



Defence  
Infrastructure  
Organisation

**Salisbury Plain Training Area  
Newsletter  
October 2018**

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/salisbury-plain-training-area-spta-newsletter](http://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 #modontheplain. This account now has over 6000 followers. If you'd like to follow us go to: [www.twitter.com/mod\\_dio](http://www.twitter.com/mod_dio)

### **October 2018 Newsletter**

October sees the start of a high level of training activity on Salisbury Plain. The Land Warfare Centre, Warminster, are running courses throughout the month culminating in with a very busy week during which the second largest armoured exercise TEAM SPIRIT comes onto the Plain, together with the Brigade Reconnaissance course final exercise BADGERS STRESS. Three large signals units are training throughout the whole of SPTA setting up Brigade and Battle Group Headquarters. 7 Para RHA are conducting a regimental exercise with Light Gun firing into the impact area. Three Recce squadrons and 2 Armoured squadrons are also conducting low level training.

The number of armoured vehicles and heavy wheeled vehicles that will be using the training area during the whole of the month, day and night, will mean that the public are advised to restrict their recreational activities to the public rights of way and privileged tracks. If moving off the public rights of way on foot then additional care should be taken to avoid disrupting military training and placing themselves at risk. Motorists are advised that the tank crossings on all major public roads transiting the Plain will be in regular use and that mud sweepers will be operating on the roads if the weather turns wet.

**Please report all concerns to the Complaints Help Desk on 01980 620819 in the first instance.**

**Related Links - [Gov.uk/DIO](http://Gov.uk/DIO)**

There are two recent Defence Infrastructure Organisation blogs that relate to keeping safe whilst legally using the Military Lands on Salisbury Plain, please take the time to read them - the links can be found below:

<https://insidedio.blog.gov.uk/2018/04/19/how-to-risk-your-life-on-the-military-training-estate/>

<https://insidedio.blog.gov.uk/2018/04/24/six-ridiculous-excuses-for-risking-your-life-on-the-training-estate/>

#### **Monthly firing calendar for Oct 2018 (subject to change)**

1. Artillery live firing days from areas 6, 7 and 8 (east of Chitterne):  
Nil
2. Artillery live firing days on Salisbury plain (east) (north of Bulford & west of Tidworth):

Nil

3. Late firing days on Larkhill/Westdown danger area (north of Larkhill):

02, 04, 09, 11, 16, 18, 20, 23, 25, 30

4. Non-firing days on Larkhill/Westdown danger area:

06, 07, 13, 14, 27, 28

5. Non-firing days on Bulford fixed firing ranges:

06, 07, 13, 14, 27, 28

6. Late firing days on Imber ranges, areas 1, 2, 3, 4 (east of Warminster)

Nil

Note:

### **Byelaw Governance – Antisocial Behaviour**

Parish members are encouraged to report all illegal activity on Salisbury plain to the Wiltshire Police. If serious crime is experienced 999 should be dialled, and for all other reports including: illegal off-roading, illegal motor biking, drone use, poaching, hare coursing, petty theft, camping on MoD land, kite flying please call 101 and list the call as 'antisocial behaviour' and a byelaw violation. Once reported please inform range control on the Plainwatch number: 01980 674700 or email [PLAINWATCH@landmarc.mod.uk](mailto:PLAINWATCH@landmarc.mod.uk).

### **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) 674763.

**Imber Ranges.** The public are excluded at all times, except when the roads are specifically opened. Planned opening dates for 2018 are as follows

<b>Event</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Closed</b>
Christmas	1800hrs Thur 27 Dec 18	0800hrs Wed 02 Jan 19

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

**Note. Dates may change if operational training needs dictate.**

### **What Can You Do To Reduce Crime On Salisbury Plain?**

There has been an increase of thefts from motor vehicles that have been left unattended on the training area. Owners are reminded not to leave valuables in plain sight. **If any crime is taking place call 999, (or 101) and do not under any circumstances challenge the offenders.**

## **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.

### **RAZOR WIRE HAZARD**

Salisbury Plain Training Area is first and foremost a military training area where high risk activities are conducted on a routine basis. The Byelaws that govern the training area allow members of the public to conduct recreational activities when the areas are not being used for training.

Military units are briefed to ensure that all military debris is to be cleared up after any training activity, including hazardous materials such as razor wire. On occasion units do leave behind military debris, this is usually found and cleared at a later stage by Salisbury Plain Training Patrols or is reported by members of the public for clear up.

In order to protect members of the public from hazardous military debris areas like training buildings, woodlands and plantations these areas are out of bounds in accordance with Byelaw 1981.

### **RANGE FIRE RECOVERY**

You will be pleased to know that the range grass lands have recovered extremely well in a short time from the summer range fires as these pictures show:

*Views from Observation Post 3 looking West.*





Chris Shears  
Major (Training Safety Officer)  
for  
Senior Training Safety Officer  
Salisbury Plain Training Area