

TASK FORCE GARRISON

OPERATION ORDER

UPLAND ACADEMY 2026

DTG: 07 NOV 2026

LOCATION: The Garrison Range, Pershing County, Nevada

REPORT: 0800

PLANNED ENDEX: 1630

STUDENTS: 6–8 Veterans

INSTRUCTOR RATIO: Approximately 1:1 or Greater

PRIMARY SUPPORT: Nevada Department of Wildlife Hunt Education Team

SECONDARY SUPPORT: Chukar Chasers

1. SITUATION

Task Force Garrison will conduct the **2026 Upland Academy** on Saturday, 7 November 2026, at the Garrison Range and surrounding chukar habitat in Pershing County, Nevada.

The Upland Academy is designed for **both beginning and experienced hunters within the veteran community**.

For new hunters, the Academy provides an entry point into upland hunting by reducing the traditional barriers of equipment, licensing, knowledge, and access to experienced mentors.

For experienced hunters, the Academy provides an opportunity to sharpen skills, exchange knowledge, work alongside experienced bird hunters and dogs, and pass hard-earned fieldcraft to other veterans.

This is both a **learning and bonding event**.

Chukar hunting provides considerably more than an opportunity to harvest birds. It demands physical effort, patience, awareness, persistence, and time spent outside with good people and good dogs.

For veterans, it can be an excellent activity to **clear the mind, stay physically active, reconnect with others, and cast some light on the shadows that may follow long after service**.

Nobody needs to explain their story.

Put on your boots. Walk some country. Learn something. Teach something if you can. Help the person next to you.

That is the spirit of the Upland Academy.

A. PRIMARY SUPPORT

The **Nevada Department of Wildlife Hunt Education Team** serves as the primary instructional and resource partner.

NDOW support is expected to include:

- Hunter-education guidance
- Instructional materials
- Apprentice hunting-license assistance when applicable
- Loaner shotguns
- Cleaning tables
- Additional training and field-support equipment

B. SECONDARY SUPPORT

Experienced members of **Chukar Chasers** will provide:

- Primary and secondary instruction as appropriate
- Chukar-specific field knowledge
- Habitat and bird-behavior instruction
- Hunt Team leadership and mentorship
- Dog handling and dog-work instruction
- Practical upland fieldcraft

Additional experienced bird hunters may serve as instructors and mentors.

Instructors are not required to be veterans. They are required to be safe, responsible, experienced bird heads capable of passing useful knowledge to others.

C. PARTICIPANTS

Approximately **6–8 veteran students** will participate.

The desired instructor-to-student ratio is approximately **1:1 or greater**, allowing substantial individual mentorship during both range and field portions.

2. MISSION

Task Force Garrison, supported by the Nevada Department of Wildlife Hunt Education Team, Chukar Chasers, and volunteer instructors, conducts the **Upland Academy beginning at 0800 on 7 November 2026** in order to provide veteran participants with practical instruction and mentored field experience in the pursuit of Nevada chukar.

Training will progress through:

Ground School → Dog Safety & Demonstration → Shotgun Familiarization → Clay Shooting → Lunch → Hunt Team Organization → Mentored Chukar Hunt → Return to Garrison → Marine Corps Birthday Cake Ceremony → After Action Review

The mission is not measured by the number of birds killed.

The mission is accomplished when participants leave safer, more knowledgeable, more confident, better connected, and capable of taking the next step into upland hunting.

3. EXECUTION

A. COMMANDER'S INTENT

The intent of the Upland Academy is to create a safe, professional, enjoyable environment where experience can be passed between hunters and veterans can build relationships around a challenging outdoor pursuit.

Beginning hunters should leave understanding the fundamentals necessary to continue hunting.

Experienced hunters should leave having learned something new, shared something useful, or helped another veteran take the next step.

Harvest is encouraged. Education, safety, mentorship, and camaraderie determine success.

B. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

PHASE I – CHECK-IN / ACCOUNTABILITY

0800 – Garrison Range

All students, instructors, and supporting personnel report to the Garrison Range.

Activities include:

- Accountability
- Introductions
- Equipment assessment
- Loaner-equipment coordination
- Hunting-license verification
- Apprentice-license coordination
- Medical considerations
- Safety brief
- Course overview

IMPORTANT – HUNTING LICENSE REQUIREMENT

ALL PARTICIPANTS HUNTING DURING THE FIELD PORTION MUST POSSESS A VALID HUNTING LICENSE OR BE PROCESSED FOR AN APPROPRIATE NEVADA APPRENTICE HUNTING LICENSE.

IF YOU DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE A VALID HUNTING LICENSE, NOTIFY TASK FORCE GARRISON BEFORE THE EVENT.

DO NOT LET THIS REQUIREMENT PREVENT YOU FROM PARTICIPATING. NDOW CAN ASSIST ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WITH THE APPRENTICE-LICENSE PROCESS FOR THE EVENT.

PHASE II – GROUND SCHOOL

Approximately 0830

NDOW and supporting instructors will conduct Ground School covering:

- Hunter ethics
- Firearm and shotgun safety
- Shotgun fundamentals
- Chukar biology
- Chukar behavior
- Habitat identification
- Bird sign
- Terrain selection
- Basic hunting strategies
- Equipment selection
- Safe field movement
- Shot selection
- Bird recovery
- Field care
- Hunting with dogs

PHASE III – DOG SAFETY & DEMONSTRATION

Many instructors will utilize experienced upland dogs during the hunt.

Dog safety is a mandatory component of Ground School.

Students will receive instruction concerning:

- Dog location and muzzle awareness
- Safe shooting lanes
- Hunter positioning around working dogs
- Recognizing canine indications of bird scent
- Pointing and/or flushing behavior
- Handler commands
- Working around dogs during retrieves
- Interaction with another person's hunting dog

An instructor volunteer and experienced upland dog will conduct a **short practical demonstration** showing how the dog, handler, bird, and shooter work together.

The dog's individual handler retains complete authority concerning his or her dog.

THE DOG RULE

NO BIRD IS WORTH AN UNSAFE SHOT OVER OR NEAR A DOG.

Any instructor, handler, or Hunt Team member may call:

“NO SHOT.”

When called, the shooting opportunity is terminated immediately.

There is no debate.

PHASE IV – SHOTGUN FAMILIARIZATION / CLAY SHOOTING

Approximately 1000

Students transition to the Garrison Range for practical shotgun familiarization and clay shooting.

Instruction emphasizes:

- Safe handling
- Loading and unloading
- Muzzle awareness
- Carry positions
- Mounting and presentation
- Target acquisition
- Moving-target engagement
- Safe shooting lanes
- Appropriate shot selection

Loaner shotguns will be available through NDOW for students requiring them.

The objective is familiarity, safety, and confidence.

This is not a competition.

Yet.

PHASE V – LUNCH

Approximately 1100

Task Force Garrison will provide a grilled protein-based lunch at the Garrison Range.

Eat.

Hydrate.

Ask questions.

Prepare to walk uphill.

PHASE VI – HUNT TEAM ORGANIZATION

Approximately 1130

Students will be organized into small Hunt Teams with experienced instructors.

Each team will:

- Designate a Team Lead
- Account for students and instructors
- Identify dog handlers
- Exchange cell phone numbers
- Confirm firearms and equipment
- Establish a general hunting area
- Review medical and emergency procedures
- Review shooting and dog-safety requirements
- Confirm return time

PHASE VII – MENTORED CHUKAR HUNT

Approximately 1200–1600

Hunt Teams will operate in appropriate chukar habitat surrounding the Garrison, primarily to the:

NORTH
NORTHWEST
NORTHEAST

Specific locations will be determined based upon bird activity, weather, terrain, accessibility, instructor judgment, and safety.

The hunt serves as a **practical field classroom**.

Students will receive instruction concerning:

- Reading chukar country
- Identifying productive habitat
- Recognizing bird sign
- Listening and locating birds
- Understanding covey movement
- Terrain management
- Working ridgelines, draws, and rocky slopes
- Hunting behind dogs
- Reading canine behavior
- Hunter positioning
- Maintaining safe shooting lanes
- Tracking coveys
- Shot selection
- Bird recovery
- Field care
- Equipment
- General upland fieldcraft

Experienced students are encouraged to contribute knowledge and discuss different approaches, equipment, techniques, and experiences.

There is no single magical formula for hunting chukar.

The birds have apparently been informed of every formula humans have developed and routinely ignore all of them.

PHASE VIII – RETURN TO GARRISON

1600–1630

All Hunt Teams will return to the Garrison Range.

All personnel should be accounted for by 1630 unless Task Force Garrison modifies the schedule.

Upon return:

- Personnel accountability
- Firearms made safe
- Loaner-equipment recovery
- Hydration
- Harvested-bird organization
- Bird cleaning/field-care instruction as appropriate

PHASE IX – MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CAKE CEREMONY

Approximately 1630

Upon return and accountability, participants will assemble for the ceremonial cutting of the **251st United States Marine Corps Birthday Cake**.

Although the official Marine Corps Birthday is 10 November, the assembled veterans, instructors, partners, volunteers, and friends of Task Force Garrison will take the opportunity to recognize this unequivocal Marine Corps tradition together.

Marine veterans will provide **swords for the ceremonial cutting of the cake**.

Where practical, participating Marines will observe the tradition of passing cake from the oldest Marine present to the youngest Marine present, symbolizing the transfer of experience, knowledge, and responsibility from one generation of Marines to the next.

All attendees are welcome to participate regardless of branch of service, veteran status, or civilian background.

PHASE X – AFTER ACTION REVIEW

Following the Birthday Ceremony, students and instructors will conduct an informal AAR covering:

- Lessons learned
- Questions
- Equipment observations
- Dog-work observations
- Fieldcraft
- Safety lessons
- Successes
- Failures
- Recommendations for future hunts

The objective is simple:

Take what you learned here and use it again.

Better yet, eventually pass it to someone else.

4. ADMINISTRATION & LOGISTICS

A. GARRISON RANGE

The Garrison Range serves as the primary:

- Check-in location
- Ground School location
- Live-fire training location
- Meal location
- Hunt Team staging area
- Command and coordination point
- Recovery location
- Marine Corps Birthday Ceremony location
- AAR location

B. STUDENT EQUIPMENT

Students should arrive prepared for strenuous movement through Northern Nevada terrain and variable November weather.

Recommended equipment includes:

- Sturdy hunting or hiking boots
- Comfortable socks
- Durable field pants
- Layered clothing
- Weather-resistant outer layer
- Gloves
- Blaze orange
- Day pack
- Water/hydration system
- Snacks
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Cell phone
- Eye protection
- Hearing protection
- Personally required medications

Students possessing their own appropriate hunting equipment are encouraged to bring:

- Shotgun
- Shotgun case
- Appropriate ammunition
- Upland vest/game bag
- Binoculars if desired

DO NOT PURCHASE A SHOTGUN OR SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT SOLELY TO ATTEND THE ACADEMY.

If you need equipment, tell us.

Removing barriers to participation is part of the mission.

C. INSTRUCTOR EQUIPMENT

Instructors should arrive capable of supporting themselves and their assigned students throughout the field portion.

Dog handlers are responsible for appropriate water, leads, first-aid supplies, GPS/tracking equipment where utilized, transportation/crates, and other equipment required for their dogs.

D. MEDICAL

Medical capability will be present among event staff.

Any significant injury, lost participant, firearm-related incident, dog emergency, or other safety issue will be immediately communicated to the Hunt Team Lead and Task Force Garrison.

E. FOOD

Task Force Garrison will provide lunch at approximately 1100.

Students and instructors should carry personal water and additional snacks appropriate for several hours of field activity.

F. PRIZES

Thanks to support from **Final Rise, Marsupial Gear, and additional friends of the Upland Academy**, assorted gear and prizes will be distributed during the event.

Award categories have intentionally not been established.

Possible qualifications may include:

Best shot.

Worst shot.

First bird.

Most spectacular miss.

Best teammate.

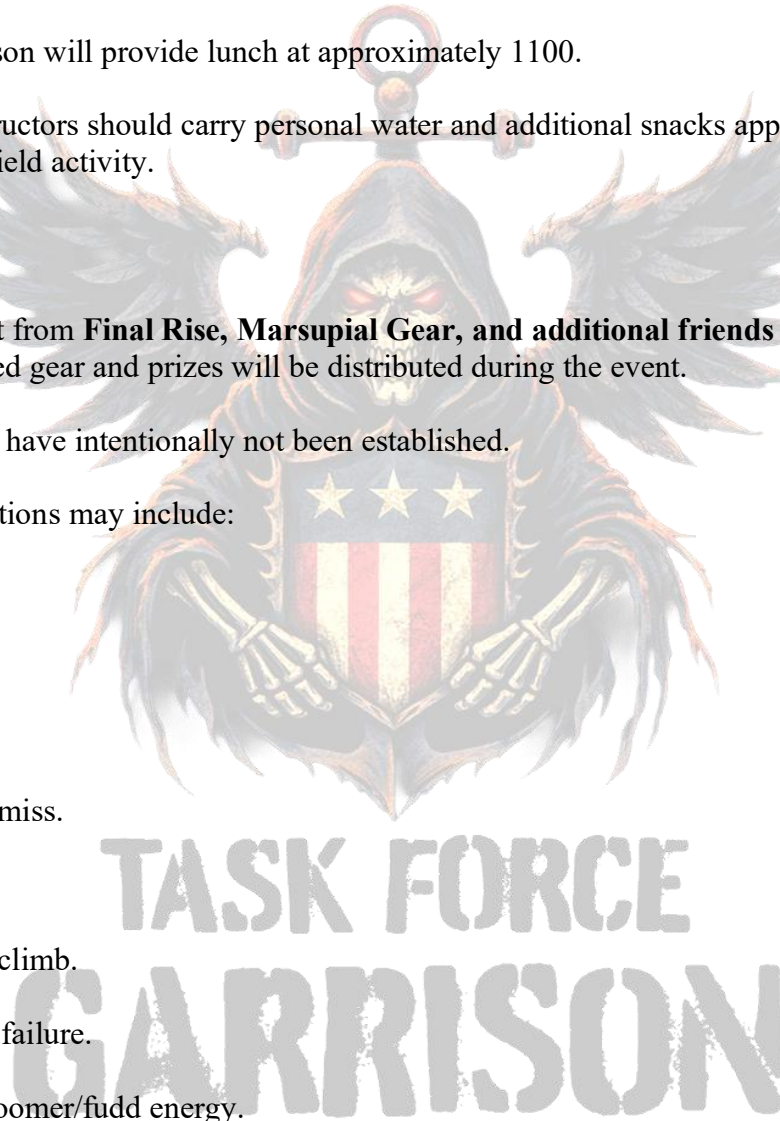
Most determined climb.

Most educational failure.

Most excessive boomer/fudd energy.

Or something nobody anticipated until it happened.

Who receives what will be determined largely by what the hell happens in the hills.



5. COMMAND & SIGNAL

A. COMMAND

TASK FORCE GARRISON RETAINS FINAL AUTHORITY FOR THE UPLAND ACADEMY.

Task Force Garrison has final decision-making authority regarding:

- Safety
- Range operations
- Schedule changes
- Hunt-area changes
- Weather considerations
- Suspension of training
- Modification of field activities
- Termination of any portion of the event

The **NDOW Hunt Education Team** serves as the primary authority for hunter-education curriculum, licensing guidance, and associated formal instruction.

Chukar Chasers and supporting instructors provide practical chukar-specific expertise, field instruction, dog handling, mentorship, and Hunt Team leadership.

Dog handlers retain authority concerning their individual dogs.

Hunt Team Leads maintain accountability for their assigned personnel.

B. SIGNAL

Primary communications will be via **cellular telephone**.

Cellular service is available throughout the general operating area.

Team Leads and instructors will exchange appropriate contact information prior to departure.

Significant changes, delays, injuries, emergencies, or safety concerns will be communicated immediately.

SPECIAL COMMAND NOTE

Task Force Garrison accepts responsibility for the safe and professional execution of the Upland Academy.

Task Force Garrison does **not**, however, accept responsibility for the independent actions, fashion decisions, aerodynamic characteristics, or excessively tight trouser selections of Chukar Chasers member **Eric “Pledge” Olson**.

Any resulting loss of circulation, mobility, dignity, or ability to negotiate steep terrain remains exclusively within the Chukar Chasers chain of command.

END STATE

At completion of the Upland Academy:

Students are safe.

Dogs are safe.

New hunters know how to begin.

Experienced hunters have passed knowledge forward.

Everyone understands chukar country a little better.

Hopefully a few red legs are headed home.

New relationships have been built.

Everyone is accounted for.

The Marine Corps has been properly celebrated.

And Pledge's pants remain an unresolved command-level issue.

For some participants, this will be their first chukar hunt.

For others, it may be their hundredth.

Both belong here.

LEARN THE COUNTRY.

LEARN THE BIRDS.

HUNT SAFELY.

PASS IT ON.