



## **412th Operations Support Squadron**

# **Drop Zone Brief**









- Air Drops that miss intended targets and fall outside of DZ boundaries:
  Contact 412 CEG/CEV at 661-277-1417 immediately.
  - No off-road driving outside of the graded portion of the DZ without a natural resources monitor. After normal business hours, postpone recovery until a monitor can be arranged.
  - □ Air Drops may be recovered without a natural resource monitor if recovery is completed on foot and vegetation is not disturbed.
- All project personnel working in the project area shall receive desert tortoise awareness training prior to commencing work or visiting the project site.
   Training is accomplished virtually by video: https://youtu.be/I7Vm0dHwBbU
- All trash and food items shall be disposed of in common raven-proof containers and regularly removed from the project site.
- Parking and staging areas are restricted to previously disturbed areas.
- Driving on the lakebed shall not take place when the lakebed is wet. Only essential vehicles and personnel can be on the lakebed.



## **Natural Resource Concerns**



### Desert Tortoise:

- State and Federally listed threatened species protected by State and Federal Law(s)
- Personnel must have desert tortoise training prior to accessing the DZ

#### Burrowing Owl:

Make every effort to avoid disturbing this and any other bird species since most birds on base are protected by Federal Law(s)







## **Natural Resource Concerns**



### Mohave Ground Squirrel

- State listed threatened species protected by State Law
- All wildlife should be left alone and not fed



#### Desert Cymopterus

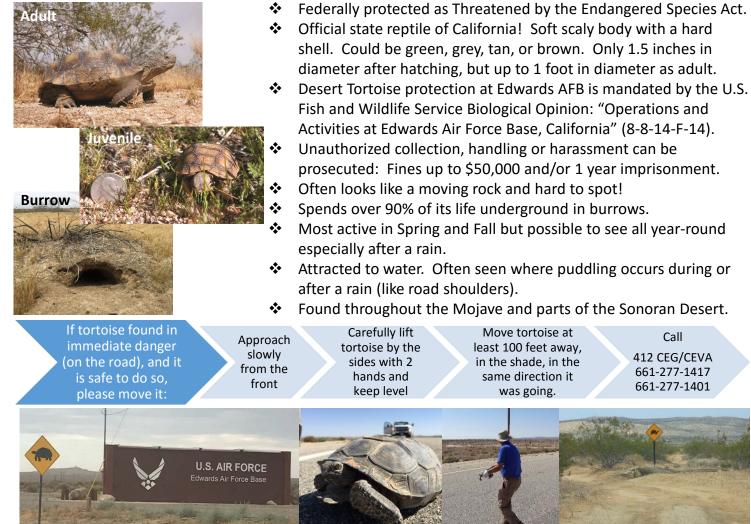
- One of many sensitive plant species found on Edwards AFB
- Desert vegetation is easily damaged and takes years to recover. Do not disturb habitat outside the DZ





## **Desert Tortoise** (Gopherus agassizii)





#### How you can protect the Desert Tortoise

- $\triangleright$ Do not handle a tortoise unless it is on the road and in immediate danger.
- If a tortoise is on the road in immediate danger, you may move the tortoise off the road.  $\geq$
- $\triangleright$ Check under parked vehicles and equipment before moving or operating.
- $\geq$ Keep vehicles and equipment on existing or approved roads and staging areas.
- $\geq$ If tortoise is sighted in project area, call 412 CEG/CEVA. Observe from a distance.
- $\triangleright$ Do not attract ravens. Ravens are a major predator of the Desert Tortoise. Keep trash in raven-proof containers. Make sure lids are tightly closed. Do not feed the wildlife!
- Ensure water tanks and trucks are free of water leaks that might attract predators.  $\geq$











DT Handout 412 TW/PA Release #18150 20180316





- Numerous National Registered of Historic Places eligible archaeological sites in vicinity of DZ.
- No off-road driving outside of the graded portion of the DZ without a Cultural Resources monitor.
  - 15lbs training bundles may be recovered w/o an archaeologist monitor only if recover is completed by foot
- ❑ An archaeological monitor is required for all vehicle recoveries efforts that land outside the graded area. Contact 412 CEG/CEV at 661-277-1905
- After normal business hours contact 412CEG.CEVA.CulturalResources@us.af.mil and postpone recovery until an archaeology monitor can be arranged.
- User is responsible for confirming all obstacle/hazard locations prior to conducting DZ operations.
  - □ Please see DZ survey Section 11

## **Edwards Air Force Base Cultural Resources Awareness Training**

A Cultural resources can be defined as physical evidence or place of past human activity: site, object, landscape, structure; or a site, structure, landscape, object or natural feature of significance to a group of people traditionally associated with it (https://www.nps.gov/acad/learn/management/rm\_culturalresources.htm)

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At EAFB cultural resources include historic-era resources (typically more than 50 years old), military resources (related to the historic and modern military use of the area), and American Indian resources (generally called Prehistoric resources). Some of these resources as much as 12,000 years old

It is our goal to protect these resources because once they are gone we cannot ever get them back.

- EDWARDS AFB EOLOGICAL UNLAWFUL то DIG DAMAGE
- $\rightarrow$  If you did not drop it, do not pick it up
- $\rightarrow$  If it is not yours, leave it alone
- $\rightarrow$  The Environmental Management Group works closely with security to enforce Cultural Resources protection, including cameras near archaeological sites.



- Archaeological Resources Protection Act American Antiquities Act
- A Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Air Force Instruction 32-7065
  - National Historic Preservation Act, Sections 106 and 110
  - Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act





