



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
NATIONAL GUARD TRAINING CENTER
Post Office Box 251
Sea Girt, New Jersey 08750**

1 June 2010

An Open Letter to the Pet Owners of Sea Girt:

We are writing to inform you of the “no pet” policy currently in place at the National Guard Training Center (NGTC) in Sea Girt, New Jersey. Dog walking or pets of any kind are prohibited from the entire facility, including the facility beach area. Dog walking on the NGTC facility beach has been a particular problem in years past.

Enforcement of the NGTC “no pet” policy within the beach area is essential due to the presence of sensitive wildlife habitat and Federally-threatened species onsite. Protected species include the seabeach amaranth, a Federally-threatened beach plant and the Federally-threatened piping plover, a ground-nesting bird. In addition, the NGTC hosts several State-listed endangered and threatened species. These sensitive species and their habitat could be impacted by the presence of pets or feral animals on the beach. As part of Army Environmental Regulation AR 200-1, the NGTC must protect these species to prevent a violation of the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts and to complete its military mission at the NGTC.

“No pet” signage is posted at the northern and southern NGTC beach property boundaries and the Sea Girt Lifeguards working the beach are aware of the policy. Individuals observed walking dogs or carrying pets within the facility beach will be politely asked to exit the facility grounds. Because of the seriousness of the issue and its potential interference with the day-to-day training mission at the Center, the NGTC staff will take the names of any individuals who consistently violate this policy. These individuals will be reported to both the Sea Girt and Manasquan Police Departments. Observation of any feral dogs or cats on the beach will be referred to Monmouth County Animal Control.

The NGTC will make every effort to work with you to enforce this policy in an appropriate way. We realize as a pet owner you cherish animal life, and we greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions about the NGTC pet policy or its enforcement, please contact the NGTC at (732) 974 – 5951.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Pierson".

JEFFREY L. PIERSON
Brig. Gen. (Ret) USA
Director

cf: CFMO-EMB (file)