

# Utilizing a Strike Team Model to Manage Invasive Species on Department of Defense (DoD) Lands



**DoD EDRR Strike Team**

The DoD EDRR Strike Team mirrors in many ways the National Park Services Exotic Plant Management Teams and the USFWS's Strike Team model. The most significant difference is that the DoD team places a stronger emphasis on early detection, rapid response and prevention followed by restoration efforts. To conform to the needs on DoD installations, a strong emphasis is placed on identification and control of EDRR species negatively affecting training areas where new infestations are forming.



**Control of Invasive Species and Restoration with Natives**

## Summary

The DoD Legacy funded Strike Team offers continued assistance with evaluation, planning, on the ground control of invasive species, restoration with native plants and onsite educational workshops. All installations involved are working on the ground in some capacity and have developed invasive species management plans. This team provides a highly qualified group for them to work with and increase their capacity for controlling invasives. It is imperative that the invasive species management plans developed by many installations find their way off of the shelf and implemented in the field.

The highly trained staff of the DoD EDRR Strike Team offer the skills needed to accomplish all of the above tasks. The primary objective of the DoD EDRR Strike Teams will be to offer installations a team of professionally trained staff that offers an A to Z service including the control of invasive species, maintenance of previously worked sites and in turn, restoration of the impacted habitat. Invasive Plant Control, Inc. (IPC) provides invasive plant management services throughout the U.S. Services include development of invasive plant management plans, all forms of invasive species control and conducting trainings on invasive species management. The DoD EDRR Strike Teams are based on the framework and concepts of IPC's invasive plant management travel teams which have been traveling continuously throughout the US for 14 years, managing invasive species on and off DoD lands.

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- **Cherry Point** (Maintenance of sites treated in 2013 including sites with Chinese Privet)
- **Arnold Air Force Base (AEDC)** (Maintenance of sites treated in 2013 including Grasslands)
- **Patuxent River** (Maintenance of sites treated in 2013 including sites with Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), also maintain sites where native species propagation occurred in 2013)
- **Fort Detrick/Forest Glenn** (Maintenance of sites treated in 2013 including sites with thistles and restoration with warm season natives occurred)
- **Oregon National Guard:** The Guard's training sites represent the width and breadth of ecosystems in the Northwest and would be an excellent demonstration of the technique. Invasive infestations include: *Cytisus scoparius*, *Rubus armeniacus*, *Hedera helix*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Daphne laureola*, *Berberis vulgaris*, *Lupinus arboreus*, *Ammophila arenaria*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Festuca arundinacea*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Agrostis alba*, *Daucus cartota*, *Centaurea jacea x nigra*, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, and *Bromus tectorum*.

### • Onsite Training and CISMA Initiation

- **Installations Relevant to this Task** (Cherry Point, AEDC, Patuxent River and Fort Detrick/Forest Glenn, Oregon National Guard)

Onsite training is a key component of the Strike Teams agenda. One of two goals of the training component will be to train staff and volunteers to perform the less tedious maintenance that will be required on the site. In the event an installation cannot contract out or perform the maintenance work in house, trained volunteers will offer another option. This training will also include surrounding land managers whose properties and plants can have negative impacts on each other. The second goal of the training courses will be to initiate the development of Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas that include the installations as one of the key partners.

- **List the components of an IPM program.**
  - **Identify the characteristics of invasive plants, and describe some of their impacts on the landscape.**
  - **Ecological and Economic Impacts of IAS**
  - **Survey of the ISSG 100 Worst Invaders List**
  - **List and describe invasive plant vectors and pathways. (Unintentional, Intentional)**



Onsite Training

### • Online Tracking System

- **Installations Relevant to this Task** (Cherry Point, AEDC, Patuxent River and Fort Detrick/Forest Glenn, Oregon National Guard)

As a pilot project, information tracking will be critical. IPC is working in collaboration with EDDMapS to develop a product called EDDMapS Pro for Department of Defense managers to meet this need using readily available and relatively inexpensive mobile devices. This new application will allow land managers to track invasive species occurrences and detailed management activities information on both mobile device and a web-based interface. It will integrate directly into the existing nationwide effort of EDDMapS, allowing occurrence information to be publicly available while restricting management information to local managers. This provides a local on-the-ground tool with national implications, minimizing effort required by local managers to track and share their accomplishments.



Online Tracking System

### • On the Ground Control

- **Installations Relevant to this Task** (Cherry Point, AEDC, Patuxent River and Fort Detrick/Forest Glenn, Oregon National Guard)

One of the most important components of the DoD EDRR Strike Teams will be the implementation of or support of current on the ground control. Four installations were chosen to be represented in the pilot project. The objective will be to selectively control the target species, with little to no harm to the surrounding desirable vegetation. Once the target plants have been treated, there will be a scheduled follow up treatment followed by a restoration visit. The restoration phase will include any new plantings that may be required as well as training of local staff to manage the site annually. For the purposes of this proposal and to keep the costs down, IPC is recommending the team dedicate approximately one work week per installation for maintenance sites and 2 work weeks for the Oregon sites.



On the Ground Control