



**SALISBURY PLAIN TRAINING AREA (SPTA)  
NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2012**

**Stop Press.** Dog fouling in many areas is becoming particularly heavy. Dog walkers are reminded that soldiers train on the Military Lands and that faeces can remain for up 90 days. Those in charge of a dog or dogs are required to take away their dog faeces for proper disposal.

**TRAINING IN FEBRUARY**

The first two weeks of February will be busy with significant numbers of armoured vehicles on both manoeuvre training and live firing. At the same time contractors will erect Afghan compounds across the Plain which in the interest of safety the public are asked to stay well away from.

**6 - 9 February** sees two major armoured exercises out of the Land Warfare Centre (Ex SABRES THRUST and Ex BADGERS STRESS ) using the West and Centre of the Plain. Preparation for the 12 Mechanised Brigade Afghanistan pre-deployment exercise PASHTUN DAWN will continue with communications and logistic assets deploying onto the training area.

**10 - 11 February** sees the main body of troops and vehicles arrive in slow moving convoys. The exercise starts on 12 February and finishes on 11 March. It will use the whole Plain and involve some 8000 troops and more than 500 tracked and wheeled vehicles plus fixed wing aircraft and helicopters. Large convoys (of 80 vehicles or more), will operate on the training area. For safety reasons there will be no public access to the Larkhill Artillery Ranges or permissory use of stone tracks or dog walking off of rights of way in the Tilshead, Chitterne & Shrewton triangle (Copehill Down area) during the exercise.

**Note.** Vehicle movement may cause delays at tank crossings and drivers should take care when approaching crossings as mud clearance parties and mechanical sweepers will be at work

**Live Firing.** Firing is closely managed to ensure that legal noise limits are not exceeded and disturbance is minimised. Although some may find the noise intrusive, it is well below legal limits.

**Late Firing on Larkhill Ranges:** 2, 7, 9, 11 to 29 February inclusive.

**AS90 Firing from Salisbury Plain East:** Nil.

**AS90 Firing from Salisbury Plain West & Tilshead, Chitterne, Shrewton triangle:** Nil.

**Complaints about Firing Noise should be made to (01980) 620819.**

**Military Flying.** Helicopters, Hercules (C130) and fast jets may be active at any time. Fox Covert & Everleigh Dropping Zones will be active throughout.

**Complaints about low flying should be made to 0207 218 6020 or e-mail [lowflying@mod.uk](mailto:lowflying@mod.uk).**

**ACCESS**

Access to Salisbury Plain is regulated by Salisbury Plain Military Lands and Bulford, Larkhill and Imber Range Byelaws. This Newsletter is published up to 6 weeks before the event and urgent training bids may come in subsequently. **Always comply with local signs and flags.**

**Access timings can be found on the SPTA Walks Line: (01980) 67 4763.**

**Larkhill Ranges.** Rights of way through Larkhill Ranges are closed when red flags are flying.

**No firing is planned for:** 5 & 6 February

**Note.** During range fires access may be denied (risk of unexploded ordnance "cooking off").

**Bulford Ranges.** Rights of way through Bulford Ranges are closed when red flags are flying.

**No firing is planned for:** 5, 6, 19, 20, 25, 26 February

**Imber.** Difficult terrain and unexploded military debris makes it hazardous to leave the tarmac roads. The public are excluded from Imber Ranges except when the roads are opened to reduce journey times across Imber Ranges. It is planned to open roads through Imber as follows:

Serial	From	To	Remarks
1	6 April	9 April	Easter Bank Holiday
2	1 June	3 June	Bank Holiday ( <i>limited by Ex Wessex Thunder</i> ).
3	10 <sup>th</sup> November from 10 am to 12 noon for the Remembrance Day Church Service only.		

**Notes.**

1. Even when the roads are open the village remains out of bounds to the public.
2. These dates may change if operational training needs dictate.

*Possible further dates:*

Serial	From	To	Remarks
4	4 August	10 August	<i>Possible opening To Be Confirmed (TBC).</i>
5	<i>St Giles's Day (1st September) is during the next Pre-Afghanistan exercise and available dates will be published when known.</i>		
6	<i>Christmas and New Year Close Down, dates TBC.</i>		

**Provisional Dates for Future Major Exercises.** During the following access may be restricted on Larkhill Ranges and in the Chitterne – Shrewton – Tilshead Triangle north of the B390.

13 Feb	-	11 Mar	2012	Ex PASHTUN DAWN
26 Mar	-	29 Mar	2012	Ex LION STRIKE
21 May	-	25 May	2012	Ex LION STRIKE
4 Jun	-	18 Jun	2012	Ex WESSEX THUNDER
13 Aug	-	16 Sep	2012	Ex PASHTUN DAWN

**What You Can Do to Reduce Crime.** Please report suspicious activity to **PLAINWATCH (01980 674700)**. The more information received the better e.g. time, place, vehicle registration, description of individuals and vehicles. If a crime is taking place call 999 and do not challenge the offenders.



N D LINGE MBE  
Lt Col (Retd)  
for Commander