Integrated Training Area Management

Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM), a component of the Sustainable Range Program (SRP), is a key part of the Army's commitment toward realistic training areas. ITAM is a core component of the Sustainable Range Program (SRP) and is responsible for maintaining training land to help the Army meet its training requirements. The purpose of the Army's ITAM program is to achieve optimum sustainable use of training lands by implementing a uniform program that includes:

- Land Rehabilitation And Maintenance (LRAM)
- Range Training and Land Assessment (RTLA)
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Training Requirements Integration (TRI)
- Sustainable Range Awareness (SRA)

ITAM exists to ensure that the Army can continue to train and produce forces of the highest quality - able to deploy rapidly, to fight, to sustain themselves, and to win quickly with minimum casualties.

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Land Rehabilitation and Management

Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance (LRAM) is a preventive and corrective land management program that reduces the long-term impacts of training on our installation. LRAM includes training area redesign and/or reconfiguration to meet training requirements.

The LRAM objectives are to implement improvements and repairs of disturbed land, improve vegetation cover and concealment for training activities, and repair other landscape damage for safety and continued availability of land for training. These objectives are met through the use of technologies such as revegetation and erosion control techniques.

Additionally, rehabilitation through rest, offers an inexpensive means to repair training area at Fort Devens These training areas are not to be scheduled and are off limits to training activities (see Siebert Stakes).

Stormwater damage

Stormwater Repair

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Range and Training Land Assessment

Range and Training Land Assessment (RTLA) provides for the collection, analysis, and monitoring of installation training and testing areas. The primary purpose of the RTLA component is to provide accurate insightful information and recommendations to the range managers and trainers based on the land's condition. The land's condition is the basis for decisions regarding training intensity and land rehabilitation requirements for a specific parcel of land.

Training Requirements Integration

Training Requirements Integration (TRI) combines the current and projected training and mission requirements with the environmental conditions of training and testing lands. The successful implementation of TRI provides the means for an installation to:

- Accurately predict the impacts of land-based usage; understand risks associated with land-use; and make informed decisions that minimize environmental or ecological damage from training and testing events.

The major objective of the TRI component is to guarantee accessibility to adequate training lands and ensure combat readiness of troops. Other TRI objectives are to provide military trainers and land managers with the necessary technical and analytical information to:

- Integrate the art and science of doctrinally based training with land constraints; and
- Quantify the carrying capacity of training lands.

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Geographic Information Systems

The ITAM GIS component provides cartographic support and administers geospatial data for range and military units both on- and off-post. The primary cartographic function includes the development, production, and distribution of standard installation map products. The secondary cartographic function is to provide geospatial analyses to assist in the planning and layout of downrange facilities, utilities, and military operation areas.

Sustainable Range Awareness

Sustainable Range Awareness (SRA) provides a means to develop and distribute educational materials related to sound environmental stewardship of natural and cultural resources. The intent of the SRA program at Fort Devens is to inform tactical units, leaders, and soldiers of current restrictions, and activities to avoid, to prevent excessive damage to our training lands.

When land users practice environmental stewardship in the field, they are also achieving Army mission objectives. The SRA program provides the land users with an understanding of how mission, training, testing, and other activities impact the land's capacity for sustaining a realistic training environment. Being aware of and practicing simple procedures like policing training areas and avoiding unnecessary maneuver damage is a component of sound stewardship and eliminates evidence of your presence.

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Completed Projects- Highlights

- Since 2009, Fort Devens ITAM Coordinator has completed projects in every training area, including underbrush removal for improved maneuver and bivouacking, removal of trail vegetation and surficial improvements for increased safety in mounted maneuvers. This has allow for increased safety, mobility, and training opportunities for soldiers.
    - Repaired over 200 acres of training area
    - Repaired over 40 miles of maneuver trails

- Creation of SRA field cards providing installation specific training information, which are available from Range Control or the ITAM Coordinator.

- Constructed a road network to provide realism to the MOUT site.

- Provided training opportunities for engineer units- if your unit would be interested , contact the ITAM Coordinator.

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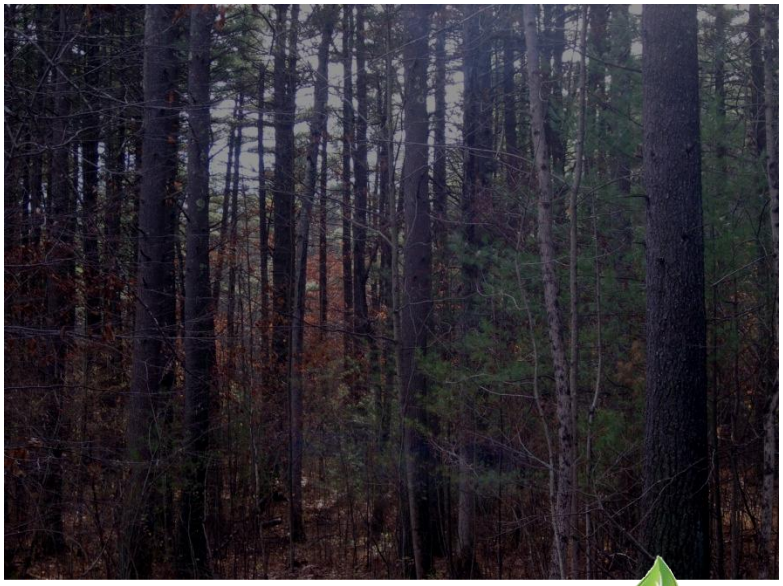
Future Projects

- Improve mounted and dismounted maneuvers by trimming tree canopies, trailside vegetation and underbrush over 75 acres and construct a new 500 meter maneuver trail in TA09 in FY12.

- Improve mounted and dismounted maneuvers by trimming tree canopies, trailside vegetation and underbrush and repair maneuver trails in over 75 acres TA07 and TA15 in FY13.



- Assess all training areas to record data on multiple ecological attributes such as vegetation types and density , canopy cover, and soil parameters. The data collected will be geo-referenced to gain greater vision of the status of our training land and allow us to make greater decisions regarding training land maintenance.

- Conduct an hydrology assessment to improve the effectiveness of future LRAM projects, and determine proper placement for culverts or drainage to prevent flooding damage within training areas without detriment to the hydrologic conditions.

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