



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, FORT DEVENS
31 QUEBEC STREET
FORT DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS 01434-4424

IMNE-DEV-ZA

22 October 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR GARRISON DIRECTORATES AND SUPPORTED
ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Instruction (MOI) for the 2010-2011 Hunting Seasons

1. References:

- a. AR 200-3, Natural Resources Management.
- b. Fort Devens Regulation 350-2, Training Regulation, 15 May 2009.
- c. MGL, CH 131 and CMR 321, as modified for 2010.
- d. MGL, CH 21, Section 17C.
- e. Federal Migratory Bird Regulations; Title 50, CFR Sec. 20.
- f. PL 99-561, as amended (Sykes Act).

2. Purpose: To coordinate efforts for the 2010 - 2011 hunting seasons on Fort Devens.

3. Scope: Applies to employees of the directorates on the distribution list.

4. Proposed Activities: This MOI applies to the CY 2010 autumn hunting season access periods and to the Spring turkey season access periods in CY 2011.

a. Fall - Hunting will be authorized on South Post for 18 days between 25 October and 20 December 2010. The enclosed proposed schedule will provide access to training areas on a space available basis, subject to military training requirements and changes in Threat Condition. All participants will register at a check station located in the Range Control Office, Bldg. 4217A details contained in the references cited in paragraph 1. The optimum number of hunters allowed down range at one time is 50. Members of the military community have favored access status during the public hunting periods.

b. The Fall program includes two special activities in cooperation with the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife - the Paraplegic Sportsmen's deer hunt (28-30 October 2010) and the Outdoors Woman deer hunt (4 December 2010).

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c. Special access rules apply for members of the military community during deer seasons. This outdoor recreational category includes all Active Duty, Reserve Component Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, DoD civilian employees and military retirees. A hunter with current military identification cards may bring dependent family member (spouse, child) and/or a maximum of one civilian guest. The service member, employee or retiree is directly responsible for the actions and activities of all members of their hunting party.

d. Spring - Spring turkey hunting is authorized on approximately twenty dates between 25 April and 20 May 2011. Final disposition of open dates depends on military training schedules during this time period. This hunting activity is restricted to military personnel, military retirees and DoD civilians. Those wishing to hunt turkey during the Spring season must participate in a random number generated lottery. The lottery will pick the participants and will also assign a hunting date to the chosen individuals. Each approved participant can bring one guest hunting partner.

e. Nothing in this MOI exempts any member of the general public or any member of the military community from Massachusetts sport licensing or weapon permit laws and regulations. All individuals wishing access for hunting purposes must register and sign a liability waiver.

5. General Information.

a. Hunting on Fort Devens will be governed by the provisions of this MOI and with other applicable laws and regulations published by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the federal government.

b. Hunting, as used here, refers to taking or attempting to take animals by the use of a firearm or a bow and arrow. Persons who hunt on Fort Devens must obtain permission by submitting a completed registration form for the purpose of pursuing these activities and sign a liability release statement prior to engaging in these activities.

6. Program Objectives.

a. To harvest surplus fish, game and fur-bearing animals while maintaining species populations compatible with existing habitat.

b. To ensure minimal conflicts between animal populations and the military mission, public health and public safety.

c. To provide, on an equitable basis, a high quality recreational outlet.

d. To regulate the conduct of those who hunt on Fort Devens.

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7. Responsibilities.

a. The Directorate of Plans and Training (DPT) will:

(1) Provide space for a check station at Range Control.

(2) Provide up-to-date training schedules.

(3) Ensure the Range Control Officer (RCO) assist the Natural Resources Officer (NRO) in the hunter access control process in conjunction with other Range Control duties, as time and manpower allow.

(4) Coordinate with DOD Police, Massachusetts Environmental Police and State Police for law enforcement support or other emergency services as required.

b. The Directorate of Public Works (DPW), Natural Resources Officer will:

(1) Assume overall responsibility for the program.

(2) Provide forms, documents and permits to administer the program.

(3) Maintain access records and biological data.

(4) Maintain updates of access information for hunters.

(5) Coordinate with Public Affairs Office (PAO) for press releases about the program.

(6) Coordinate with webmaster to create a website link for hunting season information.

(7) Assist Range Control in the hunter access control process.

8. Access Administration.

a. Licenses. All persons 15 years of age or older desiring to hunt on Fort Devens must possess a valid Massachusetts hunting or sporting license, plus any additional valid stamps, permits and tags required by state and federal laws to hunt particular species or sexes of animals. These include, but are not limited to, state and federal migratory bird stamps, antlerless deer permits, deer carcass tags, archery stamps and primitive arms stamps.

b. Hunter Safety Requirements. Each person desiring to hunt on Fort Devens must present proof of completion of a hunter safety or hunter education course in Massachusetts or any equivalent course accepted by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

c. Installation Permits. Individual hunters desiring to hunt on Fort Devens must complete and sign a Hunter Registration Card prior to entering the installation for hunting purposes only. The hunter will be assigned a registration number for the calendar year and will bring a copy of this each time when checking in and out of the South Post training areas. All registered hunters must obtain a Daily Hunting Permit at the Hunter Check Station prior to entering the installation for the purpose of hunting and return the permit when changing areas or leaving the installation. The Outdoors Woman hunters and Paraplegic Hunt participants will enter and leave as identified on a special activity roster prepared by the NRO. Special activity participants are recruited and screened by the Massachusetts Division of Wildlife and Fisheries. Participating landowner liability is reduced under MGL, CH 17C.

d. Minors.

(1) Under 12 years of age. Minors in this category are prohibited from hunting or accompanying a hunter on Fort Devens.

(2) Ages 12 through 14. Minors in this category are not required to have a state license, but must obtain a Daily Hunting Pass and be accompanied by a licensed responsible adult, 21 years of age or older. They will observe a single bag limit and possess a single weapon between both adult and minor.

(3) Ages 15 through 17. Minors in this category must possess a minor's state hunting license, complete a Hunter Registration Card (signed by a parent/guardian) and obtain a Daily Hunting Pass. They will be accompanied by a responsible adult; are entitled to normal bag limits and are authorized possession of a legal weapon. Minors aged 15 through 17 possessing a valid state hunter safety certificate and state hunting license may hunt without the direct supervision of a responsible adult, but that adult is directly responsible for the actions of the minor while on U.S. Army property.

(4) Only one minor, as described in (2) and (3) above, is authorized to accompany a licensed adult.

9. Seasons and Bag Limits.

a. Small Game Season. Small game hunting dates will be determined each calendar year to accommodate military training schedules and to meet planned biological objectives. This timeframe allows access for hunters to pursue birds and small mammals IAW state and federal seasons, bag limits and methods of take. Fort Devens lies within the Massachusetts Central Waterfowl Hunting Zone.

b. Big Game. Whitetail deer and bear are the only legal species of big game on Fort Devens. Big game hunting dates falling within the framework of state open seasons will be determined each calendar year to accommodate military training schedules and to meet planned biological objectives. Deer hunters are allowed entry on a first-come, first-served basis, with military personnel possessing favorable access.

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c. Turkey hunters and hunting dates are assigned by lottery. One hunting party (2-person maximum) per date will be allowed access during Spring turkey season.

d. Bag Limits. Hunting bag limits on Fort Devens are those prescribed by state and federal regulations, unless otherwise restricted to meet planned biological objectives.

10. Assignment of Hunting Areas: Persons hunting on Fort Devens will be issued a hunting pass for a designated training area and will hunt only in that specified area. If the person desires to change areas, they will return to the Hunter Check Station at Range Control, Bldg 4217A to check out of the currently assigned area and check into a new area. Upon completion of hunting, all hunters must check out at the Hunter Check Station for the purpose of personnel accountability and to record harvest data. Failure to check out at the end of the day will result in the loss of hunting privileges on Fort Devens.

11. Limitations.

a. All upland game hunters must wear "hunter orange" headgear while hunting on Fort Devens. Hunters pursuing deer during the shotgun and primitive arms seasons must conform to state regulations for safety clothing. Waterfowl hunters hunting within a blind or watercraft, archers hunting deer during the archery deer season and turkey hunters are exempt from this requirement.

b. Shotguns not larger than 10 gauge or smaller than 20 gauge and muzzle loading weapons approved by state regulations for deer hunting are the only firearms approved for possession and use by hunters on Fort Devens.

c. The only shotgun ammunition authorized for taking deer during the shotgun deer season are single projectile (slug) shotgun shells, with or without sabot technology. The use or possession of buckshot is prohibited.

d. The magazine of all repeating shotguns used for any hunting purpose on Fort Devens will be "plugged" to ensure a maximum capacity of rounds.

e. Possession or discharge of shells loaded with lead pellets larger than size or non-toxic pellets larger than size F is prohibited. Except during the open shotgun season for deer, possession or discharge of shotgun shells loaded with a single projectile is prohibited.

f. The use or possession of alcoholic beverages and controlled drugs anywhere within South Post is prohibited. Fort Devens will suspend all hunting privileges indefinitely for the entire hunting party if an individual within a party is discovered with any of these substances. Law Enforcement will respond if controlled drug possession or use is reasonably suspected within a hunting party.

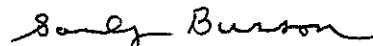
g. Discharging a firearm when standing or traveling on any paved road or highway is prohibited.

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- h. Discharge of a firearm across any paved road or highway is prohibited.
- i. Hunting or discharge of a firearm within any impact area or training area closed to hunting or within the bounds of a posted safety zone, is prohibited. Contact Range Control if a wounded animal enters the impact area. Driving a vehicle on roads barred by closed access gates or barriers is prohibited.
- j. Discharge of a firearm or bow from a vehicle is prohibited.
- k. Transportation or storage of a loaded firearm or a bow with a nocked arrow in or on any motorized conveyance is prohibited.
- l. The Daily Hunting Permit must be carried by the hunter while on Fort Devens and must be turned in at the Check Station when changing areas or leaving the installation.
- m. Construction of elevated (tree) stands or below ground (pit) blinds is prohibited. Portable tree stands and portable ground blinds are authorized. All stands and blinds must be legibly marked with the owner's name. Screw-in tree steps are allowed, but ladders and strap-on tree steps are preferred. All stands and blinds must be removed at the end of each respective deer season. Use of a stand or blind without the owner's permission is prohibited. All cutting, trimming or removal of live vegetation is limited to clearance of narrow (less than 2 meters wide) shooting lanes within 50 meters of a stand.
- n. Violation of restrictions and requirements not detailed in this MOI and referenced regulations that are posted at the Hunter Check Station or added to other administrative documents, is prohibited.

12. The primary point of contact is Mr. Thomas M. Poole, DPW Natural Resources Officer, 978-796-2747 or e-mail Thomas.poole1@us.army.mil.



Administrative Assistant

For:
WARREN F. BACOTE
LTC, MP, USA
Commanding

Encl

DISTRIBUTION:
A, B

Hunting Schedule

Massachusetts's game laws for seasons, licenses and bag limits apply to Fort Devens. Installation regulations and SOPs control access to the hunting area. Most Saturdays and some Fridays are scheduled for training. Sunday hunting is not allowed in Massachusetts. Range Control will be open for hunter registration during the following dates and times:

Open to the General Public

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Times*</u>	<u>Emphasis</u>
25-27 Oct	0630 - 1500	Small Game
1-5 Nov	0630 - 1500	Small Game
29 Nov	0600 - 1800	Deer (Shotgun)
13 & 15 Dec	0600 - 1700	Deer (Muzzleloader)
20 Dec	0600 - 1700	"

Not Open to the General Public

28-30 Oct	0600 - 1800	Paraplegic Sportsmen's Hunt**
01 Dec	0600 - 1500	Military, Family and Guest
04 Dec	0600 - 1800	Deer (BOW Hunt)***

*Times are approximate. Access times may be extended at the discretion of the Range Control Officer.

**This is a special deer season, limited to hunters medically certified as mobility impaired. Mass Wild Life provides special licenses for the participants. Non-hunting volunteers provide assistance. Several of the individuals who participate in these nation-wide activities are disabled veterans. See reference 1.f for DOD guidance.

***BOW = Becoming-an-Outdoors-Woman is a program sponsored by Mass Wild Life that encourages women to participate in outdoor pastimes such as hunting, fishing and camping. This one-day deer hunt would be conducted in cooperation with the Mass Wild Life Information and Education staff in a similar manner as the BOW spring turkey hunts. These activities have recurred on Fort Devens since CY 1999.