Welcome to Lunga Park

While you're enjoying your stay at Lunga Park, we want you to be as safe as possible and to be aware of potential hazards associated with outdoor recreation - particularly in this area! Most hazards may be avoided just by staying in well-maintained areas.

Plants

Poison Ivy is a very common plant on the base. It can cause a severe rash in most people, and is highly toxic if ingested.

Smoke from burning poison ivy can also cause dermatitis and internal problems. Poison ivy grows as a low ground cover, small shrub, or vine that climbs up trees, shrubs, and fences.

The plant is easily identified by its three irregularly shaped leaflets coming from a single stalk. The vine of older plants is thick and woody and has a hair appearance because of the numerous tendrils used to cling to trees. Being aware of its appearance is the best way to avoid getting the rash.

Explosive Ordinances

Lunga Park is part of the Quantico Marine Corps Base, and was utilized as a training area before becoming a recreational area over 40 years ago.

Over the years, training missions throughout Quantico have been modified and relocated. The end result is that ordinance may be encountered anywhere aboard the Base, including here at Lunga Park.

Even though it has been over 40 years, ordinance has the capability of percolating up to the surface.

It is important to remember that explosive ordinance was designed to destroy material and kill or maim people. Regardless of its age, this ordinance retains its lethality. Trained professional can make assessments and remove any explosive hazards. Report found ordinance to the authorities (Lunga staff or Military Police) immediately. NEVER touch, remove, or disturb any ordinance or suspected ordinance items yourself!

Swimming

For the safety of all patrons, there is

ABSOLUTELY NO SWIMMING ALLOWED IN LUNGA RESERVOIR.

Swimming, wading, skiing, jet skis, and wind surfers are NOT AUTHORIZED at Lunga Reservoir. The bottom of the lake is deep mud that can easily entrap swimmers. Old ordnance percolating to the lake bottom can also be an issue. Please stay out of the water at all times!

Snakes

Over 20 species of snakes have been recorded at MCB Quantico, though only one venomous species, the copperhead, is native to the area.

Nearly all snakes, including non-venomous species, will inflict a painful bite if they feel threatened. All snake bites should be treated by a physician.

To avoid being bitten, common sense should be followed:

- Don't disturb or try to kill snakes (that's when most snake bites occur
- Look carefully before putting your hands or feet in places you cannot see
- Don't crawl into thickets without looking carefully
- Look carefully before sitting on rocks or logs
- Use caution when moving brush piles and other objects that are lying on the ground
- Don't fool around or show off with venomous snakes

Arachnids

Chiggers and itch mites are very small arachnids that can cause a great deal of itching and discomfort to their victim. The tiny, reddish adult chigger is just visible to the naked eye, while the larval stage that bites people is even smaller. Chiggers insert their mouth parts into the skin to draw out fluids. When full, they drop off and leave a swelling that itches intensely.

Itch mites are whitish and are also just visible to the naked eye. The adult female burrows into the skin to feed and lay eggs. The bite itches and commonly becomes infected. Chiggers and itch mites are reportedly abundant in blackberry thickets, weedy areas, and other dense vegetation. When used as directed, applying a DEET-based insect repellent to the skin and a permethrin-based insecticide to clothing is an effective deterrent to chiggers and mites.