



DoD Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

What is DoD PARC?

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) program was formed in 2009 to provide leadership, guidance, and support for the conservation and management of amphibians and reptiles on military lands. The DoD PARC program is voluntary, proactive, and non-regulatory. Our members consist of military and civilian personnel from all DoD Military Services.

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.



Spotted Salamander. Picture by: Seth Berry

DoD PARC Program Goals

- Provide sound, science-based management and conservation guidelines, priorities, and objectives for amphibians and reptiles on DoD installations.
- Manage populations of amphibians and reptiles to achieve mission and conservation sustainability goals.
- Provide educational materials, tools and support for amphibian and reptile stewardship and management for incorporation into DoD's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans and National Environmental Policy Act documents.
- Increase awareness, involvement, and communication among natural resources managers and others within DoD.
- Develop partnerships outside of the DoD community.

Pickerel Frog. Picture by: Paul Block



How DoD PARC Benefits the Military Mission

DoD PARC enhances military readiness by promoting healthy landscapes to support long-term military testing and training requirements. In addition, the program increases the effectiveness of resource management on DoD lands through the development of proactive, science-based conservation and management strategies and tools such as the DoD PARC Action Plan, Photo Website and Amphibian and Reptile Database.

DoD PARC increases communication and partnering among the DoD community. It facilitates working cooperatively to implement guidance and solve common hazards and problems, both saving and sharing costs across the Military Services. The program helps to conserve the nation's biodiversity heritage by developing partnerships that work across geopolitical boundaries to aid in preventing population declines of common, at-risk, and federally protected species, thus avoiding new restrictions on current and future missions.

Accomplishments

DoD PARC Action Plan – The DoD PARC Action Plan, which is currently under development, will provide a coordinated framework and course of action for addressing amphibian and reptile monitoring, research, and management across the DoD landscape.

DoD PARC Group and Photo Website – The website contains amphibian and reptile photographs, literature, reports, publications, links, event calendar, and discussion forums for members to use, share and contribute to the greater DoD PARC community.

<http://dodparcphotolibrary.shutterfly.com/>



Amphibian and Reptile Database – This database is a tool that provides amphibian and reptile species lists. It is comprehensive and peer-reviewed, and includes information for over 700 military installations, ranges and training areas. To download a copy of the database please visit:

<http://www.denix.osd.mil/nr/FishandWildlife/TerrestrialAnimals.cfm>

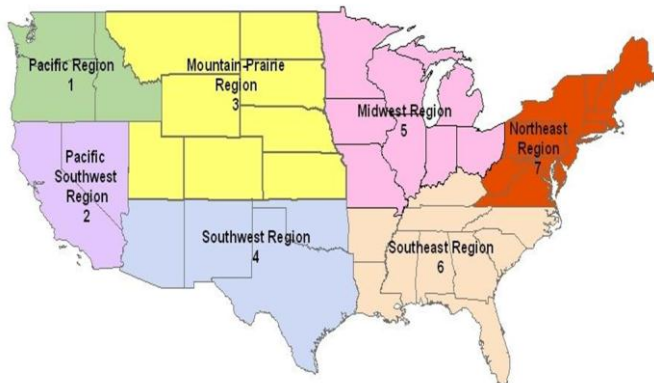
Amphibian Disease Surveys – DoD PARC conducted amphibian disease surveys for the chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (*Bd*) at 30 military installations in 2009 and 2011. This research provided baseline data on the general health of amphibians on military lands, and provided insight to their vulnerability from disease. The final report can be downloaded at:

http://www.denix.osd.mil/nr/upload/Final_Route_66_Bd_Report-with-appendix.pdf



Frog Swabbing Picture by: Dr. Joe Mitchell

DoD PARC Organizational Structure



The DoD PARC organizational structure is divided into seven regions similar to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regions. Each DoD PARC region is represented by chair and co-chair positions who serve as points of contact for amphibian and reptile issues and questions from military installations within a particular region.

History of the National PARC Program

PARC was formed in 1999 in response to growing evidence of declining amphibian and reptile populations. PARC is a coalition of federal and state agencies, tribes, organizations and industry groups. PARC's mission is to conserve amphibians, reptiles, and their habitats through proactive and coordinated public/private partnerships. PARC connects and complements existing efforts at local, state, regional, national and global scales.

In 2012, DoD resigned a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PARC continuing their long term commitment in supporting amphibian and reptile conservation and management. The purpose of the MOU is to provide a framework for collaboration between DoD and the other signatories to address the long-term health of amphibians and reptiles through cooperation and coordination with PARC.

For more information on the DoD PARC program please visit us at:

<http://www.dodnaturalesources.net/DoD-PARC.html>



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Rock Rattlesnake. Picture by: Doug Burkett