

# 2020-21 FORT KNOX SMALL GAME/FALL TURKEY HUNTING GUIDELINES

\* *Changes from 2019-20 are in italics.*

All firearms brought onto Fort Knox must be registered with the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) and on file with the Hunt Control Office prior to purchasing a firearm hunting permit (may be emailed or faxed to [usarmy.knox.imcom-atlantic.mbx.dpw-hunt-control@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.knox.imcom-atlantic.mbx.dpw-hunt-control@mail.mil) or 502-624-1868). For more information and the registration form go to:

<http://www.knox.army.mil/Garrison/des/psd/firearmsregistration.aspx> or call 502-624-7011 or 7019.

Firearms registration will be valid for 3 years and firearms must be declared at access points upon entering the installation.

1. The Fort Knox Small Game seasons and bag limits generally coincide with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's seasons and bag limits. Small game hunting is available based on military training and archery/gun deer hunting when those seasons are ongoing.

The 2019-20 Fort Knox Fall Archery Turkey Season will be held *12 September - 16 November, 2 - 7 December, and 16 December - 10 January*. Firearms season will be *16 October – 31 January, except as described above*. The Fort Knox fall turkey bag limit is 3 turkeys per hunter (fall archery and gun seasons combined, 1 bird per day, and no more than 1 bird may have a beard length of 3 inches or longer). All turkeys, **bobcats, and otters** harvested at Fort Knox must be checked-in through the KDFWR's Telecheck System ([www.fw.ky.gov](http://www.fw.ky.gov) or 1-800-245-4263) by midnight on the day it is harvested. Harvest must also be reported at check-out in the iSportsman system. When a turkey is harvested, all blanks on the Fort Knox Harvest Log must be completed immediately after harvest and before the animal is moved. A carcass tag is required if a harvested turkey leaves the hunter's possession for any reason. A carcass tag can be handwritten and must include the hunter's name and phone number. After the confirmation number is obtained from the KDFWR Telecheck System, it must be recorded on the Fort Knox Harvest Log.

All hunters must possess the appropriate Kentucky state hunting licenses, tags, and stamps and a valid Fort Knox Small Game Permit and/or Fall Turkey Permit, if turkey hunting. A state-issued Hunter Education Certificate is required for all hunters age 12-60, however, the one-time Kentucky hunter education exemption is acceptable, but the hunter must be accompanied by an adult that meets the hunter education requirements above. Hunters eligible for free Fort Knox Permits are: military dependents (Tier 1-2) under age 16 with verification of age and military status; Kentucky residents 65 years of age or older with KY Senior Citizen Hunting and Fishing License, and honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Services with a **100% service-connected disability** with a VA letter signed by their doctor or VA ID card stating 100% service-connected disability.

2. Due to the daily use of the reservation for military training, a strictly controlled and rigidly enforced system of access to the hunting areas will be maintained. Availability of all hunting areas will be contingent upon the training mission. There will be no hunting on Tuesdays or specified holidays the Hunt Control Office is closed. Individuals without a valid military ID, Common Access Card (CAC), or an Automated Installation Entry (AIE) Pass, must first stop at the Visitor's Center located at the Chaffee Gate on Bullion Blvd. and register.

a. All hunters are **required** to possess a current Fort Knox Hunting and Fishing map, **or an individual Hunting Area map (paper or electronic) from the iSportsman website** and a **flashlight** while hunting; maps can be purchased at the Hunt Control Office or downloaded from the iSportsman website. A compass and/or GPS are highly recommended, and it is recommended you carry matches/lighter to start a fire in case of an emergency.

## Check-in/check-out procedures:

(1) Each hunter will use their iSportsman account to check-in/out of hunting areas. Hunters under 18 years of age must have an iSportsman account and the appropriate licenses and permits, but should NOT be checked-in through iSportsman and must stay with accompanying checked-in adult at all times. A printed iSportsman hunting permit for each individual in a vehicle must be displayed in the driver's side windshield.

(2) Hunters must check-in through iSportsman each day no earlier than 0400 prior to entering the hunting area. Hunters must be checked out of their assigned hunting area by the time indicated on iSportsman. Check out **MUST** be completed even if the hunter did not actually go into the area. Failure to check out on time is grounds for immediate suspension of hunting privileges.

**3. Authorized Small Game Hunting Equipment:** Archery equipment and shotguns no larger than 10 gauge or smaller than .410 with pelleted ammunition no larger than shot size T. Repeating shotguns will be plugged to hold a maximum of 3 shells. **For upland game, pellets from shoulder-fired air guns .177 thru .25 caliber, for furbearers .22-.25 caliber pellets fired from shoulder-fired air guns.** Steel shotshells are the only ammunition permitted in possession while hunting waterfowl. **Rifles, handguns, and over and under shotgun/rifle combinations are prohibited in the hunting areas.**

**4. Authorized Turkey Hunting Equipment:** Turkeys may be taken with archery equipment or 10, 12, 16, and 20 gauge shotguns with #4 shot or smaller. Repeating shotguns will be plugged to hold a maximum of 3 shells. **Ten shells maximum in possession per day.** Crossbows are prohibited except for hunters that have a valid crossbow Methods Exemption Permit printed from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife website and signed by a physician; or are 65 years of age or older.

**5.** All guns will be separate from ammunition and fully encased while being transported (including off-road vehicles). Guns will be unloaded and **actions open when not in use or at a vehicle**, when carried in a non-hunting area, during non-hunting hours, or after a hunter has taken the legal bag limit. There will be no hunting within 100 yards of an improved road (asphalt or rock based), structure, checkpoint, or airstrip (HAs 6, 13, 35, and 89). No person shall discharge any firearm, bow, crossbow, air gun, or other similar device, upon, over, or across any improved roadway or airstrip.

**6.** Privately-owned vehicles are not authorized on unimproved roads, trails, or firebreaks in the hunting areas. Do not park in front of gates or block access to buildings, leave gates as you found them, and **do not drive around locked gates!** Hunters must park in or adjacent to their assigned hunting area, accessing hunting area through a non-hunting area or off-limits area is prohibited (e.g., on-post housing). No parking beyond the baseline on Ashley Range (HA 52), Kennedy and Scott Mountain Ranges (HA 54), or McKie Range (HA 59). All rivers within Fort Knox are off limits. All vehicles will be driven by the most direct, authorized route to and from the assigned hunting area; cruising the training complex is not permitted.

**7. Authorized hunting equipment identified in paragraphs 3 and 4 above** will not be discharged from any motor vehicle. Discharge of firearms from boats while hunting migratory waterfowl is permissible provided the motor has been completely shut off, and its progress therefrom has ceased.

**8.** The harvesting of ginseng and yellow root is prohibited and will result in the suspension of hunting and fishing privileges for 3 years and a citation.

**9.** Baiting wildlife, such as placing grains, minerals, salt, fruits, vegetables, hay, or any other food materials, whether natural or manufactured, that may lure, entice or attract wildlife, or the possession of such items in the hunting areas is prohibited.

**10.** Hunters that have a Vehicle Methods Exemption Permit may utilize an off-road vehicle on Fort Knox. However, the **ONLY** person authorized on the vehicle is the person named on the Vehicle Methods Exemption Permit, others are **not** allowed on the vehicle and helmets are required to be worn at all times on vehicles not equipped with seat belts and rollcages. **A printed Vehicle Methods Exemption Permit must be displayed in the driver's side windshield, along with hunting permit, for everyone utilizing an off-road vehicle.** There will be no riding around the hunting area; violators will be removed from the installation.

**11.** Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages or any intoxicant in the hunting areas, or hunting under the influence of any intoxicant is strictly prohibited. Glass containers of any type are prohibited in the hunting areas.