

DoD's Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) 2013 Annual Report



Over the last four years, DoD has expanded its amphibian and reptile conservation efforts so that we are now recognized as a leader in herpetofaunal management on military lands. Our accomplishments would not have been possible without the hard work of our installation biologists, trainers, and other partners who have help make sure that DoD's partnership for amphibian and reptile conservation, which we call DoD PARC, is working to ensure that our military personnel have the access they need to conduct mission-essential activities. We are thankful to all of you who have contributed to the success of DoD PARC, and look forward to working with you in future years.

Here is a summary of our 2013 accomplishments:

DoD PARC Lecture Series

- January 2013: *Ecology of the Canebrake Rattlesnake in Southeastern Virginia*, Chris Petersen (Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic).
- March 2013: *Evaluation of Potential Impacts of the Joint Strike Fighter Program on the Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard at MCAS-Yuma, BMGR*, Matt Goode and Mickey Parker (University of Arizona).
- April 2013: *The Problem of the Invasive Pythons in the United States*, Dr. Mike Dorcas (Davidson College).
- May 2013: *Renewable Energy Development and Wildlife: The New Frontier in Conservation Biology*, Dr. Jeffrey Lovich (USGS, Flagstaff, AZ).
- August 2013: *Reproduction of the Cuban Boa (Epicrates angulifer) in the Cuzco Hills, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba*, Dr. Peter Tolson (Toledo Zoo).
- October 2013: *Look What the Cat Dragged In*, Dr. Kerrie Loyd (Arizona State University).
- December 2013: *How Snakes Fly*, Jake Socha (Virginia Tech).



Publications

Currents Magazine – Spring 2013

Mission Readiness DoD PARC Program Sustains Amphibians & Reptiles:
Program Promotes Species & Habitat Management & Conservation

Natural Selections – Winter 2013

WHAT'S HOPPIN' IN DOD PARC? Forging the Way for Better Understanding
in 2013

2011 Amphibian Disease Survey Report

From the Mountains to the Prairies, Seasonal Bd Responses Differ by Latitude
and Longitude at a Continental Scale

Update of Herpetofauna Species Lists

During 2013, partners updated herpetofauna species lists for 57 Navy installations (130 distinct parcels), all of which have Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMP). The lists were peer-reviewed and contained species-specific occurrence data (both confirmed and potential). A report summarizing the data will be available in Spring 2014. DoD PARC has also begun to update the herpetofauna species lists for Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps installations that have INRMPS.

Amphibian Disease Survey

Using a 'citizen science' approach, DoD PARC has nearly completed the 2013 amphibian disease surveys on military installations. The study, which surveyed for the occurrence of the chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) on 51 military installations, was one of the largest sampling events for Bd in a single season ever accomplished! Nearly 1000 samples were collected and analyzed. The data are currently being evaluated, and a report will be available by April 2014.

The DoD PARC Photo Website (<http://dodparcphotolibrary.shutterfly.com>)



Nearly 200 pictures were added to the photo website this year, bringing the total to approximately 850 amphibian and reptile photographs which DoD biologists and environmental planners can use for INRMPS, reports, and publications. Recently, the photo website was used to create a poster of the amphibians and

reptiles of Great Pond Outdoor Adventure Center, a Navy recreational facility in Maine.



Review of DoD Legacy Proposals

DoD PARC developed standardized criteria for the evaluation of Legacy Resource Management Program pre-proposals and proposals related to herpetofauna conservation and management. The new criteria were used by both the amphibian and reptile and the migratory bird conservation programs to evaluate and rank taxa-specific proposals. This was the first time a common ranking system was used. Results were forwarded to the DoD Conservation Committee for consideration. Thanks to those partners who participated in the review process.

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation and Management on DoD Lands - the "DoD PARC Plan"

We continue to work with senior DoD leadership to finalize the action plan. The document, which lays out a common set of herptofaunal-related priorities and actions for installations, has gone through several reviews and revisions. We are hopeful it will be approved and published this coming year.

Looking Ahead

Below are some of the tasks we would like to complete this coming year. We can always use more help, so if you would like to become involved, please contact Rob Lovich or Chris Petersen.

- Collect and organize herpetofauna surveys and reports conducted on military lands;
- Link the photo website pictures to military installation species lists;

- Develop a *DoD Frog Watch* subgroup; and
- Continue to grow and mature our efforts, including identifying regional representatives and officers, who can help coordinate on-the-ground activities.
- Solicit and coordinate additional webinars.

Thank you again for all your hard work this year. We look forward to working with you even more in 2014!

Robert E. Lovich, PhD – DoD PARC Director (robert.lovich@navy.mil)

Chris E. Petersen – DoD PARC Manager (chris.petersen@navy.mil)