

- c. Swimming and wading are prohibited in the lakes identified in 3-3.b.
- d. Lake creel limits are posted at Lake Tholocco, Beaver Lake, Buckhorn Lake, Ech Lake, and Parcours Lake. All other manmade lakes will be IAW Alabama law.
- e. Gigging for frogs on ponds open for fishing is permitted if the gig has at least three prongs. A post fishing permit is required.
- f. Parcours Lake is reserved for youth fishing, 15 years of age or younger. Adults may assist youth fishing activities but cannot actively fish themselves.

## **Section IV**

### **TRAPPING**

#### **4-1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE.**

- a. This section defines the rules and procedures for trapping on Fort Rucker, Alabama.
- b. The rules and procedures contained herein are designed to supplement and implement the guidelines of USAACE regulations, applicable Alabama state laws, and Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Administrative Code Chapter 220-2. These rules and procedures are applicable to all military and civilian personnel assigned or attached to Fort Rucker and all other patrons who trap on Fort Rucker. This section identifies rules and procedures that shall be adhered to by all individuals that trap on Fort Rucker, as well as the responsibilities for implementation and enforcement.

#### **4-2. RESPONSIBILITIES.**

- a. Trappers. Patrons wanting to trap on Fort Rucker will declare those intentions at the ODR office at Lake Tholocco, receive the trapping briefing from the ODR staff, and have trapping authorized on their Fort Rucker hunting permit. Trappers will fully understand and adhere to Fort Rucker regulations and Alabama state laws that govern trapping. Trappers will check traps set in water at least once every 72 hours and check all other types of traps at least once every 24 hours. Trappers shall report the number and types of game trapped to the Fish and Wildlife Section, DPW, at 334-255-1664/2416.
- b. Game Wardens. Fort Rucker game wardens are authorized to enforce all applicable regulations and/or state laws pertaining to trapping on Fort Rucker. They are authorized to take the appropriate action when a trapper has been found in violation of this section, a regulation, or a state law.
- c. Fish and Wildlife Section, DPW. Fort Rucker biologists will maintain annual records of all game trapped on Fort Rucker.
- d. ODR, DFMWR. For patrons declaring their intention to trap on Fort Rucker, ODR staff will annotate trapping authorization on the trapper's Fort Rucker hunting permit, brief the patron on the major rules and procedures of this regulation, and specifically address trapping procedures within the lettered training areas surrounding the cantonment area. ODR will maintain a roster of all trappers registered and

approved to trap on Fort Rucker. ODR will ensure Corvias Housing includes a statement in military tenants' housing agreements denoting that trapping is authorized in the training areas surrounding the cantonment area but is restricted to at least 200 yards from any housing areas, facilities, or structures.

#### **4-3. PROCEDURES.**

a. Trapping is only authorized within training areas in an open status. Trappers are required to check training area statuses by listening to the Range Operations recording at 334-255-4086 for the applicable period of 1100, 1600, or 2000 to hear if the training area is open. Trappers must sign in and out via the HuntTrac System to enter training areas. Traps in training areas scheduled to be closed must be disarmed prior to the scheduled closed date. Training area projected open and closed dates are published on the ODR Hunting Area Status Map Web site. Disarming of traps means that hog traps will either be locked in the open position or the trap door will be closed in order to prevent hogs from entering the traps, and all leg traps will be unset or closed.

b. Trapping is not authorized in the impact area, Training Area 19E, portions of Training Areas 7 and 11, and as depicted on the surrounding cantonment training area maps at the end of this section.

c. Game. Trappers are only authorized to trap all legal game as specified by Alabama trapping regulations, hogs and coyotes being the most prevalent (see Alabama state regulations for clarification).

d. Season. No closed season for hog trapping on Fort Rucker.

#### **4-4. RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR TRAPPING IN THE TRAINING AREAS SURROUNDING THE CANTONMENT AREA.**

a. Training areas surrounding the Fort Rucker cantonment area:

(1) The Fort Rucker training areas surrounding the cantonment area are often referred to as the bow only areas or lettered areas. Throughout this appendix, they are referred to as the lettered areas. These areas include A1, A2, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and 19E.

(2) The lettered areas and their boundaries are depicted on the Fort Rucker reservation hunting map issued by ODR with the purchase of an annual Fort Rucker hunting permit.

(3) Fort Rucker post housing and other structures within the cantonment area of Fort Rucker border and in some cases may surround a lettered area. The trapper must maintain constant cognizance of his location when trapping, especially when trapping in a lettered area.

b. For those lettered areas that border any portion of the residential housing areas on the installation, trappers are not authorized to park their vehicles on any street, grass, field, or road (dirt or otherwise) that is in or between the residential housing area and the lettered area. Trappers will not transit through any portion of the residential housing area with weapons or game or to check traps (see paragraph 4-6 for map depictions).

c. Trapping is not authorized within 200 yards of the cantonment area or in specific areas with extended restricted areas, to include houses, schools, offices, storage buildings, riding stables, etc. (see paragraph 4-6 for map depictions).

d. Trappers may only carry and use a .22-caliber rimfire weapon to dispatch trapped animals. The weapon will only be used to dispatch trapped animals. It will not be carried in a concealed manner. Trappers must ensure the animal is dead before transporting it. Alabama law prohibits the transport of live game animals.

e. All trappers are required to practice weapon safety. Firearm use in a lettered area is only authorized for dispatch of trapped game. Thus, extra safety measures will be exercised. Those extra safety measures include:

(1) The weapon will not be loaded until the trapper is ready to dispatch the trapped game.

(2) When dispatching the trapped game, the trapper will not fire in the direction of any post housing or any other structure bordering or surrounding the lettered area. If there is any doubt as to which direction is the safe direction to fire, the trapper will not fire. The trapper will either release the trapped animal or regain his bearing to determine which direction is the safe direction to fire before dispatching the animal.

(3) Trappers will aim the weapon in a downward direction to ensure the round enters the ground within 5 feet of the trapped game in the event of a missed shot or the round passes completely through the animal.

(4) After the animal has been dispatched, the weapon will immediately be unloaded. The weapon will remain unloaded and unconcealed while removing the dispatched animal from the area.

#### **4-5. MISCELLANEOUS.**

a. Trap marking. Leg and water traps will be marked with a 3-foot high (minimum) stake, topped with a small strip of orange marking tape, and staked within 5 feet of the trap location with a plastic or metal tag showing the trapper's last name, Fort Rucker permit number, and state license number. Hog trap markings will be adhered to the trap structure near the entry door and contain the same information. Unmarked traps found on Fort Rucker will become property of the game wardens.

b. Any person trapping furbearing animals in Alabama is required to carry a choke stick.

c. Although all trapped animals pose a danger to trappers, trapped hogs pose a more significant danger than other species. It is recommended that a minimum of two trappers/personnel be present to dispatch and remove any trapped wild hog(s).

d. Trapped hogs become very aggressive and dangerous. Trappers must approach with caution. The hog(s) may begin to run around inside the trap and ram it. Despite their size, hogs are very agile animals and are capable of jumping over 5-foot hog panels. Have a plan to handle the unexpected when approaching and dispatching trapped hogs.

e. Reporting. All trappers shall report the number and types of game trapped to the Fish and Wildlife Section, DPW, at 334-255-1664/2416. The Fish and Wildlife Section, DPW, will maintain an annual record of all game trapped on Fort Rucker.

f. Violations and penalties associated with trapping on Fort Rucker are as published in appendix B of this regulation.