



## United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management  
Royal Gorge Field Office  
3028 East Main Street  
Cañon City, Colorado 81212



In Reply Refer To:  
(2800) (COF020) src

MAY 01 2013

Senior Commander  
Fort Carson, CO  
Attn: Major General Paul LaCamera  
Bldg 1435  
6105 Wetzel Avenue  
Fort Carson, Co 80913-4289

RE: Casual use of public land for high altitude mountain environment training (HAMET)

Dear Major General LaCamera:

Thank you for your inquiry to conduct Military activities on Public lands. The Bureau of Land Management, Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) recognizes your request comes pursuant to Instruction Memorandum No. 2001-030 (including attachments and updates).

Fort Carson has requested an extension to the casual use determination for the Landing Zones (LZs) listed on Exhibit 1 from the date of this letter to December 31, 2013. During this period, the LZs may be used by Fort Carson for training exercises in accordance with the restrictions and conditions listed in this letter. The LZs are represented in map form on Exhibit 2.

Units participating in the training exercises may include the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade based at Fort Riley, Kansas, the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Brigade based at Fort Hood, Texas, the 101<sup>st</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Combat Aviation Brigade based at Fort Drum, New York, or other units FORSCOM determines require training in a high altitude mountain environment. Regardless of the unit(s) involved, at no time will the activities exceed four landings per LZ per sortie, with a maximum of eight landings per LZ per day.

In all training periods, surface operations will be limited to landing and takeoff, which will not involve any ground training or alteration of the terrain or surrounding vegetation. No shut downs or troops on the ground will be part of the regular training for this request.

The landing zone (LZ) locations requested will affect BLM-administered land in Teller, Park and Fremont Counties in the State of Colorado, as more specifically described by the Overview Map and the LZ Coordinate Chart (attached).

I have evaluated your request and concluded that the proposed use qualifies as 'casual use' as defined in 43 CFR 2800.0-5:

(m) Casual use means activities that involve practices which do not ordinarily cause any appreciable disturbance or damage to the public lands, resources or improvements and, therefore, do not require a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit under this title.

As stated in Instruction Memorandum No. 2001-030, (K):

The concept of a "casual use level of activity" applies equally to Federal agencies and departments, including the military, as it does to State agencies and the private sector.

The BLM reserves the right to require certain resource protection measures if such are deemed necessary to ensure that the activity continuously meets the casual use criteria. After reviewing the proposed activities, I have determined that in order to meet the criteria of casual use, the following restrictions must be implemented and observed to ensure that the casual use criteria is satisfied at all times during your activities on public land:

- 1) Fort Carson will have an immediately available contact for the RGFO throughout the entire training period.
- 2) Fort Carson will notify the Royal Gorge Field Office and the Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Center by email the day of any planned flights to allow for coordination of BLM monitoring activities and with any fire flights occurring that day. The notification will include the specific zone the flights will occur in that day, a contact name and number from Fort Carson as well as the BLM contact name and number for the benefit of Pueblo Dispatch. Fort Carson training flights may be monitored by BLM specialists during those times to gather noise and impact data for use in an Environmental Assessment.
- 3) The RGFO Field Manager (or Acting Field Manager) must be notified immediately if there are any helicopter crashes, fire ignitions, rescues needed, or hazardous materials spills. Contact can be made through the Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Center at 719-553-1600.
- 4) Any hazardous material clean-up will be coordinated with the RGFO and will meet or exceed the BLM standard.
- 5) Fort Carson will give notice of any shut down, emergency landing or accident occurring on BLM lands as soon as possible, not to exceed a 24 hour period, by Melissa Garcia at **719-269- 8724**, or the duty officer at **719-429-1986**, and provide written record within three (3) working days. Fort Carson will provide an immediate contact number so that the BLM and Forest Service emergency helicopters can have use of the air space in the event of a wildland fire.

- 6) BLM omitted several of the LZs proposed by Fort Carson because they did not meet the casual use criteria or were not subject to BLM administration. Fort Carson will therefore not be allowed to use the following proposed LZs under the Casual Use policy:

LZs 401, 406, 407, and 410

LZs 501, 502, 503, and 504

LZs 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, and 614

- 7) Fort Carson will not use the following LZs on all weekends during the period beginning on May 1, 2013 and ending on May 31, 2013, and during the period beginning on September 1 and ending on November 30, 2013. Weekends are defined as beginning at 1700 hours on Fridays and ending at 2300 hours on Sundays:

LZs 405, 408, and 409

LZs 505, 506, 507, and 508

Weekend restrictions for the above-listed LZs shall also apply throughout the following holiday periods:

- Memorial Day: Beginning at 1700 hours on Friday, May 24, 2013, and ending at 2300 hours on Sunday, May 27, 2013;
  - Independence Day: Beginning at 1700 hours on Wednesday, July 3, and ending at 2300 hours on Sunday, July 7, 2013;
  - Labor Day Beginning at 1700 hours on Friday, August 30, 2013, and ending at 2300 hours on Monday, September 2, 2013;
  - Thanksgiving: Beginning at 1700 hours on Wednesday, November 27, 2013, and ending at 2300 hours on Sunday, December 1, 2013.
- 8) All units attending training at Fort Carson will utilize the area with the least conflict for their most used alternate to LZs when other areas have avoidance issues. LZs 510, 511, 705 and 706 are the least likely to have conflict.
- 9) Fort Carson will provide a written record of any complaint that is received concerning their training exercise to the RGFO, including but not limited to noise complaints.
- 10) Fort Carson will provide to the RGFO a pre and post training LZs site assessments at the conclusion of each unit's training exercise conducted during the period covered by this letter, including a written record of times, dates, frequency of actual landing in each area, including any outside of approved LZs (i.e.: emergency landings), within 15 days of the unit's last training maneuver.
- 11) Fort Carson will enforce that pilots do not use LZs with wildlife (particularly big game, elk, deer, antelope, and bighorn sheep) or livestock present, and avoid areas of human activity. Pilots need to be made aware that pilots may encounter hunters with firearms without much notice during hunting seasons.
- 12) Fort Carson will adhere to the following Fire Prevention Measures and Precautions:
- The use of chaff or flares or any type of pyrotechnic are not allowed;

- Osprey-type aircraft that emit high-temperature exhaust downward during landings are not allowed; and
  - If Stage III Fire Restrictions are imposed, BLM will notify Fort Carson and all activity and use of the LZs within the boundaries of the restricted area will cease immediately until such restrictions are lifted.
- 13) Pilots will avoid any area where there is fire, smoke, or evidence of fire, or activities associated with fire. If any pilot recognizes an unattended wildfire they are to report it immediately to the Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Center at **719-553-1600**.
- 14) Fort Carson and any of their guest brigades or pilots using LZs on BLM lands will coordinate with the RGFO prior to any media release concerning use on RGFO-managed lands.
- 15) Any cost, loss, or damage associated with use of RGFO managed lands by Fort Carson or its guest CAB or pilots will be the full responsibility of Fort Carson.
- 16) Pilots will avoid any areas identified on by BLM as avoidance areas, including an area within one-half mile distance outside of RGFO's high-use recreation area. Pilots will adhere to restrictions identified on Exhibits 1 and 2.
- 17) Should the authorized officer of BLM determine that activities associated with HAMET are creating conflicts with other public uses or impacting resources beyond that anticipated under BLM's casual use policy, criteria, and guidelines, BLM may adjust the conditions of operation or impose additional restrictions, up to and including the curtailment of use of the LZs, and Fort Carson will immediately comply upon written notice from BLM.

This letter will serve as evidence that Fort Carson has coordinated for the use of the public lands with the RGFO under the restrictions and conditions noted above. No right-of-way grant or temporary use permit or other form of authorization is required for casual use of public land. Bear in mind that casual use establishes no rights in the public land and military use is considered on a case-by-case basis. This recognition is temporary and pertains only for the training period starting on the date of this letter and concluding on December 31, 2013.

The repetitive nature of the use of LZs may not comply with the definition of casual use referred to in our IM. Therefore, any future helicopter training requests on BLM-administered lands managed by the RGFO will be considered and reviewed as a separate proposal. In addition, future requests will require an advance notice of at least 120 days and may require review and analysis in compliance with a process established by the National Environmental Policy Act.

Questions and requests for additional information may be directed to Steve Craddock, Realty Specialist, at (719) 269-8514, or [scraddock@blm.gov](mailto:scraddock@blm.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/ KEITH E. BERGER

Keith E. Berger  
Field Manager  
Royal Gorge Field Office

Enclosure(s)

Exhibit 1: Landing Zone Coordinates, Restrictions and Prohibitions  
Exhibit 2: HAMET Landing Zones

cc:

CW4 Michael S. Madura  
G3 Air Tactical Operations Officer  
Bldg 1435 Room 212-1  
Fort Carson, CO 80913-4135

Lieutenant Colonel Nathan K. Watanabe  
G3 Aviation  
Bldg 1435, Room 212A  
Fort Carson, CO 80913

Exhibit 1: Landing Zone Coordinates, Restrictions and Prohibitions

Effective 5/1/2013 thru 12/31/2013

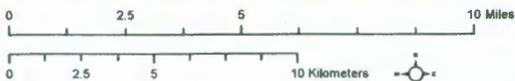
LZ#	MGRS Grid	Elevation	Lat/Long	Comments
402	13S DC 76 83	7833	N 38 41.952/ W105 16.316	Available for use thru 12/31/2013
403	13S DC 76 84	7881	N 38 42.030/ W105 16.532	Available for use thru 12/31/2013
404	13S DC 76 84	7917	N 38 42.133/ W105 16.337	Available for use thru 12/31/2013
405	13S DC 77 81	7998	N 38 40.746/ W105 15.973	Available for use thru 12/31/2013 SUBJECT TO: WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY RESTRICTIONS*
408	13S DC 74 78	8374	N 38 38.962/ W105 17.892	Available for use thru 12/31/2013 SUBJECT TO: WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY RESTRICTIONS*
409	13S DC 75 76	8487	N 38 38.19/ W105 17.37	Available for use thru 12/31/2013 SUBJECT TO: WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY RESTRICTIONS*
505	13S DC 80 64	6360	N 38 31.670/ W105 13.945	Available for use thru 12/31/2013 SUBJECT TO: WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY RESTRICTIONS*
506	13S DC 77 67	6268	N 38 33.241/ W105 15.952	Available for use thru 12/31/2013 SUBJECT TO: WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY RESTRICTIONS*
507	13S DC 77 69	6586	N 38 33.991/ W105 16.014	Available for use thru 12/31/2013 SUBJECT TO: WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY RESTRICTIONS*
508	13S DC 78 68	6492	N 38 33.784/ W105 15.148	Available for use thru 12/31/2013 SUBJECT TO: WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY RESTRICTIONS*
509	13S DC 70 74	7587	N 38 36.694/ W105 20.847	Prohibited thru 8/15/2013; Available for use 8/16/2013 to 12/31/2013
510	13S DC 73 66	7805	N 38 32.567/ W105 18.709	Available for use 4/18/2013 to 9/30/2013
511	13S DC 73 63	7656	N 38 31.130/ W105 18.703	Prohibited thru 8/15/2013; Available for use 8/1/2013 to 12/31/2013
601	13S DC 5918 8069	9082	N 38 40.431/ W105 28.156	Available for use thru 12/31/2013
602	13S DC 5214 8487	9390	N 38 42.670/ W105 33.026	Available for use thru 12/31/2013
603	13S DC 5412 8476	9021	N 38 42.617/ W105 31.664	Available for use thru 12/31/2013
604	13S DC 5396 8301	8900	N 38 41.670/ W105 31.768	Available for use thru 12/31/2013
605	13S DC 4780 8445	9509	N 38 42.428/ W105 36.019	Available for use thru 12/31/2013
606	13S DC 6633 6934	7313	N 38 34.312/ W105 23.190	Available for use thru 12/31/2013
615	13S DC 3138 6709	10646	N 38.32.975/W 105 47.249	Prohibited thru 6/30/2013 Available for use 7/1/2013 to 12/31/2013
616	13S DC 3334 6803	10242	N 38.33.491/W 105 45.902	Prohibited thru 6/30/2013 Available for use 7/1/2013 to 12/31/2013
701	13S DC 7592 8824	7969	N 38 44.550/ W105 16.622	Available for use thru 12/31/2013
702	13S DC 7674 8836	8113	N 38 44.619/ W105 16.059	Available for use thru 12/31/2013
703	13S DC 7612 8921	8202	N 38 45.076/ W105 16.492	Available for use thru 12/31/2013
704	13S DC 7573 8985	7919	N 38 45.420/ W105 16.758	Available for use thru 12/31/2013
705	13S DC 7784 8915	8087	N 38 45.044/ W105 15.299	Available for use thru 12/31/2013
706	13S DC 7860 9088	8467	N 38 45.980/ W105 14.777	Available for use thru 12/31/2013

\* Weekend and Holiday Restrictions will apply from 5/1/2013 thru 5/31/2013 and from 9/1/2013 thru 11/30/2013.

In the event of any inconsistencies between Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2, the information on this Exhibit 1 shall be superior.

# Exhibit 2 HAMET Landing Zones (for use from 5/1/2013 thru 12/31/2013)

LZ#	Elev. (ft)	Available from:	Available to:	Restrictions	Latitude (DDM)	Longitude (DDM)
402	7833	N/A	12/31/2013	None	38° 41.952' N	105° 16.316' W
403	7881	N/A	12/31/2013	None	38° 42.030' N	105° 16.532' W
404	7917	N/A	12/31/2013	None	38° 42.133' N	105° 16.337' W
405	7998	N/A	12/31/2013	Weekend & holiday restrictions	38° 40.746' N	105° 15.973' W
408	8374	N/A	12/31/2013	Weekend & holiday restrictions	38° 38.962' N	105° 17.892' W
409	8487	N/A	12/31/2013	Weekend & holiday restrictions	38° 38.190' N	105° 17.370' W
505	6360	N/A	12/31/2013	Weekend & holiday restrictions	38° 31.670' N	105° 13.945' W
506	6268	N/A	12/31/2013	Weekend & holiday restrictions	38° 33.241' N	105° 15.952' W
507	6586	N/A	12/31/2013	Weekend & holiday restrictions	38° 33.991' N	105° 16.014' W
508	6492	N/A	12/31/2013	Weekend & holiday restrictions	38° 33.784' N	105° 15.148' W
509	7587	8/16/2013	12/31/2013	Prohibited thru 8/15/2013	38° 36.694' N	105° 20.847' W
510	7805	N/A	12/31/2013	None	38° 32.567' N	105° 18.709' W
511	7656	8/16/2013	12/31/2013	Prohibited thru 8/15/2013	38° 31.130' N	105° 18.703' W
601	9082	N/A	12/31/2013	None	38° 40.432' N	105° 28.156' W
602	9390	N/A	12/31/2013	None	38° 42.671' N	105° 33.029' W
603	9021	N/A	12/31/2013	None	38° 42.617' N	105° 31.662' W
604	8900	N/A	12/31/2013	None	38° 41.671' N	105° 31.765' W
605	9509	N/A	12/31/2013	None	38° 42.429' N	105° 36.022' W
606	7313	N/A	12/31/2013	None	38° 34.313' N	105° 23.191' W
615	10646	7/1/2013	12/31/2013	Prohibited thru 6/30/2013	38° 32.975' N	105° 47.249' W
616	10242	7/1/2013	12/31/2013	Prohibited thru 6/30/2013	38° 33.493' N	105° 45.905' W
701	7969	N/A	12/31/2013	None	38° 44.551' N	105° 16.625' W
702	8113	N/A	12/31/2013	None	38° 44.617' N	105° 16.059' W
703	8202	N/A	12/31/2013	None	38° 45.076' N	105° 16.489' W
704	7919	N/A	12/31/2013	None	38° 45.421' N	105° 16.760' W
705	8087	N/A	12/31/2013	None	38° 45.046' N	105° 15.301' W
706	8467	N/A	12/31/2013	None	38° 45.982' N	105° 14.780' W



NO WARRANTY IS MADE BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FOR USE OF THE DATA FOR PURPOSES NOT INTENDED BY BLM.  
Map & Coordinate Datum: NAD 1983  
Map Produced: 05/01/2013

- ▲ Peaks
- Landing Zone
- Landing Zone - weekend & holiday restrictions
- High Use Recreation Area
- ▨ Mexican Spotted Owl - Critical Habitat
- ▨ City Administrative Boundaries
- ▨ Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- ▨ BLM Wilderness Study Areas
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- State, County, City; Areas
- US Forest Service

