

# **FORT BELVOIR**

## **Watercraft Recreation, Hunting, and Fishing Manual**



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**United States Army Garrison Fort Belvoir**

**September 2017**

### Record of Revisions

<b>Page</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
All	All	First Issue	28 September 2017

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle
CLEO	Conservation Law Enforcement Officer
DAAF	Davison Army Airfield
DES	Directorate of Emergency Services
DFMWR	Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare, and Recreation
DMAP	Deer Management Assistance Program
DPTMS	Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security
DPW	Directorate of Public Works
EAB	Earn a Buck
EHD	Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease
FFX	Fairfax
HRB	Hunting Review Board
IBEP	International Bowhunting Education Program
ISO	Installation Safety Office
JMAWR	Jackson Miles Abbott Wetland Refuge
MP	Military Police
ODR	Outdoor Recreation
ORV	Off-Road Vehicle
PFD	Personal Flotation Device
PAO	Public Affairs Office
QDM	Quality Deer Management
SJA	Staff Judge Advocate
SJBP	Southern James Bay Population
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
UXO	Unexploded Ordinance
VDGIF	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

## **Section 1. Introduction**

**a. Purpose** – This Manual sets forth policies and procedures for all watercraft recreation, hunting, and fishing activities on Fort Belvoir. It applies to all individuals that participate in these activities on Fort Belvoir. All hunting and fishing seasons and dates, permit fees, maps, parking areas, waterfowl zone schedule, special area restrictions, and sunrise/sunset tables are specified in the Supplement to the Watercraft Recreation, Hunting, and Fishing Manual. The Supplement is updated annually to reflect changes in season, dates, permit fees, maps, parking areas, waterfowl zone schedule, special area restrictions, and sunrise/sunset tables.

**b. Background** – Fort Belvoir provides numerous recreational opportunities whether consumptive or non-consumptive. Opportunities can be found in various public areas on post (e.g. the three designated installation refuges - Accotink Bay Wildlife Refuge (ABWR), Jackson Miles Abbott Wetland Refuge (JMAWR), and T-17; and Tompkins Basin). Other opportunities such as hunting take place in areas off-limits to the public, and must be accessed through authorized use only. Fort Belvoir's location also provides miles of shoreline accessible by foot or watercraft for fishing.

Hunting has long been documented to serve as a wildlife management tool while providing recreational opportunities for the public. Fort Belvoir uses bowhunting as the primary tool in the management of white-tailed deer. White-tailed deer populations, if left unmanaged, can become not only a threat to their own health and environment, but also to humans. Overall deer herd health is attributed to population size and adequacy of food resources. More than a decade ago, Fort Belvoir's deer population was at a dangerously high level, causing the deer to be in poor health, and leading to a diminished understory. That situation contributed to disease breakouts such as epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) as well as ecosystem degradation. In response, Fort Belvoir implemented a more expansive and robust hunting program. This, coupled with liberal seasons and bag limits set by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) for the county, has resulted in an increase in harvest, decline in population, and improvement in herd health and ecosystem.

Hunting is also used as a management tool to control Canada geese. Fort Belvoir's proximity to water resources, parks, golf courses, and recreation fields makes it a very attractive location for Canada geese. As with deer, if left unmanaged, Canada geese can become a nuisance in these locations, and more importantly a hazard to aircraft approaching and departing Fort Belvoir's Davison Army Airfield (DAAF). In 2006 Fort Belvoir implemented a waterfowl hunting program as a recreational opportunity, while at the same time being used as a tool to control Canada geese.

Fishing has taken place for decades on Fort Belvoir, including Mulligan Pond within JMAWR, and the Tompkins Basin shoreline. There are three fishing piers at Mulligan Pond that offer opportunities for easy access. In 2008, two fishing piers were constructed in Tompkins Basin to replace those taken out by a hurricane. All fishing piers are accessible to persons with disabilities. Numerous fish species can be caught in the waters in and around Fort Belvoir, particularly channel catfish, largemouth bass, and various species of sunfish. In 2004, the invasive northern snakehead was discovered in the Potomac watershed and has since become a common resident and highly sought after species by both those that fish and bowfish

**c. Liability** – All persons engaging in watercraft recreation, hunting, and fishing on Fort Belvoir do so at their own risk and agree to indemnify and hold harmless Fort Belvoir and the United States of America against any and all claims for loss or damage to their person or property.

**d. Revisions and Summary of Changes** – This Manual will be reviewed and updated annually to ensure compliance with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), and Fort Belvoir policies and procedures. A Record of Revisions and a Summary of Changes will be included annually as part of this Manual and as part of the Supplement. The Supplement will include all annual seasons, dates, permit fees, and procedures in accordance with USFWS, VDGIF, and Fort Belvoir.

**Section 2. Directorate’s Tasks and Responsibilities**

The Fort Belvoir Directorate of Public Works (DPW) is the proponent of this Manual, and provides guidance and recommendations for the manual as it pertains to environmental and natural resources. DPW is also the lead point of contact for iSportsman - the software program being used to control access for watercraft recreation, hunting, and fishing activities. The Fort Belvoir Directorate of Emergency Services (DES), enforces all laws, regulations, and policies on post related to the provisions contained in this manual. The Fort Belvoir Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (DFMWR) provides customer service, equipment rental, and assists with the day-to-day operation of iSportsman. The Fort Belvoir Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS) provides guidance and support of the policies and provisions contained in this manual as it pertains to day-to-day activities on the installation.

**Section 3. General Information, Policies, and Regulations.**

**a. Contacts**

Contact	Service and Phone Number
Conservation Branch	703-805-3969 / 703-805-3968
DFMWR Outdoor Recreation Desk (ODR)	703-805-3081
Police	703-806-3104/3105/3106
Fire	703-781-1800
iSportsman Reservations	844-232-7299
Fort Belvoir Information Hotline	703-805-3030
DPTMS	703-805-4002

**b. Summary of Changes**

- Supersedes Fort Belvoir Memorandum for the Belvoir Bowhunters, 19 August 2016, and the Memorandum for the Fort Belvoir Waterfowl Hunting Program, 19 August 2016.
- All watercraft recreation, hunting, and fishing users must register using the iSportsman access software. Users must then obtain permits for all recreational activities as defined herein.
- DFMWR white ID cards are no longer required for hunting activities.
- All fishing activities require a Fort Belvoir fishing permit.

- Waterfowl hunters are no longer required to check in/out at ODR.
- Bowhunters who check in/out of areas that do not require a key for access, are no longer required to check in/out at ODR. However, harvested game that require measurements/biological data must still be checked in at ODR.
- Those wishing to move to a different waterfowl blind, hunting or fishing area, may do so by checking out of their current area or blind, and checking into a new area or blind without travelling back to ODR, unless a key is needed for that area.

#### **c. Access**

- Access times and locations for specific types of recreational activities covered by this manual can be found within those sections of this manual.
- Hunting areas and blinds are off limits to unauthorized personnel. Persons are not to enter any hunting area or blind without proper permits obtained via iSportsman.

#### **d. Regulations and Violations**

- The provisions of this manual are enforceable pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1382, 10 U.S.C. 2671, 16 U.S.C., and 50 Code of Federal Regulation 1-229, 600-659. In addition to penalties that may be levied under applicable state and federal laws and regulations, the Garrison Commander has inherent administrative authority to revoke watercraft recreation, hunting, and fishing privileges. Failure to adhere to the provisions contained in this manual may result in the permanent loss of watercraft recreation, hunting, and fishing privileges on Fort Belvoir and/or criminal prosecution.
- All persons must act in accordance with all applicable law, regulation, and policy, including but not limited to those regulating: speed limits, consumption of alcoholic beverages, littering, trespassing, and environmental and natural resources protection.
- Violations of this manual that are contested will be brought forth upon the Hunting Review Board (HRB), Fort Belvoir Policy #43.
- Persons are responsible for exhibiting respectful and/or proper behavior.
- Harassment of government personnel or contractors involved in outdoor recreation, environmental, or natural resources management is prohibited and will result in loss of watercraft recreation, hunting, and fishing privileges.
- The feeding, removal, destruction, harassment, injury, or killing of any fish or wildlife (including all species of snakes) on Fort Belvoir is prohibited except as specifically authorized.
- The removal, destruction, injury, or killing of any plant on Fort Belvoir is prohibited except as specifically authorized.

- The polluting of any waterway (stream, creek, river, or pond) within and/or surrounding Fort Belvoir is prohibited.
- Camping is permitted in a designated area located in Tompkins Basin. Information and reservations can be found by contacting ODR at 703-805-3081 or ODR website [www.belvoir.armymwr.com/programs/outdoor-recreation](http://www.belvoir.armymwr.com/programs/outdoor-recreation).
- Campfires are not permitted without proper permits and only allowed in authorized locations.
- Horseback riding is prohibited on Fort Belvoir.
- Bicycles are prohibited on all Fort Belvoir refuge trail systems and unimproved roads.

#### e. Motor Vehicle Operations

- **Prohibited Vehicles** – Off-road vehicles (ORV) and all-terrain vehicles (ATV) are prohibited in all training, hunting, fishing, refuge, and recreation areas.
- **Parking** – Parking locations for watercraft recreation, hunting, and fishing are located on maps located within the Supplement and on the website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net). Vehicles shall be parked so as not to disrupt military training or impede passage of vehicles on any road, or block any gate, bridge, or fire lane.

#### f. Safety

- **UXO (Unexploded Ordnance)** - Patrons are prohibited from disturbing or removing any items from Fort Belvoir, other than lawfully harvested wildlife. If UXO is found, patrons will mark the area, not the UXO, and immediately report it to the Fort Belvoir Police 703-806-3104. **PATRONS ARE NOT TO TOUCH SUSPECTED UXO AT ANY TIME.**

**g. Artifacts** – Unauthorized excavation or digging is prohibited. The collection of any artifact found on the surface or subsurface, or disturbance of any feature related to past human activity on Fort Belvoir is prohibited, to including, but not limited to, arrowheads, pottery, and other such items. The use of metal detectors on Fort Belvoir is prohibited. Violators are subject to both the civil and criminal provisions of the Archeological Resources Protection Act, 16 USC Sections 470ee-470ff.

**h. Notifications** – All registered users will receive email and text message notifications from iSportsman to include but not limited to changes, modifications, alerts, emergencies, updates, area closures, etc.

### Section 4. Hunting

#### a. Registration

- Hunters must register and set up an account using iSportsman. This can be accomplished by visiting:
  - The website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net)
  - At ODR with assistance from an ODR Staff Member

- All individuals purchasing permits to hunt on Fort Belvoir are required to have the appropriate Fort Belvoir, Commonwealth of Virginia, and federal licenses, stamps, and permits.
- **HUNTING PERMITS that require validations will not be available for purchase until the following requirements are met:**
  - (1) Completion of an International Bowhunters Education Program (IBEP) safety course (Bowhunting Only).
  - (2) Acknowledgement of receipt of the UXO Briefing located in iSportsman website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net).
  - (3) Successful completion of the Archery Qualification Test (Bowhunting Only) at ODR.
  - (4) Acknowledgement of this manual located on the iSportsman website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net).
  - (5) Acceptance of the Hold Harmless agreement located on the iSportsman website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net).
  - (6) Acknowledgement of receipt of the Personal Flotation Device (PFD) and Cold Water Safety briefing on the iSportsman website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net).

## **b. Bowhunting**

### **General**

- Archery tackle is the only permissible means of hunting deer, turkey, and other small game on Fort Belvoir.
- No archery tackle is allowed in hunting areas except when in a currently permitted hunter's possession. Currently permitted means that the hunter has checked-in, has a current hunting permit, and is assigned to that hunting area, or is going to and from the assigned hunting area, and is hunting within the legal time limits and other constraints set by VDGIF and Fort Belvoir.
- Longbows and Recurve bows must be unstrung or cased during non-hunting hours.
- Compound bows and crossbows must be cased or locked during non-hunting hours.
- Hunters must enter hunting areas directly from designated parking areas using the most direct route. Hunters are not authorized to enter a hunting area from an unauthorized parking area. Hunters are not authorized to enter an area through/from another area. Only boundary training and access roads are permitted for access to areas.
- Bowhunters wishing to move to a different hunting area may do so by checking out of their current area, and checking into a new area without travelling back to ODR, unless a key is needed for that area.

- Parking passes are obtained via iSportsman. Parking passes must be displayed on the inside left corner of the vehicle windshield and be visible for verification to law enforcement. Parking anywhere other than in an authorized parking area is prohibited.
- Dogs and organized group hunting such as “drives” are prohibited.
- Persons 17 years of age or younger and Apprentice Hunters must be accompanied and supervised by a licensed adult.
- No firearms are allowed in the bowhunting areas under any circumstances, regardless of whether the patron holds a concealed weapons permit.
- Hunting is not authorized within 100 yards of any occupied buildings, refuge trail, airfield, work places, construction sites, or paved roads including all property adjacent to Fort Belvoir. Under no circumstances will a hunter come within 100 yards of a fenced security area.
- Hunters are responsible for reporting unsafe conditions, violations, and military training in open hunting areas immediately to ODR or Fort Belvoir Police.
- No deer or turkey may be taken off of Fort Belvoir without first being properly checked (measurements taken at ODR) and accompanied by an official VDGIF confirmation number.
- Bowhunters are responsible for the loss of parking permits, hunting permits, DMAP tags, and keys.
- Bowhunting is not permitted on Sundays.
- The cutting of trees for shooting lanes is prohibited.

**Qualification Process\*** - To be administered at ODR. Hunters must qualify with the type of bow and broadhead they will be using during the season. Qualifications are valid for only one hunting season.

**Compound Bow and Crossbow\*\* Qualification Test**

- Three arrows at 20 yards and three arrows at 30 yards
- Two arrows at each distance must enter the circle or the arrow’s shaft must break the circle’s outer line to pass.
- Target size used will be three, eight-inch circles.

**Recurve Bow Qualification Test**

- Three arrows at 20 yards.
- Two arrows must enter the circle or the arrow’s shaft must break the circle’s outer line to pass.
- Target size used will be three, eight-inch circles.

\*Hunters under the age of 16 and Apprentice Hunters, may qualify by passing the test at the 20 yard distance and are not required to pass at the 30 yard distance.

\*\*Crossbows may be used only by those with a medical waiver or a hunters under the age of 16.

**Permits** – except for Youth permits, all permits listed are required by those 16 years old and older. Fees for each permit are listed in the Supplement and will be available on [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net).

<b>Permits</b>
<b>Deer Scouting</b> – required to scout deer.
<b>Bowhunting Youth</b> – required for all hunters under the age of 16 to bowhunt deer, turkey, and other small game species.
<b>Bowhunting Active Duty Military</b> – required for all Active Duty Military to bowhunt deer, turkey, and other small game species.
<b>Bowhunting DoD Civilians/Retired Military</b> – required for all DoD Civilians and Retired Military to bowhunt deer, turkey, and other small game species.
<b>Bowhunting Non-Affiliated Civilians</b> – required for all Non-Affiliated Civilians to bowhunt deer, turkey, and other small game species.
<b>Bowhunting 3-Day</b> – required for all Active Duty Military, DoD Civilians, Retired Military, and Non-Affiliated Civilians to bowhunt deer, turkey, and other small game species for three consecutive days from day of validation.

**Reservations** – Reservations must be made using the iSportsman website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net) or by telephone **844-232-7299**. Reservations will not be taken in person or over the phone by ODR staff unless the iSportsman website is not operational. Reservations may only be made between the hours of 1800 and 2400 on the day before you choose to hunt. Reservations must be cancelled before 0600 on the day the reservation is made for.

**Check-in / Check-out**

- A hunter with a reservation is required to check-in/out using the iSportsman website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net) or by telephone **844-232-7299**.
- Hunting is not permitted before 0500 on the day of the reservation.
- Hunters must check-in before 0600 on the day of the reservation, otherwise the reservation will be lost and a suspension of bowhunting privileges will be administered unless the hunter provides a valid excuse as determined by the Hunting Review Board.
- Hunters must check-out of an area within one hour after vacating the hunting area.
- Hunters must vacate hunting areas one hour after legal hunting hours unless retrieving game. ODR must be notified if retrieving game requires tardiness.
- For areas that require keys, keys must be returned to ODR by specific times posted at ODR.

**Seasons** – It is the responsibility of each hunter to know and follow the appropriate season and bag limits set by VDGIF. The following table represents proposed seasons and months of occurrence by VDGIF. Specific dates will be listed in the Supplement and posted annually on the websites [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net), [www.belvoir.armymwr.com/programs/outdoor-recreation](http://www.belvoir.armymwr.com/programs/outdoor-recreation), and via the Fort Belvoir newspaper and social media outlets.

Season	Dates
Deer Scouting	August
Deer (Youth/Apprentice)	September
Deer (Early Antlerless)	September – October
Deer (Either Sex)	October – January
Deer (Late Antlerless)	January – March
Fall Turkey	October – January
Spring Turkey (Youth/Apprentice)	April
Spring Turkey	April – May
Other wildlife	IAW VDGIF regulations and seasons

#### Deer

- **Areas** – For a detailed map of all deer hunting areas, refer to the Supplement and the website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net).
- **Bag Limits**- the daily bag limit for deer on Fort Belvoir is unlimited as long as the hunter has all appropriate tags and follows the Earn a Buck (EAB) program regulations set by VDGIF.
- **Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)** – two DMAP tags will be issued by ODR staff to each hunter upon request at the beginning of the season and are non-transferrable. Fort Belvoir DMAP tags are only valid for antlerless deer taken on Fort Belvoir. If both DMAP tags have been used to tag antlerless deer, additional DMAP tags are available upon request at ODR. Lost or stolen tags will not be replaced, and shall be reported to ODR.
- **Earn a Buck (EAB)** – during a license year, it shall be unlawful to take a second antlered deer in Fairfax County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer in Fairfax County, and it shall be unlawful to take a third antlered deer in Fairfax County prior to taking at least three antlerless deer in Fairfax County (VA DGIF regulation).
- **Quality Deer Management (QDM)** – these areas have the following conditions: Harvested bucks must have at least **four points on a side** or an outside spread of at least **15 ½ inches**. Point length must be at least one inch. QDM restrictions do not apply to hunters under the age of 16.

F-1	T-4	T-7	T-9A	W-1	W-6
F-2	T-6B	T-8	T-10	W-3	
T-1	T-6C	T-9	T-17	W-5	

- **Housing Areas** – these areas are restricted to bowhunting only, from Monday-Friday from 30 minutes before sunrise to 1500. These areas are closed to hunting whenever Fairfax County Public Schools are closed. Only elevated tree stand hunting is permitted.

H-1                      H-2                      H-4                      H-5                      H-6

- **Tree Stands**

- The following areas require the use of elevated tree stands. Tree stands may be used in other areas but are not required.

H-1                      H-2                      H-4                      H-5                      H-6  
 H-13                    H-14                    H-15                    T-1                    T-4  
 T-15A                  T-17                    W-1                    W-3                    F-3  
 F-4

- Tree stand placement may be done during scouting season or during the regular deer season but only when the hunter has a scouting permit or a bowhunting permit. No hunter is to enter an area to place a tree stand without a permit and by checking in during authorized times.

- Tree stands are permitted to remain secured to a tree during normal hunting season at the owner's risk. All tree stands must be removed from all hunting areas by seven days after the end of the deer hunting season. Tree stands left in a hunting area after this time may be removed and disposed of as abandoned property. Portable (climber and lock-on) tree stands, which are not permanently affixed, must be used.

- **Safety Harness** – the use of a serviceable safety harness while hunting from an elevated tree stand is mandatory.

- **Harvest Data** – **ALL** deer harvested on Fort Belvoir must be taken to ODR by 2400 hours. **Deer checked in after hours are no longer to be taken to the Fort Belvoir Police Department, but instead to ODR.** The following measurements are to be taken by the hunter, who must also enter the following biological data upon check-out via iSportsman:

- Date of Harvest
- Sex (Buck or Doe)
- Dressed Weight (live weights will not be accepted)
- Sloughing or splitting hooves (yes or no)
- Milk Present (does only- yes or no) – for instructions on checking for presence of milk go to [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net).
- Points
- Diameter of Antler in millimeters (taken between base and brow tine)
- Outside spread of antlers in inches
- Hunter's Name
- Area Harvested
- Confirmation Number (provided by VDGIF)
- Comments- anything worth noting about the animal

- **Jawbone and Jawbone Tag** – Hunters must ensure that any deer harvested on Fort Belvoir has a lower jawbone (left or right side) removed, cleaned of as much hair/flesh as possible, placed in a plastic bag, with jawbone tag including deer number, hunter’s name, and date of harvest on tag and attached to bag. The bag must then be placed in the cooler outside of ODR. Any jawbone that is broken or has teeth missing/broken will not be accepted, except that if both jawbone sides are broken or teeth missing/broken, both sides must be submitted and will be accepted. For instructions on removing a jawbone go to [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net) or ask Conservation Branch or ODR staff for assistance if available. **HUNTERS HAVE 30 CALENDAR DAYS TO TURN IN A JAWBONE. AFTER WHICH A SUSPENSION OF HUNTING PRIVILEGES WILL OCCUR.**
- **Tracking** – Only registered hunters may track harvested game. Tracking after check-in time must be coordinated with ODR and the Fort Belvoir Police Department. No deer may be tracked into closed areas (e.g., training areas, security compounds, bald eagle nesting areas, etc.) or off of Fort Belvoir property without a Conservation Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) present.
- **Lottery** – Lotteries are not utilized for deer hunting unless deemed necessary due to heavy demand. If necessary, notifications and instructions will be made available on the website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net), the Fort Belvoir newspaper, and social media outlets.

**Fall Turkey** – May be hunted in areas established for deer hunting and in accordance with seasons set by VDGIF.

**Spring Turkey**

- **Areas** – Fort Belvoir is divided into five Zones. For a detailed map of all spring turkey hunting areas and zones, see the Supplement and the website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net).
- **Spring Turkey Zones**

Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5
F-1, F-2, T-6B, T-6C, T-7, T-8, T-9, T-9A, T-10, W-1, W-5, W-6, W-7	T-1, T-4, T-17, W-3	F-3, F-4, H-13, H-15	R-2A, R-2B, T-16, W-4	N-1, N-2

- **Lottery** – A Lottery will be conducted at ODR at 1300 on the Sunday preceding the first Saturday of the season. The Lottery will be for the first week of the season.
- **Harvest Data** – any turkey harvested on Fort Belvoir must be taken to ODR by 2400 hours, with measurements taken by the hunter, and have the following biological data reported upon check-out via iSportsman:
  - Date of Harvest
  - Sex (Tom or Hen)
  - Dressed Weight
  - Right and Left Spur Length

- Beard Length
- Hunter's Name
- Zone Harvested
- Confirmation Number (provided by VDGIF)
- Comments- anything worth noting about animal

- **Tracking** – Only registered hunters can track harvested game. Tracking after check-in time must be coordinated with the Fort Belvoir Police Department. No turkey may be tracked into close areas (e.g., training areas, security compounds, bald eagle nesting areas, etc.) or off of Fort Belvoir property without a CLEO present.

**c. Waterfowl**

**General**

- Reservations for weekends, holidays, and half days require at least two hunters to occupy a waterfowl blind.
- Waterfowl hunting is permitted on Sundays.

**Permits** – except for Youth permits, all permits listed are required by those 16 years old and older. Fees for each permit are listed in the Supplement and will be available on [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net).

<b>Permits</b>
<b>Waterfowl Youth</b> – required by all hunters under the age of 16 to hunt waterfowl.
<b>Waterfowl Active Duty Military</b> – required for all Active Duty Military to hunt waterfowl.
<b>Waterfowl DoD Civilian/Retired Military</b> – required for all DoD Civilians and Retired Military to hunt waterfowl.
<b>Waterfowl Non-Affiliated Civilian</b> – required for all Non-Affiliated Civilians to hunt waterfowl.
<b>Waterfowl 3-Day</b> – required for all customers to hunt waterfowl for three consecutive days from day of validation.
<b>Waterfowl 1-Day</b> – required for all customers to hunt waterfowl for one day.

**Reservations** – Reservations (after the lottery) may only be made between the hours of 1800 and 2400 on the day before you choose to hunt for all open blinds. Reservations for **AM Blinds** must be made using the iSportsman website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net) or by telephone **844-232-7299**. Reservations for **PM Blinds** must be made by calling or visiting ODR. Any hunter who reserves a blind is considered the blind leader. Only one hunter (leader) can reserve a blind, all other hunters (members) wishing to join the leader must have the leader contact ODR and ODR will manually enter the member into iSportsman.

**Check-in / Check-out**

- All leaders with a reservation (including lottery), as well as members, are required to check-in/out using the iSportsman website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net) or by telephone **844-232-7299**.
- Hunting is not permitted before 0500 on the day of the reservation.

- All leaders and members must check-in before 0600 for AM reservations and 1600 for PM reservations, otherwise the reservation will be lost and a suspension administered to the leader and members without a valid excuse as determined by the Hunting Review Board.
- At 0600 (AM Blinds) and 1600 (PM Blinds) all waterfowl blinds with cancellations or no shows will be reopened for new reservations.
- All leaders and members must check-out by 1300 for AM blinds, and by one hour after legal shooting hours for PM blinds.
- Leaders who wish to switch blinds during the day must check-out of the current blind and check-in to a new blind if available. Leaders must call ODR to have all members removed manually from iSportsman.
- It is the responsibility of each leader to make sure all members of the blind have vacated and checked out of the blind. Leaders must call ODR to have all members removed manually from iSportsman and that no members occupy the blind after check-out.

### **Lottery**

- Lotteries will be held on Sundays at 1300 for the following Monday through Sunday at ODR. Lottery order will be Saturday, Sunday, Friday, Holidays (if any), followed by all other weekdays.
- All hunters who are chosen in the lottery will be manually entered into iSportsman by ODR personnel, and are the leader of the blind.
- All hunters who wish to hunt with the leader of a blind, may be immediately entered after the leader is chosen, or, must have the leader call ODR and have them manually entered into iSportsman by ODR personnel after the lottery or any day leading up to the day of the reservation. Any member who is manually entered must also be removed manually by having the leader call ODR and have the member manually removed by ODR personnel before the hunt begins.
- All leaders chosen in the lottery who choose to cancel their blind must do so by 1800 on the day before the blind is reserved for. Cancellations must be made by calling ODR, reservations by lottery may not be cancelled using iSportsman. All leaders are also responsible for notifying ODR to remove all additional members from their blind, otherwise suspensions will be administered.
- All blinds not chosen in the lottery will be available for reservation following the lottery. Reservations for **AM Blinds** will be allowed to be made between 1800 and 2400 on the day before using iSportsman website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net) or by telephone **844-232-7299**. Reservations for **PM Blinds** must be made by calling or visiting ODR.

- All blinds not chosen in the lottery, but reserved using iSportsman, must be cancelled by the leader by 0600 on the day for the reservation using iSportsman website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net) or by telephone **844-232-7299**. Any member who was added by the leader must also be removed by the leader by calling ODR and having the member manually removed from iSportsman.

**Seasons** – It is the responsibility of each hunter to know and follow the appropriate season and bag limits set by VDGIF and the USFWS. The following table represents proposed seasons and months of occurrence by VDGIF and the USFWS. Specific dates will be in the Supplement and posted annually on the websites [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net), [www.belvoir.armymwr.com/programs/outdoor-recreation](http://www.belvoir.armymwr.com/programs/outdoor-recreation), and via the Fort Belvoir newspaper and social media outlets.

<b>Seasons</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b>Canada Goose (September)</b>	<b>September</b>
<b>Canada Goose (SJBP)</b>	<b>November – February</b>
<b>September Teal</b>	<b>September</b>
<b>Youth Waterfowl</b>	<b>October and February</b>
<b>Duck</b>	<b>October – January</b>
<b>Tundra Swan</b>	<b>CLOSED – see Tundra Swan ID on website</b>

**Firearms**

- A shotgun is the only authorized firearm for hunting waterfowl on Fort Belvoir.
- Transport of Firearms on Fort Belvoir must be in accordance with Fort Belvoir Regulation 190-2 (Military Police Motor Vehicle and Firearms Control), 23 October 1998 (under revision).
- An authorized shotgun is to be disassembled, cased, and stored in a locked/secured portion of the vehicle, such as a trunk, truck tool box or cab during transportation to and from authorized areas. Firearms must be unloaded and ammunition stored separately.

**Safety** – Each hunter is responsible for the following items or actions:

- Ensuring a proper field of fire and identifying targets
- Not placing another person in danger
- Never shooting at waterfowl behind waterfowl blinds
- PFD and Cold Water Safety – see acknowledgement on iSportsman website.

**Dogs**

- Dogs participating in waterfowl hunting must be current with all Fairfax County Licensing requirements.
- Hunters will ensure that dogs do not retrieve waterfowl on land and will maintain proper voice command over dogs at all times.

- While on Fort Belvoir, dogs must remain on a leash.

**Watercraft Launching and Launch Sites**

- Hunters are not authorized to beach or pull watercraft to shore at any location other than designated launch points.
- A hunter is not authorized to pick up or drop off additional hunters on the shoreline. Hunters must enter and exit watercraft from the site where the watercraft was launched.
- The following is list of locations approved for launching of watercraft and restrictions.

Launch Site	Restriction
- Castle Park Gravel Parking Lot - Bottom of Warren Road Paved Parking Lot - End of Johnston Road Paved Parking Lot	Limited to car top watercraft (canoe, kayak, etc.), non-fuel powered, and electric motor. Watercraft may be hand carried from a parking space to the launch site. Trailer launching is not authorized. At no time may a trailer be backed up to the launch site and unloaded or loaded. Watercraft cannot be launched and then fuel powered motor attached afterwards.
Fort Belvoir Marina	All watercraft including gas powered motors may be launched at this site.
Off Post Marinas (Pohick, Leesylvania, etc.)	Consult with marinas for restrictions.

**Waterfowl Blinds**

- Each waterfowl blind accommodates a maximum of four hunters.
- Each waterfowl blind will have an AM and PM slot. Hunters occupying the AM slot are authorized to access the blind from 0500-1300, and must be checked out by 1300. Hunters occupying the PM slot are authorized to access the blind from 1300 until the end of legal hunting hours.
- If a PM blind is not reserved, those who have the AM blind reserved may reserve the PM blind on the day of the reservation by calling ODR and having the members manually entered into the PM blind. For those who have the PM blind reserved, they may reserve the AM blind on the day of the hunt, by calling ODR, and arrive any time after 0500.
- All waterfowl blinds must be accessed by water, no blind may be accessed by land.
- There are 26 total waterfowl blinds. All blinds are box style blinds with the exception of Blind 26, which is a pull-in boat blind.
- Blinds 17/18 and 19/20 are paired blinds. Whichever blind is chosen to hunt in, the other blind is closed because of its proximity for safety reasons.

**Waterfowl Zones**

- 26 waterfowl blinds are divided into three zones. For a detailed map of waterfowl blinds and zones refer to the Supplement and the website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net).

- Waterfowl Zones are open to hunting on a rotational basis to provide resting and foraging areas for bald eagles and waterfowl. A Waterfowl Zone Schedule can be found in the Supplement and at [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net).
- Only waterfowl blinds within the open zone will be hunted. All other blinds are closed and off limits to hunting.

Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18	19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26

- **Icy Conditions** – Waterfowl blinds may be closed due to icy conditions. Hunters will be notified of closures by way of email and text message sent by iSportsman. Hunters are not authorized to leave watercraft to break ice or clear pathways. Dangerous conditions must be reported to ODR or Fort Belvoir Police.
- **Waterfowl Retrieval** – No hunter is authorized to access Fort Belvoir property to retrieve waterfowl without prior approval from a CLEO. Entering Fort Belvoir without permission is trespassing. If harvested or wounded waterfowl land on Fort Belvoir Property call the Fort Belvoir Police Department at 703-806-3104 and ask to speak with a CLEO. Training Areas are always off limits.
- **Personal Boat Blinds** – Hunters may not use personal boat blinds to substitute for any Fort Belvoir licensed blind. For those hunters using waterfowl blind 26 designated as “Pull-in Blind”, the use of erectable blinds attached to the boat is permitted.
- **Decoys** – Hunters are required to pick up decoys after each hunt. No decoys may be left overnight.
- **Harvest Data** – Hunters must report any waterfowl harvested on Fort Belvoir by reporting the following data upon check-out via iSportsman:
  - Species
  - Number of each species

## Section 5. Fishing

### a. Registration

- All persons wishing to fish on Fort Belvoir must register and set up an account using iSportsman. This can be accomplished by:
  - Website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net)
  - ODR with assistance from ODR Staff
- All individuals purchasing permits to fish on Fort Belvoir are required to have the appropriate Fort Belvoir, Commonwealth of Virginia, and federal licenses, stamps, and permits.

**b. General**

- Fishing line must be disposed of in proper trash containers and not left where it can become litter and possibly entangle fish and wildlife.
- Destruction and/or manipulation of fishing piers is prohibited.
- Public dumpsters and garbage cans on Fort Belvoir are not to be used for the deposit of any fish carcasses or remains.
- Fishing from bridges is prohibited.
- Fishing contests/tournaments, with the exception of DFMWR sponsored events, are prohibited without prior written approval of the Garrison Commander.
- Release of fish other than those caught while fishing (stocking, bait bucket) is prohibited in waters within the boundaries of Fort Belvoir and the Fort Belvoir shoreline.
- Snapping turtles may be harvested IAW VDGIF season and creel limits. Harvest of all other species of turtles is prohibited.
- The use of live bait is permitted. Live bait may be purchased outside of Fort Belvoir and may also be purchased at ODR.
- The use of trot lines is prohibited.
- Fishing along the shoreline (Patrick Beach) located at end of Patrick Road is prohibited.
- Bowfishing is not authorized on bodies of water within the boundaries of Fort Belvoir or from Fort Belvoir shorelines. Bowfishing is permitted in authorized areas from watercraft launched from Fort Belvoir.

**c. Permits** – except for Youth permits, all permits listed are required by those 16 years old and older. Fees for each permit are listed in the Supplement and will be available on the website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net).

<b>Permits</b>
<b>Fishing Youth</b> – required for all patrons under the age of 16 to fish.
<b>Fishing Active Duty Military</b> – required for all Active Duty Military to fish.
<b>Fishing Annual</b> – required for all DoD Civilians, Retired Military, and Non-Affiliated Civilians to fish.
<b>Fishing 1-Day</b> – required for all customers to fish for one day on day of validation.
<b>Fishing 3-Day</b> – required for all customers to fish for three consecutive days from day of validation.

**d. Reservations** - Reservations are not required for fishing on Fort Belvoir, however fishing is not permitted without proper permits and required Check-in/Check-out using the iSportsman website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net) or by telephone **844-232-7299**.

#### e. Check-in/Check-out

- Anglers are required to check-in/out using the iSportsman website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net) or by telephone **844-232-7299**.
- Anglers wishing to change areas must check out from current area before checking in to a new area.
- Anglers must check-out of an area within one hour after vacating the fishing area and report their catch using [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net) or by telephone **844-232-7299**.

#### f. Seasons and Creel Limits

- Fort Belvoir follows all season and bag limits established by the VDGIF. For a list of seasons and creel limits visit [www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov).
- Fort Belvoir does not have any installation-specific seasons and/or creel limits.
- It is the responsibility of each person to know and follow the appropriate seasons and creel limits.

#### g. Harvest Data – Anglers must report any fish harvested on Fort Belvoir by reporting the following data upon check-out via iSportsman:

- Species
- Number of each species

#### h. Safety

- The Potomac River, Accotink Creek, Dogue Creek and all other natural bodies of water located within the Fort Belvoir reservation are off-limits to all swimmers.
- The Potomac River, Accotink Creek, Dogue Creek, Mulligan Pond, Golf Course Pond and all other natural bodies of water located within the Fort Belvoir military reservation are off-limits to all personnel when covered by ice. Ice Fishing is not permitted.
- Children under the age of 13 years of age are required by federal law to wear appropriate Coast Guard approved PFD at all times while onboard any watercraft launched from Fort Belvoir.
- **WARNING: A health advisory exists for eating fish harvested from the waters surrounding Fort Belvoir. Large channel catfish, carp, and eel from the Potomac River may contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Eating fish containing PCBs may increase the lifetime risk of cancer or other adverse health effects. The general public is cautioned to eat no more than one 8oz meal per month of channel catfish larger than 18 inches, carp, and eel from these waters. For more info contact the VA Dept of Health 1-804-786-1763 or [www.vdh.state.va.us/HHControl/fishing\\_advisories.htm](http://www.vdh.state.va.us/HHControl/fishing_advisories.htm).**

#### i. Areas – For a detailed map of all fishing locations, see the Supplement and the website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net). The following areas are approved for fishing on Fort Belvoir:

**Mulligan Pond** – this 2.5 acre pond is located within JMAWR. The pond can be accessed from the parking lot of JMAWR along Pole Road. The pond features warmwater species such as catfish, sunfish, carp, and largemouth bass. Fishing is permitted from dawn to dusk.

**Golf Course Pond** – this 2.5 acre pond is located on the Fort Belvoir Golf Course between holes #1 and #2 of the Gunston Course. Parking is available at the H-13 Hunting Area Parking lot. Anglers must be courteous to those using the golf course and must not interfere with golf course activities. Fishing is permitted from dawn to dusk.

**Fort Belvoir Shoreline** – there are nearly 2.2 miles of shoreline accessible for fishing. Consult fishing map for approved locations.

- **Tompkins Basin** – fishing is permitted 24 hours per day.
- **All Other Shoreline** – fishing is permitted from dawn to dusk.

**j. Watercraft Launching and Launch Sites**

- Persons are not authorized to beach or pull watercraft to shore at any location other than designated launch points.
- The following is list of locations approved for launching of watercraft and restrictions.

Launch Site	Restriction
- Castle Park Gravel Parking Lot - Bottom of Warren Road Paved Parking Lot - End of Johnston Road Paved Parking Lot	Limited to car top watercraft (canoe, kayak, etc.), non-gasoline powered, and electric motor. Watercraft may be hand carried from a parking space to the launch site. Trailer launching is not authorized. At no time may a trailer be backed up to the launch site and unloaded or loaded. Watercraft shall not be launched and then gas powered motor attached afterwards.
Fort Belvoir Marina	All watercraft including gas powered motors may be launched at this site.
Off Post Marinas (Pohick, Leesylvania, etc.)	Consult marinas for restrictions.

**k. Watercraft** – for rules and procedures regarding the use of watercraft, see Section 6.

**Section 6. Watercraft**

- a. Registration** - All persons, except those who rent watercraft from ODR or store at the Fort Belvoir Marina, wishing to launch watercraft on Fort Belvoir must register and set up an account using iSportsman. This can be accomplished by:
- Website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net)
  - ODR with assistance from ODR Staff

**b. General**

- Watercraft to include but not limited to canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, inflatable rafts, boats, sailboats, wind-surfing, and all other watercraft that are not powered by fuel are permitted to be launched at designated launch sites (see below).
- Fuel powered watercraft may only be launched at Belvoir Marina or off-post marinas such as Pohick Bay Regional Park or Leesylvania State Park.
- Customers who rent watercraft from ODR, or store watercraft at the Fort Belvoir Marina are not required to purchase a permit for launching.

**c. Permits** – the following permits are required to launch watercraft at Fort Belvoir and are valid for one year from the date of purchase, except for the 1 – Day Permit. Fees for each permit are listed in the Supplement and will be available on the website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net).

Permits
<b>Watercraft Launching Annual</b> – required for all customers to launch watercraft
<b>Watercraft Launching 1 – Day</b> – required for all customers to launch watercraft for one day on day of validation.

**d. Reservations** - Reservations are not required for watercraft launching on Fort Belvoir however watercraft launching is not permitted without proper permits and required Check-in/Check-out using the iSportsman website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net) or by telephone **844-232-7299**. Reservations are not required for customers who rent watercraft from ODR, or store watercraft at the Fort Belvoir Marina.

**e. Check-in/Check-out**

- All persons launching watercraft are required to check-in/out using the iSportsman website [www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net](http://www.ftbelvoir.isportsman.net) or by telephone **844-232-7299**.
- Persons wishing to change areas must check out from current area before checking in to a new area.
- Watercraft launching is permitted from dawn to dusk.
- All persons launching watercraft must check-out of an area within one hour after vacating the area.

**f. Seasons** – there are no specified seasons for watercraft launching on Fort Belvoir. Launch sites are open year-round unless closed for mission activities, safety, maintenance etc.

**g. Safety**

- The Potomac River, Accotink Creek, Dogue Creek and all other natural bodies of water located within the Fort Belvoir reservation are off-limits to all swimmers.

- The Potomac River, Accotink Creek, Dogue Creek, Mulligan Pond, Golf Course Pond and all other natural bodies of water located within the Fort Belvoir military reservation are off-limits to all personnel when covered by ice.
- Waterways surrounding Fort Belvoir are influenced by weather, tides, ice, wind, vegetation, silt and sediment, and other watercraft.

**h. Areas** – See Watercraft Launching for a list of areas to launch watercraft.

**i. Watercraft Launching**

- Watercraft are not authorized to be beached or pulled to shore at any location other than designated launch points.
- Watercraft may not be moored, tied, or docked at any location along the Fort Belvoir shoreline except for at the Fort Belvoir Marina.
- The following locations are approved for launching of watercraft and restrictions.

<b>Launch Site</b>	<b>Restriction</b>
- Castle Park Gravel Parking Lot - Bottom of Warren Road Paved Parking Lot - End of Johnston Road Paved Parking Lot	Limited to car top watercraft (canoe, kayak, etc.), non-fuel powered, and electric motor. Watercraft may be hand carried from a parking space to the launch site. Trailer launching is not authorized. At no time may a trailer be backed up to the launch site and unloaded or loaded. Watercraft cannot be launched and then gas powered motor attached afterwards.
Fort Belvoir Marina	All watercraft including fuel powered motors may be launched at this site.
Off Post Marinas (Pohick, Leesylvania, etc.)	Consult with marinas for restrictions.

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Army Regulation 200-1- *Natural Resources – Land, Forest, and Wildlife Management*

Department of Defense Instruction 4715.03, *Environmental Conservation Program*

Fort Belvoir Policy Memorandum #29, Use of Metal Detectors, August 2016

Fort Belvoir Policy Memorandum #43, Hunting Review Board, August 2016

Fort Belvoir Regulation 190-2, Motor Vehicles and Firearms Control, August 2016

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Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670a et seq.), as amended in Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries – Hunting and Trapping in Virginia 2017-2018

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