

Protecting Cultural Resources During Off-Post Training

IN 1949, the US Army deeded the Sand Hills Wildlife Management Area to the state of North Carolina. However, the Army retained maneuver rights and continues to train personnel off-post in the Sand Hills Wildlife Management Area. Because federal law requires the protection of historic and archeological resources on state and federal owned lands or on land involving federally funded activities, the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg are obligated to treat the Sand Hills Wildlife Management Area as federal land for purposes of protecting cultural resources.

Excavating or destroying antiquities on federal lands without permission is illegal. In order to protect prehistoric and historic sites from being disturbed or destroyed in the Sand Hills Wildlife Management Area, all ground-disturbing activities must be assessed and cleared by Fort Bragg's Cultural Resources Manager before training/project begins.

This SOP provides the rational and codifies the steps necessary to protect cultural resources on off-post lands used for training.

Policy

Policy for this SOP is provided for by XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg Reg 350-6, AR 200-3, and AR 200-4.

Many cultural resources are documented on off-post training lands and may have signs and are off-limits to training. Specific sites may not be identified in the field to protect them from serious threat.

All foxholes and field fortifications constructed in the Wildlife Area will be filled prior to departure of units. All trash and garbage will be removed from the Wildlife Area. Nothing will be buried; nothing will be burned.

Part 2: Standing Operating Procedures

Relic hunting is prohibited. If artifacts are discovered during training exercises, record the location, and as soon as possible, notify the Cultural Resource Manager, 396-6680. **Do not remove any artifacts.**

Use of metal detectors is prohibited for safety reasons and in order to preserve all archeological sites protected under the ARPA, AR 200-4, and XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg Reg 350-6.

Procedure

In order to protect sites from being disturbed or destroyed, all ground-disturbing activities must be assessed and cleared by Fort Bragg's Cultural Resources Manager before training/project begins.

Requests for use of training areas at North Carolina Sandhills Wildlife Management Area will be submitted to the Installation Range Officer IAW the provisions of XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg Reg 350-6(3).

Using Range Control Form, Environmental Coordination For Field Training, requests for use of the Sandhills Wildlife Management Area must be submitted to Fort Bragg's Cultural Resources Manager four weeks in advance in order to provide sufficient time to assess and clear training areas of cultural resources.

The Installation Range Officer is the final approving authority for the use of the training areas IAW of XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg Reg 350-6(1.3(b)).