

Additional Safety Tips For Hunters

On 10 JAN 2011, the Directorate of Public Safety (DPS) was notified of a lost deer hunter in Training Area 8 here at Fort Rucker, AL. Fortunately enough for the hunter, he was located within a short period of time. While we all think getting lost could never happen to us, it can. There are items you should carry with you into the woods while hunting other than a weapon and the requirements identified in Fort Rucker Regulation 215-1. These items could prevent you from becoming lost, and will assist responding patrolmen while attempting to locate you in the event you do become lost.

- 1) Always take a good compass with you and know how to use it before you enter the woods hunting. Use your compass or Global Positioning System (GPS) to navigate. GPS units will get you to within a few feet of where you want to go. They are small and fit into a hip pocket. As with any piece of technology, make sure you test its ability to work in your hunting area before you hunt.
- 2) Tell your friends or family where you will be hunting. This is an absolute must for all hunters. If you do get lost, a family member needs to know to contact the Fort Rucker MP Desk at 334-255-2222/3215 to report the incident.
- 3) Take an additional copy of your Fort Rucker, AL Installation map with you on your hunt. On one of the maps, circle the area where your deer hunting stand is located. Leave a similarly marked copy in your vehicle. If you do get lost while hunting, responding patrolmen will have an idea of where you can be found.
- 4) Always carry a cell phone with you to the woods while hunting. This will allow your family to contact you in the case of a home emergency and you being able to call should you need help in the hunting woods.
- 5) Take reflective tacks or bright colored marking ribbons to mark a trail from your vehicle to your hunting area. These items can be found at a sporting goods store.
- 6) Always take a chemlight, a flashlight and a whistle with you to the woods. If you find yourself lost during hours of limited visibility, having these items with you will assist responding patrolmen while attempting to locate your position.

While hunting, if you find yourself lost, try to remain calm and try not to panic. Contact the Fort Rucker Police Desk at 334-255-2222/3215. A Game Warden or police patrol will be dispatched to your area to assist you. Using these hunting safety tips could mean the difference between you sleeping in the woods or sleeping in a nice warm bed at the end of your hunt.