

MCRD PARRIS ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

March 2023

SPRING EMERGENCE

The eastern diamondback rattlesnake (EDB), *Crotalus adamanteus*, inhabits southeastern Coastal Plain habitats, including barrier islands, sea islands, and pine savannas and woodlands. The species is declining and is currently in review for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Environmental Division

Compliance Manager

EMS

843-228-3102

Air Quality

Asbestos/Toxics

843-228-3400

Hazardous Waste

Air Quality

843-228-4698

Stormwater/

Water Quality

843-228-4293

Tank Program/

Training

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

Are there rattlesnakes on MCRD Parris Island?

Eastern diamondback rattlesnakes are the only venomous snake species on Parris Island. The largest venomous species on North America, EDBs can reach 6-8 feet in length, with a natural lifespan between 15-20 years. 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.



Photograph by: Emily Mausteller

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 base?

Do not attempt to kill or capture the snake!

- Maintain a safe distance from the snake and immediately contact Natural Resources personnel.
- 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.