









NON-VENOMOUS FLORIDA SNAKES

Picture	Name	Description
	<p>Eastern Black Racer</p>  <p>Juvenile</p>	<p>Very common on Base. Color: Black shiny to dull topside and white to whitish blue underside. Attributes: Generally thin and fast. 2-5 ft in length. Pointy nose. Disposition: Not aggressive, harmless, but may strike if cornered. Food: rats, mice, frogs, occasionally lizards.</p>
	<p>Black Rat Snake</p> 	<p>Less Common on Base. Color: Black shiny to dull topside with white or B&W speckled underside. Attributes: Generally larger/chunkier than Black Racer, fast. 2-6 ft in length. Rounded nose. Disposition: Generally not aggressive. Food: rats, mice, occasionally birds, maybe lizards and frogs.</p>

	<p>Florida Banded Water Snake</p> 	<p>Not common on Base. Color: Black to brownish black, but younger snakes can show orangish-brown bands. Attributes: generally fat with slim tail, narrow head, 'rough' skin. Round pupils distinguish it from a cottonmouth. 2-4 ft in length. Disposition: Not nice, will bite. Food: fish, frogs</p>
	<p>Eastern Garter Snake</p> 	<p>Not common on Base. Color: ranges from black to brown to bluish in 'checkerboard' pattern. Attributes: sort of fat, 'rough' skin, narrow head, 1½-3 ft in length. Disposition: temperamental, probably won't bite. Food: fish, frogs, toads, worms, maybe lizards.</p>

NON-VENOMOUS FLORIDA SNAKES

Picture	Name	Description
	<p>Red Rat Snake (also Corn Snake)</p> 	<p>Somewhat common on Base. Color: Reddish orange to orange saddles on back, on tan to orange background, pattern and colors may be muted. Attributes: long, slender, flat sides, rounded nose, 2-5 ft in length, good climber. Disposition: generally docile, may strike if cornered. Food: mice, rats, frogs, lizards, maybe birds.</p>
	<p>Scarlet King Snake and Scarlet Snake</p> 	<p>Uncommon on Base. <i>Often mistaken for coral snake.</i> Color: pattern is yellow, black, red, black – repeating. (<u>Remember:</u> red and black, friend to Jack). Attributes: long and slender with round body, well rounded nose, glossy smooth skin, 2-3 ft in length. Disposition: totally docile, won't bite. Food: other snakes, skinks.</p>



Yellow Rat Snake



Somewhat common on Base. **Color:** orange to yellow, with longitudinal black stripes or no stripes. **Attributes:** long, slender with flat sides, rounded nose, narrow head, excellent climbers, 3-6 ft in length. **Disposition:** docile to temperamental, may strike. **Food:** Rats, mice, frogs, birds.



Ring Neck Snake



Uncommon on Base. **Color:** black to dark gray back with bright (yellow, orange or red) belly, ring around neck. **Attributes:** small, slender, round body, likes to burrow or be buried (often found under logs, leaves, rocks), secretive, 6-12 inches long. **Disposition:** completely docile, won't bite. **Food:** worms, lizards, small snakes, frogs.

VENOMOUS FLORIDA SNAKES

Picture	Name	Description
	<p>Eastern Diamond Back Rattle Snake</p>  	<p>Very common on Base. Color: yellowish brown with brown ‘diamonds’ along back. Attributes: Fat, rough skin, flat sides, broad head (triangular), vertical pupils, 3-8 ft in length. Disposition: temperamental, will coil and strike in defense. Food: rabbits, rats, mice.</p>
	<p>Pygmy Rattle Snake</p> 	<p>Moderately common on Base. Color: brown to black ‘saddles’ along back on gray background, occasional reddish blotches. Attributes: short, stout, rough skin, flat sides, broad head, 1-2 ft in length. Disposition: Can be aggressive. Food: mice, frogs, lizards, snakes</p>
	<p>Coral Snake</p>  	<p>Occasionally found on Base. Color: pattern is red, yellow, black, yellow – repeating, bands go around body, nose is always black. (<i>Remember: red touches yellow, can kill a fellow</i>). Attributes: thin, round body, secretive, often found under rocks, logs. 1-3 ft in length. Disposition: docile. Food: mice, snakes.</p>
 <p>Defensive position</p>	<p>Cottonmouth or Water Moccasin</p>  	<p>Rare on Base. Color: dirty brown to blackish brown, banded pattern is often obscured or muted. Attributes: fat, rough skin, short tail, vertical pupils. Disposition: Generally aggressive, particularly when threatened. Food: fish, frogs, rodents.</p>

SOME HELPFUL HINTS ABOUT SNAKES

Number 1 Rule: If you leave THEM alone, THEY will leave you alone!

Most snakes you see are NOT poisonous (non-venomous) – in Florida there are 45 known species, only 6 are poisonous (venomous) – and only 4 potentially occur at MacDill.

ALL snakes are beneficial – they eat rats, mice, insects, and other snakes (even venomous ones!)

If threatened (cornered or trapped) most snakes will coil and strike in defense, so give them a healthy distance and they will happily slither away – they don't WANT any trouble.

SOME HELPFUL WEBSITES

Florida Snake Quiz

<http://www.stetson.edu/~pmay/quiz/index.htm>

Venomous Florida Snakes ID

<http://www.floridabackyardsnakes.com/Venomous.htm>

Non-venomous Florida Snakes ID

<http://www.floridabackyardsnakes.com/NonVenomous.htm>



This is an Indigo Snake – a *Federally protected species* that may occur on MacDill – please **DO NOT HARM** or even harass this snake. It looks a lot like a Black Racer but it is fatter, longer (4-8 ft long), has larger scales, and an iridescent (bluish) glow with a brown to reddish brown belly. Note the common reddish brown color around face. The snake is docile and completely harmless. Please report any sighting to 6 CEVH at 828-0459.