ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Important information to all participants
Purpose

This folder provides guidance and directions for Environmental Protection (EP) to all units participating in the exercise.

References

This folder is based upon:
- Norwegian laws and regulations
- Directives regulating exercise activity in Norway
- Environmental Protection Instructions

Background

Norway as Host Nation (HN) uses the Requisition Law to be able to use civilian ground - this gives the possibility to exercise in civilian areas as well as military training areas. This law gives the right to exercise in the area, not immunity from any other Norwegian law.

By: Norwegian Joint Headquarters, major Be.
**Implementation**

EP will take precedence over exercise needs. Should there be a conflict between HN standards and Troop Contributing Nations’ (TCNs) / NATO standards, then the most stringent rules and regulations shall take precedence. The final authority concerning any EP issues is the HN. All HN regulations and NATO policies and doctrine will be applied. Failure to meet the HN EP regulations will have legal and fiscal consequences for the offender.

**Responsibility**

When conducting military activities, all participants and units have a collective responsibility for the protection of the environment. Each nation bears the ultimate responsibility for the actions of its own forces. Participating HQs and Component Commands are responsible to coordinate and execute the EP effort within their respective commands.

**The commander**

All commanders must ensure that their staffs take environmental issues and concerns into consideration during the planning of operations. Commanders at all levels shall ensure that their unit comply with laws, regulations, directives and instructions. Commanders shall provide appropriate environmental protection education and training for their own unit.

**Handling of damages and complaints**

Complaints, claims and damages must be handled in a proper way. Regarding complaints it’s important to listen to the civilian with respect (we are often using their area). Reports about claims and damages shall be reported to the Environmental Protection Officer (EPO) in the area.

In connection with large combined joint exercises (like Cold Response and Joint Viking) a Damage and EP office (D&EP) will be established from Norwegian Joint HQ (NJHQ). Reports about complaints, claims and damages on these exercises shall be reported to this office.

Legal advice, if necessary, will be sought through respective Legal Advisors (LEGADs). Ultimately, damages and resulting claims will be handled according to NATO SOFA (Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty Regarding the Status of their Forces).
Environmental studies

In the interest of mitigating financial risk for all participating forces (including HQs), sites should be returned in the same or better physical and environmental condition as when first occupied.

The NATO standard Environmental Baseline and Closeout Studies (EBS/ECS) document site conditions before and after occupation, respectively (STANAG 6500 NATO Camp Environmental File during NATO-led Operations).

At a minimum, taking photographs and filling out the Environmental Study template before and after occupation satisfies this requirement. For sites involving ground preparation, an EBS report with soil and groundwater sampling is advised.

NJHQ D&EP Complaints and Damage phone:

0047 - 400 38 526

Call for complaints, claims and damages.

Fire department:

110

Call if immediate action is required to handle oil or fuel pollution.

Army Environmental Protection Officers (EPO):

Setermoen area  0047 - 970 48 093
Bardufoss area  0047 - 905 67 255
Skjold area     0047 - 970 48 153
Rena area       0047 - 950 37 524
Reporting of incidents and damages

All EP incidents must be reported to HN Environmental Protection Officers (EPO) or D&EP Office ASAP. Reports must, at a minimum, contain the following information:

- **Name, unit and phone number.**
- **Incident location.** Address and six-figure military grid reference system (MGRS) or latitude and longitude, of the incident location.
- **Incident description.** Brief description of the circumstances surrounding the incident. If the incident involves Hazardous Waste (HW) and/or Hazardous Material (HM), specify the types and quantities.
- **Summary of environmental conditions.** Brief description of known/observed impact of HM/HW on the local environment at the point of the incident.
- **Summary of immediate actions.** Brief description of the immediate containment/remediation actions conducted by the unit/formation and their effectiveness in limiting the incident.
- **Additional support request.** Description of the additional expertise, equipment and materiel required to contain and remediate the incident.
- **Follow-up reporting.** Unit/ formations are to submit follow-up reports until the situation is deemed closed by HN EPO.

Instruction for reporting and handling of critical environmental incidents

- If the leakage of petrol, oil and lubricants (POL) exceeds the unit's cleanup capabilities, or if there is a risk of polluting drinking-water or ecologically sensitive areas, the HN Fire Brigade (phone 110) must be informed immediately.

- The unit causing the pollution is responsible for alerting the Fire Brigade and the D&EP office. Participating nations and units are to ensure that the authority and responsibility to call the fire brigade are appropriately delegated in order to minimize delay.

- If a unit discovers pollution caused by somebody else, the same procedures apply.

- After alerting the Fire Brigade, the unit on the spot is responsible to further handle the incident until relieved by the D&EP.

- All spills must be reported to EPO.
### Interpretation of map symbols

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map symbols</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Activity on foot</th>
<th>Tracked vehicles on snow</th>
<th>Motor vehicles on roads</th>
<th>Bivouacs, positions</th>
<th>Use of blank ammunition</th>
<th>Air activity</th>
<th>Sea activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Out of bounds" /></td>
<td>All military activity prohibited.</td>
<td>(+ 200 m distance)</td>
<td>(+ 200 m distance)</td>
<td>(Unless specified otherwise)</td>
<td>(Consider noise effects)</td>
<td>If conditions allow it (+ 200 m distance)</td>
<td>If conditions allow it (+ 1000 ft distance)</td>
<td>(+ 200 m distance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Sensitive area" /></td>
<td>Heavy vehicles and fuel distribution prohibited.</td>
<td></td>
<td>If conditions allow it (Not ski tracks)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>If conditions allow it (+ 200 m distance)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Object sensitive to noise" /></td>
<td>All military activity prohibited.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Object out of bounds" /></td>
<td>All military activity prohibited in the vicinity of the object.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Out of bounds aquaculture" /></td>
<td>All military activity prohibited in the vicinity of the object.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Out of bounds cultural heritage" /></td>
<td>All military activity prohibited in the vicinity of the object.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is not possible to establish a 100% correct picture of the terrain just using a map. It is therefore important to stress everyone's responsibility for environmental considerations.
Use of exercise maps

These maps are updated and contain six map symbols which represent restrictions.

- The map legend with restriction symbols is placed at the bottom of the map.
- The ordinary legend is printed on the back of the map.
- The maps will not show the complete picture, so extra information is needed. Contact an EPO if you need more details.

Proper distances
Any activity closer than the listed distance in meters is strictly forbidden:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drinking water resources</td>
<td>200 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitals/senior citizens homes</td>
<td>200 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee centers</td>
<td>200 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churches/graveyards/cemeteries</td>
<td>200 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic animal farm (Marked as noise sensitive object on the map)</td>
<td>200 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic animals outdoor/fur farms</td>
<td>200 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reindeer fence in use/slaughter area</td>
<td>200 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish- and shell farms</td>
<td>200 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural monuments</td>
<td>50 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houses and huts</td>
<td>50 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cultivated ground

Cultivated ground in use should be avoided for military activity, also when the ground is snow covered. Contact the landowner and get permission for use of cultivated ground not in use, including fields planned for plowing next spring. Damages on cultivated ground may take many years to fix or restore. All damages and financial loss will be compensated.

Snowcat driving
- Driving on open fields
- Drive carefully when crossing skitrails
Restrictions

Out of Bound (OOB)
The Out-of-Bounds (OOB) areas are forbidden for any military operation and personnel during the exercise. The exercise map gives detailed information about locations of the different areas.

The norwegian EPOs will assist in pointing out the areas mentioned during recces, planning, and the exercise. EPOs and controllers/umpires have the authority to stop any activity if units are entering OOB areas.

A list of OOB areas is stated below
- Nature reserve / National parks / Wildlife refuges
- Protected nature areas
- Schools/school yards
- Sports grounds
- Telegraph stations
- Electric power stations
- Reforested areas
- High mountain areas above tree line are particularly vulnerable, and damage to the terrain may remain for decades. Driving off-road in such areas is OOB.

Forest
- Follow roads, power lines and natural tracks when possible.
- Fields of planted conifer trees are out of bounds.
- Removal of single trees (not conifer trees!) might be topical to increase mobility. Cutting a large number of trees requires approval from the landowner.
- Trees must be cut near the ground.
- Cut branches and twigs off trees, and pile along the nearest road.

Outlying fields
- Avoid driving in marshy and wet areas.
- When driving in open mountain areas, avoid hilltops with little snow.
- Make sure that the depth of freezing front is sufficient to avoid unnecessary damage.
- If necessary: Make detailed snow clearance chart in cooperation with landowner before starting snow clearance.
- The troop/company etc. are themselves responsible for assessing the safety factor before driving over marsh land. Contact the EPO for an updated status of the frost depth in the area.
Deer, reindeer and moose

- The probability of encountering deer, reindeer and moose is high.
- Keep your distance. During an encounter while driving, slow down and drive desensively. Avoid provoking them into moving.
- Reindeer are sensitive to noise, and great caution is required. Avoid driving too close to animals. In addition, low altitude flying may also pose a threat, and is therefore not recommended in high density areas.
- Hunters may be out in the forests, so respect their activities and try to avoid disturbing them. Hunting is prohibited to the exercise participants.
- Report any obviously distressed or hurt animal(s) to EPO or D&EP without delay.
- Updates about locations of reindeer herds will be in the Daily Safety Signal from LOPSCON.

Oil spill/absorbents

- Use a nozzle on jerry/fuel cans to avoid spill.
- An absorbent-mat should be put on the ground when using a jerry/ fuel can to fuel vehicles.
- Use absorbents according to instructions for each type.
- If available, use absorbents to collect spill.
- Oil-/fuel-spill shall be reported to EPO or D&EP.
- Collect the contaminated sand/snow/absorbents in garbage bags and coordinate with EPO or D&EP where to bring it.
- Large amounts of spill must be reported to the Fire Brigade (phone 110).

Mud and dirt on public roads

Mud and dirt that has been deposited on public roads by motor vehicles can be a significant hazard to motorists and other road users, and can potentially result in serious or even fatal collisions. Therefore, all exercise participants must take responsibility for ensuring their own, and other users safety by cleaning/removing dirt and mud dropped onto public roads. Cleaning vehicles before entering a public road will reduce the risk of mud and dirt deposition.
Waste handling

The entire exercise area is environmentally sensitive, and all waste has to be removed from the area. Each unit/formation must establish designated waste collection points (all waste must be properly sorted and labelled). All waste must be disposed of in marked containers at the exercise waste collection points.

- Disposal of waste is strictly forbidden within the exercise area.
- Bring waste to the nearest collection point. Don’t leave it in the bivouac area!
- The human waste container is only for human waste in degradable bags.
- Deliver hazardous and medical waste in designated collection points (see the waste plan).
- Do not leave communication cables or barbed wire in the exercise area.
- Clean up the area if blank ammunition has been used.
- Use of civilian containers is not allowed.

Waste abandonment is a violation of the Pollution Control Act.

Infection hazard

- Military activity may cause:
  - Spreading of transmittable animal, fish and plant diseases.
  - Spreading of alien species.
  - Do not enter buildings with livestock.
  - Parasites such as Gyrodactylus Salaris may potentially survive in water on vehicles for up to 10 days.
  - Gyrodactylus infected rivers exist in nearly all coastal areas in Norway. These infected rivers have a catastrophic impact on Atlantic salmon populations.
  - River Glomma in Eastern Norway, south of city Elverum is infected with Crayfish plague.
  - If in contact with infected watercourses disinfect vehicles and equipment. It’s criminal not to respect the restriction to avoid these watercourses.
  - Some cultivated grounds are infected with Wild oat grass. These areas must be avoided to not spread this plant disease.
  - Contact Norwegian Veterinary or the Veterinary Office for further information. EPOs or the D&EP Office can also provide information.
Relations to locals

Local residents have unique knowledge of the area which might be of vital importance to avoid damages. Landowners should be contacted before using their property. Landowners and other locals have a greater tolerance on military activity if their knowledge is asked for and taken into consideration.

0047 400 38 526

Call for complaints, claims and damages

POLICE 112  
FIRE 110  
AMBULANCE 113