



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY GARRISON COMMAND, FORT KNOX
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FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY 40121-4215

AMIM-KNG-SO (385-10aa)

31 January 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR All Fort Knox Personnel

SUBJECT: Fort Knox Policy Memo No. 30 – Prohibition of Magnet Fishing on Fort Knox

1. References:

- a. Army Regulation (AR) 385-10, The Army Safety Program
- b. Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA Pam) 385-64, Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standards
- c. Title 10, United States Code (10 U.S.C), Armed Forces

2. Purpose: To protect the environment, cultural heritage, public safety, and explosive safety by prohibiting magnet fishing on the Fort Knox Installation, due to the risks associated with unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other explosive hazards, in accordance with AR 385-10 and DA Pam 385-64.

3. Scope: This policy applies to all personnel, including military, civilian, and contractors, who are present on the Fort Knox Installation.

4. Background: Magnet fishing, also known as magnetic fishing, is a recreational activity where individuals use strong magnets to retrieve metal objects from waterways. While it may seem harmless, magnet fishing can pose significant risks to explosive safety, public safety, and the environment, particularly in areas UXO may be present. This policy aims to prevent these risks by prohibiting magnet fishing on the Fort Knox Installation, consistent with the requirements outlined in AR 385-10 and DA Pam 385-64.

5. Prohibited Activities:

- a. Using magnets or other magnetic devices to retrieve metal objects from any waterway, including lakes, rivers, and streams, on the Fort Knox Installation.
- b. Removing any objects, including historical artifacts, from the water or surrounding areas on the Fort Knox Installation.

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c. Damaging or disturbing the natural environment, including aquatic habitats and ecosystems, on the Fort Knox Installation.

d. Interfering with or obstructing navigation, fishing, or other legitimate uses of the waterways on the Fort Installation.

6. Reasons for Prohibition:

a. Explosive Safety: Magnet fishing can pose a significant risk to explosive safety, as it can disturb or retrieve UXO, such as unexploded bombs, grenades, or other munitions, which can detonate and cause serious injury or death, as outlined in AR 385-10, Chapter 3, “Explosive Safety”.

b. UXO Risks: UXO can be present in waterways on the Fort Knox Installation, particularly in areas with a history of military training or testing. Magnet fishing can increase the risk of UXO detonation, which can have catastrophic consequences, as highlighted in DA Pam 385-64.

c. Public Safety: Magnet fishing can pose a risk to public safety, particularly if individuals are retrieving sharp or heavy objects that can cause injury.

d. Environmental Protection: Magnet fishing can damage aquatic habitats, disrupt ecosystems, and harm wildlife on the Fort Knox Installation.

e. Cultural Heritage Preservation: Magnet fishing can result in the removal of historical artifacts, which are an important part of our cultural heritage.

7. Explosive Safety Considerations:

a. UXO Identification: UXO can be difficult to identify, and magnet fishing can increase the risk of disturbing or retrieving these explosive hazards.

b. Detonation Risk: UXO can detonate if disturbed, handled or retrieved, posing a significant risk to individuals and the surrounding environment.

c. Explosive Safety Protocols: Authorized explosive safety protocols must be followed in areas where UXO may be present, and magnet fishing can compromise these protocols.

8. Enforcement:

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a. Authority: The Fort Knox Installation Commander, Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) and the Fort Knox Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Team will be responsible for enforcing this policy.

b. Penalties: Individuals found to be engaging in magnet fishing on the Fort Knox Installation may be subject to fines, penalties, or other enforcement actions.

c. Education and Outreach: Educational materials and outreach programs will be developed to inform the public about the prohibition and the risks associated with UXO and explosive safety, consistent with the requirements outlined in DA Pam 385-64.

9. Exceptions:

a. Authorized EOD Activities: The Fort Knox EOD Team may conduct authorized explosive safety operations, including UXO removal, subject to approval from the Fort Knox Installation Commander.

b. Emergency Response: In emergency situations, such as responding to a UXO incident or retrieving a hazardous object, authorized personnel may engage in magnet fishing or other retrieval activities, subject to approval from the Fort Knox Installation Commander and compliance with relevant explosive safety protocols, as emphasized in DA Pam 385-64.

10. Review and Revision: This policy will be reviewed and revised as necessary to ensure its effectiveness on protecting explosive safety, public safety, and the environment, consistent with the requirements outlined in AR 385-10 and DA Pam 385-64.

11. Effective Date: This policy will come into effect on the date of release of this policy and will be enforced thereafter.

12. The point of contact is Mr. Garvin L. Purtteman, Installation Safety Director, at 502-624-3381, or gavin.l.purtteman.civ@army.mil.

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Commanding