Please abandon plans to set up a militarized zone at Camp Edwards, Cape Cod, MA!!!!!!!
Joan Nagle

Sent from my iPad
I am opposed to the deforestation of the acreage that is planned to be used for the machine gun range. We need all the trees we can sustain.
Camp Edwards has already been a major player in serious environmental damage -- let's not add to that history.
I am opposed to a machine gun range here on the Cape that would be the only one in Massachusetts.
I am opposed to the militarization of Camp Edwards.
Please find another place for this if it must be found. It is not in keeping with the goals of Cape Cod residents.
Dear Keith,

I am writing to urge you, please do not build a multi purpose machine gun range at Camp Edwards in Cape Cod! Our dear Cape is a refuge for all of us, a place of nature, beauty and peace. We all come here to soak up the landscape and its treasures. A machine gun range is not needed here, and does not suit our fragile environment.

We are in the grip of uncertain times and the money spent on this venture is better used for environmental, cultural and socioeconomic survival. What is needed in the current battle for technology and information is not more machine guns but more technical training. Instead of the refuge it has become in a pandemic, is our fragile peninsula to play host to hordes of military who will travel over our two aged and structurally compromised bridges to get here?

Please do not build this machine gun range here.

I urge you to listen to the many many hundreds of people who are against this.

Best,

Shelly R. Fredman

50 ira freeman lane

Wellfleet, mass.
From: Patricia Sullivan
To: Driscoll, Keith J NG NG MAANG (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Please vote no on a machine gun range in Cape Cod
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 7:20:46 AM

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Mr. Driscoll,

As a year round resident on Cape Cod, I strongly oppose the use of any part of the Cape as a machine gun range. I understand the range requires cutting acres of trees, which we can't afford to lose. I can only imagine the noise! I grew up in a military family and have members of my family on active duty, so I'm no stranger to military need. But this seems the wrong place for machine gun practice. Please do not do this.

Sincerely,

Candace Perry
Wellfleet, MA
All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

--

Keith J. Driscoll, MAARNG, 2 Randolph Road, Hanscom Air Force Base, MA01731

Dear Keith Driscoll

I am a state commended and USEPA awarded environmentalist and a Woods Hole Ocean Science Fellow journalist. (I have taught environmental education at the base in the past.) I agree with the statement below in the My View enclosed. The further destruction of land at Edwards and the further militarization of the Cape is unacceptable. The money would be best used for preservation.

"My View 8/8/2020

Questioning the Militarizing of Cape Cod: The Construction and Operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards, Cape Cod (Aug. 8, 2020 Cape Cod Times, backpage notification, C-5.)

Does a multi-purpose machine gun range at Camp Edwards fit into my future image of Cape Cod? The proposed MPMG range would comprise 199 acres, plus the 5,197 acres required to accommodate the Surface Danger Zone, whatever that entails.

Does the idea of 170+ acres of forested land cleared for said range footprint, the small arms range operations and control area facilities with the addition of lighting, utility extensions, access and maintenance road development and firebreaks jibe with the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) claimed by the Massachusetts Army National Guard? Acres of forest cleared away and replaced by machine gun practice and no significant environmental, cultural, or socioeconomic effects on us, to say nothing of our wild life? Far-fetched claim.
Does the fact that there is no other Army standard MPMG Range in Massachusetts cause you to want this designation for Cape Cod, to become the ONE, the only multi-purpose machine gun range in Massachusetts, hosting any and all trainees in all of Massachusetts, and, as stated, “other military users’ assigned training missions”[1] < #_ftn1 > ? Such as the “Homeland Security” in Portland recently?

Instead of the refuge it has become in a pandemic, is our fragile peninsula to play host to all military who will presumably travel over our two aged and structurally compromised bridges? Is this why the Army Corp of Engineers finally agreed that replacement was due?

We are in the grip of uncertain times, politically sensitive times, the money spent on this venture is better used for environmental, cultural and socioeconomic survival. War games are past. What is needed in the current battle for technology and information is not more machine gun training, but more comprehensive training in technology and communications.

To give us less than a month to submit comments on this proposal is a strategy I object to, as much as I object to the proposal itself with its hidden agenda."

Thank you,

Lee Roscoe

Brewster, MA. 02631

Mr. Driscoll,

I have read through the proposed plan for construction and operation of a multi-purpose machine gun range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod. While I understand that the plan was developed to make a training area more accessible for members of the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG), I have strong concerns about the environmental impact of this project.

As a result of the current climate crisis, Cape Cod is becoming more fragile with an increased intensity of storms and other meteorological events as well as rising tides that threaten homes and businesses all the way to Provincetown. Last summer’s tornado did extensive damage to many areas, resulting in the destruction of hundreds of trees. Even with efforts to reforest areas most severely decimated – like the town of Harwich in which I live – the time it will take for saplings to reach full growth would amount to dozens of years or more.

As a Cape Cod resident for almost twenty years, I am involved with ongoing efforts to reverse – or at least forestall – the decimating effects of the climate crisis on our beautiful but fragile peninsula. As you may know, trees serve the critically important function of carbon sequestration, i.e., they remove carbon from the environment as part of the natural process of photosynthesis. With the increase in global warming due to the increase of carbon – and other substances – in our environment, carbon sequestration has become critically important to the environmental health of Cape Cod. Removing 170.5 acres of trees to create the proposed facility will move us in a direction that can only increase the risk to Cape Cod’s fragile ecosystem with potentially severe consequences to its residents’ homes and businesses as well as its economy.

I have read the Final Environmental Assessment (EA). While it includes information about factors such as air quality and climate, noise, soils, groundwater, biological resources, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic materials and wastes, it fails to address the removal of 170.5 acres of trees, a significant omission for the reasons indicated above. I urge you reconsider this plan and develop a viable alternative with less severe consequences. It is a poor trade-off for the convenience of having a local facility for training members of the MAARNG.

Sincerely,
Rosanne Shapiro
339 Leightons Lane
Harwich, MA 02645
Comments on the EA and draft FNSI if the multi-purpose machine gun range:

As a year round resident of cape cod my biggest concern is the environmental effect of clearing so many acres of forest. If the wonderful men and women of our military have been accommodated elsewhere till now then why not continue this training there and then possibly reduce the imprint of said range by surely upgrading what exists. Camp Edwards could use an upgrade for sure if it is to be effective for any military needs. We need any forests that we have as well. There must b somewhere in middle ground that could b sought.

Thank you for your time. I hope this has been useful in making my voice expressed

Sincerely
Deborah Cardinal

Sent from my iPhone
Hi, Mr. Driscoll,

As a Cape citizen involved in education, at Nauset Public Schools, and more broadly involved in cultural development here (I am on Orleans Cultural Council and the Board of Orleans Farmers' Market), I cannot see any place for an automatic rifle firing range and the enormous anti-ecological footprint proposed for it. It is simply antithetical to the character and history of the Cape, and while there may be many who would use it, users would offer no benefit and only detriments to the environment here. I will join many fellow citizens in strongly opposing this development.

Sincerely,
Rand Burkert,
East Orleans
TO: Keith J Discoll
RE: Proposed machine gun range at Edwards AFB Cape Cod

Dear Sir:

I write in strong opposition to the use of 200 acres of land on Edwards AFB (aka Camp Edwards) on Cape Cod for the purpose of developing a machine gun range on the property. The Cape Cod environment is fragile! The porous, sandy soil, and the presence of a single source aquifer, are only two of the essential features to consider when making decisions regarding land use. Large areas of open space that exist as natural habitat is rare in Massachusetts. The area under consideration for development of a machine gun range should not be disturbed. Past military usage of the land that encompasses Otis and Camp Edwards resulted in degradation that was severe enough to have the area designated a Super Fund Clean Up Site. We are only beginning to recover from that abuse.

Thank you for considering my point of view.

Sincerely,

Molly N Cornell
37 Shapquit Bars Road
Falmouth, MA 02540
Hi Mr. Driscoll,

I hope this note finds you well. I'm a reporter with WCAI, the NPR station for the Cape, Coast, and Islands. I'm working on a story today about the machine gun range proposed for Joint Base Cape Cod, and was hoping you might be available this afternoon to talk more about the project, specifically the environmental impacts described in the Environmental Assessment.

I'm available after noon.

Please let me know what might work for you.

Thank you,
Eve

Eve Zuckoff
Climate/Environment Reporter
Report for America
WCAI: Cape, Coast and Islands NPR Station
3 Water Street
PO Box 82
Woods Hole, MA, 02543
evezuckoff@gmail.com < Caution-mailto:evezuckoff@gmail.com >
C: 617-895-7033

Caution-https://www.capeandislands.org/ < Caution-https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__Caution-www.capeandislands.org__&d=DwMFAQ&c=IDF7oMaPKXpxYvey9V-fVahWLoQWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=V1l8k1r0jYKsITQd2DnsTsyZHMZYwclg6PvTlpHFKDW&m=bOTvWNfPTTTRATxq6y3X-a9EridjAR76Gxs_2hNu9tsr%28%3D7k6uPX6p0s0pdAwVxYJvuDsOFdUHDbZbitXh1ISvcc%3E=

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Dear Mr. Driscoll-

I understand that a practice shooting range is to be created at Joint Base Cape Cod. This is probably a good idea since travel to distant practice ranges is costly and time consuming.

However, clearing 170 acres of woodlands DOES have an impact on our environment. Though difficult to measure, the cumulative effects of deforestation is clearly a detriment to the environment!!!

The only way this deforestation should be permitted is if an equivalent number of trees were planted elsewhere with a guarantee of not being harvested.

I don’t care so much about the trees as I do about the longevity of our species on this planet. Please be a good ancestor...leave the trees or replace them!

Barb Lambdin
6 Great Western Way
South Dennis, Ma 02660
Dear Mr. Driscoll,
I received notice of this project a few days ago, and have since looked through the Proposal and the CMP Application. This has been in the works for a while so what’s there left to say? Here are my comments and concerns.

I live south of Joint Base Cape Cod, live on well water, and was living here during the struggle to have the government develop and pay for the decontamination of our ground water. This is my main concern with this project (and the others in the pipeline, i.e. gym expansion other range expansions, etc.). I am glad to see EMC has addressed the ammunition issue (copper, only) and contaminant issues, should they arise.

Are there any groundwater monitoring wells and/or other environmental sampling equipment that will be disturbed by this project?

I appreciate the mitigation steps taken and being taken, and I hope that the monitoring and management of these areas are done for the best for our flora and fauna. The disturbance of such a large area needs much reciprocity.

Will the drones continue to use this Range, or will another area have to be cleared for that use?

Sincerely,
Alexandra S Lancaster

21 McKinley Dr
East Falmouth MA 02536-7710
Louise Lindsey  
5 Mill Rd  
East Sandwich, MA 02537  
August 27, 2020  

Dear Sir:  
I am vehemently opposed to a machine gun firing range on Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC). The propellant from machine guns will eventually flow into our single lens aquifer. Sandwich is down stream from JBCC. That was clearly demonstrated by the jet fuel that ended up in our water.  

The Cape is much more densely populated than it was when the National Guard dropped a live shell on Rte 6 just after exit 2 heading west.  

Who could forget forest fires that burned for days from live fire in the woods in the late ‘60’s. The road to hell is paved with good intentions. I believe your intentions are good but the execution of those intentions has not been good.  

The track record here had been dangerous for the local civilian population. I need much more information about your exact plans to mitigate the damage you will cause before I will be comfortable with this.  

Sincerely  
Louise Lindsey  

Cc Susan Moran, MA Senator
Dear Mr. Driscoll,

Please reconsider clearing 170 acres of land for a machine gun range on Cape Cod. While I do understand this is something the military needs for their exercises, Cape Cod is the wrong place for this project. It's a rapidly developing landscape with degrading waterways, no wildlife connectivity, and diminishing endangered/threatened species. Another place in Massachusetts would be far more appropriate, where there is more open land available and where fewer neighbors would be affected. Another area in Massachusetts being cleared for this project would be less environmentally devastating.

Even if so much land wasn't cleared, continual gunfire sound would again, be ecologically devastating to wildlife. There are so few places on Cape Cod left that are undeveloped. That's one thing I admired about the Otis base, that it was a proud steward of the land within its borders.

You might ask how I make these claims-- I am the assistant director of a prominent science organization on Cape Cod, so I see day in and day out how heavy development, heavy human traffic, and noise pollution is destructive to the habitats we care most about. These environments are not just here to look pretty, of course. They provide invaluable ecological services to us-- clean air, clean water, and more. I'd like to think that some of the many objectives of the military are to protect our freedom, our quality of life, and the land we have as Americans. Please don't work against those principles.

Thank you,
Lyra Brennan
Dear Mr. Driscoll,

This is my second Email to you with additional questions on the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards:

1. Is the use of this machine gun range limited to only members of the MA National Guard so National Guard units from other states (i.e. Rhode Island) will not be allowed to use the range for training?
2. Will the proposed machine gun range support training and live fire using 50 cal. machine guns? Will this armor piercing 50 cal. weapon be mounted on HMMV army vehicles as part of live fire training?

I look forward to reading your replies to these questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Conron
29 Mashpee Rd
Bourne, MA 02532
Tel: (508) 759-1559
Dear Sir, I am writing to state that I fully support the Multi-purpose machine gun range being proposed at Camp Edwards, Cape Cod. I do not doubt that this proposal will have many opposed, I believe our Troops need the best training and should not have to travel 270 miles for any of it if avoidable.

Sincerely,

Lynne Bates
160 Eider Ln
Eastham MA. 02642
Keith J. Driscoll, MAARNG
2 Randolph Road
Hanscom Air Force Base, MA 01731

Dear Mr. Driscoll,
The purpose of this Email is to submit comments and request information on specific questions I have included in this document regarding your proposed machine gun range on Camp Edwards. I am a Vietnam combat veteran who served as an artillery officer in 1965-66. Following my deployment, I served as an artillery 105 battery officer and participated in live-fire training in 1967-68 at Camp Edwards before the implementation of a live fire ban due to the base’s Super-Fund designation. I retired to the town of Bourne in 1998 and am familiar with the tungsten bullet ban in the early years of 2000. I represented the town of Bourne as part of a committee called the “Impact Area Review Team” who worked with both the EPA and state environmental regulators on various tasks to restore and protect both land and drinking water.

While I participated as a member of this group, a proposal was brought forward and approved to build a rifle/pistol range with what was referred to as a “bullet trap”. This was an earthen berm that would capture and hold fired small arms bullets so they could be removed and properly disposed of in order to protect the Cape’s drinking water from contamination.

From the documents about the proposed machine gun range that I have read so far, it appears the proposed machine gun range does not have this “capture and hold” design. Can you please clarify this design question for me? Another document I read mentioned that grenade launcher training would be conducted at this proposed range. This tells me that chemical residue from exploded grenade projectiles will be deposited on the ground. It is my understanding that Joint Base Cape
Cod is still labeled as a “Super Fund” site. I am uncomfortable that grenade weapons will be used on this proposed range because I am unsure that residue from exploded grenades can or must be contained and properly disposed of.

Finally, can you provide me some information about the estimated usage of this proposed range. How many members of the National Guard will use this range for live-fire training during one calendar year? How many rounds of live-fire ammunition are forecasted to be expended and deposited within the proposed range boundaries? Will expended projectiles be collected and disposed of? What percent of range time will be utilized for grenade launcher live-firing? Other than pistols, rifles, machine guns and grenade launchers, what other type weapons will be used for live-fire training on this proposed range?

In conclusion, it would be extremely appropriate if the information about this new proposed machine gun range be presented to abutting town leadership teams (Select Board and Town Administrator) so that those of us who live here year-round have enough information to determine how this escalation of weapons live-firing affects our quality of life on this part of Cape Cod.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Conron
29 Mashnee Rd
Bourne, MA 02532
Tel: (508) 759-1559
Hello,

I am writing to express my concerns with the proposed construction of a machine gun range at Joint Base Cape Cod, and to state that I am not in favor of the project.

I am supportive of our military forces, their training needs, and providing adequate infrastructure for them to operate. However, I do not believe the Cape is the best location for this facility, and 170 acres of clear cutting is too much for our fragile ecosystem. I believe other areas in MA, with more open land, should be explored as alternatives. I do no support this project moving forward here on the Cape.

Sincerely,
Ben Wigren
Orleans, MA
Cape Cod dose not need a machine gun firing range.
Please put it somewhere else.
The Cape is a very fragile place and certainly dose not need 200 acres cleared.
Thank you.

Christopher Rosenfelder
293 Setucket Rd
Dennis MA 02638
774-368-0930
Subject: Military gun range on Cape Cod

My husband and I retired here on the Cape over 6 years ago, 24/7, 12 months of the year. We moved here for the beauty, peace and quite, and to be able to host our family and friends. We live in Mashpee, a stone's throw from the base in question. My husband served the military for 6 years, and is partially disabled. We can't imagine how noisy it would be to have this base become a machine gun range. As a taxpayer, citizen and not in the best of health, we implore you to save our beautiful Cape from this potential noise pullution.

Thank you for your consideration,
Valerie and Dominic Messina
9 Driver Lane
Mashpee, MA 02649

Valerie Messina
973-768-8094
A letter of August 13, 2020, that you received from Mary Ann Jones states very well my position on the projected Construction and Operation of Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards, Cape Cod (Aug. 8, 2020 Cape Cod Time, back page notification, C-5)

Please Do NOT put a machine gun range on Cape Cod. I oppose this plan for all the reasons Ms. Jones so well states. Such an installation would be the antithesis to the idyllic qualities Cape Cod, it's vital National Seashore and other areas offer to wildlife, aquatic life and tens of thousands of people who live on and visit Cape Cod. Land and sea, wildlife and aquatic life cannot write letters but if they could I believe there would be millions sent stating concerns about the negative impact of this plan.

Thank you for appreciating the importance I place on this request to cancel the projected machine gun range at Camp Edwards.

Dale Stein, Homeowner
Brewster, Mass
d.stein@myactv.net
To whom it may concern,

We write this letter as residents of Falmouth, Massachusetts in strong opposition to the proposed multi-use machine gun practice range on Joint Base Cape Cod.

This land has been set aside for conservation. The massive number of trees to be taken down, the impact on the extremely sensitive aquifer, and the significantly increased traffic this project will bring will have a massive negative impact on our natural resources. It is a time of climate crisis, poisoned water from previous projects, low water access, and sound, water, ground, and air pollution, this project must not happen.

Thank you,

Dr. and Mrs. Lewis and Jean Stern
49 Loop Rd
Falmouth, Ma 02540
Dear Mr. Driscoll,

I am a resident of Massachusetts and have strong concerns about the proposed gun range at Camp Edwards. I believe this is not the right course for our Cape Cod community, our state and our country. I do believe it is time to think about alternatives to war and weapons. What our country needs now, more than assault style weapons, is socioeconomic development, for survival of our environment and our culture. And for too long the mental health of all people has not been a priority. Why not focus more on training in areas of mental health and intercultural understanding? The recent death of Sgt. Elder Fernandes at Fort Hood, a resident of Massachusetts, begs for a very different kind of training. And Fernandes is not the only one to have died needlessly. There are 7 other soldiers who have died since March, 2020 either killed or by suicide.

Please, as a resident and a taxpayer, understand how senseless this gun range is when there is so much more work that should be a priority.

Thank you.

Veronica McCormack
43 Riverside St.
Watertown, Ma
Dear Mr. Driscoll,

Please record my opposition to the construction and operation of a machine gun practice range at Camp Edwards.

Camp Edwards and Joint Base Cape Cod sit atop the region’s primary aquifer; it provides 100% of the Cape’s drinking water, and has been designated a Sole Source Aquifer under the Safe Drinking Water Act by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The military operating within what is now Joint Base Cape Cod have spent decades remediating the pollution of past military activities, which has caused significant degradation of the Cape’s water supply. The prospect of new military activities—a machine gun practice range—is another burden our aquifer and our citizens should not have to bear. Cape Cod already faces a host of other environmental challenges, from warming coastal waters and erosion to loss of forest from development and disease. A machine gun practice range will represent one more negative impact on our fragile environment.

Thank you,
Jayne Iafrate
Falmouth MA