

# 2023-2024 HUNTING, FISHING AND RECREATION REGULATIONS

## Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB), Florida

### ACCESS

1. Tyndall AFB (TAFB) is open to DoD and non-DoD personnel (as defined below) for the purposes covered by this regulation. Access to base is strictly limited for those intended purposes.
2. Herein, **DoD personnel** are defined as Active Duty Military, Reserve, National Guard, DoD Civilians, Retired Military, Retired DoD Civilians, their dependents, and DoD Contractors with a current DoD identification card with base wide access. Individuals who are members of the public (must be U.S. Citizens) and are not affiliated with the DoD are herein referred to as **Non-DoD**.
3. All DoD and Non-DoD personnel participating in hunting and fishing (except DoD personnel while saltwater fishing from shore) must have a current permit (see TAFB Permit section) and a picture ID with them at all times and provide them to Law Enforcement (Security Forces or Conservation Law Officer) upon request. Non-DoD members wishing to participate in recreational activities on TAFB (outside the fence line) must have a current recreational permit. NOTE: Defense Biometric Identification Data System (DBIDS) identification card will only be issued to non-DoD hunters once they obtain a hunting permit. Non-DoD hunters are not allowed in the Support Area or Flightline Unit; violators will be considered **trespassing** and will be banned for the remainder of the season. Information on banned permit holders will be forwarded to Security Forces for enforcement.
4. TAFB permits/DBIDS cards may be **revoked** at any time for any violation of federal, state or county law, or violation of TAFB regulations, or for any reason determined to be necessary or advantageous to the United States Air Force. Individuals, vehicles, boats, weapons, credentials, fish, game and personal property may be checked and searched at any time by authorized federal, state and military law enforcement personnel.
5. Sponsors as well as guests must have appropriate hunting and fishing licenses, if required, to participate in those recreational activities. Sponsors are liable for the actions of guests and must remain in the immediate vicinity of sponsored guests. Contact the Visitor Center for policies regarding sponsoring guests.
6. Non-DoD adult personnel may not escort other non-DoD adult personnel. However, a non-DoD adult hunter may escort up to two children under the age of 16.
7. Non-DoD hunters who are required to have DBIDS identification cards, as outlined above, but are found to not possess DBIDS cards will be considered **trespassing** in accordance with US Code (18 U.S.C. §1382). Also, any recreational users who are found in restricted or off-limits areas or are found in an area during non-access times are trespassing.
8. The right and authority to open or close any area at any time to outdoor recreation is reserved by the Installation Commander.
9. Entry into any areas marked as a "Danger Area" or "Closed Area" is prohibited.
10. The water areas in Crooked Island Sound adjacent to the explosives detonation range is designated a Danger Area during weapons firing operations. These water areas will be marked by red warning flags flown atop poles during danger periods. Entry into these water areas while warning flags are displayed is prohibited.
11. The water areas in Crooked Island Sound adjacent to the drone launch facility and the tips of Crooked Island East and Crooked Island West are designated Danger Areas during launch operations. To ensure a safe fishing or recreation day, please call 82<sup>nd</sup> ATRS/DOW at 850-283-8293 for that day's mission scheduling.
12. Commercial fishing and tourism companies must have a contract with TAFB and the captain of any watercraft must have a Recreation Permit in order to launch any craft from TAFB property and/or to allow any customers to access the property.

### ACCESS TIMES FOR GENERAL RECREATION (Refer to Hunting section for those times)

Personnel	East Unit	Buck Beach	Flightline	Bonita Bay/Shoal Point/DuPont Bridge Boat Launch	West Unit
DoD	1.5 hours before sunrise to 1.5 hours after sunset	Weekends/ Holidays Only 1.5 hours before sunrise to 1.5 hours after sunset	1.5 hours before sunrise to 1.5 hours after sunset	1.5 hours before sunrise to 1.5 hours after sunset	1.5 hours before sunrise to 1.5 hours after sunset
Non-DoD	1.5 hours before sunrise to 1.5 hours after sunset	Weekends/ Holidays Only 1.5 hours before sunrise to 1.5 hours after sunset	Not Permitted	1.5 hours before sunrise to 1.5 hours after sunset	Not Permitted

## GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. Disturbance or interference with an individual engaged in official business or an authorized activity on TAFB is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, Air Force, Army, Navy personnel on field exercises. Disturbance of the peace or other disorderly conduct is prohibited. No person who is intoxicated is authorized to enter or remain on TAFB.
2. Only registered, street legal vehicles are authorized and are allowed only on designated roads as identified on the Regulations map. All-Terrain Vehicles for recreational use are prohibited. All personally owned vehicles are prohibited from driving off road. Blocking of a road, fire lane or gate is prohibited. Driving around a locked gate or blocked off area is prohibited.
3. The maximum allowable speed for any motor vehicle is 20 miles per hour on dirt roads, unless otherwise posted. However, no vehicle will be driven at a speed greater than that which is reasonable and prudent under existing road, weather, vehicle, and traffic conditions.
4. All accidents on TAFB must be reported as soon as possible to Security Forces 850-283-2254 or 911 (identify that you are on TAFB). Motor vehicles involved in accidents should not be moved until the investigating officer arrives unless the vehicle constitutes a safety hazard.
5. Open fires are prohibited, except in designated camping areas.
6. Destruction, injury, defacement, disturbance or removal of government property is prohibited.
7. Searching for or removing objects of antiquity is prohibited. Recreational use of metal detectors on TAFB is prohibited.
8. The collection, destruction or injury of any plant or animal, or the use of an artificial light at night to view wildlife is prohibited, except as specifically authorized by Natural Resources.
9. Littering or polluting of any waters is prohibited.
10. Recreational activities for commercial enterprise from or on TAFB are prohibited except through official contract with TAFB.
11. Avoid and immediately report any found military ordnance, or suspicious or illegal activities to Security Forces at 850-283-2254 or 911 (identify that you are on TAFB).

## BEACH ACTIVITIES

1. Non-DoD personnel are required to obtain a recreation permit to access the East Unit and Bonita Bay/Shoal Point, as outlined in the **ACCESS** section above.
2. The operation of motor vehicles on TAFB beaches, sand dunes, and natural vegetation areas is prohibited. Going around a locked gate or blocked off area is prohibited.
3. Pets, camping, fires, glass containers, and artificial lighting are prohibited on the beaches at all times.
4. Pedestrian access to the beach must be via marked roads or boardwalks, or by watercraft. Stay out of the sand dunes and sea oats: foot traffic kills fragile dune plants and causes erosion.
5. All beach access times are limited to sunrise to sunset for the protection of our endangered species.

## FISHING REGULATIONS

### Saltwater Fishing

1. DoD personnel are authorized to saltwater fish from all shorelines without a TAFB Permit unless otherwise posted.
2. Non-DoD personnel require a recreation permit for the East Unit and Bonita Bay/Shoal Point, as outlined in the **ACCESS** section above.
3. Stay out of sand dunes and sea oats: foot traffic kills fragile dune plants and causes erosion.
4. All State of Florida saltwater rules, regulations and required state permits apply.

### Freshwater Fishing

1. A TAFB Fishing or Complete Sportsman permit is required for freshwater fishing on TAFB. A valid Florida State Freshwater Fishing License must be presented (a fishing license is required for age 16 and above) before any TAFB Fishing permit will be issued.
2. Please see the Freshwater Fishing Ponds chart for authorized access on designated ponds.

	Felix Lake	Horseshoe Lake	PQM 102	Olympia	Seminole
DoD	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Non-DoD	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
Kid's fishing	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

## BOATING

1. The table below shows authorized use for all designated fresh and saltwater boat launching facilities.
2. Boats used on PQM 102, and Felix Lake are limited to electric motors. The use of boats on other freshwater ponds and Buck Beach is limited to carry in type only. (\*\*)Buck Beach access is allowed on weekends and holidays only.

	**Buck Beach	Davis Beach	DuPont Bridge	Farmdale Bayou	Felix Lake	PQM 102	STP	Strange Bayou
DoD	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Non-DoD	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES

## HUNTING REGULATIONS

### General Hunting Regulations

1. All federal and state hunting rules, regulations and permit requirements apply, unless otherwise stated in these regulations. Individuals participating in this program must meet all access requirements as stated in the ACCESS section of this regulation.
2. Specific dates for hunting on TAFB will be established annually by the Installation Commander and made available as a supplement to these regulations. Hunting will be permitted on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during open seasons, except as indicated in the supplement. TAFB is closed to hunting on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.
3. The Hunting Check Station (Building 4027) opens at 4:30 AM beginning the first day of Archery Season and will be open every hunt day through deer season. Two lines will be formed as hunters arrive at the Check Station to wait for the opening at 4:30 AM (one line for DoD, which will be served first, and another line for non-DoD, as defined in **ACCESS** section paragraph 2.) Any DoD member will be given priority over non-DoD personnel at check-in. When the Check Station is manned, all hunters must check in at the Check Station before entering any Hunt Unit and must obtain an appropriate Hunt Stand pass. This pass must be attached to the rear-view mirror and be visible from the outside of the vehicle.
4. Hunters are required to immediately proceed to the appropriate tree stand as soon as the pass is issued and return directly to the Hunter Check Station when finished hunting to check out. Failure to do so will be considered **trespassing** and will result in **suspension** for the rest of the season.
5. All hunters are required to return to the Check Station no later than the posted check out time which shall be 1.5 hours after sunset. Pursuit of a wounded or downed animal must be terminated in time to make it back to the Check Station in time to check out. Violators will be considered **trespassing** and may result in suspension for the rest of the season.
6. Entry into the East Hunt Unit is through Silver Flag Road, Road 98F, and along Hwy 98. Entry into the Flightline Hunt Unit must be through the open Flight Line gate. Entry into the West Unit must be through either the Sabre Gate (for Non-DoD with a DBIDS) or the Airey Gate (DoD Only). Non-DoD hunters are not allowed in the Support Area or Flightline Unit; violators will be considered **trespassing** and will be banned for the remainder of the season. Information on banned permit holders will be forwarded to Security Forces for enforcement.
7. All game harvested must be checked at the Check Station. A full weight of deer is required, so if field dressed, the entrails must be brought to the Check Station in a bag or other suitable container. A jawbone for age data must be submitted to the Check Station Operator. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
8. Failure to check in or out will result in the suspension of the privilege to hunt on TAFB for the remainder of the season.
9. Air guns (no PCPs) may only be used for gray squirrels. Shotguns, Muzzleloaders, Long Bows, Recurve Bows, Compound Bows and Crossbows are the only authorized weapons for use on TAFB. Shotgun ammunition for deer hunting is limited to slugs only. In the East Unit, only muzzleloaders may be used during the muzzleloader season, and crossbows may only be used during the archery season by hunters possessing a FWC Persons with Disabilities Crossbow Permit.
10. The East Unit is a designated Wildlife Management Area (WMA) by FWC. However, no Management Area Permit is required to hunt on Tyndall's East Unit.
11. Having a loaded weapon in a vehicle is prohibited. A loaded weapon is any shotgun with a shell in the chamber or magazine, or a muzzleloader with a firing cap in place, or a nocked arrow on a bow or crossbow. Weapons must be completely encased and locked, zipped, or tied shut while in a vehicle; ammunition must be kept separate from the firearm.
12. Weapons may only be loaded once the hunter has climbed into his/her tree stand. Weapons are required to be unloaded before exiting their tree stand.
13. No person shall possess any weapon, either assembled or disassembled, in TAFB areas closed to hunting or in TAFB hunting areas during a period in which hunting is not authorized. The only exception to this rule is that bows are allowed at the archery range. If contacted by Law Enforcement, you must identify that you have a weapon on your person or in your vehicle.
14. During Archery Season: Possession of a weapon other than a bow or crossbow in the West Unit and Flightline Unit is prohibited. Possession of a weapon other than a bow (or crossbow with a FWC Persons of Disability Crossbow Permit) is prohibited in the East Unit.
15. Possession of more than one weapon to take wildlife, while in a tree stand, is prohibited during all deer seasons.
16. An archery field test, administered by Natural Resources staff, is required for any hunter using archery equipment (compound bow, crossbow, longbow, recurve bow) to take wildlife on Tyndall. You must test with each archery weapon you are using to hunt. Testing will be on base, at the Archery Range, every Thursday at 1400 hours, once hunting permits are available for purchase, and throughout the deer hunting season. You must have a hunting permit before you may take the test. Hunters may test up to 3 times with each weapon in order to pass the test, but only once per day with that weapon. Targets and instructions will be provided at the test site. Field tips must be used for the test – no broadheads. No hunter may hunt with archery equipment until they have successfully passed the archery field test.
17. It is unlawful to take or attempt to take wildlife from any place other than the tree stand for which you have a pass. Failure to follow this rule will result in suspension of your hunting privileges.

18. Still hunting from your designated hunting stand is the only method allowed to hunt deer, pigs, or coyotes. Stalking is prohibited.
19. Parking along paved roads is only allowed next to the wood line, not the road shoulder. Do not block any road with your vehicle.
20. All hunters will obtain approval from Check Station Operator before pursuing wounded game into any closed area or adjacent hunt block. In this situation hunters may call the Check Station at 850-771-5062 to get authorization.
21. No person shall possess, place, expose or distribute any edible substance for attracting wildlife or take or attempt to take wildlife where an edible substance has been deposited. Scent lures are allowed but must be removed when you leave your tree stand.
22. Driving a metal object into any tree is prohibited.
23. Deer hunting is restricted to the pre-placed ladder stands belonging to Natural Resources. Moving, or attempting to move these stands will result in revocation of hunting permit and possible legal prosecution.
24. Scouting may begin once you have purchased a TAFB hunting permit.
25. Individuals with a valid TAFB Hunting permit may scout the East and West units during daylight hours on non-hunt days. Weekend Only areas and the Flightline Unit scouting is only allowed on weekends, holidays or base wide down days. Scouting on hunt days is allowed from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM after obtaining a scout pass from the Check Station.
26. All hunters and anyone accompanying them, regardless of age, must obtain the appropriate TAFB permits and are required to check in at the Check Station. All hunters under the age of 16 years must hunt under the supervision of a licensed adult.
27. Feral hog and coyote may be taken in any hunting season, with the season-appropriate weapon, with no bag limit.
28. Hunting in blocks 4C-4G, 6D, 7E, 8B, 8C, 8F, 10D, 10E and all Flightline Unit blocks is limited weekends and holidays.
29. The use of dogs for deer hunting is prohibited except for trailing wounded game after notifying the Check Station Operator. The dog must be on a leash and in control at all times. Dogs may be used for bird hunting but must be under control of the hunter.
30. Trapping and trapping devices are prohibited.
31. All persons hunting during General Gun Season and Muzzleloading Season (when deer hunting is open), are required to wear a minimum of 500 sq. inches of blaze orange **at all times**, with the exception of dove hunters in designated dove fields and waterfowl hunters.
32. A "**Mature Buck**" on TAFB is defined as an antlered deer with at least FOUR antler points on one side, with each point at least one inch in length (East and West Units), or at least TWO antler points on one side, at least one inch in length (Flightline Unit ONLY).
33. An "**Antlerless Deer**" on TAFB is defined as any deer (except spotted fawns) without antlers or a deer with antlers less than five inches in length.
34. Base housing residents are cautioned that archery hunting is authorized near housing areas and are advised to wear fluorescent orange or bright colored clothing while off of established roads or trails on any hunting day. A flier will be provided to Balfour Beatty Communities at TAFB for issuance to all housing occupants announcing hunting seasons.
35. GAME CAMERAS ARE PROHIBITED.
36. Tyndall Deer Season bag limit is 4 deer per hunter, 2 of which may be antlerless.

### Alligator Season

1. Must have a Tyndall Recreation permit (Non-DoD only) and meet all access requirements as stated in the **ACCESS** section of this regulation.
2. Must have a Bay County Alligator Harvest Permit as required by the state of Florida to hunt alligator on TAFB.
3. Must follow all state of Florida regulations.
4. Hunting allowed in all open hunt blocks, and all lakes and ponds open to recreation. Other areas may be identified by Natural Resources as needed.
5. Permits and regulations can be found at MYFWC.com.

### Archery Season

1. An Archery Season permit allows hunting in all Hunt Stands whether designated as Archery or Gun. All access requirements as stated in the **ACCESS** section of this regulation must be met.
2. A passing archery score on a qualification field test is mandatory before hunters may use archery equipment to take wildlife. See #16 of General Hunting Regulations above.
3. Legal to take: Mature Bucks and Antlerless Deer in all hunt units during Archery Season (see #32-33 of General Hunting Regulations); small game (with a Small Game Permit) when in season, wild hogs and coyotes.
4. Legal to use: Long Bows, Recurve Bows, Compound Bows, and Crossbows (see #9 of General Hunting Regulations regarding additional permit requirements for using crossbows in the East Unit).

### Muzzleloading Season

1. Individuals must have a TAFB Muzzleloading Season permit to hunt during Muzzleloading Season and meet all access requirements as stated in the **ACCESS** section of this regulation.
2. Legal to take: Mature Bucks only in all hunt units (see #32-33 of General Hunting Regulations); small game (with a Small Game Permit) when in season, wild hogs and coyotes.
3. Legal to use in Gun Hunt Blocks: Muzzleloaders, Long Bows, Re-curve Bows, Compound Bows, and Crossbows. Legal to use in Archery Hunt Blocks: Long Bows, Recurve Bows, Compound Bows, and Crossbows. In the East Unit, ONLY MUZZLELOADERS MAY BE USED, regardless of Hunt Block.

### General Gun Season

1. Open to hunting on open days to those who have a TAFB General Gun Season Permit and meet all access requirements as stated in the **ACCESS** section of this regulation.
2. Legal to take: Mature Bucks only in all hunt units (see #32-33 of General Hunting Regulations); small game (with a Small Game

Permit) when in season, wild hogs and coyotes.

3. Antlerless Deer may be taken in all Units during Antlerless Deer Season.
5. Legal to use in Gun Hunt Blocks: Air guns (no PCPs) only for gray squirrels, Shotguns, Muzzleloaders, Long Bows, Recurve Bows, Compound Bows, and Crossbows. Legal to use in Archery Hunt Blocks: Long Bows, Recurve Bows, Compound Bows, and Crossbows. See #9 of General Hunting Regulations regarding additional permit requirements for using crossbows in the East Unit.

### Small Game

1. A TAFB Small Game Only hunting permit is available to those who only want to hunt migratory birds and/or small game. All access requirements as stated in the **ACCESS** section of this regulation must be met.
2. Hunting small game when in season is allowed on TAFB only on designated hunting days (see General Hunting Regulation # 2) and only with the season-appropriate weapon. The taking of fox squirrels, quail and black bear is prohibited.
3. With this permit, it is legal to take: squirrel, opossum, raccoon, coyote, armadillo, bobcat, and migratory game birds on designated TAFB hunt days (See General Hunting Regulation #2), and according to the seasons and limits designated in the State of Florida Hunting Regulations.
4. Legal to use in Gun Hunt Blocks: Air guns (no PCPs) only for gray squirrels, Shotguns, Muzzleloaders, Long Bows, Recurve Bows, Compound Bows, and Crossbows. Legal to use in Archery Hunt Blocks: Long Bows, Recurve Bows, Compound Bows, and Crossbows (see #9 of General Hunting Regulations regarding additional permit requirements for using crossbows in the East Unit).
5. Dogs may be used for bird hunting but must be under control of the hunter.
6. Except for First Phase Dove hunting which is only allowed in designated dove fields, small game hunting is allowed in all designated Hunt Blocks with the appropriate weapon for the Block. Dove hunters must check in and out of the Hunter Check Station during Phase 2 & 3 of dove season. Failure to do so will be considered **trespassing**.
7. Waterfowl hunters hunting **on** Tyndall may only hunt on open hunt days in designated hunt blocks after checking in at the Hunting Check Station. If waterfowl hunters remain in state waters during their entire hunt, check in and out is not required.
8. Waterfowl hunters accessing state waters **from** Tyndall must have a Tyndall Recreation or Small Game permit.
9. Waterfowl hunters may access state waters from **within** the controlled perimeter (as outlined in the **ACCESS** section) only on open hunt days after checking in at the Hunting Check Station.  
Waterfowl hunters may access state waters from **outside** the controlled perimeter (as outlined in the **ACCESS** section) any day during the Migratory Bird season.

### CAMPING

1. Camping is only authorized at the Group Campground.
2. Contact Natural Resources (email Udg\_325ces\_recreation@us.af.mil) for details regarding use of the Group & Primitive Campgrounds.
3. Camping anywhere else on TAFB is prohibited without prior written authorization from Natural Resources.

### OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION

1. Hiking is authorized on maintained roads, forestry roads, nature trails and hiking trails in designated recreation areas. Hikers must meet all access requirements as stated in the **ACCESS** section of this regulation.
2. Bicycling is authorized only on maintained roads and marked forestry roads, marked trails and marked firebreaks. For safety, biking is prohibited on firebreaks on open hunt days. Biking is prohibited on trails designated as hiking only.
3. Dogs are prohibited on all barrier island beaches and within areas posted as "Critical Wildlife Areas" on TAFB. In all other areas, dogs must be in the control of their owner and on a leash.

### PERMIT INFORMATION

1. Prior to obtaining a TAFB permit, refer to the **ACCESS** section above for additional information.
2. Everyone engaging in hunting or freshwater fishing on TAFB is required to have the appropriate TAFB permit(s). All Non-DoD personnel (16 years and older) are required to have a Recreation Permit for saltwater fishing from Tyndall shoreline, launching watercraft from Tyndall property, and/or visiting the beach.
3. TAFB permits will be issued at Building 4027 (Hunting Check Station) when manned during the hunting season and on Tuesdays between the hours of 8:30 to 11:30 AM. Permits may also be obtained anytime online at: <https://tyndall.isportsman.net/>.
4. Proper identification and appropriate State Licenses, Permits and Federal Stamps are required prior to issuance of TAFB permits. Only cash is accepted for in-person sales. Credit or debit cards are accepted online at <https://tyndall.isportsman.net>.

## TAFB Permits

Permit	E5 and above/ All others	E4 or below/ Seniors/Disabled <sup>1</sup>	Youths (≤ 15)
Complete Sportsman (everything except Spring Turkey Season)	\$100.00	\$30.00	Free
Archery/Crossbow Season	\$20.00	\$10.00	Free
Muzzleloading Season	\$10.00	\$5.00	Free
General Gun Season	\$60.00	\$20.00	Free
Small Game Only	\$20.00	\$5.00	Free
Freshwater Fishing	\$20.00	\$5.00	Free
7 Day Freshwater Fishing	\$5.00	\$3.00	Free
Recreation <sup>2</sup>	\$15.00	Free	n/a

<sup>1</sup> Seniors are persons 65 years of age or older with proof of age. Disabled are those certified as being 100% disabled and possessing a Florida Resident Totally and Permanently Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing Certificate.

<sup>2</sup> Recreation Permits are not required for DoD Members.

### TAFB Phone numbers

Hunter Check Station	850-771-5062
Natural Resources	850-527-2009/3553
FamCamp	850-283-2798
Outdoor Recreation Center	850-283-3199
Visitor Center	850-283-9927
Security Forces	850-283-2254
Fire Department	850-283-4777
Drone Launch Schedule	850-283-8293
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<b>911</b>