



# Department of Defense

## Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation



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 550 military and civilian personnel. For the last 11 years, the network has served as a model of excellence for amphibian and reptile management and conservation on military lands, and we thank all who have contributed to our collective success.

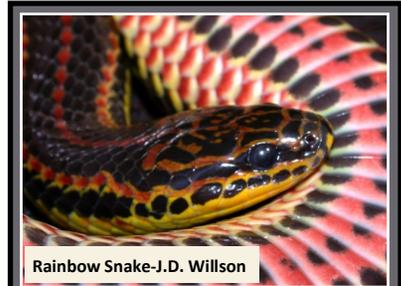
### How DoD PARC Benefits the Military Mission:

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.

### DoD PARC Program 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.
- ◇ Promote awareness, involvement, communication, and coordination both within DoD and among national, regional, and local experts to achieve DoD mission and stewardship goals.



Rainbow Snake-J.D. Willson



Blue-spotted Salamander-Robert Brodman



Eastern Box Turtle-David Burkwal



Green Anole-Paul Block

## 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.

### Products and Resources for DoD PARC Network Members:

**Amphibian and Reptile Biodiversity on Department of Defense Installations** – 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 (see: [Amphibians and Reptiles of United States Department of Defense Installations](#)). 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 11 years, DoD PARC has 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. Collectively, these efforts enhance military readiness by promoting healthy landscapes that support long-term mission-relevant requirements.

**DoD PARC 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.

**Education and Outreach** – We have developed several online educational [training modules](#) and videos about amphibians and reptiles on DoD lands. These modules provide military natural resources personnel a general understanding of herpetofaunal biology, ecology, survey techniques, management, and conservation practices. Outreach materials produced by DoD PARC include 45 amphibian and reptile species fact sheets, five venomous snake posters, and more than 20 trifold pamphlets of the snakes on DoD installations located around the world. Lastly, our informative podcasts educate installation personnel about our network and the incredible diversity of amphibians and reptiles that live on military lands. All of our educational and outreach products can be download at: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/dodparc/parc-resources/>.

Additional products available on our website include: *Scope of Work Template for Amphibian and Reptile Inventories*; *Guidelines for Updating and Enhancing Amphibians and Reptiles Sections of INRMPs*; and [Commander's Guide to the DoD PARC Network](#).



Marine with Cuban Boa



Spotted Salamander-Edwin Sanchez



Eastern Spadefoot-Justin Sweitzer

### Contact Information

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