MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: USARHAW Washrack Utilization Policy to Control Invasive Species

1. References:

2. Purpose. Enforce the use of washracks to prevent the spread of invasive species.

3. Applicability. All USARHAW units, Army tenant units on Hawaii installations, U.S. Pacific Command Component Commands, and external entities that utilize Army ranges. This policy applies to all category of personnel: service members, civilians, contractors, and authorized civilian guests utilizing USARHAW ranges.

4. Responsibilities. All units, agencies, and organizations conducting training or activities that involve movement between USARHAW ranges are required to ensure that vehicles utilized are not carrying seeds or plant material to prevent the spread of noxious or invasive plant species.

5. Background.

   a. In January 2011, the Natural Resource Program (NRP) discovered a population of the highly invasive plant Chromolaena in the Kahuku Training Area (KTA). This plant is native to Central America and is a highly invasive plant found on Guam. The Chromolaena is designated a noxious weed in the state of Hawaii. This species has the potential to negatively impact training at KTA if it were to become established as it can cause respiratory problems in humans.

   b. In November 2011, February 2012, and April 2012, the Natural Resource Program found incipient populations of Fountain Grass, a major invasive grass species at Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA), Makua Military Reservation (MMR), KTA, and Schofield Barracks East Range. Fountain Grass has the potential to exacerbate the already high threat to endangered species on Army lands caused by fires.

   c. In February 2012, the NRP found a population of Schizachrium Condensatum, Bush Beard Grass at Schofield Barracks East Range. This species is also on the state noxious weed list and is a known threat to natural resources.

6. USARHAW Policy to Control Invasive Species.

   a. Leadership Involvement and Education. All leaders and supervisors (military and civilian) must be made aware of the potential to danger of spreading invasive species. USARHAW Range Division is directed to include and maintain a short briefing for all range users to assist in the preventing the spread of noxious or invasive species. The briefing will be given to the organization’s Range OIC in charge of the training or activity. The OIC will be required to
complete range checklist which includes confirmation equipment and vehicles are clean (backside of checklist that range operations provides to unit on day of training event).

b. Washing of Vehicles and Gear.

(1) All personnel, units, and organizations conducting training on USARHAW ranges are required to ensure vehicles and equipment are clean prior to use on ranges. If the vehicle(s) were deployed to PTA, Guam, or other out-of-state location, units are responsible for conducting an inspection, determine risk, and take corrective action.

(2) All personnel, units, and organizations conducting training on USARHAW ranges are required to ensure vehicles and equipment moving between geographically separate locations are clean prior to departing.

   (a) Clean, wash, and inspect vehicles and equipment prior to movement to/from off island locations.
   (b) Clean, wash, and inspect vehicles and equipment prior to movement from KTA to Schofield Barracks.
   (c) From SBMR East Range clean, wash, and inspect vehicles and equipment prior to movement. Note that McCarthy Flats has Devil Weed on the roads – therefore vehicles must be washed after using MF ranges.
   (d) At other training locations commanders can clean, wash, and inspect at his or her discretion.

7. Specific procedures will be developed to ensure compliance and reflected in the USARHAW Range SOP.

8. POCs for this policy are Mr. Tom Haywood, USARHAW TSS,
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