



**Southern Watersnake**  
*Nerodia fasciata*

24"-62" in length

Often confused for the water moccasin, this large water snake has round pupils and bands that extend across the back.



**Brown Watersnake**  
*Nerodia taxispilota*

28"-68" in length

A large-bodied snake, the brown watersnake is often mistaken for the venomous water moccasin. The pattern consists of irregular splotches in varying shades of brown.



**Red-bellied Snake**  
*Storeria occipitomaculata*

8"-16" in length

This tiny snake sometimes finds its way indoors as it preys on slugs and other insects found near buildings. The belly is colored red-orange.



**Common Garter Snake**  
*Thamnophis sirtalis*

20"-35" in length

Common garter snakes generally have three stripes, one on each side and one in the middle of the back. In some individuals the middle strip is faint.

There are 41 species of native snakes in Georgia. This pamphlet includes only the venomous snakes found in southwest Georgia and the species that have been documented on MCLB Albany. Other species may be present. Treat every snake with caution.

#### IF YOU ENCOUNTER A SNAKE:

Leave the snake alone and move away. Approximately half of all bites occur when individuals were attempting to capture, harass, or kill the snake. If a snake needs to be removed, contact Natural Resources at (229) 639-9946 or the Base Game Warden at (229) 809-2495.

#### Snake Tips:

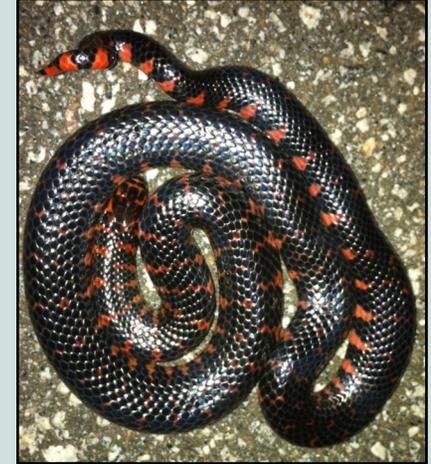
- Be careful working around brush piles or other debris. Use a rake or long handled tool to move brush, debris, or other materials before picking it up.
- Snakes prey on small animals including mice, rats, lizards and frogs. Removing habitat for these animals (eliminating brush piles, wood piles, sources of food, etc.) will help reduce unwellcome encounters with snakes.
- Wear snake chaps or tall leather boots when walking in thick vegetation.
- Products that claim to keep snakes at a distance should be viewed with skepticism. These products are not generally effective outdoors.
- Seek medical attention immediately if you are bit by any venomous or unknown snake. Do not and attempt to draw out the venom. If possible, collect the snake or provide a description of the animal to medical staff.



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## Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany

### Snake Encounters



**MCLB Albany Natural  
Resources, Bldg 5501  
(229) 639-9946  
(229) 809-2495**

There are 6 species of venomous snakes found in southwest Georgia. Of these, currently only the eastern diamond-backed rattlesnake and the water moccasin have been documented on MCLB Albany. The vast majority of snakes found on the installation, such as the mud snake and eastern hognose snake pictured on the front cover, are nonvenomous and harmless.

## SOUTHWEST GEORGIA VENOMOUS SNAKES



**Eastern Diamond-backed Rattlesnake**  
*Crotalus adamanteus*

39"-78" in length\*

(\* adult length measured from tip of snout to tip of the tail)



**Timber Rattlesnake**  
*Crotalus horridus*

33"-70" in length



**Pygmy Rattlesnake**  
*Sistrurus miliarius*

15"-31" in length



**Copperhead**  
*Agkistrodon contortrix*

13"-53" in length

Juvenile copperheads and water moccasins will often have sulfur-yellow tipped tails that fade as the snake ages.



**Water Moccasin or Cottonmouth**  
*Agkistrodon piscivorus*

30"-71" in length

There is tremendous color variation amongst snakes. Individual water moccasins, for example, may be almost entirely black in color or strongly patterned. In general, venomous snakes have distinctive triangular shaped heads as a result of the venom glands found in the mouth. Additionally, venomous snakes have cat-like pupils compared to the round pupils of nonvenomous snakes. The one exception is the venomous coral snake. This snake is brightly patterned with alternating red, yellow, and black segments in that order. Coral snakes are unlikely to be encountered on the installation.



**Coral Snake**  
*Micrurus fulvius*

20"-47" in length

## MCLB ALBANY NONVENOMOUS SNAKES

Snakes play an important role in Georgia's ecosystems. Please do not kill snakes, particularly when they are encountered away from dwellings or work spaces. The vast majority of snakes are harmless and even venomous snakes are not generally aggressive unless provoked. Many species of snakes attempt to bluff or mimic venomous snakes by striking, rapidly vibrating their tails, opening their mouths, and/or flaring their throats. If picked up, some species will also bite vigorously or expel foul smelling musk.

The following nonvenomous species are known to occur on the installation:



**Common Kingsnake**  
*Lampropeltis getula*

35"-80" in length

Kingsnakes commonly prey on other snake species including venomous snakes.



**Mud Snake**  
*Farancia abacura*

40"-80" in length

These reclusive snakes are often encountered in or near wetlands.



**Black Racer**  
*Coluber constrictor*

35"-60" in length

Black racers can be differentiated from black rat snakes by their smooth scales and whitish chins. These snakes are shy and flee rapidly when approached.



**Rat Snake**  
*Elaphe obsoleta*

40"-74" in length

Rat snakes found on MLCB Albany are generally either black in color with mottled yellowish bellies or gray to brown with a series of square or h-shaped blotches. Rat snakes are good climbers and are often encountered near structures. Juvenile rat snakes are generally highly patterned with the patterns fading over time.



**Corn Snake**  
*Elaphe guttata*

35"-70" in length

Corn snakes have a checkerboard pattern of black, white, and orange on the belly.



**Eastern Hognose Snake**  
*Heterodon platirhinos*

19"-45" in length

Hognose snakes will feign death and often flare their necks like a cobra when harassed. A locally common name for this snake is "Puff Adder" on account of this behavior. Hognose snakes, however, are nonvenomous and not closely related to the venomous adders.