



## **U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND** ***JADE HELM 15 FACT SHEET***

*U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 / (910) 432-6005 / <http://www.soc.mil>*

Training exercise Jade Helm is a routine training event that provides U.S. Army Special Operations Forces the opportunity to practice core special warfare tasks for use overseas to help protect our national security interests. The training exercise will be conducted on military bases, private, state and federal lands from July 15th through Sept. 15th, 2015. All exercise activities have been pre-coordinated with federal, state and municipal officials, as well as with volunteer private land owners.

U.S. Army Special Operations Forces are committed to protecting the nation from harm and defending U.S. national interests.

### **QUICK FACTS ON JADE HELM:**

- Jade Helm-15 is a multi-state Department of Defense approved training exercise designed to validate Army Special Operations Forces in the performance of their primary core mission - Special Warfare.
- Army Special Operations Forces have been at the center of the Global War on Terror and Overseas Contingency Operations for more than 14 years and it is important they stay fully trained on all of their core tasks.
- Training exercises like this are significant to Army Special Operations Forces' success overseas.
- U.S. Army Special Operations Command has conducted multi-state training exercises before but Jade Helm-15 will become the largest.
- Training exercise Jade Helm is Realistic Military Training which relies on training away from military installations to expose Army Special Operations Forces to unfamiliar conditions.
- No foreign military will be involved in the training exercise.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

#### **Q1. Why the exercise is needed?**

A1. U.S. Army Special Operations Command is conducting Jade Helm-15 to train U.S. Special Operations Forces to respond to an international crisis. Personnel will train together during this eight-week period to further strengthen their working relationship for future deployments. They will also use this opportunity to further develop tactics, techniques, and procedures for emerging concepts in SOF warfare.

U.S. Special Operations Forces are at the center of Overseas Contingency Operations and it is important they are well trained. Training like this will help them complete their mission successfully, and it will also save lives and help protect our national security interests.



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### **Q2. How many states will Jade Helm cover?**

A2. Training exercise Jade Helm will cover seven states: Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida. The diverse terrain in these states replicates areas U.S. Special Operations Forces face overseas.

### **Q3. What will happen during this training exercise?**

A3. Starting July 15 through September 15, U.S. troops will train on ground and in airspace around the clock. During the exercise, the units will train in the following activities: infiltration and exfiltration of personnel and equipment, personnel recovery operations, integration of conventional forces, airborne operations, aerial resupply, long range movements and exercising command and control elements.

### **Q4. Will there be night time training?**

A4. There will be night time activity during this exercise. We are very aware of any concerns and will do our best to plan these exercises with consideration of the impact on local civilian populations. The overall exercise is planned on a sequence of events based on precise timing of aircraft and personnel movements.

### **Q5. Why is USASOC/the military having an exercise like this?**

A5. U.S. Special Operations Forces are at the center of Overseas Contingency Operations and it is important they are well trained. Training like this will help them complete their mission successfully, and it will also save lives and help protect the nation from global terrorist's threats.

### **Q6. How many Soldiers are involved in the Jade Helm training?**

A6. About 1,200 military personnel are participating in the Jade Helm exercise, but not all at the same time nor in the same location.

### **Q7. How and why was this county/state chosen?**

A7. The diverse terrain in these states replicates areas Special Operations Soldiers regularly find themselves operating in overseas and provides an excellent realistic training environment in terms of challenging terrain, distance, borders, and population density.

#### **Jade Helm Training Locations by State**

**Arizona:** National Guard Training Centers and at an Army Reserve Center

**Florida:** Eglin Air Force Base

**Louisiana:** Camp Beauregard

**Mississippi:** Camp Shelby, Naval Research Laboratory - Stennis Space Center, and U.S. Navy Seabee Base at Gulfport/Biloxi

**New Mexico:** Cannon Air Force Base



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**Texas:** Camps Bullis and Swift, and in Bastrop, Burleson, Edwards, Howard, Hudspeth, Kimble, Marion, Menard, Real, Schleicher and Tom Green Counties.

**Utah:** Carbon and Emery Counties

#### **Q8. Why is the exercise not being conducted on a military installation?**

A8. Portions of the training exercise are being conducted on military installations. Other portions of the training exercise are taking place on private land of which the landowners offered USASOC the use of their land at no expense to the government. A small portion of the training exercise will take place on public land with proper coordination made with the respective government offices from the local through federal levels. Different environments provide opportunities to experience new and unique training experiences. These environments add realism and greater training value to the Special Operations Forces. Safety surveys and risk assessments are thoroughly prepared before and during military exercises and training activities.

#### **Q9. Why is the military working with local civilian and federal authorities on this exercise?**

A9. All training movements and events are coordinated with public safety officials throughout and within the towns and counties hosting the training area. Controls are in place to ensure there is no risk to persons or property. Local law enforcement and 911 operators will be briefed in case on an increase of calls and complaints.

#### **Q10. Will this continue to be an annual exercise?**

A10. U.S. Army Special Operations Command expects to conduct similar Jade Helm exercises each year. The units involved, and the amount of personnel and aircraft participating may change each year.

#### **Q11. What does Jade Helm stand for?**

A11. Larger training exercises are often named as a point of reference which prompts a common recollection and understanding. There is no special meaning for the name Jade Helm, as they are just two words chosen to name this exercise as a useful means of reference.

#### **Q12. Is this exercise preparing us for involvement with any particular world crisis/issue?**

A12. No. This exercise is routine training to maintain a high level of readiness for our personnel. Special Operations Forces and Conventional U.S. Military Forces must be ready to support potential missions anywhere in the world on a moment's notice.

#### **Q13. Will we be permitted to observe this training?**

A13. Based on safety constraints and training time-lines, we do not allow civilian observers. We want our service members to concentrate on their tasks with no distractions.

#### **Q14. Which military units are participating in this exercise?**

A14. USSOCOM elements and the 82nd Airborne Division.

#### **Q15. Can media get flights during this exercise?**



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A15. No flights will be available for the media during this training exercise.

**Q16. There seems to be a number of slides circulating the internet on this exercise. Which slides on Jade Helm are factual?**

A16. Credible media outlets such as the Washington Post, Stars and Stripes, Houston Chronicle, and local CBS and FOX affiliates in Texas have reported on training exercise Jade Helm. Around the middle of March, a hard copy version of notes used to brief training exercise Jade Helm local level government officials, and the notes were passed along to a third party and then posted to a website. The person who posted the documents did not have the understanding of the facts associated with the training exercise and then injected his own, inaccurate, assumptions and unwarranted political commentary into the posting. Since then others have reposted and altered the digital document to promote misinformation supporting their own agenda.

**Q17: Does this exercise prohibit the federal military from enforcing state laws.?**

A17: No. Jade Helm is a military training exercise conducted on public and private land with the permission of the private landowners, and from state and local authorities. U.S. Army personnel will not be used as domestic law enforcement. All exercise activity will take place on pre-coordinated public and private lands.

**Q18: Are foreign troops participating in training exercise Jade Helm?**

A18: No foreign troops are participating in the training exercise.

**Q19: What about rumors of martial law? Does this exercise cross that line?**

A19: No. Training exercise Jade Helm does not have anything to do with martial law. Its sole purpose is to train U.S. Special Operations Forces in their core skill sets for future use overseas.

**Q20: Does this exercise violate the Posse Comitatus Act (The act prohibits the federal military from enforcing state laws.)?**

A20: No. Jade Helm is a military training exercise conducted on public and private land with the permission of the private landowners, and from state and local authorities. U.S. Army personnel will not be used as domestic law enforcement. All exercise activity will take place on pre-coordinated public and private lands.

**Q21: What is the process to ensure transparency and to ensure the public is informed about this exercise ahead of time?**

A21: It is Army Special Operations Command policy to inform public ahead of any training exercise to alert them of potential disruptions such as noise or to allay fears from seeing uniformed soldiers in public. The first step of that process begins with briefings to local counties and municipalities that may be included in the exercise. All counties and municipalities were informed in accordance with their procedures and applicable laws. All briefings were held in public, with counties and municipalities providing weeks of notice for posting to public agendas. These briefings are designed to both inform and obtain approval. Some counties asked for follow-up briefings in order to allow citizens to ask questions as well. Once coordination with these municipalities has



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been done, Army public affairs works with them on the most appropriate approach to notifying the public, including posting releases in local newspapers and on television. USASOC will continue to work with the counties and municipalities to ensure information gets out ahead of the exercise.

#### **Q22. What will be the environmental impact from this exercise?**

A22. Prior to every military exercise, the environmental impact of the exercise is taken into account. As this exercise is taking place in seven states, and several regular military training locations, there is minimal additional impact than from regular training in that area. There will be no heavy military equipment involved in this exercise.

#### **Q23. How will this exercise affect the public and local community?**

A23. All exercise activity will primarily take place on private land and in certain instances pre-coordinated public land. The public can expect nothing much different from their day-to-day activities since much of the exercise will be conducted in remote areas. There will be economic gain; an increase in the local economy, in fuel and food purchases and hotel lodging.

#### **Q24: How much noise will be associated with the exercise?**

A24: We are extremely sensitive to the impact such exercises have on local citizens and we intend to train safely and courteously. However, some training events will produce limited noise but these events will occur in remote areas on private land. Personnel will use "blank" training ammunition and other training devices to make the exercise as realistic as possible. We are taking every measure to reduce any amount of noise associated with the exercise.

#### **Q25: Colorado was originally part of the exercise and now is not listed in the states involved. Did Colorado Opt out?**

A25: Colorado did not opt out. The original scenario had some activities in Colorado but was altered after real world contingency operations required changing the principal training audience from the Colorado based 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group to another unit. Because of this shift in units, there are currently no live, constructive, or virtual activities in Colorado for Jade Helm 15. It is anticipated that Colorado will be included in future exercises specifically involving 10<sup>th</sup> SFG (A) as the primary training audience.

#### **FOR THE MEDIA:**

Media can contact USASOC PAO at (910) 432-6005 or [pao@soc.mil](mailto:pao@soc.mil).