# Off-Road Vehicle Briefing 412 CEG/CEVA



#### **Desert Tortoise**

- Desert Tortoise Protection
  - Endangered Species Act
    - USFWS Biological Opinions
- Why has the population declined?
  - Predation
  - Disease
  - Vandalism
  - Collection as pets
  - Habitat destruction/modification



#### **Typical Burrow**





#### **Hatchling Tortoise**



# **Desert Tortoise**

- In remote areas, always check underneath your vehicle
- Watch out for rain!
- Stay on designated trails
- What do you do if you find a tortoise?



- Do not touch unless the tortoise is in immediate danger
- Minding your safety, move tortoises off roads
- Unauthorized handling could result in \$50,000 fine and jail time
- Call Environmental Management at 277-1401



... the tortoise is in immediate danger (e.g. crossing a *busy* road) and must be moved, you may do so while following these rules:

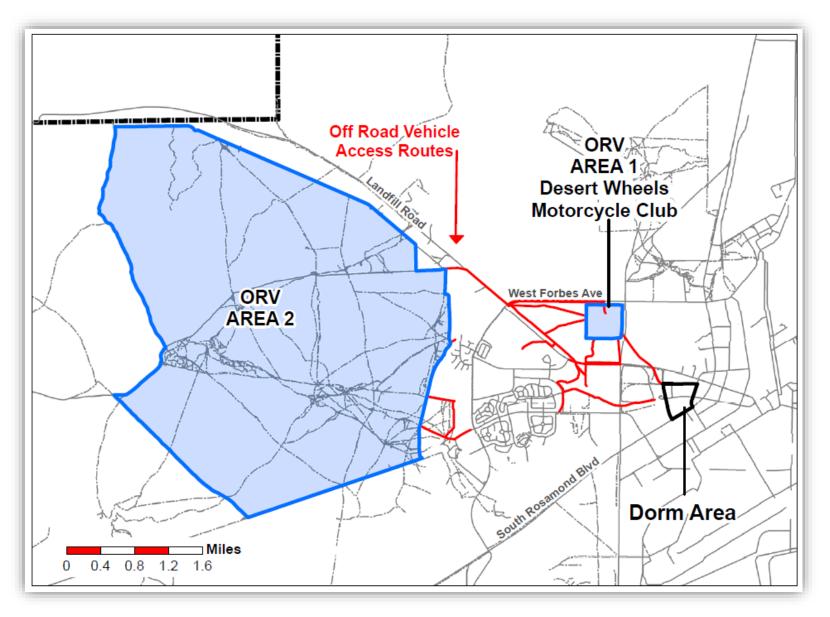


- 1. Approach slowly from the front
- 2. Note the direction the tortoise is going
- 3. Pick up the tortoise (with both hands on the sides) and move in the same direction it was headed
- 4. Place the tortoise about 100 feet away and in the shade
- 5. Notify Environmental Management

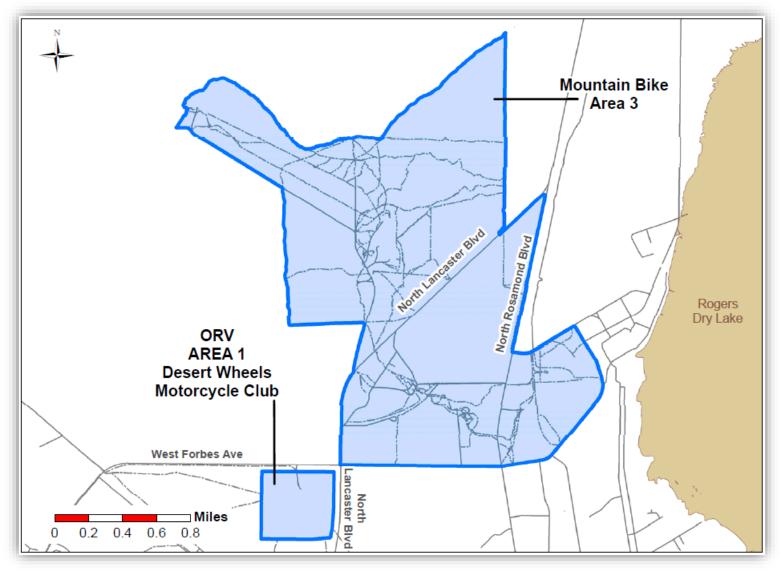
For More Information on the Desert Tortoise – Check Out Our Video On YouTube!

https://youtu.be/W8U3VIbQuf8

#### Where are the Motorized Areas?



## Where is the Mountain Bike Area?



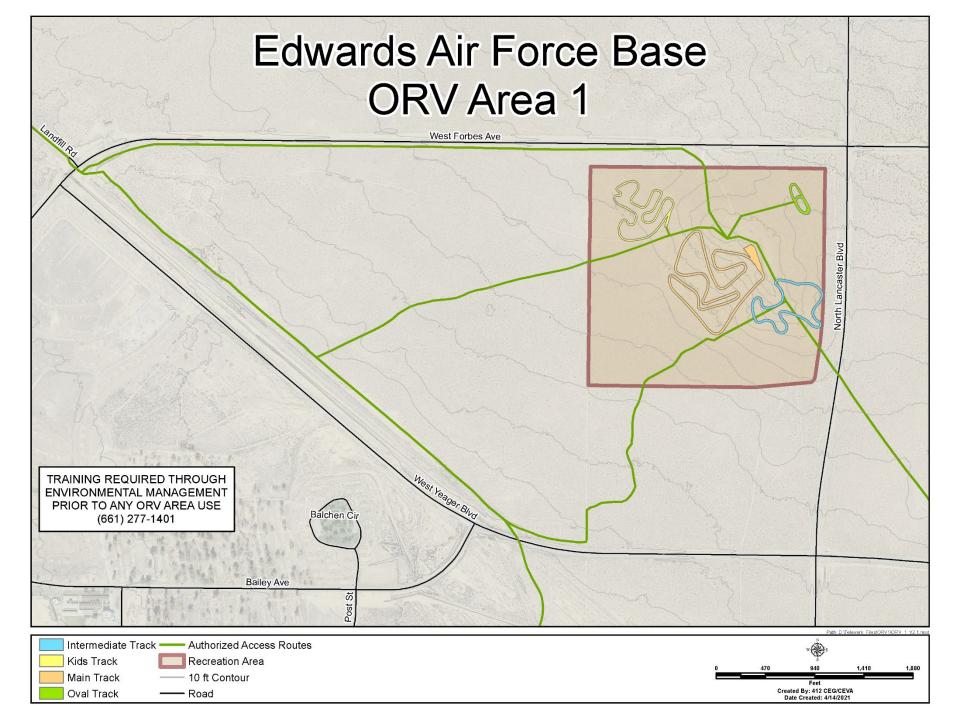
### What Regulations Control the ORVAs?

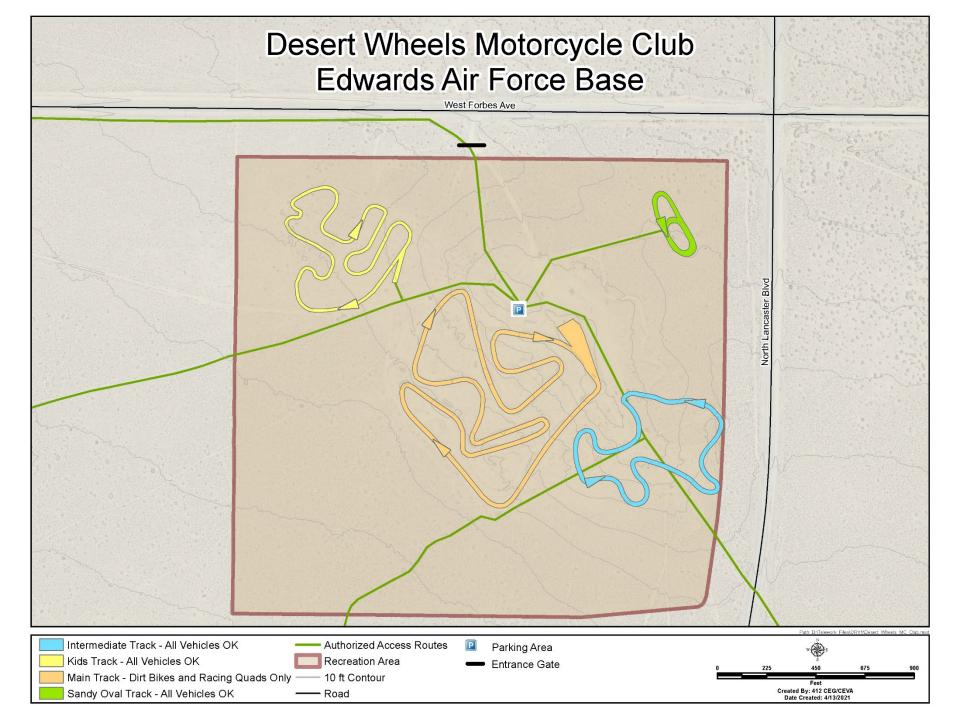
- Edwards Air Force Base Instruction 31-28
- DOD-I 6055.4
- Basewide Biological Opinion 8-8-14-F-14
- Edwards Ground Safety office can answer any questions regarding base requirements at 661-277-5049



# What are the rules for ORVA 1:

- Desert Wheels Motorcycle Club
  - Features several tracks with various jumps
  - Must be member of club to use the area
  - For details/information contact club president Lt
    Col Jeremy Wimer
    - Prefered contact: <u>DesertWheelsMC@gmail.com</u>
    - Can also be reached at (830) 313-1130

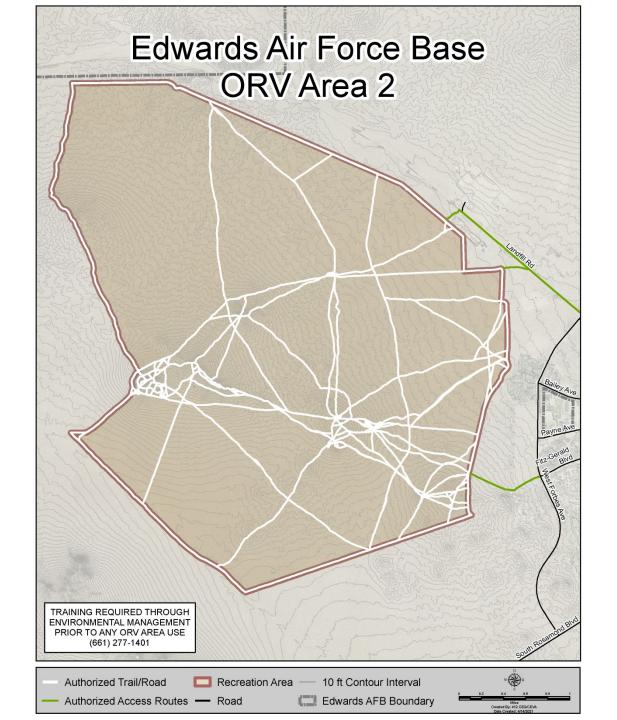




# What are the rules for ORVA 2

- Open only during daylight hours
- Must have SVIA safety training to operate ORVs
- Must have desert tortoise training. Keep training card on you at all times.
- Stay on existing roads/trails!
- Must be 18 or supervised at ALL times.
- Never leave litter of ANY kind
- Wear safety gear
- Open to:
  - Motorized vehicles
  - Non-motorized vehicles
  - Horseback riders
  - Pedestrians

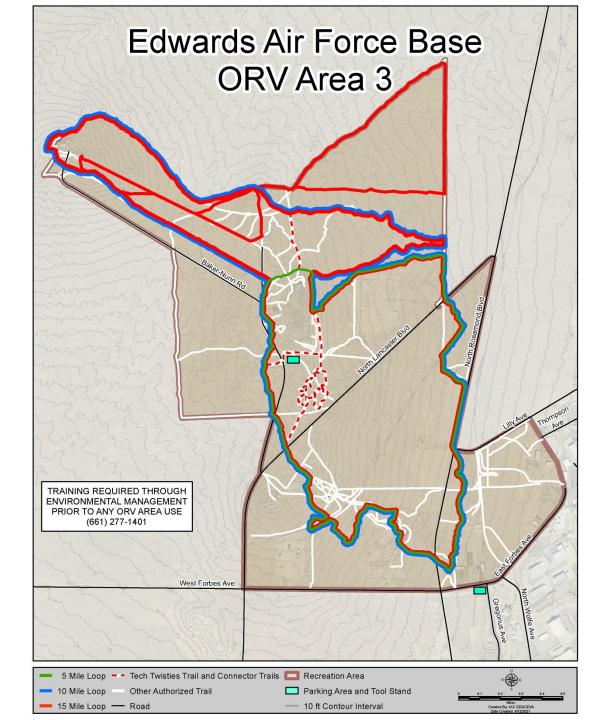




# What are the rules for Mountain Bike Area 3

- Open only during daylight hours
- Must have desert tortoise training. Keep training card on you at all times.
- Stay on existing roads/trails!
- Must be 18 or supervised at ALL times.
- Never leave litter of ANY kind.
- Wear safety gear
- Open to:
  - Non-motorized vehicles
  - Pedestrians





# What happens if people violate the rules?

- Citations by Security Forces/Fish and Wildlife Officer
- Closure of the areas for recreational use
- Fines if caught doing illegal activities such as harassing desert tortoises or collecting artifacts.



## Recommendations

- Beware of other types of users in the area
- Go with a buddy or make sure someone is aware of your route and return time
- Bring water and sun protection
- Don't over extend your riding capabilities
- Do not harass/feed the wildlife



# **Additional Resources**

- Where can I get more maps?
  - Outdoor Recreation
  - Housing Office
  - Environmental Management
- Where can I get more information/additional training?
  - Environmental Management
- How can I get SVIA training
  - Visit <u>http://www.atvsafety.org</u> for approved training courses
- In case of an Emergency, call 277-4540