

Fort Drum Compatibility | Issue: Light and Glare

Artificial lighting from commercial, industrial, recreational, and residential uses at night can cause excessive off-site glare and illumination creating visual disruptions that can interfere with both civilian and military activities. Large sources of light in the region, such as car dealerships, can produce ambient light that can impact night training at Fort Drum.

Why It Happens

The types of exterior lights used, their distance from Fort Drum training areas, and the times at which they are left on all play an important role in how much ambient light is observed on the installation. Lower wattage light bulbs can be used in downward-pointed (shielded) lighting fixtures, to limit light extension and can also result in lower energy costs.

What You Can Do

Communities should require lighting plans in their review of land use projects so they can better understand the potential light impacts. They should also consider Dark Sky compliant lighting standards for light to heavy uses such as schools, commercial centers, and auto sales centers. Dark Sky standards include:

- shielded lighting,
- limiting the height of light poles,
- requiring light fixtures to be directed downwards,
- containing the dispersion of light, and
- limiting illumination hours to business hours.



Undesirable Light

Desirable Light

The color of light is also very important. LED fixtures contain large amounts of blue light in their spectrum. Because blue light brightens the night sky more than any other color of light, it's important to minimize the amount emitted.

If your community has a proposed project that may have a heavy light component, consult with the Development Authority's Community Planner to mitigate any potential light interference. Contact the Community Planner by calling (315) 661-3200 or emailing hschweitzer@danc.org.

For more information on this compatibility issue or to see other compatibility issues, please visit

www.fortdrumcompatibility.org