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April 6, 2011

For immediate release

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WyMD-11-24

Camp Guernsey aircraft safety issues lead to deer harvest

CAMP GUERNSEY JOINT TRAINING CENTER, Wyo. – Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center received a special permit from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to harvest 20 mule deer to mitigate safety concerns on the camp's runway.

Increased air traffic at the camp has made the deer, that frequently gather on and around the runway, a growing safety issue. Ensuring the safety of military and civilian aircrews is of paramount concern.

"The herd of deer that resides on the cantonment area of Camp Guernsey has become a significant safety hazard," said Col. Harold Walker, base operations manager. "The deer that have been, and will be, harvested have been taken in as humane a manner as possible. We take our responsibility to the environment seriously and our commitment to personnel safety seriously. This permit allows us to balance both of those values."

Twelve deer have been harvested under the permit, which was issued Jan. 5 and runs throughout the calendar year. Stipulations on the permit include all harvested deer must be tested for chronic wasting disease by labs at the University of Wyoming, the meat from the deer that test negative must be donated for consumption, and any antlers

must be turned over to the Game and Fish. Two of the deer tested showed positive results for the disease and have been properly disposed to minimize further wildlife infection.