

Your Montana Training Opportunity



Fort W.H. Harrison and Limestone Hills Training Area Joint Land Use Study

For decades, Montana has been quietly supporting all branches of the military with unique training opportunities.

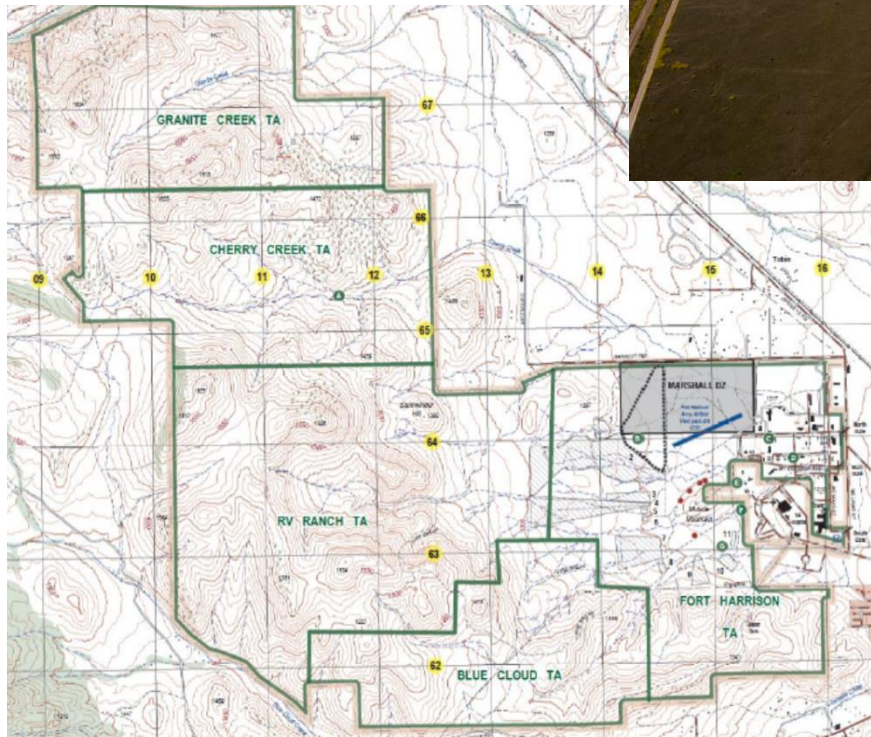
Hundreds of thousand of military personnel have come to Montana to train, primarily for its remoteness, beauty, unforgiving terrain, and quality of support.

Fort Harrison is the home of the First Special Service Force and to this day, the Force lives on!



Fort Harrison Range facilities:

- + 25 Meter (Zero Range) 24 lanes
- + Ten (10) lane modified record firing range
- + Two (2) Lane Automated machine gun transition range
- + 15 Lane Automated combat pistol qualification course
- + M203/M320 range (inert)
- + 10 lane Shotgun / 25 meter flat range
- + 10 lane Law enforcement / 25 meter flat range
- + Two (2) lane fire and movement course (5.56 and below)



Fort Harrison Support facilities:

+ Battalion size barracks designed to support a special forces battalion. Structure includes: Four (4) open bays 180 pax, 176 individual rooms, 16 leader rooms, one (1) dining facility that can feed 300 pax per hour, laundry facilities, five (5) supply rooms, five (5) orderly rooms, and one (1) Battalion HQ's room.

+ Nine (9) open bay barracks that can support up to 432 pax.

+ Four (4) Dining Facilities that can support up to 1200 pax per hour.

+ Two (2) BOQ/BEQ buildings that consist of 82 rooms.

+ Five (5) ammunition magazines capable of housing all DoD units training munitions.

+ Avn Support Facilities (CH47s, UH/HH 60s –Assault & MEDEVAC) / Air Force C130s Transportation, Static Line and HALO ops.

+ Rail Head train rail spurs with loading ramps.

+ Army Air Field and Heavy Ramp

+ Drivers Training Course and Test Track

+ Forward Operating Base (FOB)

+ MOUT and MOUT Assault Course

+ Marshall Drop Zone

+ Simulation Center and TASC Forward

+ Asymmetric Warfare Lanes (C-IED lane)

+ 19th SFG (A) CRD lab and SCIF

+ TRADOC accredited TASS school house (Logistics, Medical, and OCS)

+ Dismounted training areas, Obstacle Course, Confidence Course and Expert Field Medical Badge Course



Photo by Staff Sgt. Craig Cantrell

Limestone Hills Range facilities:

- + Multipurpose Training Range (Tanks, Bradley, ASV, GMV, Stryker) gunnery range up to table VI
- + Transition machine gun range (10 meter and two lanes)
- + Heavy Demo Range up to 400lb per charge
- + HE Grenade range /Light demo range
- + MK 19 range
- + Scout Course
- + 25 Meter and Zero range
- + Mortar Range up to 120mm
- + Known Distance Range
- + High angle range
- + Javelin, AT-4, Gustav range

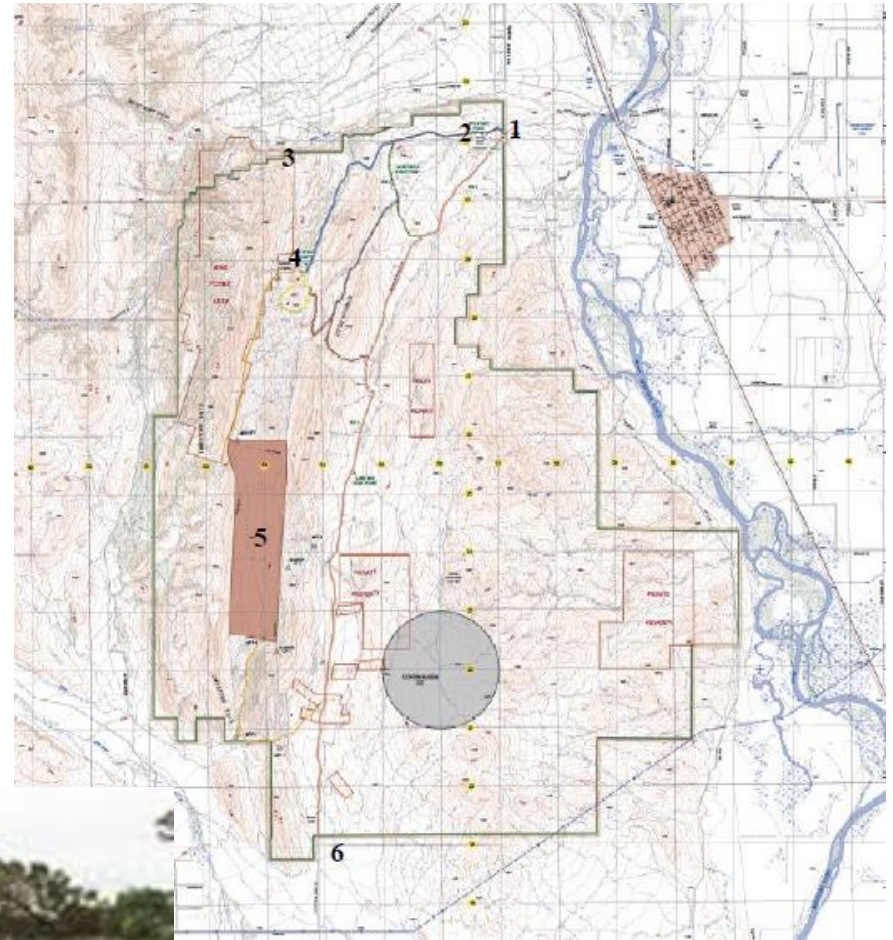


Photo by Staff Sgt. Craig Cantrell



Limestone Hills Support facilities:

- + Land Navigation Course
- + Field leaders reaction course
- + Rough terrain dismounted training area
- + Afghan village
- + Three (3) B-Huts and lodging with showers
- + Unit Training Equipment Site facility
- + Ammunition supply points
- + 21000 acres with access to the Missouri River and Canyon Ferry Lake
- + Copenhagen Drop Zone





SOF Civilian Training Support Assets

SFA 28 Ambassadors



- + A skilled contingent of members of SFA 28 and other SF prior service soldiers living in Montana keep the “SF for Life” tradition going strong, with “whatever it takes” in supporting our active duty operators.
- + Twelve Montana Counties that adjoin Ft. Harrison are on board in strong support of military training assistance in whatever is needed in various scenarios. This includes ongoing MOA agreements with County Sheriffs and County Commissioners. They block off roads, provide dog search teams, realistic random ODA vehicle stops, searches, and interrogation.
- + Montana State Troopers also conduct random vehicle stops of ODA operated vehicles and provide mild interrogation. Teams have to be well versed on their cover stories.
- + Bill W and dedicated others have involvement in these types of operational assistance for twenty-five years. A SOF Battalion Commander recently described our Montana assistance operation as a “Pineland on Steroids”.
- + Land owner agreements with multiple very large Montana ranches (one being 248,000 acres) that provide hide sites, living accommodations, foot, ATV, snowmobile, & horse trails... along with many being experienced role players. Most recently these assets were used in winter 2021 by the 10th SFG, 4 BN, in a complex Jedburgh, Singleton, and ODA exercise.
- + Multiple established ingress / egress lanes
- + Surveyed LZ’s and DZ’s, along with private airstrips on large parcels of private property that lend tremendous variety to SOF various training plans.
- + Continuous in place special use agreements with the Lewis & Clark Helena National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service goes out of it’s way to support “quiet” SOF training exercises.
- + There are multiple large rivers and lakes in the training AO that are ideal for amphibious training.





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- + Just east of Ft. Harrison is 35 mile long Canyon Ferry Reservoir on the Missouri River. This reservoir has a surveyed military water DZ. Additionally, there are three hydro electric concrete dams downriver in close proximity that add additional training opportunities. We operate various jet boats on the river portion, picking up teams in the middle of the night, transporting them downriver to various exfil locations.
- + Multiple federal agencies work with our joint military / civilian facilitators to support whatever is requested.
- + Federal buildings, including U.S. Courthouses, are made available when needed to be used as foreign embassies.
- + Just a few of the agencies that provide support are the FBI (with prior service SF folks), Homeland Security, TSA, EPA, and the list goes on. Our training scenarios work into training for their personnel as well... So it is a “win win” for all involved.
- + Back country field craft, including tracking, horse and mule packing, navigation. The AO includes the vast Bob Marshall Wilderness area.
- + Just a short list of prior scenarios include the 3rd SFG providing surveillance and intel gathering on a terrorist bomb making factory at a remote ranch, with the FBI bringing in a SWAT team to make the take down. Another included multiple hits on the Minuteman launch and transportation facilities near Lewiston, with E&E at night thru the Bob Marshall Wilderness, boat pick up, and helo extraction.





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This is but a brief list of what Montana provides to our active SOF community. It just grazes the surface. In these days of tight operating budgets, all of the items described are generally provided on a no cost voluntary basis to support the Regiment.

We are a very strong advocate of putting an LNO (full liaison detachment) in place, managed by senior level 18's, but with a variety of service and support MOS's, including air asset facilitation, at Ft. Harrison on a full time basis to facilitate and make use of all the tremendous assets we have worked very hard to develop. Our highly developed AO has everything that SOF training could need in the majority of scenarios. We are available to provide full visits to the many assets mentioned. This is a great opportunity that needs to be seized by the active SOF force.

