



Yakima Training Center

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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Yakima Training Center Suspends Recreational Activities on Installation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER, Washington – Beginning June 1, Yakima Training Center is suspending all recreation activities – including hunting – with the exception of the archery range and the juvenile fishing pond.

This decision is due to an anticipated influx of military units training at YTC from June to December and a reduced number of police and security officers currently on staff. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has been notified and has removed Game Management Unit 371 (Alkali) from the list of hunt choice options for a special hunt permit this season.

A hiring freeze is in effect for federal civilian employees which slowed the process to fill vacant police and security officer positions. Currently there is a process for hiring civilian employees for certain positions, including law enforcement, that must go to the Army headquarters level for approval. As people leave these positions it is taking longer to fill them, so the tough decisions were made to prioritize staffing efforts to focus on life, health, and safety.

A minimum of two law enforcement officers were required to check in recreational users. During the first quarter of fiscal year 2025, the YTC Police Department processed check-ins for 1,283 hunters, with each check-in averaging about 10 minutes. Due to vacancies in the YTC police force, officers are being moved to assure we safely accomplish the Installation's main mission, to provide versatile training support and services to enable Joint Force readiness.

This decision will not affect Native American access policies regarding treaty rights and ceded lands. Access to the section of the Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail on YTC is also not affected.

YTC will continue working closely with community partners to ensure the area is reopened for recreational use as soon as possible.

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