

OPERATION OF ALL OFF-ROAD RECREATIONAL VEHICLES (ORRVs)

Operation of ORRVs on Fort Richardson is a popular outdoor activity for many recreationalists. It is, however, also the recreational activity that carries the greatest risk to Fort Richardson's natural resources. Environmental degradation stemming from the misuse of ORRVs is reported annually on FRA and ranges from damage to wetlands and alpine tundra to harassment of wildlife. Because of such potentially destructive negative environmental impacts associated with the use of ORRVs on FRA, Army policy regarding their use is very restrictive.

Access:

Paragraph 2-10 of Army Regulation 200-3, *Natural Resources—Land, Forest, and Wildlife Management*, states that access by recreational users, "...will be within manageable quotas, subject to safety, military security, threatened or endangered species restrictions, and the capability of the natural resources to support such use; and at such times as such access can be granted without bona fide impairment of the military mission, as determined by the installation commander."

Current military security conditions preclude access onto the northern part of FRA (North of the Glenn Highway) by civilians lacking military affiliation. Changes to these conditions will be reflected on this web page.

All recreational users of FRA, must sign in to the USARTRAK system (384-3181) before proceeding to their intended recreational area. Failure to properly sign-in could lead to citation. All recreational users, upon leaving FRA or the recreational areas that they signed in to, must also sign out. Failure to sign out could lead to loss of access privileges.

Regulations and Requirements:

It is your responsibility to know and to comply with all rules and regulations pertaining to the operation of ORRVs on USARAK lands.

I. Definition of Off-Road Recreational Vehicle (ORRV)

A motorized vehicle primarily designed for recreational cross-country travel on land, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland or other natural terrain. Exceptions are vehicles designated "emergency" or "military" when used for official purposes. Vehicles commonly referred to as off-road recreational vehicles are as follows:

- A. Two-wheeled vehicles such as off-road motorcycles and hill climbing cycles.
- B. Three- and four-wheeled vehicles commonly referred to as all-terrain vehicles.
- C. Tracked-vehicles designed primarily for off-road/cross-country travel on snow and commonly referred to as snowmachines or snowmobiles.
- D. Any motor vehicle when operated off of improved roadways.

II. Registration

- A. ORRVs must be registered with the Alaska Department of Motor Vehicles per Alaska Department of Motor Vehicles code 05AAC30.310

III. Permit and Training Requirements

- A. **Safety Briefing**-All persons wishing to use ORRVs on FRA must first complete a safety briefing given at the Outdoor Recreation Office (building 794 off of Davis Highway).
- B. **USARAK Form 440**-All ORRV operators are required to have in their possession a USARAK Form 440 signed by said operator. This form is available at the Outdoor Recreation Office (building 794 off of Davis Highway).
- C. **FRA ORRV Use Permit**-After successful completion of the safety training and USARAK Form 440, individuals intending to operate ORRVs on FRA will be issued a FRA ORRV-use permit. The permit costs five dollars annually (no cost for active duty military personnel).

IV. ORRV use is permitted in the following areas:

- A. The operational zone beginning on post, north of Davis Highway.
- B. The area south of Eagle River bounded by Route Bravo and Loop Road on the West.
- C. ORRVs may be driven on maintained roadways only in designated areas per Alaska Statute 13 AAC02.445.

V. ORRV use is prohibited in the following areas:

- A. The main cantonment area, southeast of Glenn Highway
- B. The main cantonment area, south of the Davis Highway, east of Route Bravo.
- C. Niebar and Malamute Drop Zone and McLaughlin Range north of Eagle River.
- D. Warehouse loop area.
- E. Camp Carroll
- F. Roosevelt Cemetery

VI. Dates of Operation

- A. During break-up, all areas are closed to ORRV use because of the spring thaw. Dates are determined after review and concurrence by the Post Biologist, the ALEC, the Safety Officer and the Chief of Staff/ Commander, United States Army Garrison, Alaska.
- B. Additional closures and openings are determined on a day-by-day basis. Notice of closures and openings are posted in the weekly Bulletins and the Alaska Post. Range Control will provide a daily closure list to the MP Desk via facsimile.
- C. The emergency closures of any area is possible and will be coordinated through Range Control, the Directorate of Public Works, the ALEC and the Chief of Staff/Commander, United States Army Garrison, Alaska.

VII. Safety

- A. Before operating an ORRV on FRA, the operator of said ORRV will conduct an inspection to ensure proper operation of the vehicle. This inspection will include, at a minimum, checks on the following items: Brakes, Headlights, Tail Lights, Muffler, Throttle (must return to idle after release) and Service of all factory-installed equipment.
- B. The speed limit is 25 MPH or lower if posted
- C. Passengers on ORRVs are authorized only if the ORRV is equipped with a factory-mounted passenger seat.

- D. Operators and passengers will wear a shatterproof helmet and eye protection approved by the Alaska Department of Transportation.
- E. ORRV operators will not carry loaded weapons.
- F. ORRV s will not be operated by anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- G. ORRVs may be towed by commercial or homemade carts. Towing a disabled ORRV with another ORRV is authorized. Towing persons by rope or cable is prohibited.
- H. All ORRVs will have light turned on while in operation.
- I. No persons under 14 years of age will operate an ORRV unless accompanied by a parent or guardian at least 18 years of age.
- J. ORRV operators will sign-in on USARTRAK (384-3181) for operational clearance in areas they intend to use. Upon completion of usage, ORRV operators will sign-out via USARTRAK.

VIII. Liability

- A. The United States shall not be liable for any damage or injury to equipment, persons or property resulting from the use or participation in ORRV activity on a United States Army Alaska installation. It is understood by owners and operators of ORRVs that both natural and man-made hazards do exist in the designated ORRV use areas and that anyone who engages in this activity does so completely at their own risk.
- B. ORRV owners and operators are financially liable for any damages to government or private property resulting from their activity.
- C. Insurance is not required; however, insurance is highly recommended.

VIIV. Violation and revocation of privileges

- A. Operators and owners who habitually abuse ORRV privileges may be denied further ORRV usage on the installation.
- B. Military personnel who violate the ORRV provisions of this regulation can be cited by MPs under Article 92 UCMJ. Civilian violators may be cited and referred to the United States Magistrate for prosecution.