

Hunting Town Hall Meeting, 28 Aug 2024, 1700 hrs

Hosted by: Col Christian Bergtholdt, 325th Fighter Wing Commander

Upcoming changes to 2024-2025 Hunting Season:

a) Hunting in West Unit is open to DoD members only. DoD is defined as Active-Duty Military, Reserve, National Guard, DoD Civilians, Retired Military, Retired DoD Civilians, their dependents, and DoD Contractors **with a current DoD Common Access Card (CAC)**. All others will be considered non-DoD for the Hunting Program. DoD Contractors who possess a DBIDS, but not CAC, are considered non-DoD and will not be able to hunt behind the fence.

b) Only DoD members may sponsor non-DoD members on West and Flightline Units

c) There will be a combination of pre-placed stands (~40) and mobile stands (includes ground blinds) this season. Mobile stand permit is required in addition to hunting permit.

- Mobile stands/ground blinds must be removed after each hunt.

EXCEPTION: Disabled hunters may leave one ground blind in place. Disabled are those certified as being 100% disabled and possessing a Florida Resident Totally and Permanently Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing Certificate.

- Limbs 1" or less in diameter may be removed on the tree where the mobile stand is placed. No shooting lanes shall be cleared. No cutting brush to make natural ground blinds.

d) No archery field test is required

e) No Spring or Fall Turkey Hunting Seasons this year due to declining population since Hurricane Michael.

f) Hunters must check in and out of the Hunter Check Station during all phases of dove season.

Discussion (Questions from Hunters)

- Hunter Check Station Hours of Operation and Phone number with VM capability – old map (2023-2024 season) is still posted that shows Check Station Hours; this will be updated when we post the 2024-2025 map.

Check station will not be opened weekly for permit sales. ALL permits must be purchased on Tyndall iSportsman website (<https://tyndall.isportsman.net>)

- Hunting on Crooked Island Beach? **Hunting is permitted on Crooked Island; check in at hunter check station, then head to beach via boat.**

- Recommend post areas better (Archery area, Gun area, etc. need more signage) – **Natural Resource is working on adding signs**

- If a Hunter with a Mobile Stands permit brings a guest, does the guest need a mobile stand permit as well? **Yes, if the guest is also using a mobile stand.**

- Can Mobile Tri-pods be included as a mobile stand? **Yes**
- Someone asked for a Senior discount. **Seniors receive discounted rates and are already grouped in with E4 and below.**
- Is Big Ammo Pond open for fishing? **No**
- Request to include Hunting block behind Ammo area – **Will open an archery-only block outside a 200M buffer around ammo area (Block 5D).**
- Bang stick approved weapon for alligator hunting? **Yes, only when an alligator is attached to a restraining line.**
- Which ponds for alligator? **Olympia (DoD only) and PQM Lake (DoD and Non-DoD).**
- Which ponds for waterfowl? **PQM (open to DoD and Non-DoD)**
- Any consideration to remove DoD and non-DoD lines? **No, these separate lines will remain.**