

# Department of Defense Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

## What is DoD PARC?

The U.S. Department of Defense Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (DoD PARC) network launched in 2009 to provide leadership, guidance, and support for the conservation and management of amphibians and reptiles on DoD lands in ways that help sustain the military's testing, training, and operational mission activities. DoD PARC is voluntary, proactive, and non-regulatory, and consists of over 500 military and civilian personnel.



Squirrel Treefrog – MCB Camp Lejeune - Picture by: Justin Sweitzer

## DoD PARC Mission Statement

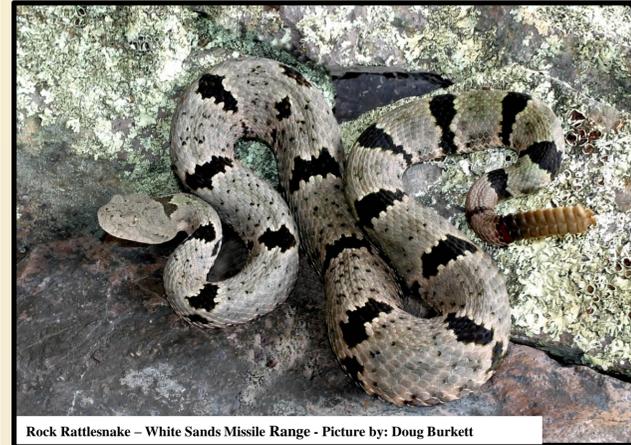
**In support of military readiness, DoD PARC strives to sustain amphibian and reptile populations and their habitats through proactive management, conservation, stewardship, outreach, and partnerships.**



Red-spotted Newt- Fort A.P. Hill - Picture by: Paul Block



Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle - Picture by: Seth Berry



Rock Rattlesnake – White Sands Missile Range - Picture by: Doug Burkett



Canebrake Rattlesnake in snake bag - Picture by: Chris Petersen

## How DoD PARC Benefits the Military Mission

DoD PARC enhances military readiness by promoting healthy landscapes that support long-term testing and training requirements. In addition, the network increases the effectiveness of resource management on DoD lands through the development of proactive, science-based conservation and management strategies and tools.

DoD PARC increases communication and partnerships among the DoD community, facilitates collaborative implementation of guidance and problem solving, and saves money by sharing costs across the Military Services and with our non-DoD partners. The network helps to conserve the nation's biological heritage by developing partnerships that work across boundaries to help prevent species declines, which in turn helps DoD avoid mission restrictions and increases mission flexibility.

### Contact Information

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For more information on the DoD PARC network, please visit us at:  
<https://www.denix.osd.mil/dodparc/home/>

## DoD PARC Network Goals

- Provide sound, science-based strategies, tools, and information for managing amphibian and reptile populations that can be incorporated into existing natural resources and land management programs.
- Reduce or eliminate population declines of both common and at-risk species, thus helping preclude or minimize Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listings and critical habitat designations.
- Promote partnerships and collaborative efforts among the military community and external stakeholders to develop win-win outcomes that support military readiness and conservation.

## Products and Resources for DoD PARC Network Members:

**Education and Outreach** – We have produced 45 amphibian and reptile species fact sheets, five venomous snake posters, more than 20 trifold pamphlets of the snakes on DoD installations, two snake safety videos, and several online training modules. All of these products play a significant role in educating installation personnel about these less understood and often feared species.

**DoD PARC Group and Photo Website** – Our photo website serves as a platform to share pictures of herpetofauna and their habitats for use in presentations, Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs), posters, pamphlets, signs, etc. Group members have added more than 3,000 pictures to the website, representing more than half of all amphibian and reptile species found in the U.S.

**Amphibian and Reptile Database** – As of 2019, we have updated the herpetofauna species lists for approximately 415 military properties, and used these data to analyze the biodiversity of herpetofauna on military lands. Results of our study indicate that DoD lands are home to 66 percent of all native herpetofauna species and 41 percent of all federally-listed herpetofauna species in the continental U.S.

**Disease Surveillance** – For the last 10 years, we have worked proactively to survey and monitor emerging amphibian and reptile diseases on DoD lands. We surveyed for the amphibian chytrid fungus on approximately 80 military sites, Snake Fungal Disease on approximately 50 military sites, and performed a desktop risk assessment for the salamander fungal pathogen on over 200 military installations.