



Defence
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**Salisbury Plain Training Area
Newsletter
May 2016**

www.gov.uk/government/publications/salisbury-plain-training-area-spta-newsletter

This Newsletter can be found at the above link

The DIO runs a Twitter account for news and updates on the Salisbury Plain Training Area using the Twitter hashtag #modonthepain. This account now has over 2800 followers. If you'd like to follow us go to: www.twitter.com/mod_dio

May 2016 Newsletter

The major training event on Salisbury Plain during the month of May will be the European Union Battle Group Certification Exercise taking place 2 – 20 May across all areas of the Plain. The Battle Group is based on 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment with European force elements drawn from Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden and Finland totalling some 2000 troops. The force is primarily equipped with light role wheeled vehicles and, with the exception of a squadron of CVRT reconnaissance tanks and an armoured recovery company will be the only troops exercising on the area during this period. In the last week of May the Plain will host the Royal Artillery Review marking the 300th anniversary of the Royal Artillery. The event will take place at Knighton Down and will involve an artillery live firing demonstration (this event is a ticketed event). Other activity during this week will include Challenger 2 tank squadron and CVRT sub-units training in the West and East of the Plain together with a Royal Netherlands Marine Corps joint force exercise.

Use of Civilian Drones, UAVs and Model Aircrafts on SPTA.

SPTA airspace is heavily used by military aircraft and UAVs and no unauthorised use of its airspace is to take place under any circumstances. Over the last three months we have encountered unauthorised flying by a paramotorist in the area between Shrewton and Tilshead, an individual flying a hang-glider over the impact area in the centre of Salisbury Plain and an individual flying his/her UAV in the area between Tilshead and Warminster; all three actions break the Salisbury Plain Military Byelaws 1981 and could have resulted in loss of life.

Every effort is being made to ensure that these occurrences are not repeated in the future.

Related News

[Sanctuary Magazine celebrates 40 years](#)

Related Links

Gov.uk/DIO

A leaflet on public access to Imber is available online and should be read in advance of any visit:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/435909/Imber_A5_Leaflet-final_Online_version.pdf

Information about low flying is available from the MOD Low Flying Advisory Service (0845 600 7580) or on line at www.gov.uk/low-flying-in-your-area .

Artillery Live Firing Days from Areas NIL

Artillery Live Firing days on Salisbury Plain (East) NIL

Late firing on Larkhill/Westdown Danger Area: 03th, 05th, 07th, 10th, 12th, 14th, 17th, 19th, 24th, 26th, and 31st May 2016

Non-firing days on Larkhill/Westdown Danger Area: 01st, 02nd, 21st, 22nd, 28th, 29th, 30th May 2016

Non firing days on Bulford Ranges: 01st, 02nd, 07th, 08th, 21st, 22nd, 28th, 29th, 30th May 2016

Note:

Complaints/Enquiries should be made to 01980 620819.

NOISE MANAGEMENT

General. The MoD takes all complaints very seriously and do much to mitigate where possible. Most complaints from members of the public from around Salisbury Plain Training Area are concerning impulse noise generated from the detonation of the 155mm High Explosive shell, and gun noise from the AS90 artillery weapon system.

Noise Limits. All ranges have been directed to ensure that no impulse noise greater than 130dB is heard outside the range boundary in populated areas or on main routes.

Noise Prediction. Gunfire noise is predicted using the Gunfire Noise Analysis Tool (GNAT) and traces from the Met Office Noise Evaluation Tool (MONET) at Larkhill Met Office.

Noise Measurement. Range Operations monitors noise from both the guns and the impact area using fixed microphones linked to the Gunfire Noise Assessment Tool (GNAT) computer in Westdown Camp and staff may deploy with hand-held noise monitors.

Countering Excessive Noise. In the event that the 130dB limit could be exceeded, Range Operations have a number of control measures that can be activated to ensure the requirement is adhered to; including stopping firing.

Upcoming Major Exercises. During large exercises, access may be restricted on Larkhill Ranges and in the Chitterne – Shrewton – Tilshead Triangle north of the B390.

ACCESS

Access to SPTA is regulated by Salisbury Plain Military Lands, Bulford, Larkhill and Imber Range Byelaws. Always comply with local signs and flags. Rights of way in Range Danger Areas are closed when red flags are flying.

This Newsletter is published up to 6 weeks before the event and changes may occur. Access timings for the next week can be found on the SPTA Walks Line: (01980) 67 4763.

Imber Ranges. The public are excluded except when the roads are specifically opened. Planned open dates for 2016 are as follows:

Event	Open	Closed
Easter	1800hrs Thur 24 Mar 16	0800hrs Tue 29 Mar 16
Summer	1800hrs Fri 12 Aug 16	0800hrs Mon 5 Sep 16
Remembrance Sunday	1800hrs Fri 11 Nov 16	0800hrs Mon 14 Nov 16

1. Even when roads are open the village and buildings remain out of bounds to the public.
2. Dates may change if operational training needs dictate.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REDUCE CRIME ON SALISBURY PLAIN?

If any crime is taking place call 999, (or 101) and do not under any circumstances challenge the offenders.

Report suspicious activity to PLAINWATCH (01980 674700) or PLAINWATCH@landmarc.mod.uk. The more information received the better, e.g. time, place, vehicle registration, description of individuals and vehicles.

Health and Safety reminder for *all* Military Training Areas and Ranges:

- Do not touch or tamper with Military debris.
- Wash your hands before you eat.
- Clean your footwear before you enter your car or home.

Mike Hetherington
WO2 (CSM)
for
Senior Training Safety Officer Salisbury Plain