

# **FORT BELVOIR**

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



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**United States Army Garrison Fort Belvoir**

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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
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
VDWR	Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
WRHFRB	Watercraft Recreation, Hunting, and Fishing Review Board

## **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 Wildlife Resources (VDWR) 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 Wildlife Resources (VDWR), 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, VDWR, 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, Regulations, and Registration.**

**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 Watercraft Recreation, Hunting, and Fishing Manual, published August 2019.
- Qualifications for the Fairfax County Deer Management Program and Marine Base Quantico will be accepted as a qualification to bowhunt at Fort Belvoir.
- Dogue Creek is closed to waterfowl hunting, Waterfowl Blinds 1-6 are no longer available.
- Reservation and Check-in/out procedures for waterfowl hunting.

- W-4 has an area that will be closed December 15, 2020 – June 15, 2021

**c. Access**

- Access times and locations for specific types of recreational activities covered by this manual can be found within respective 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 obtaining proper permits 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 Regulations 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.
- Those contesting violations imposed under the provisions of this manual will be brought before the Watercraft Recreation, Hunting, and Fishing Review Board (WRHFRB).
- Harassment of government personnel or contractors involved in outdoor recreation, environmental, or natural resources management is prohibited and may 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 iSportsman. 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 include, 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 including, but not limited to, changes, modifications, alerts, emergencies, updates, area closures, etc.

**i. Registration** – All watercraft users, hunters, and anglers must register and set up an account through iSportsman using the following website: <https://ftbelvoir.isportsman.net>.

**j. Permits**

- All individuals purchasing permits to launch watercraft, hunt, or fish on Fort Belvoir are required to have the appropriate Fort Belvoir, Commonwealth of Virginia, and federal licenses, stamps, and permits.
- Apprentice permits are available to those who hold a Virginia Apprentice License.
- 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 iSportsman.
- Disabled Persons Permits may be purchased with the following VDWR validation:
  - Resident Annual Hunting License for 70 Percent Partially Disabled Veterans
  - Or, Totally and Permanently Disabled Resident Special Hunting or Fishing Lifetime License

- Or, Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Veteran Resident Lifetime Hunting or Fishing License
- Or, Nonresident Annual Hunting License for 70 Percent Partially Disabled Veterans
- Or, Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Nonresident Veteran Annual Hunting or Fishing License
- Or, Special Nonresident Annual Fishing License for Partially Disabled Veterans

**k. Seasons** – It is the responsibility of each hunter to know and follow the appropriate season and bag limits set by VDWR. Specific dates will be listed in the Supplement and posted annually on iSportsman.

## **Section 4. Hunting**

### **a. 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 VDWR 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.
- A hunter wishing to move to a different hunting area/blind may do so by checking out of his/her current area/blind and checking into a new area/blind. Bowhunters are not required to return to ODR for this purpose unless a key is needed for the new 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 and permitted adult.
- No firearms are allowed in the bowhunting areas under any circumstances, regardless of whether the patron holds a weapons carry 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 immediately reporting any suspected unsafe conditions, violations, and military training in open hunting areas to ODR or Fort Belvoir Police.
- No deer or turkey may be taken from Fort Belvoir without first being properly checked and measured at ODR and provided an official VDWR confirmation number.
- Bowhunters are responsible for the loss of DMAP tags and keys. Loss of DMAP tags and keys may result in the denial of future DMAP tags and possible suspension of or loss of privileges to hunt and fish on Fort Belvoir. Loss of keys will result in an immediate suspension of privileges to hunt and fish on Fort Belvoir and possible legal investigation.
- Bowhunting is not permitted on Sundays.
- The cutting of trees for any purpose is prohibited.
- Dogs may be used for the purpose of tracking deer. Dogs must be approved by the Fort Belvoir Conservation Branch before they are utilized for the purpose of tracking deer. To be approved, each dog must have all required state and local tags/permits, and be able to pass a blood tracking test administered by the Conservation Branch.

**Qualification Process\*** - Hunters can qualify at ODR with the type of bow and broadhead they will be using on Fort Belvoir, or submit proof of qualification for the Fairfax County Deer Management Program or Marine Base Quantico as an alternative. 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
- At least two arrows at each distance must enter at or within 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.
- At least two arrows must enter at or within 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.

\*\*Customers wishing to qualify with a crossbow must provide their own target. Crossbow targets are not provided at ODR.

**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 on iSportsman.
- (3) Successful completion of the Archery Qualification Test.
- (4) Acknowledgement of this manual located on iSportsman.
- (5) Acceptance of the Hold Harmless agreement located on iSportsman.
- (6) Acknowledgement of receipt of the Personal Flotation Device (PFD) and Cold Water Safety briefing on iSportsman.

<b>Permits</b>
<b>Deer Scouting</b> – required to scout deer during deer scouting season only.
<b>Bowhunting Youth</b> – required for all hunters under the age of 16 to bowhunt deer, turkey, and other small game species.
<b>Bowhunting Annual</b> – required for all hunters (except for those with a Youth, Senior Citizen, or Disabled Persons permit) to bowhunt deer, turkey, and other small game species.
<b>Bowhunting Senior Citizen</b> – for all senior citizens 65 or older to bowhunt deer, turkey, and other small game species.
<b>Bowhunting Disabled Person</b> – for all disabled persons (with validation) to bowhunt deer, turkey, and other small game species.
<b>Bowhunting 3-Day</b> – required for all hunters to bowhunt deer, turkey, and other small game species for three consecutive days from day of validation.
<b>Bowhunting 1-Day</b> – required for all hunters to bowhunt deer, turkey, and other small game species for one day.
<b>Bowhunting Apprentice</b> – for all hunters who have a VDWR Apprentice License (with validation).
<b>Bowhunting Apprentice No-Weapon</b> – for all hunters who have a VDWR Apprentice License (with validation) or youth under the age of 16, who do not have a bow while being supervised by a Fort Belvoir permitted bowhunter.

**Reservations** – Reservations must be made using the iSportsman website between the hours of 1200 and 2400 on the day before you plan to hunt. Reservations must be cancelled before 0600 on the day of the reservation.

**Check-in / Check-out**

- A hunter with a reservation is required to check-in/out using iSportsman.
- Hunting is not permitted before 0500 on the day of the reservation.
- Hunters must check-out of an area within one hour after vacating the hunting area.

- Hunters must vacate hunting areas within one hour after legal hunting hours unless retrieving game, and may remain longer for this purpose only with prior permission from ODR.
- For areas that require keys, keys must be returned to ODR by the specific times posted at ODR.

**Deer**

- **Areas** – For a detailed map of all deer hunting areas, refer to the Supplement and iSportsman.
- **Bag Limits** – There is no daily bag limit for deer on Fort Belvoir as long as hunters have all appropriate tags and follow the Earn a Buck (EAB) program regulations set by VDWR.
- **Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)** – Two non-transferrable DMAP tags will be issued by ODR staff to each qualified hunter upon request. 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 is unlawful to take a second antlered deer in Fairfax County prior to taking at least two antlerless deer in Fairfax County, and it is unlawful to take a third antlered deer in Fairfax County prior to taking at least three antlerless deer in Fairfax County (VDWR regulation).

- **Quality Deer Management (QDM)** – The areas listed below 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 or Apprentice Hunters.

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

- **Housing Areas** – The areas listed below 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
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- **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 on the day taken. **All deer checked in after ODR has closed 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 iSportsman.
  - Points
  - Diameter of Antler in millimeters (taken between base and brow tine)
  - Outside spread of antlers in inches
  - Hunter's Name
  - Area Harvested
  - Weapon Used
  - Confirmation Number (provided by VDWR)
  - 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 iSportsman or ask Conservation Branch or ODR staff for assistance if available. **HUNTERS HAVE 30 CALENDAR DAYS TO COMPLY WITH THIS PARAGRAPH FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN A SUSPENSION OF HUNTING PRIVILEGES.**

- **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. Dogs may be used for tracking if registered as an approved tracking dog by the Conservation Branch.
- **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 iSportsman, the Fort Belvoir newspaper, and social media outlets.

**Fall Turkey** – May be hunted in areas established for deer hunting and in accordance with seasons and bag limits set by VDWR. Fort Belvoir does not have specific fall turkey tags, hunters are required to use those tags supplied with your Virginia hunting license.

**Spring Turkey**

- Fort Belvoir does not have specific spring turkey tags, hunters are required to use those tags supplied with your Virginia hunting license.

**Zones** – Fort Belvoir is divided into five zones for spring turkey hunting. For a detailed map of these zones, see the Supplement or iSportsman.

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-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 (Saturday through Saturday).
- **Harvest Data** – All 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
  - Weapon Used
  - Confirmation Number (provided by VDWR)
  - 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.

**b. Waterfowl**

**General**

- During duck season only, a minimum of two (2) hunters are required in order to make reservations and hunt in each waterfowl blind on Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays. This requirement does not apply to early resident Canada goose and late Canada goose seasons.
- All zones and waterfowl blinds will be open for early resident Canada goose season.
- All zones will be open for late Canada goose season - waterfowl blind availability will be based upon bald eagle nest locations and weather/ice conditions.

**Permits**

<b>Waterfowl Youth</b> – required by all hunters under the age of 16 to hunt waterfowl.
<b>Waterfowl Annual</b> – required for all hunters (except for those with a Youth, Senior Citizen, or Disabled Sportsman waterfowl permit) to hunt waterfowl.
<b>Waterfowl Senior Citizen</b> – for all senior citizens (65 or older) to hunt waterfowl.
<b>Waterfowl Disabled Person</b> – for all disabled persons (with validation) to hunt waterfowl.
<b>Waterfowl 3-Day</b> – required for all hunters to hunt waterfowl for three consecutive days from day of validation.
<b>Waterfowl 1-Day</b> – required for all hunters to hunt waterfowl for one day on day of validation.
<b>Waterfowl Apprentice</b> – for all hunters who have a VDWR Apprentice License (with validation).
<b>Waterfowl Apprentice No-Weapon</b> – for all hunters who have a VDWR Apprentice License (with validation) or youth under the age of 16, who do not have a firearm while being supervised by a Fort Belvoir permitted waterfowler.

**Reservations**

- For waterfowl blinds chosen in the lottery, the Blind Leader must make the reservation using iSportsman only between the hours of 1200 and 1800 on the day before you choose to hunt. If a reservation is not made by 1800, the waterfowl blind becomes available to all other Fort Belvoir permitted waterfowl hunters.
- For all other available waterfowl blinds, reservations must be made using iSportsman only between the hours of 1800 and 2400 on the day before you choose to hunt.
- Reservations may not be made on the same day you plan to hunt, available waterfowl blinds may be checked into that day.
- Reservations may not be made for a waterfowl blind that has an existing reservation. Only waterfowl blinds indicating four (4) available spots may be reserved. Those with less than four (4) spots have already been reserved.

**Check-in / Check-out**

- All waterfowlers must use iSportsman to check in and out.

- All waterfowlers chosen in the lottery or with a reservation must check in by 0600. If not checked in by 0600, reservation is cancelled and waterfowl blind is available to all Fort Belvoir permitted waterfowl hunters.
- PM waterfowl blinds must be checked into by 1500.
- If you do not have permission from the Blind Leader, you are not permitted to check into a waterfowl blind that is already reserved or checked into by another hunter. Waterfowl blinds may only be checked into if there are four (4) available spots and no reservations.
- Hunting is not permitted before 0500 on the day of the reservation.

### **Lottery**

- Lotteries for waterfowl blinds 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.
- Possession of firearms during the lottery is prohibited, nor are they permitted to be in vehicles or watercraft during the lottery.
- Individuals who are not present at the start of each lottery drawing, may not enter the lottery for the day currently being drawn for, but may enter the drawing for each day thereafter.
- Individuals who wish to hunt alone, will receive one chance in the lottery. Groups of 2 or more hunters will receive one chance in the lottery. Groups must be established before the lottery begins by submitting the names of each individual in the group. The hunter reserving the waterfowl blind is the leader. Hunters are only permitted to be in one group for each day.
- Individuals, and those individuals that are part of a group, may only reserve one waterfowl blind on Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays. A single waterfowl blind is a blind selected in either the AM or PM. Individuals, and those individuals that are part of a group may only reserve one waterfowl blind on weekdays Monday through Friday, through the lottery. Blinds not occupied throughout the week may be reserved by following the reservation procedures outlined in this manual.

### **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), 9 August 2016 October 1998.
- Shotguns must 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 in a separate container.

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

- Ensuring a proper field of fire and identifying targets
- Not shooting at waterfowl behind waterfowl blinds, or from outside the blind (i.e. standing in front of the blind or on the side).
- PFD and Cold Water Safety – see acknowledgement on iSportsman website.

**Dogs**

- Dogs participating in waterfowl hunting must be current with all county or residence licensing requirements.
- Hunters will ensure that dogs do not retrieve waterfowl on land and will maintain proper voice command over dogs at all times. Waterfowl hunters and their dogs are not permitted on Fort Belvoir property while hunting.
- While on Fort Belvoir, dogs must remain on a leash.

**Watercraft Launching and Launch Sites**

- Registration numbers from registered watercraft must be provided in personal account information in iSportsman.
- Persons 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.
- 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 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 checking into the blind for the PM.
- All waterfowl blinds must be accessed by water, no blind may be accessed by land.
- There are 20 total waterfowl blinds. All blinds are box style blinds with the exception of Blind 8 and Blind 26, which are pull-in boat blinds.
- Blinds 17/18 and 19/20 are paired blinds. When a blind is reserved, the other paired blind will be closed during the time of that reservation.

### Waterfowl Zones

- 20 waterfowl blinds are divided into three zones. For a detailed map of waterfowl blinds and zones refer to the Supplement and iSportsman.
- 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 iSportsman.
- 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
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, the responsible hunter will call the Fort Belvoir Police Department at 703-806-3104 and notify a CLEO of the location of the game. Training Areas are always off limits for hunters.
- **Personal Boat Blinds** – Hunters may not use personal boat blinds to substitute for any Fort Belvoir licensed blind. For those hunters using waterfowl blinds 8 and 26, which are

designated as a “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. 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 alteration 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 VDWR 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.

**b. Permits**

<b>Permits</b>
<b>Fishing Youth</b> – required for all anglers under the age of 16 to fish.
<b>Fishing Annual</b> – required for all anglers (except for those with a Youth, Senior Citizen, Disabled Persons, or Group Permit) to fish.
<b>Fishing Senior Citizen</b> – for all Senior Citizens (65 or older) to fish.
<b>Fishing Disabled Person</b> – for all disabled persons (with validation) to fish.
<b>Fishing 3-Day</b> – required for all customers to fish for three consecutive days from day of validation.
<b>Fishing 1-Day</b> – required for all customers to fish for one day on day of validation.
<b>Fishing Group Permit Annual</b> – required for Fort Belvoir officially recognized organizations to participate in organized fishing events of more than 2 persons.

**c. Reservations** - Reservations are not required for fishing on Fort Belvoir, however fishing is not permitted without proper permits.

**d. Check-in/Check-out**

- Anglers are required to check-in/out using iSportsman.
- Anglers wishing to change areas must check out from current area before checking into a new area.
- Anglers must check-out of an area within one hour after vacating the fishing area and report their catch using iSportsman.
- Group Permit holders must designate a POC to purchase permit and check-in/out of areas. POC is responsible for notifying the Conservation Branch via phone or email and reporting the number of persons participating under the Group Permit.

**e. Seasons and Creel Limits**

- Fort Belvoir follows all season and bag limits established by the VDWR. For a list of seasons and creel limits visit [www.dwr.virginia.gov](http://www.dwr.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.

**f. 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

**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. 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 <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-health/public-health-toxicology/fish-consumption-advisory/>**

**h. Areas** – For a detailed map of all fishing locations, see the Supplement and iSportsman. 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 in designated areas. Those wanting to fish along the shoreline should consult fishing map for approved locations on iSportsman.

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

**i. Watercraft Launching and Launch Sites – See Page 17**

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

## **Section 6. Watercraft**

### **a. 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.
- Registration numbers from registered watercraft must be provided in personal account information.

**b. 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 iSportsman.

<b>Permits</b>
<b>Watercraft Launching Annual</b> – required for all customers (except those with a Group Permit) to launch watercraft
<b>Watercraft Launching 1 – Day</b> – required for all customers (except those with a Group Permit) to launch watercraft for one day on day of validation.
<b>Watercraft Launching Group Permit Annual</b> – required for Fort Belvoir officially recognized organizations to participate in organized watercraft events of more than 2 persons.

**c. Reservations** - Reservations are not required for watercraft launching on Fort Belvoir however watercraft launching is not permitted without proper permits.

**d. Check-in/Check-out**

- All persons launching watercraft are required to check-in/out using iSportsman.
- 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.
- Group Permit holders must designate a Point of Contact (POC) to purchase permit and check-in/out of areas. POC is responsible for notifying the Conservation Branch via phone or email and reporting the number of persons participating under the Group Permit.

**e. 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.

**f. 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.

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

**h. Watercraft Launching** – See Page 17

## **Section 7. Watercraft Recreation, Hunting, and Fishing Review Board (WRHFRB)**

### **a. Purpose**

- The WRHFRB reviews major watercraft recreation, hunting, and fishing offenses and violations of (to include but not limited to) Fort Belvoir policies, memoranda, and all local, state, and federal laws. The WRHFRB is comprised of representatives from DPW, DES, and DFMWR.
- The WRHFRB may recommend changes to the status of a participant's privileges on the Fort Belvoir military installation. The Garrison Commander has the authority to take those actions necessary to maintain morale, welfare, and safety on Fort Belvoir. The commander's authority includes the power to restrict or deny on-post privileges to participants who commit offenses and/or violations on Fort Belvoir. In this regard, the Garrison Commander delegates his/her decision authority to the Director of the Directorate of Public Works (DPW). The WRHFRB will review offenses and violations and make a written recommendation on privilege restriction and/or status change to the DPW, who will then make the final decision and notify the participant.
- DPW and DES are authorized to suspend participants on the spot for violations and/or offenses. DPW will assign holds to the violator's account and prohibit access to checking in and out of activities using iSportsman.

### **b. Minor Violation/Offense**

- Minor violations/offense include, but are not limited to, violations of regulations; parking vehicles or launching boats from a trailer in an unauthorized area; falsifying information on a participant's account registration; failing to display properly a parking permit; failing to turn in a harvested deer jaw bone at check-in; attempting to monopolize hunting slots by making slot reservations and canceling; failing to cancel a reservation within the specified timeframe; failing to sign in or out from a slot by the required time; failing to maintain current information on the account registration; failing to report promptly accurate fish and game harvest data.
- Minor violations/offenses may warrant automatic suspensions of up to 30 days. The length of the suspension will vary based on the circumstances of the minor violation and/or offense. The DPW-Conservation Branch and the DES may suspend participants for minor violations and offenses without involving the WRHFRB process.

- Participants may request that a minor violation be reviewed by the WRHFRB. If this request is granted, the WRHFRB process would start at phase three (see section g. Process).

**c. Major Violations/Offense**

- Any criminal act
- Two minor offenses in a 12-month period
- Violation of the Quality Deer Management Program
- Unruly or Unsafe Behavior

**d. Process**

- PHASE 1: Participant Notification - The DPW-Conservation Branch and/or the Federal Game Warden will provide notice of the alleged major violation and/or offense to the participant, at which time the participant will be suspended indefinitely.
- PHASE 2: WRHFRB Notification - The DPW-Conservation Branch and/or the Federal Game Warden will notify the WRHFRB that there has been a major violation and/or offense and to expect a written rebuttal from the participant within 30 calendar days.
- PHASE 3: The Written Rebuttal - Participants who receive a violation notification will be provided the opportunity to submit a written rebuttal. The rebuttal must be received within 30 calendar days of the notice. The participant will remain suspended until a rebuttal is received, reviewed by the WRHFRB, and a final decision is made by the DPW. If a rebuttal is not provided to the WRHFRB by the participant within 30 calendar days of official notice, the WRHFRB will proceed in making a final recommendation to the DPW without information from the participant. Failure to successfully rebut within 30 calendar days may result in permanent privilege and status loss.
- PHASE 4: WRHFRB Discussion - All members of the WRHFRB or their representatives will meet to discuss the received written rebuttals, as needed. Rebuttals received from participants will be reviewed by the WRHFRB within 10 business days.
- PHASE 5: Written Recommendation - The WRHFRB will make decisions by majority vote and make a written privilege or status change recommendation to the DPW.
- PHASE 6: DPW Final Decision - The Director will review the WRHFRB recommendation and within 10 business days provide the participant with a final written decision.
- PHASE 7: Option for Appeal - The participant may appeal the final decision and outcome of the WRHFRB process to the Garrison Commander.

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## References

Archeological Resources Protection Act, 16 USC Sections 470ee-470ff.

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

Fort Belvoir Regulation 190-5, Uniform Traffic Regulation, August 2016

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

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources – Hunting and Trapping in Virginia 2020 -2021

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources – Freshwater Fishing and Boating in Virginia January 1 – December 31, 2020