



MCRD PARRIS ISLAND

EARTH DAY NEWSLETTER

Species Spotlight- Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake

The eastern diamondback rattlesnake (EDB), *Crotalus adamanteus*, inhabits southeastern Coastal Plain habitats, including barrier islands, sea islands, and pine savannas and woodlands. EDBs are the largest venomous species in North America, growing between 5 to 6 feet in length, and have a natural lifespan between 15-20 years. The species is declining and is currently in review for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Programs and Contacts Information

EMS/
Training
843-228-3400

Compliance
Manager
Asbestos
843-228-3102

Hazardous Waste
Air Quality
843-228-4698

Stormwater
Water Quality
843-228-4293

Tank Program
Spill Prevention
843-228-2611

Natural Resources
Manager
843-228-3066

Conservation Law
Enforcement
843-228-3799

Wildlife Biologist
843-228-2663

Recycle Manager
843-228-3430

Environmental
Restoration
843-228-3615

Depot
Archaeologist
843-228-2834

Are there rattlesnakes on MCRD Parris Island?

- Eastern diamondback rattlesnakes are the only venomous snake species on Parris Island.
- EDBs move very little during the winter while they seek refuge from colder temperatures.
- During the spring and early summer months, EDBs are actively on the move searching for food, but rarely leave woodland/marsh habitats.
- Throughout late summer breeding season, EDBs are most likely to leave their habitats; potentially traveling long distances in search of mates.

What if I encounter a rattlesnake on the Depot?

- **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO KILL OR CAPTURE THE SNAKE!**
- Maintain a safe distance from the snake and immediately contact Natural Resources personnel (see red text in contact information).
- Do your best to maintain visual contact with the snake until personnel arrive to remove the snake.

How can I avoid rattlesnake encounters?

- Stay alert when working outside.
- Keep work and housing areas tidy.
- Keep yards clean of debris and discourage rodent activity by removing sources of food and shelter.
- Look around before entering crawl spaces or moving outdoor materials/furniture or other items.



Thank you for your Earth Day 2021 support!

Earth Day 2021 was a success with an estimated 150 people attending the outreach event at the new Earth Day park and trail head. We would like to thank our local conservation groups who were critical in supporting this effort. Next year we will be expanding the park and trail to connect to the 3d Battalion Pond path. Please send any suggestions and comments for next year's event to PARR_SMB_MCRDPI_ENVIRONMENTAL_COMPLIANCE@usmc.mil