

# Cultural Resource Coordination of Military Training Requests

## Objective

**T**HE OBJECTIVE of cultural resource coordination of military training is to maintain Fort Bragg's compliance with federal regulations protecting historic properties while facilitating military readiness. Pursuant to Sections 106 and 110 of the NHPA (36 CFR 800) and Army Regulation 200-4, the Fort Bragg CRP fulfills regulatory requirements by ensuring the systematic identification, documentation and protection of archeological sites or other historic properties that may be affected by military training on Fort Bragg or Camp Mackall. Coordination efforts in this regard may include intensive cultural resources survey of training land prior to military training, verification of the surveyed status of training land, or protective measures enacted to facilitate training while ensuring federally protected historic properties are not impacted.

## Applicability

This SOP is applicable to all units assigned to Fort Bragg as well as tenant units and off-post units conducting training at Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall. These units include USAF, USMC, USARNG, USAR, and ROTC.

Fort Bragg Range Regulation 350-6 deals directly with cultural resources review of military training requests. All training activities that involve mechanical excavation or that may affect archeological sites, historic districts, or historic structures must be reviewed to ensure protection of cultural resources (350-6.3-3c).

This SOP is applicable to all training conducted in or on fixed ranges, observation points, fire and maneuver courses, non-firing training

facilities, lettered training areas, and recreational and picnic areas located within Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall training land. This SOP is not applicable to activities occurring within impact areas, though training activities in the buffer zones of impact areas may be included at the discretion of the CRP manager.

This SOP is applicable to all training conducted in the Sandhills Wildlife Management Area (Sandhills Gamelands) with certain exceptions under CRP responsibilities (see 8.4).

## Review Process

Per Fort Bragg Range Regulation 350-6, all military training requests are to be submitted to Range Control (396-7971) at least six weeks prior to scheduled training. Requests are submitted on standardized forms providing basic information on the tactical exercise:

1. Unit name.
2. Physical location of exercise by a minimum 8 digit PU grid coordinate.
3. Date and duration of exercise.
4. Scope of activity, to include spatial extent of activities, all ground-disturbing activities, etc.
5. POC name and telephone number.
6. Range Control distributes training requests to ENRD (6-8207/6-6680) for environmental review. Requests should be received by the CRP no later than two weeks prior to scheduled training. CRP staff review the training request and respond directly to Range Control.

## Responsibilities of the Cultural Resources Program

Upon review of training requests, CRP is responsible for a timely response to Range Control and for consideration of the potential effect of the training activity on historic properties, per Section 106 of the NHPA (36 CFR 800). One of several courses of action will be taken by the CRP.

1. If the training request falls within previously inventoried training land but no protected historic properties are present, Range Control is notified of a finding of no effect.
2. If the training request falls within previously inventoried training land in the general vicinity, i.e., less than 1 km, of a protected historic property, Range Control is notified of the sensitive site location. CRP staff ensure the boundary of the site is adequately marked with signs prohibiting ground disturbance.
3. If the training exercise is located adjacent to or encompasses at least a portion of a protected historic property, Range Control will be notified of the potential for an adverse effect and recommendation for relocation of the exercise will be made.
4. If the proposed training exercise cannot be relocated and an adverse effect cannot be avoided, the CRP will initiate consultation with the NC SHPO per 36 CFR 800. Such consultation may cause lengthy delays on military training.
5. If the training request falls within uninventoried training land, CRP staff will attempt to conduct a survey to inventory archeological sites and other historic properties in the area of impact. This will be facilitated by direct reconnaissance and coordination with the military unit POC to delineate the area of potential impact from ground disturbance. An intensive survey will be conducted per Fort Bragg Cultural Resources SOP for archeological survey. In accordance with available time and labor resources, the survey will cover as broad an area as possible. Given time and resource constraints, the survey may focus on individual areas to be directly impacted by ground disturbance. If no historic properties considered eligible or potentially eligible are identified in the survey, Range Control will be notified of a finding of no effect. If a potentially eligible or eligible historic property is identified in the project area, Range Control will be notified of the potential for an adverse effect and recommendation for relocation of the exercise will be made.
6. Upon discovery of a new archeological site or other historic property or a revisit of a known historic property, a NC state site form will be completed and submitted to the NC SHPO. A formal technical report detailing the findings of archeological surveys will be submitted to the NC SHPO annually.
7. If the training request falls within the Sandhills Wildlife Management Area a survey will be conducted by CRP staff. Upon discovery of a new archeological site or other historic

property or a revisit of a known site in the Sandhills Wildlife Management Area, notes, photographs and other records will be taken, but artifacts will not be collected on state owned land. A NC state site form will be completed and submitted to the NC SHPO, and recommendations will be made regarding site eligibility for listing on the NRHP and future work at the site. If no historic properties considered eligible or potentially eligible are identified in the survey, Range Control will be notified of a finding of no effect. If a potentially eligible or eligible historic property is identified in the project area, Range Control will be notified of the potential for an adverse effect and recommendation for relocation of the exercise will be made.

8. The CRP will maintain a file with documentation of each military training request reviewed. Correspondence, forms, maps, field notes, photographs, etc., will be maintained and curated at the Fort Bragg Curation Facility. Those reviews that require an archeological survey will be assigned individual project numbers, organized by calendar year.

If the proposed training is modified subsequent to the initiation of the Cultural Resources review process, the modified request must be reviewed separately.

## Emergency Requests and Large Scale Training Exercises

In the event of emergency requests or large-scale exercises, e.g., Joint Task Force Exercise, the CRP will make every attempt to facilitate training while ensuring protection of historic properties. Survey methods may be modified to accommodate the need for expediency. Areas deemed to be high probability for archeological sites will be recommended as off-limits and surface collection of exposed areas and non-systematic, selective shovel testing will take priority in survey. Sites documented through these methods will be protected but will require additional testing and delineation before a determination of eligibility is made.