

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT PARRIS ISLAND		
CONTROLLED DEER HUNT ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE	DATE: 07/24/2023	REVISION: 02

**Revision 02**



# Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island



## Controlled Deer Hunt Environmental Standard Operating Procedure

### SIGNATURE/APPROVAL

The signature and date below indicate approval of the procedure for implementation at  
Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island.

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**08/01/2022**

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DATE

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By Direction



## MCRD PARRIS ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION DOCUMENT REVIEW



**Name of Document:** Controlled Deer Hunt Environmental Standard Operating Procedure

Year	Reviewer Signature	Reviewer Title	Document Changes
2022	HOLLOWAY, JOHN.D.JR.1 114838620 <small>Digitally signed by HOLLOWAY, JOHN.D.J R.1114838620 Date: 2022.08.01 11:04:10 -04'00'</small>	Natural Resources Manager	Added Emergency Services Notification, Deer Stand Casualty Collection Point (CCP) information, added Archery information
2023		Environmental Division Director	Changed application due date. Updated command logo.
2023			
2024			
2025			

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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

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CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CLEO	Conservation and Law Environmental Officer
COMMSTRAT	Communication, Strategies and Operations
DoD	Department of Defense
ENVDIV	Environmental Division
MCCS	Marine Corps Community Services
MCO	Marine Corps Order
MCRDPI	Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island
PMO	Provost Marshall's Office
POVs	Privately Owned Vehicles
SCDNR	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure

# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Controlled Deer Hunts Background

The white-tailed deer is one of the most adaptable and widely distributed game animals sought by hunters, and is one of the premier big game species in the United States. In the state of South Carolina, the white-tailed deer population is approximately 750,000 to 1 million. Habitat deterioration, due to increased deer populations and over grazing of food sources, has decreased the ability of many areas within the state of South Carolina to support a healthy deer population. Increased deer populations also severely damage many wildlife habitats; habitat recovery may take many years to occur.

Proper deer management programs are implemented throughout the state of South Carolina and regulated by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), Wildlife Division. Proper deer herd management includes producing an adequate number of healthy deer by maintaining deer populations below the carrying capacity of the land, or about 1 deer per 10 acres. South Carolina is divided into 11 game hunting zones. Hunting is regulated in each zone by the following methods:

- Number of hunting license and permits issued
- Number of tags sold
- Setting a statutory limit on the number of deer that can be killed by each hunter within a particular season, the number of deer allowed to be harvested within a particular hunting zone or area, and being in compliance with basic wildlife management regulatory requirements (The number of deer allowed to be harvested from a particular area is based upon the previous year's data. The SCDNR tracks the number of deer killed through tag issuance and antler and jaw bone collection.)

## 1.2 Regulations

*Applicable Regulations and Standards  
Deer Hunting Standard Operating Procedure*

### South Carolina Department of Natural Resources(SCDNR)

Rule Number	Summary
SCDNR Rules and Regulations for Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife Management Areas	The link below provides data regarding hunting seasons for certain game in Beaufort and Jasper Counties, Zone 11. <a href="http://www.dnr.sc.gov/regulations.html">http://www.dnr.sc.gov/regulations.html</a> SCDNR, which can be contacted for additional information on hunting schedules, can be located at: Wildlife Offices, Webb Center, 1282 Webb Ave. Garnett, SC 803-625-3569 585 Donnelley Drive Hwy 17, Green Pond, SC 843-844-8957
SCDNR	A hunter education course is required for all resident and nonresidents born after June 30, 1979. For a complete listing of the hunter education course schedule, visit: <a href="http://www.dnr.sc.gov/regulation.html">http://www.dnr.sc.gov/regulation.html</a>

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*Applicable Regulations and Standards*

*Deer Hunting Standard Operating Procedure*

SCDNR      All residents and nonresidents must possess a SC State Hunting License and Big Game Permit for hunting deer on base. A list of the licensure requirements and fees can be found at: <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/regulation.html>

## 2.0 Purpose

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) provides guidance on the roles and responsibilities associated with conducting controlled deer hunt procedures enforced by the Environmental Division (ENVDIV) aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island (MCRDPI) as well as the hunters’ responsibilities during the season. The goal of this SOP is to ensure that MCRDPI maintains compliance with all applicable hunting and general wildlife laws and regulations.

## 3.0 Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities for conducting controlled deer hunts are outlined below.

### 3.1 MCRDPI Conservation Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO)

- Ensure that MCRDPI maintains compliance with all applicable Federal, State, local, and DoD regulations.
- Ensure information from the previous hunting season documenting the number of deer harvested (deer count), and the jaw bones (used to determine the size and age of the deer) is collected from the game harvested on MCRDPI and submitted to SCDNR Wildlife program by the January preceding the hunt season. This information is used to determine the health of the herd.
- Coordinate with Natural Resources and Depot stakeholders to determine the dates of controlled hunts to take place on MCRDPI.
- Publish a Depot Bulletin prior to the hunting season detailing the dates controlled hunting will be permitted on MCRDPI property.
- Coordinate with Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) to ensure the picnic area (Elliott’s Beach) is not scheduled for activities during the hunt.
- Notify hunters participating in the hunt of their assigned day for hunting.
- Notify the Environmental Director of the dates and areas to be hunted so that an “all hands” email may be distributed.
- Post signs throughout MCRDPI the day of the hunt.
- Ensure personnel and residents are aware of the restricted areas and traffic patterns around hunting areas.

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- Ensure all roads within proximity to the hunting area are blocked off and/or the proper barriers are in place prior to and during the hunt.
- Coordinate with all ENVDIV personnel for placement of tree stands prior to the hunt. Monitor the integrity of the stands throughout the hunting season.
- Conduct the roll call, safety briefing, drawing for stand assignments, and drop off and pick up of hunters on the day of the hunt.
- Ensure all personnel participating in the deer hunts are aware of proper hunting, and safety information prior to the start of each hunt.
- Ensure all personnel participating in the deer hunts are aware of the proper emergency response procedures in place for medical or other emergencies.
- Ensure all personnel participating in hunts are aware of proper communication procedures.
- Coordinate with ENVDIV personnel to set up the deer processing area for the hunters on the morning of the hunt. This area will also be used to extract the jaw bones of the deer and data that are required to be submitted to SCDNR.
- Coordinate with ENVDIV personnel to tag all deer harvested.
- Clean each area and put away all equipment used during the hunts.

### **3.2 MCRDPI ENVDIV Natural Resource Specialist**

- Assist MCRDPI's CLEO to ensure that compliance with all applicable federal, state, local, and Department of Defense (DoD) regulations are maintained prior to, during, and after the controlled deer hunts.
- Assist the CLEO in collection of information from the previous hunting season.
- Provide combined coordination with MCRDPI CLEO to determine the dates of scheduled hunts to take place on MCRDPI.
- Post signs throughout MCRDPI the day prior to the hunt.
- Ensure MCRDPI personnel and local residents are aware of the restricted areas and traffic patterns around hunting areas.
- Ensure all roads within proximity to the hunting area are blocked off and/or the proper barriers are in place prior to and during the hunt.
- Coordinate with the CLEO for placement of tree stands prior to the hunt.
- Coordinate with the CLEO to set up the deer processing area for the hunters. This area will also be used to extract the jaw bones of the deer and collect data that are required to be submitted to SCDNR.
- Coordinate with CLEO to issue tags for each deer harvested by hunters participating in controlled hunt.

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- Distribute corn at each of the tree stands prior to the hunting event.
- Clean each area and put away all equipment used during the hunts.
- Maintain awareness of proper gun, hunting, and safety information during the season.
- Maintain awareness of proper emergency response procedures in place for medical or other emergencies anticipated during the hunt.

### 3.3 Participating Hunters

Only authorized personnel may participate. These include: Active duty, active duty dependents 18 years of age or older, military retirees, Tri-Command civil service employees, and non-appropriated funds employees.

- Obtain a current state-issued hunting license and big game permit, as well as complete registration form, waiver of liability, and certificate of understanding which can be found as enclosures to Depot Bulletin (DepBul) 5090 DEER HUNTING ABOARD MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT, PARRIS ISLAND.
- Prospective hunters must submit completed forms to the Conservation Law Enforcement Officer's (CLEOs) designated Controlled Hunt Drop-Box. The box is located on the wall next to room 10 in the ENVDIV (Building 864). Forms may also be faxed to (843) 228-2616, or emailed to the CLEO at [van.horton@usmc.mil](mailto:van.horton@usmc.mil).
- Submit forms NLT close of business 10 September.
- Participate in a shotgun and/or archery certification: Prospective hunters must obtain certifications through the ENVDIV. **Shotgun certification numbers are valid for an indefinite period, Archery certification will be an annual certification.**
- An Officer in Charge (OIC 1) and Range Safety Officer (RSO 2) certified by Weapons and Field Training Battalion or the CLEO will conduct the certification. This takes place on Suribachi Range on designated Saturdays from 0830 to 1030. Dates are listed in DepBul 5090.
- Prospective shotgun hunters must furnish their own shotgun and ammunition. Hunters must have at least fifteen rounds each of slug ammunition in their possession. To certify, the hunter must demonstrate safe operation of their weapon while firing five rounds from either the standing or seated bench position. The shooter must place three of the five slug rounds into a 12 inch circle from 25 yards. The shooter will be allowed two additional attempts for a total of three attempts in one day. Certification numbers are issued after applicants are deemed qualified by the certified range instructor. Certification numbers must be recorded on the shotgun application card by an ENVDIV representative. To be valid, application cards require the signature of the certified instructor.
- Prospective archery hunters must provide their own bow/crossbow with a minimum of three bolts/arrows. To certify, the hunter will have one attempt to safely place 2 out of 3 bolts/arrows inside an 8 inch circle at a distance 20 yards or less and place 2 out of three bolts/arrows inside a 10 inch circle at a distance of more than 20 yards.



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- Authorized weapons for the deer hunt are limited to 10, 12, 16, and 20 gauge shotguns, recurve bows, compound bows, pneumatic, and traditional crossbows. Only slug and 00 or 000 buck shot are allowed for shotguns and broad head arrows and bolts for archery.

### 3.4 ENVDIV Director

- Route/brief DepBul 5090 through the chain of command for concurrence/approval.
- Send out an “All-Hands” email 1 week prior to a scheduled hunt to notify the Depot that the hunt will be taking place.

## 4.0 Procedures

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This section outlines the procedures that must be followed to ensure that Controlled Deer Hunts at MCRDPI are properly organized, operated, and ensure the safety of the coordinators as well as the safety of the hunters, while maintaining the wildlife population.

### 4.1 MCRDPI Pre-Hunting Season Activities

Upon the completion of each hunting season, MCRDPI ENVDIV is required to submit a report and supporting information to SCDNR detailing the previous harvest season, including the following:

- Record detailing the number of deer killed during hunting season
- The sex and weight of the harvested deer
- Jaw bones extracted from deer collected during the hunting season
- Ratio of does to bucks located within MCRDPI hunting grounds

Upon reviewing the previous year’s harvest report from MCRDPI, SCDNR recommends whether MCRDPI should participate in deer harvest activities in the following year. If it is recommended that MCRDPI conduct a harvest event the next year, SCDNR will notify MCRDPI ENVDIV regarding the number of deer recommended to be harvested from the island. In addition, SCDNR will provide the correlating number of deer tags to be issued to each deer collected from the hunts, prior to the beginning of the hunting season.

The spring preceding the hunting season on MCRDPI, the CLEO will coordinate with ENVDIV Natural Resources Manager and Natural Resource Specialist to determine the hunt dates. Hunting events usually take place every other Saturday during the designated season, unless it is a holiday weekend. Approximately eight events take place during a harvest season. According to the regulatory guidance, September 15th is the first day Antlerless Game hunting is permitted.

Upon finalizing the dates, the CLEO generates a Deer Hunt Bulletin (Appendix A) detailing the proposed hunting schedule. The Bulletin is then routed for review by MCRDPI stakeholders in order to de-conflict potential hunt dates. The Bulletin advertises details of the proposed hunting schedule, participation requirements, and the location where the hunters must meet. For hunters wishing to participate in the hunt, requirements include a

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current SCDNR Hunting License and Big Game Permit and submittal of: a Registration Form with shotgun/archery certification, Waiver of Liability and Certificate of Understanding.

During the weeks preceding the hunts, the CLEO along with Natural Resource Specialist must scout the property for potential deer stand locations, and then set up the tree stands and equipment. The workers also bait each stand to lure deer to the area, starting approximately 3 weeks prior to the first event and then throughout the season. The CLEO also coordinates with MCCS to ensure the picnic area is closed on the scheduled days of the hunts.

Hunters participating in the events are assigned specific dates to participate in the event based upon the information supplied in their application as well as the availability of spots for each day of the proposed hunt.

## 4.2 Controlled Deer Hunt Information

The natural resources office will utilize a fair, lottery-type drawing, to choose the participants of the hunt and to assign all deer-stands. Registered applicants will be drawn from a hat to fill available stands (up to 20). Once the applicants are selected, a separate drawing will be conducted to assign stands. Those chosen for the first hunt will not be included in the draw for the second or subsequent hunts until all registered applicants are selected.

Applicants not selected may be present at any hunt as stand-by hunters to fill vacancies created by selected hunters not in attendance. Stand-by hunters will be drawn from a hat, with first priority given to Drill Instructors and then other Active Duty Members.

All persons selected for a given hunt must report to the CLEO at Building 956 on Horse Island no later than 1430 or 1530, as designated, on the hunt date for an orientation brief. Selected personnel who fail to report by the specified check-in time will forfeit the privilege to participate in that hunt, and a stand-by hunter will be selected.

At check-in/orientation, each hunter must present a valid ID card and current year SC Hunting License with Big Game Permit. Every individual must have an international orange vest and hat at check-in, and all personnel must wear them at all times while walking to and from the vehicle and the ladder stand.

After orientation, individuals are divided into groups based on their deer-stand number, and then proceed to a designated vehicle for transport to their respective hunt areas with ENVDIV personnel. Participants may not drive their privately owned vehicles (POVs) to any stand area unless that individual has been designated by ENVDIV personnel.

Hunters must use the ladder tree-stands provided by MCRD, PI. Stands are posted with designated stand numbers marked in red. Only designated stand locations, already established by ENVDIV, may be used. Hunters may not change the stand's location. It is the hunter's responsibility to be in the correct stand or to ask the ENVDIV representative or CLEO if the hunter is uncertain of their stand number. Weapons may not be loaded until the respective hunter is seated in the stand and must be unloaded prior to exiting the stand.

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If the hunter suspects a deer is mortally wounded and it leaves the immediate area, the hunter may leave the stand and mark the location of any blood and hair where the deer was shot and track for sign as long as the hunter can maintain eyesight of their assigned stand. The hunter must return to their stand or drop off location NLT 45 minutes after sunset. At the hunt's conclusion and when all hunters are accounted for, the hunter(s) may ask permission to return to the marked area to search for the deer.

Field-dressing deer is prohibited. Individuals who wish to dress their deer on Parris Island are provided a lighted processing-rack area at Building 956. All deer require a permit tag attached to the rear leg before transport from the Depot. Deer will be weighed, the gender recorded, and one half of the lower jawbone removed at the designated deer processing center. Jawbones are tagged and sent to the SCDNR Deer Biologist. At times, deer-parts such as the heart and liver must be surrendered from harvested deer for scientific study by SCDNR biologists.

This SOP only applies to the deer reduction hunt; no other animals will be harmed, harassed or killed. Exceptions will be addressed by the hunt master on the day of the hunt. Violation of hunt rules will result in suspension and confiscation of any illegal game. Review of violations may result in recommendations to G-4 for action. If eastern diamondback rattlesnakes are observed, leave them alone unless they are too close to the stand area, then call the Natural Resources personnel and we will respond to remove. Do not attempt to capture, harm or kill the snakes.

Per DepO 5500.10D SECURITY AND CONTROL OF PERSONAL WEAPONS, AMMUNITION, AND PYROTECHNICS, all privately owned weapons brought aboard MCRDPI must be unloaded and locked in the glovebox, console, or trunk of the transport vehicle. If the weapon cannot be locked in the previously stated manner, it must be locked in a portable weapons case or locked with a trigger-guard or similar device in such a way that the weapon is inoperable until unlocked. Ammunition must be located in a separate and distinct location away from the weapon. This includes archery equipment.

If a hunter resides in housing aboard the Depot, the weapon must be registered with the Provost Marshall's Office (PMO) within three working days of introducing the weapon to the MCRDPI. Do not bring the weapon to PMO for registration. The registered owner must bring the bill of sale or other documentation reflecting the serial number. Any person residing off base that brings aboard the Depot any privately owned firearm(s) for the purpose of hunting, must also register the weapon(s) with PMO.

While transported, this weapon must be secured in the above prescribed manner, transported only by the registered owner, and the owner must have the weapon registration receipt issued by the PMO in his/her possession. No transported weapon shall be concealed from view at any time aboard the Depot, whether by person or vehicular transport.

### 4.3 Training

MCRDPI's CLEO participates in the Conservation Law Enforcement Program (CLEP) education and training initiatives, which provides information on all facets of natural and cultural resources law enforcement. The training meets the minimum education and training requirements for conservation officers, special agents, and supervisors. In addition

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to providing training information on cultural and natural resource laws, the training also meets the requirements for the use of lethal and nonlethal weapons.

## 4.4 Safety

Prior to participating in the hunting season, it is required by South Carolina law that all residents of the state of South Carolina born after June 30, 1979 complete the SCDNR Hunter’s Safety Course.

A safety briefing detailing the days scheduled events and standard hunting protocol is given on the day of each hunting event prior to hunter drop off. Each tree stand in use during the hunting season is checked on a weekly basis to ensure stability and safety of use for the hunters.

## 4.5 Emergency Response

Each hunter with a cell phone is instructed to use the cell phone in the case of an emergency during the hunting event. They are instructed to call 911, immediately tell County dispatch that you are on Parris Island. You will be dispatched appropriately, notify emergency response of the situation and what tree stand you are located. MCRDPI Fire and Emergency Services will have a map of current deer stand locations and corresponding casualty collection point (CCP) locations in order to respond.

# **Appendix A**

## **Deer Hunt Depot Bulletin 5090**

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