

Fort Rucker Regulation 215-1

Hunting, Fishing, Water Safety, & Trapping

Headquarters

U.S. Army Garrison

Fort Rucker, Alabama

1 July 2017

UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY of CHANGES

Fort Rucker Regulation 215-1

Major revisions of the Fort Rucker Regulation 215-1, dated 30 August 2016; as depicted on “DRAFT_2017_Fort Rucker Regulation 215-1”

- Makes formatting changes throughout.

- Table of Content, updated information.

- Adds primary mission of this installation referencing training space and resources for military use; public recreational use and enjoyment will have controlled access (Section 1-1a).

- Adds Outdoor Recreation Council responsibilities communicating information, concerns and suggestions for improving hunting and fishing on the installation to garrison command (Section 1-2e).

- Specifies restrictions and use of firearms for recreational hunting in Training Areas (TA) outlining “bow-only areas, shotgun areas, and rifle areas” (Section 3-2 a & b).

- Rearranges SEASONS Section ahead of HUNTING Section (Section II is SEASONS and III is HUNTING).

- Authorizes recreational hog hunting during turkey season (Section II d).

- Expands enforcement restricting hunters and trappers utilizing TA Charlie from parking on Artillery Road (Section 3-7 f).

- Adds as part of the Wildlife Management Program the requirement to document all dispatched hogs/ coyotes using a “kill card” (Section 3-9 f).

- Substitutes title from “Weapons and Ammunition” to “Firearms and Ammunition” (throughout).

- Authorizes for use of rifles in TAs 29 – 32 and TA 40 – 41 (throughout).

- Authorizes small game hunters' use of air guns in gun areas (TA 1-21, TAs 29 – 32, and TAs 40 – 41. Enforces no arms in TA 19E (Section 3-2 a).
- Substitutes “Miscellaneous” to “Additional Hunting Information” paragraph (Section 3-9).
- Specifies restrictions for discharging weapon in vicinity of natural and manmade structures to include roads, airstrips, ponds, stables, homes and buildings ((throughout)).
- Rearranges “FISHING” Section (Section IV).
- Substitutes “Special Regulations Applying to Small Lakes and Ponds” to “Restrictions Applying to Small Lakes and Ponds” (Section 4-3).
- Sections V and VI defines “Recreational Trapping” and “Depredation Trapping.”
- Renames “TRAPPING” to “RECREATIONAL TRAPPING” (Section V).
- Defines “RECREATIONAL TRAPPING” procedures and operations (Section V).
- Substitutes “Miscellaneous” to “Additional Recreational Hunting Information” (Section 5-4).
- Adds and explains Depredation Animal Trapping purpose, procedures and operations (Section VI). –
- Removes all maps, all maps can be gained from Fort Rucker’s MWR website <https://rucker.armymwr.com/us/rucker/programs/hunting-and-fishing>
- Rearranges “Violations” chart and corrective actions (Appendix B).
- Adds “Depredation Trapping in Occupied Areas” procedures for entry, dispatch, reporting (Appendix G).
- Replace “HuntTrac” with iSportsman.

- References to “briefing tape” refers to Range Operations Training Division Automated Briefing System.

- Expansion to Training Area Foxtrot.

- Removes terminology “handicapped” for “individuals with disabilities (IWD).”

- References updates to Fort Rucker Regulation 190-5, Fort Rucker Motor Vehicle Regulation, dated 6 December 2016.

- Separates WATER and OTHER ACTIVITIES into two sections, Section VII Boating and Water Activities and Section VIII Safety.

- Combines TA 15E and TA 15W into one TA as TA 15.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON, FORT RUCKER
FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA 36362-5105

1 July 2017

**FORT RUCKER
HUNTING, FISHING, WATER SAFETY, AND TRAPPING**

Summary. This regulation outlines rules governing hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities at the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE) Fort Rucker, Al.

Applicability. All individuals permitted to hunt, fish, or participate in outdoor recreational activities on the installation will comply with this regulation.

Proponent and Exception Authority. The proponent of this regulation is the Director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR). Only the Garrison Commander (GC), may approve changes to this regulation.

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- A. Common Regulatory Violations and Possible Penalties.
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Section I
GENERAL.

1-1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE.

a. The primary mission of this installation is to provide training space, and other related installation resources, for military use. Land and water resources deemed available for public recreational use and enjoyment will have controlled public access, subject to safety and military requirements, and will not impair the military mission.

b. Fort Rucker Regulation 215-1 pertains to hunting, fishing, watercraft safety, water safety, and trapping recognized by the State of Alabama, and federal laws and regulations. Nothing in this regulation will be interpreted to permit acts contrary to either state or federal statutes. Violation of this regulation may result in punitive actions.

c. Hunting, fishing, trapping regulations and water safety are published for the information and guidance of all concerned, and to prescribe general policies and procedures concerning hunting, fishing, watercraft, water safety, and trapping on Fort Rucker military reservation. This regulation is applicable to all who participate in any activities governed by this regulation

1-2. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (DFMWR). DFMWR is designated as the primary agency responsible for reviewing, coordinating, and publishing this regulation. DFMWR will be responsible for administration of this regulation in accordance with (IAW) Command Directive.

b. Directorate of Public Works (DPW). DPW is the authorized agency for supervision, planning, maintenance, and management of fish and wildlife resources. DPW is responsible for biological data collection. DPW will maintain a record of deer, turkeys, and hogs harvested on the installation and provide the information to the proper authorities to assist in effective wildlife management. DPW is responsible for the policy regarding the harvest of antlerless deer and will be IAW the annually published State Regulation and Installation Command Policy, Quality Deer Management Program. DPW is responsible for developing food plots for wildlife and stocking fish for all installation lakes.

c. Directorate of Public Safety (DPS). DPS is the primary designated law enforcement authority on the Fort Rucker military reservation and will provide Game Law Enforcement (GLE) officers. The GLE officers will closely coordinate with the Fish and Wildlife Section, and DPW, in the execution of the hunting and fishing programs.

d. Chief Training Division, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS) or his/her designated representative is responsible for the overall training area management and the releasing of training areas for recreational purposes as training or maintenance activities allow as prescribed in Chapter 5 of Fort Rucker Regulation 385-1, Range and Training Area (TA) Regulation, 24 February 2015.

e. Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council. The ODR Council receives comments, suggestions, and concerns from Soldiers and other personnel authorized to hunt and fish on Fort Rucker and represents their interests to improve hunting and fishing on the installation. The ODR Council provides advice on the management of hunting and fishing on Fort Rucker, makes recommendations to improve hunting and fishing to the Garrison Commander; as appropriate.

f. Sportsmen and recreational users are responsible for:

(1) Familiarizing themselves with the provisions of this regulation, and applicable state and federal laws, and abiding by these regulations and laws.

(2) Familiarize themselves with “Fort Rucker special overprint map.” The Fort Rucker special overprint map is used to monitor and manage hunting, fishing, and trapping activities. Available at the Outdoor Recreation Facilities

(3) Before entering a TA, calling Range Operations Training Division’s Automated Briefing System, as known as briefing tape, at 334-255-4086 to obtain information regarding TA status.

(4) Informing a responsible person of their whereabouts (i.e., training areas) and expected time of return. The responsible persons will inform ODR in the event that the hunter/trapper has not returned. They will also notify the Military Police (MP) desk, 334-255-2222.

1-3. AREAS, BOUNDARIES, AND RESTRICTIONS.

a. On 11 September 2001, Fort Rucker implemented 100 percent access control. All roads and trails, with the exception of Daleville, Enterprise, Faulkner, and Ozark Gates are blocked or barricaded. All recreational users must gain access to Fort Rucker through an authorized entry point. Failure to do so could result in loss of recreational privileges.

b. Recreational activities are not allowed within the impact area. The impact area is restricted to authorized personnel only. The impact area is defined as that area bounded by Highway 27 on the south and the paved perimeter road on the north, east, and west, plus portions of TAs 7 and 11.

c. Hunters utilizing TAs adjacent to the impact area (TAs 1 through 11) must be familiar with the restrictions for a duded impact area.

d. TA status can be found by contacting Range Operations Training Division’s Automated Briefing System (briefing tape) at 334-255-4086. After confirming TA’s status, hunters must sign-in via <https://fortrucker.isportsman.net>.

e. Restricted access into these areas. The Training Division, DPTMS, will ensure gates across east and west perimeter roads and Johnston Road are open when hunting or trapping is allowed.

f. Roads with access barriers (e.g., signs, gates, chains, mounds, etc.) are restricted from vehicle traffic. The only exceptions are; vehicles in direct support of training; vehicles used by the Natural Resources Branch, and DPW; vehicles used for area maintenance; and DPS safety and emergency vehicles.

g. The following restrictions apply to recreational hunting:

(1) Bow-only areas. TAs A1, A2, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and 19E.

(2) Shotgun areas. Sportsmen may only use shotguns in the following areas: TA 1- 41, with the exception of 19E.

(3) Rifle areas. Rifles areas, with the exception of 19E, are now TAs 1 – 21, TAs 29 – 32, and TAs 40 – 41.

h. Patrons/Personnel finding any unexploded ordnance (UXO) will immediately report the location to the Training Division, DPTMS, 334-255-4303/4793. Patrons/Personnel will not pick up, move, or otherwise disturb an item suspected of being a UXO. Mark the area and path in such a way that the UXO can be easily located by Range Operations.

1-4. LICENSES AND PERMITS.

a. All patrons/personnel (resident or nonresident) who fish, hunt, or trap on the Fort Rucker military reservation are required to possess the appropriate State of Alabama fishing, hunting, or trapping license. The purchase of a federal duck stamp and State of Alabama duck stamp, in addition to the appropriate state license, is required for hunting water fowl. A federal duck stamp may be purchased at any U.S. Post Office. A State of Alabama duck stamp may be purchased at the Probate Judge's Office at the county courthouse. Residents of the state of Alabama under 16 years of age, or 65 years of age and older are not required to have a state license.

b. DFMWR is the only agency authorized to issue installation hunting, fishing, and trapping permits. All patrons/personnel 16 years of age or older who hunt, fish, or trap on Fort Rucker must have in their possession a valid Fort Rucker hunting, fishing, or trapping permit, as applicable. Permits will be issued only to eligible individuals who possess a valid state license, view the UXO video, pay the appropriate permit fee as prescribed, (for hunters) have proof of completion of a state-certified hunter education course from any of the 50 states, Canada, or Germany.

c. Alabama state residents under 16 years of age, or 65 years of age and older are permitted to hunt, fish, and trap on Fort Rucker at no cost. Individuals meeting the state criteria as totally disabled and possessing a special annual State of Alabama fishing license for totally disabled persons are permitted to fish on Fort Rucker at no cost. Patrons/personnel meeting these criteria will be issued the appropriate Fort Rucker permit. Individuals will contact the ODR Service Center, 334-255-4305 for details on how to obtain a permit.

d. A Sikes Act fee for managing fish and wildlife resources and a Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) fee for managing recreational aspects of the program will be charged to patrons. The fee is included in the permit prices. The rates will be published annually.

1-5. FIREARM AND WEAPON REGISTRATION AND TRANSPORTATION.

a. IAW Army Regulation 190-11, Physical Security of Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives, 5 September 2013, all firearms, to include black powder (except air guns) brought onto Fort Rucker will be registered with Military Police (MP) Station (Bldg 5001). Registration will be on the Fort Rucker Form 818-E (Registration of Privately Owned Weapons). Do not bring weapon(s) into the MP Station.

b. Properly registered privately owned firearms may be transported as outlined:

(1) The firearm must be transported unloaded in the trunk of the vehicle. The only exception is a vehicle without a trunk. In these circumstances, the firearm must be transported unloaded, either in a locked compartment or cased and in plain view.

(2) The transporting of a loaded firearm in a vehicle is prohibited. A firearm is considered loaded when an unexpended round is in the chamber and/or magazine. Muzzleloaders are considered unloaded when the cap is removed or flash pan is empty. Only credentialed police officers are authorized to transport a loaded firearm on Fort Rucker, and must be in pursuant to performing law enforcement duty.

(3) Transporting privately owned firearms on motorcycles is authorized if the firearm is secured in a separate lockable container from ammunition; e.g., saddlebag or lockable faring container.

(4) Handguns will not be concealed at any time.

(5) Firearm and weapon owners will have in their possession at all times their Alabama State license, Fort Rucker permit, and picture ID card. The Fort Rucker Provost Marshal weapon registration must be in their vehicle or in a gun case as they travel on the installation with firearms.

(6) Weapons will only be loaded in the assigned TA. Hunters will inspect, clear, and case their weapons prior to transporting their weapons. Weapons and ammunition will be transported in separate containers and vehicle compartments.

1-6. INSPECTIONS. Sportsmen and women must carry their state license, post permits, and proof of identification on their persons for examination upon request by Fort Rucker GLE officers, or state game wardens. Creel and game bags will be made available for examination upon request. Sportsmen and women must have their weapon's registration in their vehicle or in a gun case as they travel on the installation with firearms. ODR Card must be properly displayed on car dash.

1-7. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS. DFMWR will implement the provisions of the common regulatory violations and possible penalties by conducting hearings when applicable and taking necessary actions in those cases where a violator is identified (Appendix B). A violator is defined as an individual who is apprehended or issued a summons by Fort Rucker GLE officers, federal game wardens, or state game wardens for violation of this regulation, state or federal laws, or other applicable Army regulations on the Fort Rucker military reservation. Violators will surrender their post hunting, fishing, or trapping permits to the officer making the apprehension, and those privileges will be suspended. Any appeal of a suspension will be made IAW paragraph 1-8 RESTORATION OF PRIVILEGES.

1-8. RESTORATION OF PRIVILEGES. Appeals for restoration of hunting, fishing, boating, and trapping privileges will be submitted in writing to DFMWR through DPS (for comment) within 10 calendar days from the date the penalty was issued. The community recreation officer will make a recommendation to the Director, DFMWR, who will then determine if restoration of privileges is warranted or justified. Grounds for appeal include, but are not limited to, emergency beyond patron's control, citation issued improperly, or patron called back to unscheduled military duty.

1-9. HUNTER ORANGE.

a. During all firearm deer seasons, all persons hunting any wildlife species, turkey, are required to wear an outer garment above the waist with a minimum of 144 square inches of hunter orange or either a full size hunter orange hat or cap. A small logo is permitted on the front of hunter orange caps. The cap must be visible from all angles.

b. It is required that persons bow hunting in bow hunting only areas wear, at a minimum, hunter orange headgear visible from any angle when moving.

c. If utilizing a tree stand, once the hunter is elevated 12 feet or higher, hunter orange may be removed. Hunter orange must be on prior to descending from the elevated tree stand.

d. It is required that persons duck hunting wear hunter orange while going to and from the duck blind. It may be removed while in the duck blind.

Section II

SEASONS.

2-1. Hunting and Fishing on Fort Rucker will be IAW the seasons set forth and governed by the state of Alabama and published in the Alabama State Hunting Regulation. The Fish and Wildlife Section, DPW, has the authority to close, limit, or restrict hunting seasons and bag limits in any hunting area on the installation for wildlife management/biological reasons. Any changes will be published in the official

section of the Weekly Bulletin, posted on the MWR Web site <http://rucker.armymwr.com/us/rucker>, and published in the Army Flier.

2-2. It is the sportsman's responsibility to comply with the hunting and fishing seasons, regulations, and bag limits, for the State of Alabama. Season dates and bag limit are explained annually in the Alabama Hunting and Fishing Digest.

2-3. All public streams, lakes and ponds are open to fishing throughout the year. Areas will be marked off-limits when pond management or activities are being conducted.

2-4. IAW Alabama State regulations, hog hunting is allowed during turkey season.

2-5. During turkey season, hunting will be allowed with shotgun shot sizes 6, 7, 7.5 or 8 in bow-only TAs A1, E, F, and I during weekdays.

2-6. Quail hunting will be allowed in TAs (A1, E, F, and I) following the gun deer season with shotguns, 12-gauge or smaller, using shot size 7.5, 8, or 9.

Section III

HUNTING.

3-1. CLEARANCE TO ENTER TRAINING AREAS.

a. It is mandatory that all hunters call Range Operations Training Division's Automated Briefing System also known as briefing tape at 334-255-4086 to obtain information regarding Training Areas' (TAs) status. After confirming TA's status, hunters must sign-in via <https://fortrucker.isportsman.net>. It is the hunter's responsibility to check TA closures each period posted daily by DPTMS Range Operations at 1100, 1600, and 2000.

b. iSportsman is Fort Rucker's primary method to check into a TA for hunting. This requirement aids in addressing safety concerns by ensuring the number of hunters does not exceed the TA's capacity, and prevents recreational activities from impeding on training activities.

c. Hunters will select an open TA. This selected TA assignment shall be binding. Hunters can only be signed in to one TA at a time. Hunters are allowed to change TAs only by calling the Range Operations briefing tape for TA availability. Once confirmed, hunters will log into iSportsman to change their TAs.

d. If iSportsman is inoperative, the secondary check-in procedure is to call ODR after 0730 at 334-255-4305 (voice mail) notifying them that iSportsman is inoperative. In the event that both the primary and secondary systems fail, hunters may hunt after verifying that the TA is in fact open for hunting by calling the Range Operations briefing tape at 334-255-4086. The last updated briefing will be at 2000. Hunters can **register** for an available TA a day prior between the hours of 2005hrs and 2359hrs. Hunters cannot register for TAs for the following day before Range Operations 2000 update.

e. Hunters and trappers must be out of the hunting areas not later than 1900 standard time, or 2000 daylight savings time (DST). All hunters failing to check out of a hunting area will be automatically removed by the system at 2000 DST.

3-2. FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.

a. Firearms.

(1) Legal arms and ammunition for hunting on Fort Rucker will be IAW the State hunting regulations. Rifles, pistols using center-fire, mushrooming type ammunition are authorized for hunting in TAs 1 – 21, TAs 29 – 32, and TAs 40 – 41. There are no firearms permitted in TA 19E. Black-powder, muzzle-loading rifles, pistols (.40-caliber or larger), and shotguns (10-gauge or smaller using buckshot or slugs) are authorized for deer hunting in all gun areas (numbered TAs). Small game hunters may use .22-caliber or smaller rimfire firearms or air guns in all gun areas.

(2) Only .22-caliber firearms are permitted to dispatch hogs caught in hog traps in any bow only areas, with the exception of 19E. There are specific bow only areas that you will be allowed to hunt turkey and quail with a firearm.

b. Bow and Arrow. Bow and arrow equipment will be IAW State regulations. During bow deer season, hunters are not allowed to have in their possession a bow and firearm (rifle or gun).

3-3. CLEARANCE BEFORE DISCHARGING FIREARMS.

a. Hunters will ensure the area behind the target is cleared.

b. No discharge of firearms within 50 yards of paved roads, gravel roads or maintained roads.

c. No discharge of firearms within 200 yards of airstrips, recreational areas (to include trails), or buildings – to include stables and housing areas. Weapons and bows will not be fired in the direction of roads, airstrips, recreational areas, or buildings. The only exception is duck hunters who are permitted to hunt over or around lakes, ponds, creeks, rivers to shoot ducks.

d. Indiscriminate shooting is not allowed within the confines of the Fort Rucker military installation. Target practice is only allowed at the Privately Owned Weapon (POW) Range. Range is located across from Range Operations Bldg 24314. Individuals must present a stamped copy of their Fort Rucker Form 818-E and a valid state or federal ID and receive a safety brief, to Range Operations personnel before they are allowed to use the POW Range. Patrons/personnel should contact Range Operations for times of operation at 334-255-4303/4486.

3-4. GROUP HUNTS. A group hunt is defined as a cooperative effort by five or more individuals hunting game on Fort Rucker. Group hunts on Fort Rucker are only allowed for hog hunts and must be approved by the Garrison Commander or his/her delegated authority prior to the hunt. Deer drives, by any number of individuals, are not authorized on Fort Rucker.

3-5. QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. Fort Rucker's Quality Deer Management Program entails an annual review of harvest data, fawn recruitment, and other biological data pertaining to the deer population on Fort Rucker by the Environmental and Natural Resources Division within DPW. NRD will make a recommendation to the Garrison Commander for approval about harvest quota, antlerless harvest, and necessary hog and coyote depredation control. An announcement will be made not later than 31 August, prior to the beginning of deer season, detailing the changes to harvest restriction and training area availability for that season.

3-6. TREE STANDS.

a. ODR Tree Stands. DFMWR manages procedures for allocating ODR tree stands. A limited number of tree stands may be erected and maintained by ODR in designated hunting areas. Hunters will not use these areas or tree stands without contacting ODR. Access to the tree stands require registering for specific tree stands at ODR during regular business hours. Tree stands are used on a first-come, first-served basis. A fee will be charged for the use of these tree stands. This does not include privately built tree stands. All hunting regulations and requirements put forth in the main body of this regulation apply to hunting from tree stands is controlled by ODR.

(1) ODR has the overall responsibility for building, maintaining, assigning, and collecting fees for the use of these tree stands.

(2) ODR and Range Operations are responsible for selecting tree stand construction sites.

(3) The hunter will request for an assigned tree stand from ODR. ODR personnel will brief the hunter on any special requirements, and can be contacted at 334-255-4305.

(4) Hunters will register with ODR, **in person**, for the use of tree stands located in TA 11.

(5) Hunters must park in the designated TA assigned to the tree stand.

(6) Hunters can only hunt in the tree stand and area that they are assigned. Should the area be subsequently closed for training, the tree stand fee will be refunded. There will be no refunds for stands not canceled a minimum of 24 hours in advance by the hunter.

(7) Some stands are large enough for one adult and one child. Stands are not designed for and will not be occupied by two adults.

b. Privately Built Tree Stands (Semi-Permeant). Construction of a tree stand in no way implies ownership. Permission must be obtained from ODR as to the location prior to construction. All tree stands constructed by private individuals become community property for authorized hunters. Fort Rucker installation assumes no responsibility for the construction, condition, or maintenance of tree stands constructed by private individuals. Hunters use tree stands at their own risk.

c. Temporary Tree Stands. Temporary tree stands (i.e., ladder stands) will have a placard attached with information denoting the owner's name, the owner's phone number, and the date the stand was emplaced. The placard will be a minimum of 3x5 inches and contained within a waterproof and transparent plastic bag, attached to either the stand or tree in a readily visible location.

d. Restricted Areas. No tree stands will be built or located in the impact area.

e. Safety. Falls from tree stands are common when hunting. Anyone who hunts from an elevated stand is required to use a full-body style safety harness (fall restraint device). Hunters may use tree stands at their own risk.

3-7. USE OF PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES.

a. Licensed motor vehicles are limited to operation on paved roads, gravel roads, and maintained dirt roads.

b. Upon entering a TA, hunters and trappers will not block roads, tank trails, etc., when parking their vehicle.

c. Hunters and trappers must display the ODR registration card in plain view on the dashboard of the driver's side of their vehicle. The ODR registration card must be filled out legibly and in its entirety.

d. Motor vehicles will not traverse cross-country through wildlife openings (food plots), through utility line rights-of-way, or around locked gates and cables. Law enforcement, other official agencies, and properly registered hunters individual with disabilities (IWD) are granted permission through proper coordination with ODR.

e. Hunting from a motor vehicle is prohibited; the **ONLY** exception as defined in State of Alabama law allowing the use of motor vehicle hunting by hunters who are individuals with disabilities (IWD). IWD hunters who are interested in obtaining approval to operate off-road vehicles and all-terrain vehicles (ATV) must contact ODR at 334-255-4305 for details, requirements, and forms.

f. Hunters and trappers in Training Area Charlie will not park automobiles on Artillery Road.

g. Hunters and trappers will not tamper with or otherwise remove any barricade or gate that prohibits entry into any TA that is closed for training.

3-8. HUNTING WITH DOGS.

a. Vaccination. Dogs brought onto the installation shall be properly immunized for rabies. Upon request by proper authorities, GLE officers, state game wardens, federal game wardens, etc., owners of hunting dogs shall produce rabies vaccination certificates.

b. Training.

(1) Training or conditioning of hunting dogs on Fort Rucker is limited to the area south of Highway 27, and may be done during daylight hours only, with the exception of raccoon hunting.

(2) Personnel will call Range Operations briefing tape at 334-255-4086 to obtain information on TAs that are available for hunting/training dogs.

(3) Dog trainers will ensure dogs remain under close supervision in designated TA and that native game is not molested.

(4) Water training may be done year-round at Engineer Beach on Lake Tholocco, Beaver Pond on Andrews Avenue near the golf course, or Beaver Lake. Dog training and/or pets are not allowed in the recreational areas at Buckhorn Lake, Ech Lake, and Parcours Lake.

(5) Hunting dog training is restricted during the critical ground bird (wild turkey, quail, etc.) nesting and brood-raising period of 1 March to 31 July. Only exception is at designated water TAs.

(6) There is no training allowed for deer hunting dogs.

c. Deer and hog hunting with dogs on Fort Rucker are prohibited.

d. Hunting with horses is prohibited.

3-9. ADDITIONAL HUNTING MANDATES AND RESTRICTIONS.

a. Electronic calls are authorized for small game hunting, including hogs. Electronic calls can only be used during daylight hours.

b. The use of explosive noise-producing devices (e.g., fireworks, blank pistols, etc.) is prohibited. Training pistols incapable of firing any ammunition but blanks may be used in training hunting dogs. State regulations apply to the use of other types of noise-producing devices (e.g., game and bird calls, rattling antlers, etc.

c. Cleaning game in housing areas is prohibited. A cleaning shed is located behind the Game Warden Office Bldg 24201. For additional information concerning this facility, contact ODR at 334-255-4305.

d. Collection stations. Field Dressing game in the TA is prohibited. Hunters must utilize the collection stations. All deer and turkeys must be physically taken to the collection stations to be weighed, measured, and logged in (instructions are posted at all collection stations). All hunters must fill out their harvest record, to include newly required confirmation number, before removing the animal/bird from the installation. Failure to do so will result in a 30-day suspension. Collection stations for TAs North of Highway 27 (TAs 1-11) is located across from Range Operations Bldg 24314. Collection stations for TAs

(TAs 12-41) South of Highway 27 are located across from the Game Warden Office Bldg 24201, and at the Newton gate.

e. Hunters wounding game will make every effort to track down the animal or bird. They will notify the Game Warden officers (334-255-4735/4213) of lost game. Tracking wounded game into the impact area is prohibited. Tracking for game is not allowed in areas known or suspected to contain UXOs.

f. As part of the Wildlife Management Program (WMP) the number of hogs/coyotes hunted must be recorded to track the hog/coyote populations. All hogs hunted must be recorded on the hunter's "kill card." Kill Cards can be picked-up from ODR at BLDG 24235, once the card is full, it must be turned-in to ODR. ODR shall report all Kill Card Data to Natural Resources within two days of receipt.

g. Turkey hunters will only possess ammunition legal for hunting turkeys.

Section IV

FISHING.

4-1. SEASONS. All ponds, lakes, and streams, with the exception of Buckhorn Lake and those identified as in the impact area, will be open for fishing 24 hours a day. Ponds, lakes, and streams may be closed due to military training or restocking. Notice will be published on the MWR Web site (<http://rucker.armymwr.com/us/rucker>) of closed ponds or lakes as well as effective dates of closing. Signs, indicating closures, will be displayed at all ponds or lakes when closed for any purpose.

4-2. METHODS.

a. Fisherpersons will have in their possession at all times their Alabama State fishing license, Fort Rucker fishing permit, and a picture ID card.

b. Methods of Fishing. Rod and reel, hook and line, cane pole, and similar methods of fishing are authorized. Fisherpersons are limited to two fishing poles or rods per person while fishing off of designated fishing piers on Lake Tholocco. Bait restrictions for small lakes and ponds are outlined in paragraph 4-3 below.

c. Line Fishing. Trotlines, throw lines, or setlines (to include jugs) are authorized only under the following conditions:

(1) All such lines will be prominently marked with the owner's last name and Fort Rucker hunting/fishing permit number.

(2) Trotlines will be prominently marked at both ends and will not be located on any span that may interfere with other fisherpersons' lines or watercraft. Trotlines are limited to 200 feet in length and not more than 2 lines per individual. Trotlines and setlines will not be placed in a water ski area, Area 1.

(3) All lines will be checked each 12-hour period.

(4) Unmarked lines and improperly set lines will be confiscated by GLE officers or state and federal game wardens.

(5) Glass and metal containers are prohibited for jug fishing. All jugs will be marked with the owner's last name and Fort Rucker hunting/fishing permit number. Jugs will be attended to prevent them drifting into recreational areas.

d. Traps, Seines, and Nets.

(1) The only fish traps authorized in any waters on Fort Rucker are minnow traps with an aperture of 1 inch or less.

(2) Special regulations governing sucker netting are as follows.

(a) Persons participating must comply with the license provisions of paragraph 1-4 and are required to have Fort Rucker fishing permits in their possession.

(b) Rods and reels, hooks and lines, cane poles, spears, gigs, longbows, or firearms are not allowed in boats with, or in the possession of, persons engaged in sucker netting.

(c) All nets will be marked with buoys or floats readily visible above the water line and prominently marked with the owner's last name.

e. Fishing Lake Tholocco.

(1) No fishing in the primary ski area while being used by skiers, tubers, etc.

(2) No fishing within 100 feet around designated swimming areas, except on the West Beach fishing pier.

(3) No fishing on beach areas when open for swimming activities.

(4) No fishing within 50 feet of boat docks.

(5) No fishing within 50 feet of vessel launching areas.

(6) No fishing from a boat within 150 feet of the spillway.

4-3. RESTRICTIONS APPLYING TO SMALL LAKES AND PONDS. The following regulations apply to Beaver Lake, Buckhorn Lake, Ech Lake, and Parcours Lake on the Fort Rucker military reservation.

a. Minnows of all types are prohibited.

b. Seining or netting is prohibited, except for specific military training.

c. Trotlines and/or jugs are prohibited.

d. Only paddles, oars, and electric motors are allowed as means of boat propulsion on Beaver Lake, Buckhorn Lake, Ech Lake, Parcours Lake, and other waters of the military reservation. The operation of gasoline engines on these four lakes is prohibited. Float tubes or belly boats are authorized for fishing.

e. Swimming and wading are prohibited in the lakes identified in paragraph 4-3.

f. Lake creel limits are posted at Lake Tholocco, Beaver Lake, Buckhorn Lake, Ech Lake, and Parcours Lake.

g. Giggling for frogs on ponds open for fishing is permitted if the gig has at least three prongs. A post fishing permit is required.

h. Parcours Lake is reserved for youth fishing, 15 years of age or younger. Adults may assist youth fishing activities but cannot actively fish themselves. ~~The following regulations apply to Beaver Lake, Buckhorn Lake, Eeh Lake, and Parcours Lake on the Fort Rucker military reservation.~~

Section V

RECREATIONAL TRAPPING.

1. **GENERAL.** Recreational Trapping refers to trapping of fur bearing creatures. The following are designated as furbearing animals in Alabama (2016-2017): beaver, bobcat, fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, otter, raccoon, striped skunk, coyote and feral swine. Recreational hunting is at the expense of the trapper. Fort Rucker provides no additional resources to support trapping or baiting of furbearing animals. Recreational trapping is not depredation trapping and has separate procedures and policies.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. 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 TAs 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 TAs surrounding the cantonment area but is restricted to at least 200 yards from any housing areas, facilities, or structures.

b. DPS/Game Law Enforcers. GLE are responsible for enforcing state and federal law as well as regulations and guidelines identified in FRR 215-1 and FRR 385-1. They are authorized to enforce all applicable regulations and/or state laws pertaining to trapping on Fort Rucker. They will take appropriate actions against violations.

c. Fish and Wildlife Section, DPW. Consolidate trapping information from all recreational trappers. Fort Rucker biologists will maintain annual records of all game trapped on Fort Rucker.

d. Recreational Trappers. Patrons wanting to trap on Fort Rucker will declare those intentions at the ODR Office Bldg 24235 at Lake Tholocco. They will 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. All other types of traps will be inspected 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 and/or via email.

e. Trappers who are specifically trappings feral hogs must coordinate with DPW Natural Resource at (334) 255-1659.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.

a. Recreational trappers will adhere to all requirements found in Section I and Section III of this regulation.

b. Trapping is not authorized in the impact area, TA 19E, portions of TA 7 and 11, and as depicted on the surrounding cantonment TAs.

4. CLEARANCE/PROCEDURES FOR TRAPPING IN NUMBERED TRAINING AREAS.

a. Recreational trapping is only authorized within TAs in an open status. Trappers are required to check TA's statuses through the Range Operations briefing tape at 334-255-4086. Trappers must sign in and out via <http://fortrucker.isportsman.net> to sign in to TAs. Traps in TAs scheduled to be closed must be disarmed prior to the scheduled closed date. TAs projected open and closed dates are published on the ODR Hunting Area Status Map website.

b. Licensed motor vehicles are limited to operation on paved roads, gravel roads, and maintained dirt roads. Upon entering a TA, trappers will not block roads, tank trails, etc., when parking their vehicle. Trappers must display the ODR Dashboard Registration Card in plain view on the dashboard of the driver's side of their vehicle. The card must be filled out legibly and in its entirety.

c. Trappers may only carry and use a .22-caliber rimfire weapon to dispatch trapped furbearing game. The weapon will not be loaded until the trapper is ready to dispatch the trapped game. Conducting animal dispatch, see **5-7 CLEARANCE OF FIRES (WHEN DISPATCHING)** paragraph below.

5. CLEARANCE/PROCEDURES FOR TRAPPING IN THE LETTERED TRAINING AREAS.

a. TAs surrounding Fort Rucker's cantonment area known as lettered TAs, thus, extra safety measures will be exercised. Lettered TAs are A1, A2, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and 19E. The lettered TAs 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.

b. Trappers will follow normal log-in procedures notifying Range Operations and signing-in to iSportsman. See **Section III para 3-1 CLEARANCE TO ENTER TRAINING AREA.**

c. The trapper must maintain constant cognizance of his location when trapping and dispatching, especially when trapping in a lettered TA.

d. For those lettered TAs that border any portion of the residential housing, trappers are not authorized to park vehicles on any street, grass, field, or road (dirt or otherwise) that is in or between the residential housing and the lettered TAs. Trappers will not transit through any portion of the residential housing with weapons or game or to inspect traps.

e. 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, airfield, recreational area, etc.

f. Trappers may only carry and use a .22-caliber rimfire weapon to dispatch trapped furbearing game. The .22-caliber firearm is the only authorized firearm for use in lettered TAs to dispatch. The weapon will not be loaded until the trapper is ready to dispatch the trapped game. Conducting animal dispatch, see **5-7 CLEARANCE OF FIRES (WHEN DISPATCHING)** paragraph below.

6. FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION. Rifles may be used to dispatch furbearing game in TAs 1 – 21, TAs 29 – 32, and TAs 40 – 41. Only .22-caliber firearms are permitted to dispatch in lettered TAs, TAs A – I. There are no firearms permitted in TA 19E.

7. CLEARANCE BEFORE DISCHARGING FIREARMS (WHEN DISPATCHING).

a. Trappers will not fire in the direction of any post housing or any other structure bordering or surrounding a lettered TA. 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.

b. Trappers will ensure the firearm is loaded and aimed in a ‘downward’ manner to prevent rounds from departing the immediate area placing personnel or infrastructure at risk (no free shooting of trapped or un-trapped animals).

c. Trappers will ensure the area surrounding the trap is cleared before firing. Trappers will not dispatch game greater than 50 yards from the target.

- d. No discharge of firearms within 50 yards of trails, paved roads, gravel roads or maintained roads.

- e. No discharge of firearms within 200 yards of airstrips, recreational areas (to include trails), or buildings – to include stables and housing areas.

- f. Weapons, firearms and bows will not be fired in the direction of roads, airstrips, recreational areas, fishing areas lakes, or buildings.

- g. All weapons will be properly cleared and placed on safe immediately following animal dispatch.

- h. The weapon will remain unloaded and unconcealed while removing the dispatched animal from the area.

- i. Trappers must ensure the animal is deceased before transporting it. Alabama law prohibits the transport of live game animals.

8. ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL TRAPPING MANDATES AND RESTRICTIONS.

- a. Recreational Trapping **is not authorized** in a closed TA. Traps must be de-armed (unset) prior to unit occupation.

- b. Hunter orange is required for all Recreational Trappers.

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

- d. Trap markings. 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.

- 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.

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

Section VI

DEPREDATION ANIMAL TRAPPING.

1. GENERAL.

a. Increases in feral hog populations on Fort Rucker over the last 25 years have resulted in numerous problems for the Installation. Feral hogs directly compete with both game and non-game species for available resources; displace native wildlife populations; disrupt and destroy nests of native wildlife; and cause damage to crops, trees, landfill caps and erosion control structures.

b. In order to reduce the feral hog population on the installation, Fort Rucker Natural Resources has instituted a depredation hog trapping program. As part of this program hog traps and a limited amount of corn have been purchased by Natural Resources and will be made available for use by depredation trapping volunteers. A limited amount of corn will be available from the Natural Resources Branch at no cost to the trapper. One 50-lb. bag of corn per trap will be available each month on the first Wednesday of the month.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. DPW, Natural Resources is responsible for identifying the need for depredation trapping due to damage, disease or safety risk caused by wild animals. Natural Resources will be responsible for developing a plan for accomplishing depredation animal trapping and implementing the plan through the use of Natural Resources personnel, USDA, Wildlife Resources personnel, and volunteer resources. Natural Resources will provide updated depredation trapping maps to DPTMS Training Division and the Garrison Command as changes occur.

b. DPTMS, Training Division is responsible for reviewing the depredation trapping plan and de-conflicting trapping activities with training and other users of TAs.

c. DPS, Game Law Enforcers. GLE are responsible for enforcing state and federal law as well as regulations and guidelines identified in FRR 215-1 and FRR 385-1. They are authorized to enforce all applicable regulations and/or state laws pertaining to trapping on Fort Rucker. They will take appropriate actions against violations.

d. MWR, Outdoor Recreation is responsible for the recreational aspects of trapping as well as the maintenance of traps. MWR is also responsible for consolidating Kill Cards information from hunters and depredation trappers for both feral hogs and coyotes. MWR will issue recreational hunting and trapping permits and provide incentive opportunities for depredation animal control by recreational hunting. MWR is the proponent for this regulation. ODR shall report all Kill Card Data to Natural

Resources within two days of receipt. ODR shall coordinate approval of any “Hunting Incentives” with Natural Resources prior to publishing policy.

3. FERAL HOG DEPREDATION TRAPPING. Administrative Rules.

a. All volunteer trappers and their assistants must have an Alabama hunting license and a Fort Rucker hunting permit. There should be no charge for the Fort Rucker hunting permit if no other species are to be hunted. They submit a DD 2793 Volunteer Agreement with NR.

b. Volunteers will sign an agreement/permit stating familiarity with FRR 215-1, location of trap, responsible personnel for trap, receipt of trap, and any special considerations for the specific location used.

c. Only one person will be issued a volunteer trapping permit for each trap and will be accountable for that trap. All trappers are limited to three traps. Only the permit holder is authorized to make arrangements with the Natural Resources Branch (NRB). If other personnel are assisting with the trap in the field, their names must be added to the permit issued to the responsible individual and signed off by NRB. A copy of the trapping permit must be in the trapper’s possession when inspecting traps.

d. Depredation trappers must call Range Operations briefing tape at 334-255-4086 to obtain information regarding TA status. **If the area is open, depredation trappers will follow Procedures for Open TAs. If the area is closed, depredation trappers will follow Procedures for Occupied TAs.**

e. When the trap is set the volunteer must inspect the trap daily (once every 24 hours), dispatch and remove any hogs that have been caught in accordance with state law. Hogs must be dispatched inside the trap with firearms authorized in the assigned TA, with the exception of the lettered (bow) areas in which only a .22 rimfire firearm can be used.

f. Depredation trappers must wear a yellow identification vest and display a NR Vehicle Identification card on the dash of their vehicles during trapping activities in the TA. These items will be provided by DPW, Natural Resources.

4. CLEARANCE TO ENTER NON-OCCUPIED (OPEN) TAs.

a. It is mandatory that all depredation trappers call Range Operations Training Division’s Automated Briefing System also known as briefing tape at 334-255-4086 to obtain information regarding TAs status. After confirming TA’s status, trappers must sign-in via <https://fortrucker.isportsman.net>. It is

the trapper's responsibility to check TA closures each period posted daily by DPTMS Range Operations at 1100, 1600, and 2000.

b. Volunteers are responsible for verifying with Range Operations that the area is available for trapping on a daily basis.

c. If the TA is open, trappers may proceed during daylight hours to inspect, bait, and run their traps in the TA.

d. Trapped feral hogs will be dispatched in the trap using firearms approved for that specific TA. Only .22 caliber is authorized in lettered TAs. See para **6-6 FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION** paragraph below for more details. Conducting animal dispatch, see para **6-7 CLEARANCE OF FIRES (WHEN DISPATCHING)** paragraph below.

5. CLEARANCE TO ENTER OCCUPIED (CLOSED) TAs.

a. It is mandatory that all depredation trappers call Range Operations Training Division's Automated Briefing System also known as briefing tape at 334-255-4086 to obtain information regarding TAs status. After confirming TA's status, trappers must sign-in via <https://fortruck.isportsman.net>. It is the trapper's responsibility to check TA closures each period posted daily by DPTMS Range Operations at 1100, 1600, and 2000.

b. Range Operations must be contacted at 334-255-4303 and authorization must be received to proceed into a Closed TA. The depredation trapper cannot enter Closed TA without authorization.

c. After gaining authorization, depredation trappers have two periods during the day when they can request clearance to enter for the purposes of inspecting traps. These periods are 0500-0800 and 1500-1800 daily. If the traps cannot be inspected during these time periods, the traps must be disabled.

d. Trappers will provide estimation (duration) of time on site to Range Operations.

e. The depredation trapper must notify Range Operations again to clear the trap and TA. If multiple traps are within a TA, the depredation trapper must inform Range Operations each time they clear a trap site and request authorization to proceed to the next trap site.

f. If feral hogs are in the trap, the depredation trapper must notify Range Operations that dispatch is required at the trap site. Range Operations will notify using training unit of animal dispatch activities

and advise trappers once that notification is complete. Once notification is in concurrence, feral hogs will be dispatched using weapons approved for that specific TA. See **6-6 FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION** paragraph below for more details. Conducting animal dispatch, see **6-7 CLEARANCE OF FIRES (WHEN DISPATCHING)** paragraph below.

g. Once dispatch is complete and trappers have cleared the TA, trappers will notify Range Operations. Range Operations will notify training unit personnel that dispatch activities have been completed and trapping personnel have departed.

6. FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION. Rifles may be used to dispatch hog/coyotes in TAs 1 – 21, TAs 29 – 32, and TAs 40 – 41. Shotguns may also be used to dispatch hogs in all TAs except lettered TAs. Only .22-caliber firearms are permitted to dispatch hogs in lettered TAs, TAs A – I.

7. CLEARANCE OF FIRES (WHEN DISPATCHING).

a. When conducting animal dispatch, trappers will ensure the area surrounding the trap is cleared before firing.

b. When in a lettered TA, trappers will not fire in the direction of any post housing or any other structure bordering or surrounding. 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.

c. Trappers will ensure the firearm is loaded and aimed in a ‘downward’ manner to prevent rounds from departing the immediate area placing personnel or infrastructure at risk (no free shooting of trapped or un-trapped animals).

d. Trappers will not dispatch a game/hog greater than 50 yards from the target.

e. No discharge of firearms within 50 yards of trails, paved roads, gravel roads or maintained roads.

f. No discharge of firearms within 200 yards of airstrips, recreational areas (to include trails), fishing areas, lakes, or buildings – to include stables and housing areas. Weapons, firearms and bows will not be fired in the direction of roads, airstrips, recreational areas, fishing areas lakes, or buildings.

g. All weapons will be properly cleared and placed on safe immediately following animal dispatch.

h. The weapon will remain unloaded and unconcealed while removing the dispatched animal from the area.

8. COYOTE DEPREDATION TRAPPING.

a. Control measures for coyotes have become necessary because non-native coyotes have reached high populations and are seriously impacting game and non-game species to include the gopher tortoise (a DOD designated SAR) by predation. Coyotes have also caused safety issues with joggers, bikers, and Soldiers on foot training in remote areas and around base housing.

b. Natural Resources and USDA Wildlife Services personnel are the ONLY partiers to conduct Depredation Coyote Trapping. Coyote trapping activities will be accomplished during February-March and July-August timeframes. All coyote trapping activities will be coordinated with Training Division for de-conflicting with training activities.

c. Trap locations will be marked with 4-ft tall 1-inch galvanized pipe with reflective tape around the top. Traps will be within 2 meters of pipe. Both leg-hold and snare traps may be used depending on agency authorization. Traps will be marked with an identifying band listing agency name and contact phone number.

d. Firearms and Ammunition. Dispatch of coyotes in traps will be accomplished with .22 rimfire weapons and ammunition.

e. Clearance of Fires. See **6-7 CLEARANCE OF FIRES (WHEN DISPATCHING)**.

f. Reports. Records will be kept of all coyotes taken by trapping or shooting and will be maintained by Natural Resources for reporting to the Garrison Command. Recreation hunters taking coyotes will report their harvest on Kill Cards maintained by Outdoor Recreation.

9. DEPREDATION MANDATES AND RESTRICTIONS.

a. Trap Location. Traps will be placed by volunteers in areas with existing hog populations as approved by Natural Resources personnel. Traps **will not** be relocated without approval by Natural Resources. Requests for new traps or relocation of existing traps will be handled on the first Wednesday of each month. Please email Daniel M. Spillers at daniel.m.spillers.civ@mail.mil for permit application.

b. Trap Inspection. Volunteers will be responsible for monitoring and inspecting assigned traps. Each trap will have a NRB provided and signed placard. The placard will have assigned trappers' name and contact number. Traps must be inspected daily when they are set. If a trapper is unable to inspect assigned traps daily, the traps must be disabled. If the trapper is unable to run the trap for an extended period (i.e., two weeks or longer) Natural Resources Personnel must be contacted so that the trap can be turned in and reissued. If traps are not being inspected as required, trapping privileges will be revoked.

c. Reports.

(1) Reports of trapping activity must be turned in at the end of each month. DPW Natural Resources personnel provides a "Feral Hog Trapping/Harvesting Report" (spreadsheet) for this purpose. This report should be sent by email to james.bruner5.ctr@mail.mil. If trapping reports are not turned in, trapping privileges will be revoked.

(2) Outdoor Recreation Kill Cards must be maintained and turned in for any feral hogs taken by trapping or hunting. Kill Cards are available at the ODR Office Bldg 24235 at Lake Tholocco.

d. The hogs can be utilized by the volunteer for meat if desired. A list will be made available to volunteers of personnel who are available to receive trapped hogs for meat.

e. Under no circumstances will live hogs be removed from the trap and/or transported. This is a violation of state law and of Fort Rucker regulations and violators will be prosecuted. Violators will have their hunting, fishing and trapping privileges suspended and/or revoked.

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

Section VII

BOATING AND WATER ACTIVITIES.

1. GENERAL.

a. All motorized (gasoline powered) vessels used on the waters of the Fort Rucker military reservation must have a current state registration.

b. Vessel launch passes must be paid as indicated on area signs.

c. All patrons/personnel and vessels will comply with Alabama and federal laws and regulations, unless specified below.

d. Persons operating watercraft in a reckless or hazardous manner or in violation of the regulations in this section may lose their privileges to operate a boat on the waters of Fort Rucker. Watercraft not having the required equipment will not be allowed to operate until the required equipment is obtained.

2. BOAT OPERATIONS SPECIFIC TO LAKE THOLOCCO.

a. The operator of any vessel, motorized or not, must have in his/her possession a Lake Tholocco Boater Safety Certificate. One may be obtained online at <https://rucker.armymwr.com/programs/hunting-and-fishing> or call 334-255-4305.

b. All powerboat operators will follow a clockwise traffic pattern in the primary ski area of the lake, keeping the red buoys on the right and the white buoys on the left. Operators of all vessels (as defined by Alabama state regulations) will obtain and thoroughly familiarize themselves with the Lake Tholocco Traffic Pattern.

c. Boats and personal watercraft (PWC) will not be operated within 100 feet of the authorized swimming area.

d. Boats and PWC will not be operated within 150 feet of the spillway structure of the dam.

e. Non-powered pleasure boats, including rowboats and canoes except when being used for fishing, will operate only in designated areas.

f. Sailboats, windsurfing, wave runners, jet skis, and airboats will be restricted to areas north of West and East Beach piers, with the following exceptions:

(1) Watercraft launched at the marina may use the west side of the lake en route to the authorized area, provided they take the most direct route.

(2) Watercraft may proceed directly to and from East and West Beach drop-off areas to pick up/discharge riders. They may not enter the main circulation area unless they are pulling skiers or tubes. Jet skis and wave runners pulling skiers/tubes must operate within the normal vessel/ski pattern in area 1.

(3) Jet skis and wave runners will be launched from boat ramps.

g. PWC may only operate from sunrise to sunset, except for fishing. Fishing from a boat is authorized 24 hours a day. In addition to Alabama boat lighting requirements, fishing boats operating at night must have an operational flashlight or spotlight onboard and required Type I, II, III, or V, U.S. Coast Guard-approved Personal Floatation Device (PFD) lifejackets.

h. Boat and PWC operators are prohibited from leaving skiers in any area other than authorized drop-off points (East and West Beach outside roped-off swimming areas).

i. Swimming from boats is prohibited, except in the event of an emergency.

j. Patrons/personnel under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult when using ODR boats.

k. Windsurfing is authorized only on Lake Tholocco. Windsurfers will stay clear of water ski and swimming areas. Windsurfers must wear a PFD lifejacket.

l. Impoundments are restricted from use.

m. Reckless or negligent operation of boats or PWC will not be tolerated. Except for specifically approved special events such as boat races, boats will be operated at a safe and prudent speed dictated by congestion and lake utilization.

n. Automobiles/trucks and their boat trailers will spend only minimum time on the launching ramps. Minimum time is defined as only that time required to safely launch and/or to recover boats.

o. During periods of severe weather or very low water when lakes are hazardous to boating, the DFMWR designee, DFMWR lifeguards, or GLE officer may close that portion of the ODR facility for safety reasons.

p. Paddle boards may only be used in Area 2. Paddle boards are deemed a vessel and a life vest is required on board for each person.

3. SWIMMING, BEACH RULES, AND BEACH INFORMATION.

a. Lifeguards have the authority to close the swimming area when deemed unsafe.

b. Swimming is allowed during designated daylight hours when lifeguards are on duty. Swimming is allowed only inside the roped-off area.

c. "Swimming at your own risk" is not permitted on Fort Rucker.

d. Swimming enhancement rules: PFDs are not required, except for non-swimmers. No diving, jumping, or pushing allowed. No loitering. No roughhousing allowed. No sharp or dangling jewelry. No swimming under floating swim enhancements at any time.

e. All patrons will comply with posted rules and regulations and lifeguard instructions.

Section VIII

SAFETY.

8-1. GENERAL. We want our recreational activities to be performed in a safe, responsible and enjoyable manner. To achieve our goal we've implemented restrictions on hunting, fishing, and water activities established upon by safety considerations and our training environment. Anyone identifying or having knowledge of an accident or incident occurring on Fort Rucker will notify the appropriate authorities – Emergency dial 911, MP Desk at 255-2222, or Environmental Resources Division at 255-1659.

8-2. POLICIES.

a. General Rules.

(1) Hikers, runners, joggers, walkers, horseback riders, and nature watchers are strictly prohibited to use any TA that are not designated or identified as approved trails. Hikers, runners, joggers, walkers, horseback riders, and nature watchers are only allowed on designated trails/courses. Violators are subject to be fined.

(2) Patrons must obey all posted rules and restrictions listed at each trail/course location.

(3) Designated horse riding areas are coordinated between Range Operations and the riding stables. All riders will coordinate horse riding with the riding stables. Horse riding is restricted to approved established trails only; free riding throughout TAs is not authorized. Riders must wear a vest or jacket hunter orange and must be visible from any angle.

(4) No firearms are permitted in 19E.

(5) Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet on Air Assault and Beaver Lake courses.

(6) Runners with animals are prohibited from using tracks during hours of scheduled physical training.

(7) Unit physical fitness training has priority of running tracks between the hours of 0600 and 0730, Monday through Friday.

(8) Additional running restrictions can be found in Fort Rucker Regulation 190-5, Fort Rucker Motor Vehicle Regulation, dated 6 December 2016.

(9) Removal or disturbance of any plant, mammal, reptile, bird, or antiquities is prohibited.

(10) Possession or use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs while hunting is prohibited.

(11) Removing, altering, or defacing signs is prohibited. All official Fort Rucker regulatory signs will be strictly obeyed.

(12) Littering or dumping is strictly prohibited.

(13) Civilians will not enter any training area that is closed for training as listed in iSportsman.

b. Designated Walking, Running, and Fitness Trails.

(1) Only designated walking, running, and fitness trails are to be used for recreational fitness activities.

(2) Designated walking, running, and fitness trails include the following:

(a) Parcours Fitness Trails (behind IHG Army Hotels, Building 380).

(b) Beaver Lake Jogging and Hiking Trail.

(c) Air Assault Track (authorized night use).

(d) Quarter-Mile Track behind the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center, Building 4605 (authorized night use).

(3) Caution should be used in wooded areas and along trails that can harbor poison oak, ticks, and poisonous snakes. Be alert!

(4) Use of the buddy system is encouraged, especially in foul weather or low-light conditions.

(5) Children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult when utilizing trails.

c. Hunter Orange. (See Section I, Paragraph 1-9 HUNTER ORANGE).

d. Duds and UXOs. Patrons/Personnel finding any unexploded ordnance (UXO) will immediately report the location to the Training Division, DPTMS, 334-255-4303/4793. Patrons will not pick up, move, or otherwise disturb an item suspected of being a UXO. Mark the area and path in such a way that the UXO can be easily located by Range Operations.

e. Indiscriminate shooting is not allowed within the confines of the Fort Rucker military installation. Target practice is only allowed at the Privately Owned Weapon (POW) Range. Range is located across from Range Operations Bldg 24314. Individuals must present a stamped copy of their Fort Rucker Form 818-E and a valid state or federal ID to Range Operations personnel and receive a safety brief before they are allowed to use the POW Range. Patrons/personnel should contact Range Operations for times of operation at 334-255-4303/4486.

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

Section IX

NIGHT HUNTING (RACCOON AND OPOSSUM).

1. **GENERAL.** There is a significant demand for raccoon hunting at night. Fort Rucker sustains significant night flight operations which involves ground operations. This Chapter outlines

procedures that must be followed to allow our patrons use of TAs for night recreational hunting of raccoons/opossum IAW laws and regulations without disruption to flight operations or military training.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE RULES.

a. The only authorized night hunting in the state of Alabama is Raccoon and Opossum. Raccoon and Opossum may be hunted during daytime or nighttime hours. Legal hours for hunting raccoons and opossum are defined as 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset. Effective for 2017, Raccoon and Opossum has no closed season.

b. Hunting raccoons with dogs is authorized, IAW Alabama state laws and regulations, No running of dogs during daytime or after 3:00 a.m. during and in areas of spring turkey season. See. **Paragraph 3-8 HUNTING WITH DOGS** for additional mandates and restrictions.

c. For 2017, there are no bag limits for opossums hunted on Fort Rucker. Raccoon bag limits are 5 Per Party.

3. CLEARANCE TO ENTER ZONES / TRAINING AREA.

a. It is mandatory that all hunters call Range Operations Training Division's Automated Briefing System (briefing tape) at 334-255-4086 to obtain information regarding TA status. After confirming TA status, hunters must sign-in via <https://fortrucker.isportsman.net>.

b. Night hunters are permitted to hunt the following TAs:

(1) "North of Highway 27" (TAs 1-11).

(2) "West of Highway 85" (TAs 12-31) **No firearms in 19E.**

(3) "East of Highway 85" (TAs 32-41).

c. Night hunters can only sign into and hunt in one zone at a time. Hunters will select an open TA. The selected TA assignment shall be binding. Hunters are allowed to change TAs by logging in to <https://fortrucker.isportsman.net> to change their TA.

4. **FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.** Legal arms and ammunition for hunting on Fort Rucker is IAW the State hunting regulations. **Daytime hunting** are only authorized rifles using rimfire ammunition or those operated by air; muzzleloaders and black powder handguns; long bows, compound bows, or crossbows; shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, using standard No. 4 shot or smaller;

handguns or pistols. **Nighttime hunting** is only permitted with shotguns using No. 6 shot or smaller; .22 caliber rimfire rifles. The identified firearms and ammunition are authorized in TAs 1 – 21, TAs 29 – 32, and TAs 40 – 41. There are no firearms permitted in TA 19E.

5. **CLEARANCE OF FIRES.**

- a. Hunters will ensure the area behind the target is cleared.
- b. No discharge of firearms within 50 yards of paved roads, gravel roads or maintained roads. No discharge of firearms within 200 yards of airstrips, recreational areas (to include trails), fishing areas, lakes, or buildings – to include stables and housing areas.
- c. Weapons and bows will not be fired in the direction of roads, airstrips, recreational areas, or buildings.
- d. Indiscriminate shooting is not allowed within the confines of the Fort Rucker military installation.

6. **NIGHT HUNTING MANDATES AND RESTRICTIONS.**

- a. Raccoon nor opossum hunting are not permitted in lettered (bow) areas to include TAs A1, A2, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and 19E.
- b. Dog are not allowed in the recreational areas at Buckhorn Lake, Ech Lake, and Parcours Lake.
- c. Night lights will be use IAW Alabama State laws and regulations.
- d. Hunters wounding game will make every effort to track down the game. They will notify the GLE officers (334-255-4735/4213) of lost game. Tracking wounded game into the impact area is prohibited.
- e. Hunters must display the ODR Vehicle Registration Card in plain view on the dashboard of the driver's side of their vehicle. The ODR registration card must be filled out legibly and in its entirety.
- f. Hunting from a motor vehicle is prohibited.

g. Motor vehicles will not traverse cross-country through wildlife openings (food plots), through utility line rights-of-way, or around locked gates and cables.

Appendix A
REGULATORY VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

VIOLATION		OFFENSES	
		1ST	2ND
1	Failure to properly log into hunting area utilizing iSportsman. Failure to depart hunting area after legal hunting hours.*	7 Day	30 Day
2	Failure to properly display ODR Registration Card or NR Vehicle Identification Card	30 Day	180 Day
3	Hunting without prescribed hunter orange vest/ jacket or headgear.	30 Day	180 Day
4	Traversing through planted wildlife openings (food plots) with a motor vehicle.	30 Day	180 Day
5	Dismounting dogs to hugs to hunt prior to parking transporting vehicle.	30 Day	180 Day
6	Hunting with a dog without proof of a current rabies vaccination.	30 Day	180 Day
7	Using noise-producing devices to drive game i.e., fireworks, blank pistols, indiscriminate shooting, etc..	30 Day	180 Day
8	Failure to have covered quiver for broad heads while bow hunting.	30 Day	180 Day
9	Parking a vehicle on Artillery Road while hunting.	30 Day	180 Day
10	Hunting or trapping within 200 yards of the ASP, airstrips, recreational areas, or buildings.	30 Day	180 Day
11	Use and/ or possession on person of unauthorized ammunition.	30 Day	180 Day
12	Use of ammunition other than .22- caliber or smaller rimfire firearm or shotgun (specified by state regulations) using number 6 shot or smaller size shot for hunting raccoon/opossum at night.	30 Day	180 Day
13	Bow hunting in an open gun area during firearm season without Hunter Orange vest/headgear.	30 Day	180 Day
14	Hunting with firearms in bow only areas, such as 19E.	30 Day	180 Day
15	Indiscriminate shooting or target practice while gun or bow hunting.	30 Day	180 Day
16	Shooting before or after the legal shooting hours specified in state regulations.	30 Day	180 Day
17	Training hunting dogs in an unauthorized area.	30 Day	180 Day
18	Riding of horses in an unauthorized areas.	30 Day	180 Day
19	Failure to register a weapon on Fort Rucker.	30 Day	180 Day
20	Child in a boat under eight (8) years of age not wearing a Personal Flotation Device (PFD)	30 Day	180 Day

Appendix A
REGULATORY VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

21	Improper safety equipment.	30 Day	180 Day
22	Improper and/ or expired watercraft registrations.	30 Day	180 Day
23	Reckless and/ or improper operation of watercraft.	30 Day	180 Day
24	Riding of horses without vest or jacket.	30 Day	180 Day
25	Unauthorized entry into a "Closed" Training Area.	30 Day	180 Day
26	Depredation trappers not wearing designated Yellow Identification Vest.	30 Day	180 Day
27	Discharge of weapon vicinity training unit in a "Closed Area" without authorization.	60 Day	1 Year
28	Use of ammunition other than .22- caliber or smaller rimfire firearm or shotgun (specified by state regulations) ammunition to dispatch a trapped animal.	60 Day	180 Day
29	Using horses in conjunction with hunting.	1 Year	Revoke
30	Tampering with or removal/ destruction of and barricade or gate.	1 Year	Revoke
31	Use of alcoholic beverages and/ or narcotics while hunting (including traveling to and from assigned area).	1 Year	Revoke
32	Spotlighting or hunting with an artificial light at night (except as provided in state regulations).	1 Year	Revoke
33	Operating an ATV, to include motor- driven cycles, in an hunting area, except to be operated by an approved hunter who is Individual with Disabilities (IWD)	1 Year	Revoke
34	Possession of illegally shot game.	1 Year	Revoke
35	Hunting, fishing, or trapping in Closed or un-assigned TA.	1 Year	Revoke
36	Hunting, fishing, or trapping without an installation permit or state license.	1 Year	Revoke
37	Hunting with unauthorized or improper firearms.	1 Year	Revoke
38	Possession of illegal bag or creel limit.	1 Year	Revoke
39	Failure to report all harvested game.	1 Year	Revoke
40	Fishing (including frog gigging) by unauthorized methods.	1 Year	Revoke
41	Use of unauthorized trapping equipment and devices.	1 Year	Revoke
42	Transporting a loaded and/ or uncased firearm in vehicle.	1 Year	Revoke
43	Discourteous or disrespectful conduct toward Fort Rucker employees.	1 Year	Revoke
44	Any boating regulations.	1 Year	Revoke
45	Riding of horses without prescribed hunter orange vest/ jacket or headgear.	1 Year	Revoke
46	Free riding throughout training areas.	1 Year	Revoke

Appendix A
REGULATORY VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

47	Violations not covered above.	1 Year	Revoke
48	Unauthorized Night Hunting.	Revok e	
49	Hunting, fishing, or trapping in restricted areas (Impact Area, including section of Training Area 7 and 11) without authorization.	Revok e	
50	Shooting from a vehicle (not including IWD).	Revok e	
51	Taking of game from a baited area.	Revok e	
52	Permitting another to use state hunting/ fishing/ trapping licenses and post permits.	Revok e	
53	Any use of firearm in 19E.	Revok e	
	LEGEND: * Third Offense is One Year Suspense		

Appendix B

COYOTE/HOG DEPREDATION TRAPPING IN OCCUPIED TRAINING AREAS.

1. PURPOSE.

- a.** To establish policies to be followed by all units and personnel in support of depredation trapping of invasive feral hogs and coyotes within training areas occupied by military training units on Fort Rucker.

- b.** To ensure that all units and personnel concerned with operations and training at Fort Rucker are thoroughly familiar with safety and utilization requirements.

2. APPLICABILITY. Unless directed otherwise, this policy applies to all units and personnel conducting training or depredation trapping in occupied training areas at Fort Rucker.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES.

- a.** The Chief, Training Division, under the direction of the DPTMS, will –

- (1)** Manage ranges, TAs, and other training facilities in a safe and effective manner.

- (2)** Assist the OIC of units to ensure the efficient operation and use of TAs, to include inspections and/or supervision of training to ensure compliance with this policy.

- (3)** Provide for the safety of personnel conducting operations within the training complex, to include ceasing operations or revoking privileges of individuals operating outside of compliance criteria.

- b.** The DPTMS, Training Division Range Operations will –

- (1)** Make on-the-spot correction of any violation of this policy or other applicable publications and report violations to DPTMS.

- (2)** Provide TA information to all active duty, reserve, and national guard units; the Environmental and Natural Resources Division, DPW; the Natural Resources Branch, DPW, and all others requiring entry into TAs.

(3) Coordinate with EOD personnel for the necessary clearing of any reported UXO identified during depredation trapping or training activities.

(4) Provide safety briefings to the OIC of using units and Natural Resources personnel. The Unit OIC briefing will include, but not limited to, locations of Coyote/Hog traps in their TAs, associated hazards, times to check traps/dispatch animals, trap identification, trapper identification (e.g. yellow vest, ID card in vehicle, etc.), and to leave traps alone. Failure to follow these instructions may result in administrative disciplinary actions.

(5) Publish a list daily of areas scheduled for use by military units or maintenance and sustainment activities.

(6) Immediately notify the installation Command Group and the GSO of any incident involving injury, death, or property damage within the training complex.

(7) Immediately notify GSO of all incidents that involve violations of this regulation.

(8) Assist using units in developing DRAWs as necessary and inform using units of any risks associated with depredation-trapping activities within occupied TAs.

(9) Notify using units of animal dispatch activities prior to depredation-trapping personnel entering occupied training area for the purpose of checking traps or dispatching animals. Provide notification to unit personnel of the anticipated times to check traps, dispatch time, when dispatch activities have been completed, and when depredation-trapping personnel have departed.

(10) Maintain a copy of the current depredation-trapping DRAW and staff for semi-annual update or changes as required.

c. Commanders of using units will –

(1) Ensure compliance with procedures and guidance outlined in training facility SOPs, unit SOPs, depredation-trapping DRAW, and this regulation for the safe training within the command.

(2) Incorporate internal depredation-trapping mitigation measures, avoidance, and reporting criteria within unit DRAW.

(3) Designate in writing a qualified OIC to be responsible for the safe conduct of training and the proper use of facilities. Personnel selected will be:

(a) Competent and properly instructed in the performance of their duties.

(b) Knowledgeable in the hazards and mitigation strategies associated with each specific training event they are conducting.

(c) Provide adequate communications (FM/VHF) and ensure that constant monitoring and hourly communications checks are maintained with Range Operations during training.

d. The Unit OIC will –

(1) Be certified in writing and knowledgeable of hazards, DRAW, and requirements associated with the training event and or facilities.

(2) Be present at all times during the training event.

(3) Receive a TA briefing from Range Operations upon signing for the location.

(4) Sign for all Range Operations equipment necessary to operate the training facility.

(5) Ensure that communications are established and maintained with Range Operations, and strictly adhered to all communications requirements.

(6) Review Natural Resources map and grid location spreadsheet of the Coyote/Hog Traps provided at time of signing for TA and be familiar with all trap locations within the TA to include current status of either active or inactive.

(7) Ensure that all safety measures are taken, including but not limited to the following:

(a) Ensure all Soldiers are briefed on trap locations and avoidance or reporting procedures.

(b) Ensure a copy of the unit DRAW, map of trap location and status, depredation-trapping DRAW and spreadsheet containing grid locations for traps are on hand at all times.

(c) Ensure Soldiers are familiar with medical requirements to include awareness of established medical evacuation points contained within Appendix B.

(d) Report any trapped hogs to Range Operations upon discovery, to include trap number and eight (8) digit grid location.

(e) Report any UXO or suspected UXO IAW procedures contained within paragraph 1-3h.

(f) If required, provide depredation-trapper personnel an escort to dispatch trapped hogs in TA 15 and 38 during SERE operations.

e. The Garrison Safety Office will –

(1) Conduct review and/or make recommendations for safety requirements contained within this appendix and the depredation-trapping DRAW.

(2) Assist with investigations regarding safety incidents associated with depredation-trapping activities conducted within occupied training areas.

(3) Review required documentation and conduct inspections to assist with compliance of all applicable policies, guidelines, or regulations.

f. The DPW Environmental Division, Natural Resource Branch will –

(1) Publish current map of active, inactive, and unserviceable trap locations. In addition, as changes occur updates will be sent via email to the same distribution chain as the daily range and training area utilization/confirmation schedule.

(2) Provide and update spreadsheet to Range Operations containing eight (8) digit grid locations of trap locations.

(3) Ensure traps utilizing wireless cameras (Jager Pro) are not placed within TA 38.

(4) Ensure Hog traps are placed at locations other than known specified training sites (e.g. BIVOUAC, bleacher areas, courses, buildings, etc.) and no closer than 50 yards from paved roads.

(5) De-conflict internal operations such as timber harvest, spraying, marking, cruising, or other natural resource activities co-located within training areas not occupied by training units.

(6) Ensure depredation trappers are briefed they must contact Range Operations and receive approval prior to entering any occupied training area for the purpose of checking/maintaining traps and/or dispatching operations.

(7) Ensure Coyote/Hog depredation-trapping personnel/vehicles are clearly marked (e.g. yellow vests labeled TRAPPER, magnetic signs, etc.) and is clearly articulated in depredation-trapping program.

(8) Ensure depredation trappers are briefed they must maintain communications with Range Operations throughout animal dispatching activities and at all times while within occupied training areas.

(9) Ensure depredation trappers are provided with specific guidelines and procedures for using firearms to dispatch animals while within occupied training areas.

(10) Ensure all traps placed within training areas are properly identified with a four (4) x four inch sign containing numeric identification.

(11) Cease operations and notify Range Operations immediately upon discovery of UXO or suspected UXO.

(12) Ensure depredation trappers are briefed all weapons will remain on safe and unloaded prior to animal dispatch. Upon conducting animal dispatch, the weapon will be loaded and aimed in a manner to prevent rounds from departing the immediate area and placing personnel or infrastructure at risk (no free shooting of trapped or un-trapped animals). All weapons will be properly cleared and placed on safe immediately following animal dispatch.

(13) Ensure compliance of all mitigation and safety measures contained within this regulation, Fort Rucker Reg 385-1, internal DPW Trapping SOP and depredation-trapping DRAW at all times while conducting depredation trapping or dispatching operations within occupied training areas.

(14) Identify scheduled times for checking traps and possible dispatch procedures in depredation-trapping plan. Scheduled times will be no more than twice daily, 0500-0800 and 1500-1800.