



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS BASE
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5001

MCBO 5090.4
B 04
8 Jan 08

MARINE CORPS BASE ORDER 5090.4

From: Commander

To: Distribution List

Subj: POLICY FOR MAINSIDE TRAIL USE AT MARINE CORPS BASE
QUANTICO

Ref: (a) MCO P5090.2A

(b) Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for
Marine Corps Base Quantico of 12 Apr 07

(c) MCBO P11015.2A w/Ch 2

Encl: (1) MCB Quantico Mainside Trails

1. Purpose. To establish Base policy concerning management and recreational use of the trails in the Mainside area of Marine Corps Base, Quantico (MCBQ).

2. Background

a. A network of woodland trails exists in Training Area 1 (Mainside). For many years, a variety of users have enjoyed these trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. This network was expanded in 2001 when the Arboretum Trails were opened between the Marsh Center and Argonne Hills to provide interpretive natural history opportunities for hikers.

b. Trail maintenance has been irregular and performed mostly by volunteers. There has been no consistent program for designation and marking of trails.

c. In recent years, there have been minor conflicts between user groups, mostly having to do with incompatible uses of the trails, scheduling of formal events such as mountain bike races, use of unauthorized all-terrain vehicles (ATV), and protection of natural resources.

d. Due to the need to provide better management and coordinated usage of the trail system, a Categorical Exclusion to Establish a Policy for Mainside Trail Use was prepared and recommended for approval at a meeting of the Environmental Impact Review Board on 23 May 2006.

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3. Scope. This policy applies to MCBQ, including but not limited to, active duty personnel assigned to MCBQ and their dependents, civilian employees, and other authorized MCBQ visitors.

4. Policy

a. Use of the Mainside trails system is considered "dispersed recreation" as defined in reference (a), and is addressed in Chapter 8 of reference (b).

b. A MCBQ Trails Committee, to be composed of representatives from Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (NREA) Branch (G-5), Family Housing Branch (G-5), Security Battalion, Office of Counsel, Operations Division (G-3), Facilities Maintenance, Marine Corps Community Services Division (MCCS), Quantico Riding Club, Quantico Mountain Bike Club, and Marine Corps Marathon Association shall meet at least once annually to identify any actions needed to further the safe enjoyment of the trail system.

c. The enclosure shows the locations of the designated mainside trails and the compatible uses. Compatible uses include pedestrian travel (running and hiking), bicycles, and horseback riding. Mountain biking and horseback riding shall be restricted to those trails designated in the enclosure. Mountain bikes have the highest potential for degrading current trails due to the volume of traffic, concentrated "foot-print" of lugged/knobby tires, and the unimproved character of this trail system. Likewise, horses are to be ridden only on designated trails for similar reasons. The Arboretum trails and those trails east of the Arboretum Trails are restricted to pedestrian traffic only.

d. Ensuring the safety of trail users mandates proper trail etiquette. The following rules and courtesies should be adhered to when using the trails:

(1) On multi-use trails shared by pedestrian, bicycle, and horse traffic, the right-of-way remains with horseback riders and secondarily to foot traffic. Bicyclists will yield to all other traffic and control their speed. If bicyclists or runners are overtaking horses from the rear, they should announce their presence and wait to be signaled to pass once the horseback riders are aware of their presence. Persons passing should be considerate, as horses may be frightened by bicycles or sudden movement. If horses are passing a group of pedestrians, they should be allowed plenty of room to pass. Everyone in the group

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should stand to one side of the trail; ideally on the downhill side of the trail. Avoid sudden movement as the horses pass, and talk quietly to make the horses aware of your presence.

(2) Pick up any litter encountered. Everyone doing their part will keep this area pristine and open to recreational use.

(3) Travel quietly. Doing so improves the chances of seeing wildlife and respects others seeking solitude.

(4) Dogs must be kept leashed at all times.

e. Training Area 1, the area of Mainside in which the trail system is located, is open to qualified archery hunters shooting from elevated platforms (tree stands) on the dates established in the Base's Annual Hunting Bulletin. Hunting procedures for the Mainside area are detailed in reference (c).

f. Stay on the designated/marked trails only. Shortcutting a switchback or avoiding a muddy trail by walking in the grass creates unnecessary erosion and multiple paths.

g. Leave archeological and historical remains undisturbed. Unidentified metal objects should never be handled due to the potential of their being unexploded ordnance (UXO).

h. Use of motorized vehicles on any of the Base trails is prohibited except for authorized safety vehicles at programmed events, maintenance, natural resources management, and law enforcement activities.

i. Construction of new trails will require the submission of plans for the proposed trail to the Base Trails Committee for review and to the NREA Branch for environmental impact analysis. Plans should detail the proposed trail location, the work required to construct the trail, and its proposed compatible uses. Construction of any new trails, or changes to existing trail uses, shall be subject to the approval of the Commander, MCBQ. The Base Commander may close highly eroded or unmaintained trails upon the recommendation of the Assistant Chief of Staff (AC/S), G-3 and/or the AC/S, G-5.

j. Violators of this Base order may be subject to administrative and/or disciplinary action as appropriate to the offense.

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k. Requests for approval of organized events are to be addressed to the AC/S, G-3.

l. Trail maintenance is to be performed primarily by volunteers, including, but not limited to conservation volunteers, Quantico Riding Club members, Quantico Mountain Bike Club members, Marine Corps Marathon personnel, military personnel during Base clean-up evolutions, and Girl and Boy Scout troops. Groups using volunteers for trail maintenance must have legal agreements with the Base or adequate insurance to cover the volunteers during maintenance activities. Appropriate personal protective equipment must be used for the tasks being accomplished. Maintenance personnel are required to attend the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Section's UXO safety training prior to performing work on the trails.

m. Kiosks and Signage

(1) Kiosks are to be constructed based on the National Park Service model used at the Wildlife Viewing Area and Arboretum Trails.

(2) Signage for trail names is to have white lettering on a brown background per national standards for recreational areas. Standard symbols for horseback riding, mountain biking, and ATVs are to be used to mark trail entrances with prohibited and permitted uses.

(3) Designated trails are to be marked with colored hash marks to serve as navigational aids. The hash marks should be approximately four inches by one inch and attached to trees approximately every 150 feet and at a height of five feet.

5. Responsibilities

a. AC/S, G-3 (Operations Division). Schedule use of the trail network for organized activities and issue Letters of Instruction when applicable.

b. AC/S, G-5 (Facilities Division)

(1) Public Works Branch: maintain utility rights-of-way that are coincidentally used as trails.

(2) NREA Branch:

(a) Chair the MCBQ Trails Committee.

(b) Post up-to-date trail maps at information kiosks on the trail system.

(c) Install new information kiosks at crucial trail entry points. Provide the following information at the kiosks: trail maps, trail use rules, and photos of UXO.

(d) Mark major trail loops with hash marks to provide navigational assistance.

(e) Mark entry points and major intersections with signage indicating trail names.

c. Director, Marine Corps Community Services. Submit requests to the AC/S, G-3, MCBQ to schedule mountain biking races or any other MCCS-sponsored events using the trail network.

d. Public Affairs Officer. Publicize availability of the trail network as an outdoor recreational resource via the Commander's welcome aboard brief, the Base website, and through articles in the Quantico Sentry.

e. Director, Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) Office. Submit requests to the AC/S, G-3, MCBQ to schedule races or any other MCM-sponsored events using the trail network. Perform pre-event and post-event maintenance on any trails used for race events. Submit race routes to the AC/S, G-3 and the NREA Branch for review and concurrence prior to the event.

f. Specific trail maintenance responsibilities. The following organizations have primary maintenance responsibilities over the trails listed:

(1) Facilities Maintenance Branch. Trails along Base utility right-of-ways.

(2) NREA Branch. Arboretum Trail network and the Northbank Trail.

(3) Quantico Varsity Mountain Bike Team. Log Jam, Little Pine, Outer Limit, Sherrie Lane, Ronny's Run, Limbo, Golf Course, Butterfly, Bobsled, Beaver Pond, Bypass, Biker's Bumps, Elevator, MCCDC, Old Road, Trench, and Scout trails. Perform pre-event and post-event maintenance on any trails used for race events. Submit

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race routes to the AC/S, G-3 and the NREA Branch for review and concurrence prior to the event.

(4) Quantico Riding Club. Trails in the immediate vicinity of the stables and the major ridgeline trails (Montezuma's Revenge and Heartbreak Ridge).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. A. Gerke", written over a horizontal line.

T. A. GERKE
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION: A

MCB Quantico Mainside Trails

