

TERRAIN

Fort Knox is located at Latitude 37 Deg 54 min N Longitude 85 Deg 58 min W. The military reservation (109,000 square acres) is located on the eastern edge of the great Central Valley of the United States. The weather here is some of the most varying in the United States. The terrain features for this area are very diversified, ranging from flat farmland in central Indiana to the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in eastern Kentucky, approximately 70 miles to the east. The Ohio River meanders from the north toward the west with its closest point bordering the northwest portion of the training ranges. The Salt River splits the reservation in a southeast/northwest orientation and joins the Ohio River six nautical miles north of the main Post. To the south is a line of gently rolling east-west oriented ridges with the closest being 2 miles to the southwest and is 285 feet higher than official elevation of 756 feet. The rolling farmland and wooded regions in the local area do not extend above 1200 feet MSL until approximately 60nm southeast of the Post. Off road travel for tack and wheeled vehicles is generally good in the training areas located west of Highway 31W. Cross-country mobility is severely restricted in training areas north of the Salt River and somewhat restrictive in the training areas to the south. A large artillery impact area is located in the Hays Flats area and is off-limits to any training activities due to unexploded munitions. The following information is provided on training areas where PPD activities are scheduled to take place:

a. Training Area 7. This training area is located at the intersection of the 7th Armored Division Cut-Off Road and Poorman Range Road. Located in the training area is a hard surfaced Advance Tank Drivers Course. This course is gently rolling with slight grades and includes complex curves and turns. Cross-country mobility in the training area for tracked and wheeled vehicles is generally good. Good drainage prevents large amounts of water from standing and creating mud holes. The training area is generally covered with low vegetation, which also favorably supports cross-country mobility. While freezing precipitation could make driving on the hard surfaced course dangerous, there should be little impact on cross-country mobility.

b. Training Area 13. This training area is located on Frazier Road. Included in the training area is a hard surfaced Basic Tank Drivers Course. This course is relatively flat with gradual turns and curves. The entire training area is generally flat but has sinkholes and other depressions, which offer hazards to cross-country mobility. Also, during wet weather or following winter thaws, cross-country mobility can be impacted. Poor drainage, coupled with the clay type soil, can create a no go situation for cross-country wheeled vehicle activity. Tracked vehicles could have their cross-country capability restricted during wet weather. This training area gets heavy use resulting in lack of vegetation. Use of this area during wet weather will require increased vehicle recovery services.

c. Training Areas 16, 17, and 18. These training areas are located north of the Salt River and contain some of the most challenging cross-country obstacles found on Fort Knox. The areas rise from 450 feet elevation at the Salt River to an average of more than 650 feet on top of the surrounding hills. Limited off road activity can be conducted in training areas 16 and 17. Off road activity is nearly impossible in training area 18 east of the road around Duck Lake. The areas are approximately 80 percent forested. Training area 17 contains the Urban Terrain

Training Site and offers limited cross-country approaches to the site. Generally, vehicle traffic in these training areas will be limited to an improved and unimproved gravel surfaced road network.

d. Lower Douglas Lake. Lower Douglas Lake is located off South Boundary Road on the south side of the installation. Upper and Lower Douglas Lakes are located in an area normally restricted to recreational activity. For the swimming demonstration of this PPD, this area will be closed for recreational use. A gravel road connects Lower Douglas Lake to South Boundary Road. There is a boat ramp at the lake, which will accommodate launching of swim type vehicles. The lake exceeds 30 feet in depth at the dam.

e. Tank Ranges. Range information can be obtained from the G3/DPTM Range Division homepage on the Fort Knox website (<http://147.238.100.101/center/g3/range/RangeDiv.htm>).