

Section V

WATER AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

5-1. WATER AND BOAT SAFETY.

a. General.

(1) All motorized (gasoline powered) vessels used on the waters of the Fort Rucker military reservation must have a current state registration.

(2) Vessel launch passes must be paid as indicated on area signs.

(3) All patrons/personnel and vessels will comply with Alabama and federal laws and regulations, unless specified below.

(4) Persons operating watercraft in a reckless or hazardous manner or in violation of the regulations in this section may lose their privileges to operate a boat on the waters of Fort Rucker. Watercraft not having the required equipment will not be allowed to operate until the required equipment is obtained.

b. Boat Operations Specific to Lake Tholocco.

(1) The operator of any vessel, motorized or not, must have in his/her possession a Lake Tholocco Boater Safety Certificate. Obtain one online at <http://rucker.armymwr.com/us/rucker> or call 334-255-4305.

(2) All powerboat operators will follow a clockwise traffic pattern in the primary ski area of the lake, keeping the red buoys on the right and the white buoys on the left. Operators of all vessels (as defined by Alabama state regulations) will obtain and thoroughly familiarize themselves with the Lake Tholocco Traffic Pattern Map (appendix E).

(3) Boats and personal watercraft (PWC) will not be operated within 100 feet of the authorized swimming area.

(4) Boats and PWC will not be operated within 150 feet of the spillway structure of the dam.

(5) Non-powered pleasure boats, including rowboats and canoes except when being used for fishing, will operate only in designated areas (appendix E).

(6) Sailboats, windsurfing, wave runners, jet skis, and airboats will be restricted to areas north of West and East Beach piers, with the following exceptions:

(a) Watercraft launched at the marina may use the west side of the lake en route to the authorized area, provided they take the most direct route.

(b) Watercraft may proceed directly to and from East and West Beach drop-off areas to pick up/discharge riders. They may not enter the main circulation area unless they are pulling skiers or tubes. Jet skis and wave runners pulling skiers/tubes must operate within the normal vessel/ski pattern in Area 1 (appendix E).

(c) Jet skis and wave runners will be launched from boat ramps.

(7) PWC may only operate from sunrise to sunset, except for fishing. Fishing from a boat is authorized 24 hours a day. In addition to Alabama boat lighting requirements, fishing boats operating at night must have an operational flashlight or spotlight onboard and required Type I, II, III, or V, U.S. Coast Guard-approved Personal Floatation Device (PFD) lifejackets.

(8) Boat and PWC operators are prohibited from leaving skiers in any area other than authorized drop-off points (East and West Beach outside roped-off swimming areas).

(9) Swimming from boats is prohibited, except in the event of an emergency.

(10) Patrons/personnel under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult when using ODR boats.

(11) Windsurfing is authorized only on Lake Tholocco. Windsurfers will stay clear of water ski and swimming areas (appendix E). Windsurfers must wear a PFD lifejacket.

(12) Impoundments are restricted from use.

(13) Reckless or negligent operation of boats or PWC will not be tolerated. Except for specifically approved special events such as boat races, boats will be operated at a safe and prudent speed dictated by congestion and lake utilization.

(14) Automobiles/trucks and their boat trailers will spend only minimum time on the launching ramps. Minimum time is defined as only that time required to safely launch and/or to recover boats.

(15) During periods of severe weather or very low water when lakes are hazardous to boating, the DFMWR designee, DFMWR lifeguards, or GLE officer may close that portion of the ODR facility for safety reasons.

(16) Paddle boards may only be used in Training Area 2 (See appendix E, Lake Tholocco Traffic Pattern Map). Paddle boards are deemed a vessel and a life vest is required on board for each person.

c. Swimming, Beach Rules, and Beach Information.

(1) Lifeguards have the authority to close the swimming area when deemed unsafe. Swimming is allowed during designated daylight hours when lifeguards are on duty.

(2) Swimming is allowed only inside the roped-off area.

(3) "Swimming at your own risk" is not permitted on Fort Rucker.

- (4) Swimming enhancement rules:
 - (a) PFDs are not required, except for non-swimmers.
 - (b) No diving, jumping, or pushing allowed.
 - (c) No loitering.
 - (d) No roughhousing allowed.
 - (e) No sharp or dangling jewelry.
 - (f) No swimming under floating swim enhancements at any time.
- (5) All patrons will comply with posted rules and regulations and lifeguard instructions.

5-2. PICNIC AREAS AND CAMPSITES.

- a. ODR will control the picnic areas at Lake Tholocco, Beaver Lake, and Buckhorn Lake.
- b. Picnic areas are authorized for use on a first-come, first served basis, unless reserved at the ODR Service Center. Reservations are confirmed only after receipt of appropriate fees and are subject to cancellation restrictions.
- c. Units/Organizations must submit requests in writing for organizational days at least (5) business days in advance. Military organizations using unit funds for organizational day events will receive a \$2 value per \$1 spent in MWR facilities. Discounts do not apply when matching funds are provided. To take advantage of this opportunity, the unit fund custodian or his/her alternate custodian will process a purchase request to the NAF Support Services Division, DFMWR, to use unit funds to pay for the established picnic area fees.
- d. Picnic areas are open from sunrise to sunset. To remain after dark, patrons/personnel must have written authorization from ODR.
- e. Picnic area reservations are subject to cancellation due to an emergency, military training, weather, or other unforeseen circumstances.
- f. Leaving children unattended at the Fort Rucker lakes and picnic areas will be governed by guidance found in Garrison Command Policy Memo 15-39, Fort Rucker Child Supervision Policy, dated 22 December 2015.
- g. No loitering in the parking lot areas.
- h. No consumption of alcoholic beverages in the parking lot areas.
- i. Music will be maintained at a volume as to not detract from the enjoyment of others in the area.
- j. Patrons are responsible for area cleanup prior to departure.

k. To make arrangements to reserve a picnic area, go to the ODR Service Center, Building 24235 or call 334-255-4305.

l. Pavilions Available:

- (1) West Beach Area - #1 through #7. (#2, #4, and #7 are located by the GLE office.)
- (2) East Beach - #1.
- (3) Beaver Lake - #1 and #2.
- (4) Buckhorn Lake - #1 and #2.

m. Military organizations will be charged 50 percent of the established fee for a picnic area reservation at Lake Tholocco from Monday through Thursday, excluding holidays and days of no scheduled activity. Reservations for any other area or any other day will be charged the full established fee.

n. The Riding Stables and Skeet Range have designated recreational vehicle (RV) campsites. Engineer Beach RV Park is available daily, weekly, and monthly.

o. To register for a campsite, patrons will need to go to the ODR Service Center, Building 24235, to pay the fee and sign a hold harmless agreement. A 15 percent nonrefundable deposit is required.

p. Fees for the lake area will be determined by the Garrison Commander.

5-3. WALKING, JOGGING, RUNNING, AND HIKING TRAILS.

a. General.

(1) The primary mission of this installation is to provide training space, and other related installation resources, for military use. Land and water resources deemed available for public recreational use and enjoyment will have controlled public access, subject to safety and military requirements, and will not impair the military mission.

(2) Hikers, bikers, runners, horse riders, and nature watchers may use any area that is open for recreation. Individuals accessing these areas are on notice that hunting and trapping are taking place in all training areas. Users must check the notification board at the Fort Rucker Riding Stables to determine an area's status before entering.

(3) All walking, jogging, running, and hiking trails/courses are open only from dawn to dusk, unless the trail/course is appropriately illuminated by fixed utilities (appendix F).

(4) Horses, bicycles, and motorized vehicles of any kind are not allowed on designated trails/courses.

(5) Designated horse riding areas are coordinated between Range Operations and the riding stables. All riders will coordinate horse riding with the riding stables. Horse riding is restricted to approved established trails only; free riding throughout training areas is not authorized. A vest or jacket with a minimum of 144 square inches of solid hunter orange visible from any angle must be worn by all riders year-round.

(6) Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet on Air Assault and Beaver Lake courses.

(7) Runners with animals are prohibited from using tracks during the hours of scheduled physical training.

(8) Removal or disturbance of any plant, mammal, reptile, bird, or antiquities is prohibited.

(9) Littering or dumping is strictly prohibited.

(10) Possession or use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs is prohibited.

(11) Removing, altering, or defacing signs is prohibited.

(12) Patrons must obey all posted rules and restrictions listed at each trail/course location.

(13) Unit physical fitness training has priority of use between the hours of 0600 and 0730, Monday through Friday.

(14) Civilians will not enter any training area that is closed for training as listed in HuntTrac. (See appendix D for HuntTrac instructions.)

(15) Additional running restrictions can be found in Fort Rucker Regulation 190-5, Fort Rucker Motor Vehicle Regulation, dated 26 June 2013, with Change 1 dated 22 July 2014, and Change 2, dated 11 February 2015.

b. Designated Walking, Running, and Fitness Trails.

(1) Only designated walking, running, and fitness trails are to be used for recreational fitness activities.

(2) Designated walking, running, and fitness trails include the following:

(a) Parcours Fitness Trails (behind IHG Army Hotels, Building 380).

(b) Beaver Lake Jogging and Hiking Trail.

(c) Air Assault Track (authorized night use).

(d) Quarter-Mile Track behind the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center, Building 4605 (authorized night use).

(3) Caution should be used in wooded areas and along trails that can harbor poison oak, ticks, and poisonous snakes. Be alert!

- (4) Use of the buddy system is encouraged, especially in foul weather or low-light conditions.
- (5) Children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult when utilizing trails.

The proponent agency of this regulation is the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements to the U.S. Army Garrison Command, ATTN: IMRC-MWR, Fort Rucker, AL 36362-5105.

FOR THE GARRISON COMMANDER:



SEAN M. SPARKS
Interim Director of Human Resources

Appendixes
A-F