



# ENCROACHMENT

## WHAT IS ENCROACHMENT?

Section 320 of the Fiscal Year 2004 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) requires the Secretary of Defense to study the impact of encroachment and report results each January. Eight standard encroachment factors are reported including:

- Air Quality Regulation Areas
- Cultural Resources Sites
- FAA Regulated Airspace
- Flora and Fauna Critical Habitat
- Threatened/Endangered Species
- Noise Pollution Area
- Spectrum Areas
- Wetland Areas

### For more information

U.S. Army Environmental Command  
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**T**he accessibility and availability of installation range and training lands is crucial to meet current and future Army training requirements. The Army has more than 10 million acres of land to train Soldiers, but some ranges and training lands are not available due to restrictions that can inhibit training activities and potentially impact readiness. These impacts are referred to as encroachment.

Three types of training restrictions exist: regulatory, stewardship, and management.

**Regulatory** training restrictions are binding limitations on training activities regarding training intensity or timing/duration imposed by federal, state, or local agencies based on legal or policy requirements or by agreements with these authorities.

**Stewardship** training restrictions are those restrictions imposed by installation/garrison commanders to protect against future, more stringent regulatory requirements or to demonstrate commitment to conservation or other environmental sustainment principles.

**Management** training restrictions are those restrictions imposed by installation/garrison commanders for installation management purposes including safety, agricultural/grazing leases, forestry, or other environmental management considerations.

Natural constraints such as topography and hydrology are not considered training restrictions as long as they do not have associated regulatory, stewardship, or management restrictions. Additionally, range/training land maintenance, normal rest and recovery, or facilities maintenance requirements are not considered training restrictions.

The U.S. Army Environmental Command (USAEC), in coordination with Headquarters, Department of the Army Operations (G3), developed a methodology for identifying and measuring the Army's restrictions to training and testing known as the Encroachment Condition Module (ECM). This methodology combines environmental, operational range, and other installation geospatial data to provide measures of encroachment in terms of training restrictions.

The ECM analysis is based on geospatial data layers that identify training restrictions using a geographic information system to analyze the number of restricted acres by facility type, reason and specific restriction, providing a reliable, repeatable, and objective methodology that offers both visual and tabular data outputs.

In May 2008, USAEC completed initial data collection for 59 installations. In 2009, the USAEC will oversee the collection of 13 environmental data layers at 45 installations to update the ECM database.