



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, FORT DEVENS
31 QUEBEC STREET
DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS 01434-4424

September 7, 2021

SUBJECT: Letter of Instruction (LOI) for the 2021 Fall Hunting Season

[Name]
[Address]
[City, State, Zip Code]

Dear Prospective Hunter:

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens intends to open areas of South Post for hunting during the 2021 fall hunting season. If interested in participating, please review the information below for the anticipated schedule, current registration instructions, and important program rules.

In coordination with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife), Fort Devens will host the Paralegic Sportsmen's hunt on October 28-30, 2021, and the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) hunt on November 29, 2021. Hunting will be closed to all others on these dates. These programs are coordinated by MassWildlife and Fort Devens does not accept registration applications for them. To learn more or register for those hunts, visit mass.gov/masswildlife.

Anticipated Schedule: The following dates are currently available for participation by all others; however, Fort Devens reserves the right to change or cancel any of the following dates or hours as needed to accommodate training. Cancelled hunts will be rescheduled if possible.

Hunt Type	Dates	Time	Max #
Small Game/ Turkey/ Archery Deer	October 18-21	0630-1600	40 pp/day
Shotgun Deer	November 30, December 1-3, and December 6-8	0630-1600	40 pp/day
Primitive Firearms Deer	December 13-17, and December 20-22	0630-1600	40 pp/day

The start and end times shown above are firm. No person will be allowed onto Fort Devens before the stated start time, and all participants must be back to Range Control to check-out no later than (NLT) the stated end time. No additional time will be made available for scouting or tree stand construction/deconstruction. Portable tree stands and portable ground blinds are authorized for use, but must be installed upon arrival and deconstructed prior to departure. Authorized portable tree stands include ladders, screw-

in tree steps, and strap on tree steps. Persons authorized to hunt on consecutive days in the same Training Area may leave their stand/blind in place until their last successive day, but do so at their own risk. Fort Devens is not responsible for loss or damage of any sort.

Registration: Adults 18 years or older that pass a background check and possess all required hunting licenses, stamps, tags, and weapon (firearm or bow) registrations are eligible to hunt on Fort Devens. Authorized hunters may bring one accompanying minor child aged 12 to 17, but they will observe a single bag limit and share a single firearm/bow. To apply for the 2021 fall season, bring the enclosed Fall 2021 Fort Devens Hunter Registration Application and the Privately Owned Weapons Registration FD Form 2759 to the DOD Police Station located at 47 Quebec Street, Devens, MA no later than October 11, 2021.

If you have previously registered the weapon you will be using for hunting with the DoD Police you do not need to bring the weapon in to register it again but you will need to bring in the Fall 2021 Fort Devens Hunter Registration Application and obtain an unescorted access pass and a copy of your firearms registration form if you do not already have it. Each prospective hunter must register individually. With the exception of accompanying minors, hunters are not permitted to bring a guest to hunt with them.

Registration will be open from 6:30 am to 2:00 pm Monday through Friday (excluding federal holidays), or at other times by appointment only. The following items must be present at the time of registration:

- A complete and accurate Fall 2021 Fort Devens Hunter Registration Application,
- A complete and accurate Privately Owned Weapons Registration FD Form 2759,
- A valid, government-issued photo ID,
- A resident or non-resident MA hunting license,
- Any weapons (firearms or bows) to be used to hunt on the Garrison (if you have not previously registered them),
- All applicable documentation of firearm ownership (LTC, FID card, etc.), and
- A military ID, if applicable.

Note that registration for a hunting season is an expression of interest and does not guarantee access to the Garrison. Authorization to hunt on Fort Devens property will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis in accordance with the tiered priority system described in the September 26, 2018 Fort Devens Hunting Program Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

Rules and Requirements: Hunting on Fort Devens is privilege, not a right. The Garrison Commander and his authorized representatives reserve the right to refuse entry to any person at any time and for any reason. Failure to abide by all state and federal laws/regulations, Garrison policies including the SOP and this LOI, or verbal instructions from any staff person may result in suspension or loss of hunting privileges on Fort Devens and/or penalties levied by the state. This includes bag limits, requirements for

reporting harvested game, mandated attire and safety gear, and restrictions on the type/caliber of firearms. Specific rules and requirements of note are:

- All harvested game must be reported to Range Control and MassWildlife.
- Bag limit is one turkey of either sex and two antlered deer per year. Hunters with antlerless deer permits will be allowed to take as many antlerless deer as they have permits for in Zone 9. Hunters are required to show antlerless deer permits when registering.
- Only one weapon (firearm or bow) is allowed per authorized hunter per day.
- Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge and muzzleloaders no larger than .775 caliber are the only firearms permitted for possession and use by hunters on Fort Devens. Repeating shotguns must be “plugged” to ensure a maximum loaded capacity of three shells (one in the chamber and two in the magazine).
- The only ammunition authorized for deer hunting is a single projectile (slug). Use of buckshot is not permitted on the Garrison. The only ammunition authorized for turkey hunting is #4 - #7 shot.
- Archery means bow and arrow. Use of a crossbow is permitted only by permanently disabled persons who have obtained a crossbow permit from MassWildlife. Poisoned arrows, explosive tips, and bows drawn by mechanical means are prohibited.
- It is prohibited to:
 - Discharge a firearm or bow from a vehicle;
 - Discharge a firearm or bow when standing on a paved road;
 - Discharge a firearm or bow across a paved road;
 - Discharge a firearm or bow or into any area other than the hunters assigned Training Area;
 - Hunt deer using bait, dogs, electronic calls, or rifles to hunt deer;
 - Possess a handgun while hunting;
 - Drive on any roads that are closed to vehicles;
 - Use a stand or blind without the owner’s permission;
 - Clear a more than 2 foot by 50 foot shooting lane;
 - Transport or store a loaded firearm or a bow with a nocked arrow in any vehicle; and
 - Use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol or any other controlled substance while on the Garrison. Any person suspected of being under the influence of a controlled substance will be denied access to or immediately escorted from the property.

COVID-19 Rules and Requirements: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic additional rules and requirements are set for the Fall 2021 hunting season:

- All hunters are required to follow mask and social distancing guidance posted at the entrance to buildings. Hunters should anticipate that masks will be required to be worn while checking in at Range Control.

- Any hunter that contracts COVID-19 within 14 days of hunting on Fort Devens is required to report that information to DPTMS-Operations at (978) 615-6045.

Applicants that are selected to hunt in the Fall 2021 season will received a letter via email identifying which dates they are permitted to hunt on Fort Devens. That letter will include detailed check in and check out instructions. For general questions about the program to the Natural Resources Specialist, Directorate of Public Works, suzanne.f.richardson2.civ@mail.mil, 978-615-6086. For registration-specific questions or to set-up an appointment, contact the DoD Police Lieutenant, 978-615-6062.

Sincerely,

TRENT R. COLESTOCK
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding