



HEADQUARTERS SALISBURY PLAIN
TRAINING AREA
Westdown Camp, Tilshead, Salisbury, Wiltshire
SP3 4RS

23 December 2011

Defence
Infrastructure
Organisation

SALISBURY PLAIN TRAINING AREA (SPTA) NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2012

STOP PRESS: Church of St Giles, Imber. The Annual Carol Concert will be held in the church at 2.30 pm on Saturday 17th December, 2011. Bratton Silver Band and the St Thomas's, Salisbury Handbell Ringers will perform. Mulled wine will be served on arrival. A free bus service will leave Warminster Railway Station at 1330 returning 15 minutes after the concert. Donations towards running costs will be invited. Seating is limited but there will be space for small folding chairs for those who wish to bring them. The concert will not exceed an hour. Please dress warmly and bring a torch as it will be dusk at the conclusion of the concert. Entry is free but there will be a retiring collection to cover expenses.

There is adequate car-parking adjacent to the metalled road and close to the church. Please see: www.imberchurch.org.uk for map and access details.

In the event of adverse weather conditions the concert may be cancelled. Please check the church website and BBC Radio Wiltshire for up-to-date information or telephone 07968 242 075.

TRAINING IN JANUARY AND A LOOK FORWARD TO FEBRUARY

Activity on the Plain will be very light until the second week in January. 2nd Royal Tank Regiment will train from 9 January until the end of the month with Challenger 2 and be joined by a Warrior company from 1st Royal Regiment of Fusiliers for the last two weeks. These two elements will take part in an attack demonstration on the Copehill Down FIBUA village on 20 January.

Land Warfare Centre armoured exercise FIRST VIEW takes place in the West and Centre on 11/12 January.

On 22 January 2nd Battalion the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment arrive on the Plain for a two week light role battle group exercise covering most of SPTA.

Ex PASHTUN DAWN. Preparation for the 12 Mechanised Brigade Afghanistan pre-deployment exercise starts on 24 January with the arrival of communications and logistic troops and the construction of infrastructure to support the troops in the field. **PASHTUN DAWN** will take place across the Plain between 11 February and 12 March and will involve some 8000 troops, over 500 tracked and wheeled vehicles, and both fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

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: 10th, 12th, 17th, 19th, 24th, 26th, 28th, 31st January

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.

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: 1st to 8th inclusive, 14th, 15th, 21st, 22nd January

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: 1st to 8th inclusive, 14th, 15th, 28th, 29th January.

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:

From	To	Year	Remarks
17 th December	2 nd January	2012	Christmas and New Year.
6 th April	9 th April	2012	Easter Bank Holiday

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.

Imber St Giles. The church will open as follows:

Sun 18th Dec 1115 hrs – 1600 hrs

Mon 19th and Tues 20th Dec 1000 hrs – 1600 hrs

Tues 27th Dec until Mon 2nd Jan 1000 hrs – 1600 hrs except Sunday 1st (opens from 1115 hrs).

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