT habitat include, upper and lower Sardine Meadow, Leavitt Lake, LZ Parrot, LZ Snowbird, and southwestern ponds in Summit Meadows.

5. Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog Habitat:

- a. No disturbance during breeding which occurs 1 May to 30 July.
- b. No concentrated activities in marshy areas or wetlands located in critical aquatic refuges – minimum 100 meters from known SNYLF habitat.
- c. No concentrated or ground disturbing activities within 100 meters of occupied streams, lakes, or meadows occupied by Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog or within proposed critical habitat.
- d. At no time should any life stage of any amphibian species be consumed during survival exercises.

E. STOCK USE, LIVESTOCK CONTROL AND RANGE RESOURCES

1. Stock Use:

a. Weed Free Forage Requirements. The MCMWTC will comply with the USFS Weed Free Forage Requirements, purchase only feed that is certified weed free and ensure that all pack animals are fed only feed that is certified weed free.

b. Livestock Control. The MCMWTC is responsible for the removal of cattle or horses occupying the National Forest System lands as a result of damage to fences by military training. The MCMWTC will repair to the USFS standards or pay for repair of fences damaged by military training. ‘

c. Range Resources:

(1) Grazing Allotments. The MCMWTC will avoid concentrating activities and noise-making activities (helicopter operations and pyrotechnics) near grazing animals.

(2) Pasture Fences. Fences will not be cut or removed by troops. Fences will be avoided by military vehicles. Pasture gates will be left as they were found, either closed or open.

(3) Sheep holding corrals south of Hwy 108 must be avoided at all times. Any damage to the corrals must be reported to the Environmental Section immediately.

F. HERITAGE RESOURCES

1. Site Discovery. Historical or archaeological sites discovered during operations in the training areas shall be reported to the MCMWTC Environmental Office and the USFS and evaluated for significance for potential inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

2. Site Protection. All sites plus 100 foot buffer on, or potentially eligible for inclusion on, the NRHP are off limits to military training activities and will be plainly described or physically protected on the ground as agreed to by both the MCMWTC and USFS.

G. WATER AND SOIL

- a. No waste or by-product will be discharged into water.
- b. Training units will stay 100 feet away from water sources for bivouac or human waste disposal. Protect and preserve soil and vegetative cover to the maximum extent possible.
- c. No driving will be conducted in wetlands and meadows, except on designated roads and designated crossing points.
- d. The MCMWTC will cross streams and wetlands and wet meadows in motorized vehicles only at approved locations. Institute erosion control in such disturbed areas mutually agreed upon by the USFS and the MCMWTC.
- e. Comply with all applicable Federal, state, and local water and air quality regulations.
- f. Utilize water subject to all existing water rights.
- g. Do not discharge waste or by-products on the ground or into water sources.
- h. All camp facilities will be at least 100 feet from trails, streams, and lakes.

H. TREES AND FUEL WOOD

- a. The MCMWTC will prevent unnecessary damage to forest tree seedlings, saplings, pole timber, and saw timber to the extent possible within authority of Federal laws.
- b. The MCMWTC will contact the USFS whenever timber is planned for removal from National Forest lands and the USFS, in coordination with the MCMWTC, will then determine the method of disposal.
- c. No cutting or clearing of any National Forest vegetation without prior specific approval of the USFS.

I. PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES

- a. The MCMWTC will not use pesticides/herbicides without the prior written approval of the USFS.
- b. Vehicles will be cleaned of vegetation matter prior to entering the training area to prevent the accidental introduction of Noxious and invasive weed species and the spread of annual invasive grasses.
- c. Requests for approval of planned uses of pesticides/herbicides will be submitted as needed by the MCMWTC prior to pesticide purchase or use.
- d. No pesticides or herbicides will be disposed of on National Forest lands.

J. LANDS AND VISUALS

1. Lands. The MCMWTC will preserve the continued existence of all public land monuments and boundary lines within the use area; reestablish or restore within their authority all public land monuments or boundary lines disturbed or destroyed by military use; and aid the USFS in determining, constructing and maintaining property corners and lines common to lands administered by each agency.

2. Visuals. The MCMWTC will use the National Forest in ways consistent with protecting its scenic and aesthetic values.

K. FIRE AND FUELS

Fire Restrictions will void the use of incendiary devices, ordnance, explosives, live tracer ammunition, pyrotechnics and campfires. A Deviation to a Fire Closure Order and/or a Fire Restriction Order may be requested and obtained from the HTNF Supervisor on a case-by case basis.

L. RECREATION

- a. No military training will occur on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT).
- b. No motorized vehicles are allowed to drive on or cross PCT.
- c. Vehicles are permitted only on designated motorized trails per MVUM:
- d. No motorized vehicles on non-motorized trails or off motorized trails (Use of motorized vehicle off designated roads or motorized trails is prohibited).
- e. Civilians have the right-of-way on designated USFS roads
- f. Civilians found in nomadic camp sites have the right-of-way

M. TRASH CLEAN UP

- a. The MCMWTC will conduct a trash cleanup (Mountain Sweep) twice per year after the snow melt (spring and fall).
- b. The MCMWTC will conduct a Mountain Sweep after every Mountain Exercise; MCMWTC staff and the training unit will follow the training path and pick up all visible trash.
- c. The MCMWTC will conduct a weekly Mountain Sweep after snow melt begins, and will continue to monitor for trash until MCMWTC Range Control and Environmental clear the areas.
- d. The MCMWTC will conduct Mountain Sweep in TA's 10 and 11 and Upper Sardine Meadows (TA-9), only after concurrence is received by the USFWS and the USFS. A small Marine working party and Biological Opinion (MCMWTC Environmental or USFS Staff) would be dispatched to Police call the training areas as the snow level decreases.
- e. The importance of trash cleanup and "Leave No Trace" procedures as outlined above are included as part of the brief given to new student's onboarding at the MCMWTC.

Swift Water Rescue Training restricted areas:

