

Commenter

#187

From: [Janine Corsano](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Just say NO to a Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 3:58:09 PM

Dear Mr. Driscoll,

I too, am a resident of Orleans MA, on Cape Cod, and want to submit my opposition to the development of a Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards. Cape Cod is a unique and wonderful natural haven. I support any and all efforts to protect Cape Cod's fragile and valuable eco-system.

Without a comprehensive study of the major issue areas associated with the project, there is no way to know the total environmental consequences. Specifically we need to understand the potential adverse impacts the proposed large-scale forest clearcutting in this region of Cape Cod would have on carbon sequestration, rare species habitat, high-value pine barren natural communities and groundwater resources.

Additionally, a reassessment of the project should examine whether this project is an appropriate use for the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Janine M. Corsano, RPh

From: [Lonnie Cosmer](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Opposition to deforestation
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 8:37:59 PM

Dear Mr. Driscoll

I am a resident of Harwichport Ma.

I am writing to register my opposition to this massive deforestation proposal.

"...the Environmental Assessment and resulting Finding of No Significant Impact are fatally deficient. The proposed MPMG project will have significant climate change impacts, which while ignored in the (reports), must be identified, quantified and thoroughly analyzed with input from the affected public as required by the National Environmental Act (NEPA). Specifically, the EA: (1) fails to account for or quantify the obvious and foreseeable impacts stemming from the loss of carbon sequestration capacity in clear-cut forest areas; (2) lacks a cumulative impacts analysis; (3) avoids the robust alternatives analysis and mitigation assessment that would be required under an EIS; and (4) fails to involve the affected public in the process, ignoring the past environmental history of pollution at Camp Edwards where remediation is still ongoing."

Thank you,
Lonnie Cosmer
19 Davis Lane
Harwichport Ma

From: [Rigney Cunningham](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] machine gun range
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 11:10:21 AM

Dear Mr. Driscoll,

I am horrified that we would consider developing 170 acres of a forest area with a machine gun range. This Administration seems intent on destroying, selling or repurposing public lands for commercial or military use.

This area is home to wildlife, like meadowlarks, not seen in other parts of the Cape.

With the advent of remote working from home, we are seeing a boom in development interest which will threaten our natural open space land.

Please don't add to this destruction. If you really need a new range, find an area already deserted, non-natural, or commercially zoned.

Sincerely,
Rigney Cunningham
East Orleans, MA

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Rigney Cunningham
PO Box 1564
East Orleans, MA 02643
508-240-7182

From: [Sharon Davis](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Camp Edwards Machine Gun Range
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 3:48:03 PM

Dear Mr. Driscoll

I am writing in strong opposition to the establishment of a machine gun range on Camp Edwards. As a strong advocate of the environment, this flies in the face of everything we hold dear on Cape Cod and which makes this such a special place. It is my understanding that the range will require the removal of 170 acres of trees and, in addition, the total project will include nearly 6,000 acres of disruption of the environment.

Sincerely,

Sharon Davis
34 Sea Mist Dr.
Orleans, MA 02643

From: [Steph DeFerie](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] machine gun range, cape cod
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 4:57:57 PM

The last thing Cape Cod needs is a machine gun range. Residents don't want it, dangerous & bad for the environment. Build it elsewhere. Cape Cod is fragile.
Steph

From: [Linda Dima](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Machine Gun Range on Cape Cod
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 2:44:12 PM

Mr. Driscoll,

For more than a dozen years I have been a visitor of Orleans MA , on Cape Cod, and want to submit my opposition to the development of a Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards. Mr. Driscoll, Cape Cod is a unique and wonderful natural haven that deserves to have all elements of its environment protected.

Without a comprehensive study of the major issue areas associated with the project, there is no way to know the total environmental consequences. Specifically we need to understand the potential adverse impacts the proposed large-scale forest clear cutting in this region of Cape Cod would have on carbon sequestration, rare species habitat, high-value pine barren natural communities and groundwater resources.

Additionally, a reassessment of the project should examine whether this project is an appropriate use for the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Linda Dima
3732 Keowee Ave Apt A
Knoxville TN 37919

From: [Claire Driscoll](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Please no machine gun range at Air Force base
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 9:06:31 PM

Dear Keith,

I read in Cape Cod Times about the plans for a new machine gun range at the Cape Cod joint base. I am very upset about this.

Clearing 170 acres of trees!?!? Our Cape is a very fragile piece of land. We must protect it!

And 5000 acres are needed for this gun range?? And a school is nearby!!

Let the soldiers go to Vermont!

I must express my extreme objection to this whole plan.

Claire Driscoll. (I don't think we are related)

South Yarmouth. (508 740 8254)

Sent from Samsung tablet.

From: [Dunham, George](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Cc: [Rendon, Paul E NFG NG MAARNG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Hi & Range Location Question
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 4:08:40 PM

Hi Keith,

This is Bud Dunham the Town Manager in Sandwich. Would you have any summary information about the proposed machine gun range that I could share with the Board of Selectmen? My guess is the only concern the Town would have with the proposed range is mitigating any noise impacts for nearby properties. There are a few large subdivisions on and off Snake Pond Road near the entrance to the Sandwich gate.

From my years working in town, I know how closely the Joint Base Cape Cod ranges are scrutinized by state, federal, and other regulatory agencies. I would think noise mitigation is part of this review process. Also, I believe many of the statements in the Cape Cod Times were very inaccurate about 175 acres being cleared in the impact area. This has led to several residents contacting our office and expressing concerns about the proposed range.

Any summary information and clarity you could provide would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

- Bud

From: Rendon, Paul E NFG NG MAARNG (USA) [mailto:paul.e.rendon2.nfg@mail.mil]
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2020 4:49 PM
To: Dunham, George; Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG (USA)
Cc: Ciaranca, Michael A NFG NG MAARNG (USA); leonard.pinaud@state.ma.us
Subject: {EXTERNAL} RE: Hi & Range Location Question

Bud,
Good to hear from you and hope you and your family are well. Keith Driscoll (copied here) from JFHQs should be able to assist with your request. Take care.

v/r,

Paul E. Rendon, LEED-AP, PMP
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Military Division
Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC)
Office of the JBCC Executive Director
Building 3468, Beaman Road
Camp Edwards, MA 02542
c: 774.327.0643

From: Dunham, George [gdunham@sandwichmass.org]
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 6:08 PM
To: Rendon, Paul E NFG NG MAARNG (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Hi & Range Location Question

Commenter
#195

From: [Nancy Eaton](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] please sir, no deforestation
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 8:14:28 PM

Please sir, let's clean up the earth at Camp Edwards, not add to further destruction of the earth. Please let's not add to the devastation of the land, the air, the water. We have a very fragile eco system on Cape Cod. One, only one, underground water source.

We are a sand bar. We have only the trees and the grasses holding the surface of the Cape in place.

Please sir, do not destroy this land. I appreciate your commitment to preserving the Cape for your children and your children's children.

Nancy Eaton
nancyeatonlmhc@gmail.com

“although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.” Helen Keller

From: [Jonathan Finn](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Machine Gun Range
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 9:37:03 PM

Dear Mr. Driscoll:

I'm writing to express my opposition to the plans to add a machine gun range at Camp Edwards/Joint Base Cape Cod.

As a Sandwich resident this project concerns me for many reasons—primarily that it will indeed impact the neighborhoods surrounding the base. There seems to be no plan in place for minimizing noise—which is in conflict with the the tranquility of the area. It will impact quality of life and create ongoing disturbances. It could impact property values and tourism.

I'm also concerned about environmental impact. It's a huge amount of space. Aside from the impact of clearing wooded spaces—it could negatively impact the natural environment.

This project is not suitable for a densely populated and environmentally sensitive region. It's a negative for my neighborhood and my town.

There has been little effort to make this project known to abutters of the base—and that seems I'll considered and secretive.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Finn
3 Chipman Road
Sandwich MA 02563

Commenter

#197

From: [Steve Gass](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposal for machine gun range at Camp Edwards
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 12:22:38 PM

Dear Mr. Driscoll,

I have read the EA prepared by the Mass Army National Guard regarding the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards. I believe the findings are self serving, and, in particular, I find the recommendations that a full EIS is not needed and that the preferred proposed machine gun range the best option to be faulty.

As has been articulated by the APCC a more thorough analysis of the potential adverse impacts the proposed large-scale forest clearcutting in this region of Cape Cod would have on carbon sequestration, rare species habitat, high-value pine barren natural communities and groundwater resources is needed. I believe, as do others, this can only be done by preparing a full Environmental Impact Statement.

As a Cape Cod resident I value the environment we live in, and want to work with others to sustain its beauty and quality. For the Army National Guard to convince the residents of Cape Cod that your proposal is in fact the best way to proceed, a more formal review is required.

Thank you,

Steven Gass
Orleans, MA

From: [Gene and Barbara](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Gun range
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 8:08:52 PM

Please please reconsider the grossly inappropriate gun range proposal. Hundreds of acres of crucial natural woodland destroyed to fire machine guns!!!! Deplorable waste.
Insane proposal. Think of your children and grandchildren, do you wish to leave them only a denuded toxic wasteland?
Very concerned citizen.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jan Hively](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Please tell us about next steps for Machine Gun Range
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 9:39:49 AM

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.

Dear Mr. Driscoll:

On August 27, I had sent in comments from the Cape Cod branch of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom about the proposed Camp Edwards Machine Gun Range. Thank you for your e-mail stating that our comments had been received and filed.

Could you please tell us about your decision making process after all of the comments have been received on September 7?

1. Will the file of public comments be open for public review?
2. Who will conduct the official review of the comments?
3. Which organization {s} or official(s) will decide what's next -- i.e., public hearing, further assessment, or ?? Is there a standard repertoire of decision alternatives?
4. What is the best route for us to remain informed about relevant decisions made re: the development of a machine gun range on Cape Edwards property.

We WILPF members will be grateful for this information.

Sincerely,
Jan Hively

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Jan (Janet M.) Hively, PhD
121 Camp St #100
West Yarmouth MA 02673
HIVEL001@umn.edu < Caution-mailto:HIVEL001@umn.edu >
Home/office: 508-957-2620

Commenter

#200

From: [Hunt, Randy - Rep. \(HOU\)](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] MPMGR
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 7:45:46 PM

Mr. Driscoll, Rep Vieira and I are not signing on to Senator Moran's letter appealing for more time for the public input phase for the MOMG Range.

I would, however, like to know your estimate of when that input will be assembled and answered, to the extent that there are answerable questions.

Thanks. My cell is 774-313-8515.

Randy

Sent from my iPhone

Randy Hunt CPA & MA State Rep
State House, Room 136
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 722-2800 x8743

Commenter

#201

From: [Joan Komosa](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Machine Gun Range
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 5:21:18 PM

We are not in favor of the proposed plan machine gun range. We are concerned about adverse effects to the environment and also to additional bridge traffic. But primarily because we are not in favor of promoting any additional gun use.
Donald and Joan Komosa

From: [Jamie](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Cc: ["Cape Cod DSA"](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] COMMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED MPMG RANGE AT CAMP EDWARDS
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 10:15:57 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[Camp Edwards MPMG Range Opposition comments-Submitted 3Sept2020.docx](#)

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.

To:
Massachusetts Army National Guard
Joint Force Headquarters
2 Randolph Road
Hanscom Air Force Base, MA 01731
Mr. Keith J. Driscoll, MAAENG

From:
James Kinney (Cape Cod Democratic Socialists of America)
1820 Santuit Newtown Road
Cotuit, MA 02635
jamkin@verizon.net < Caution-mailto:jamkin@verizon.net >

3 September 2020

I am writing to express our opposition to the proposed construction and operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range (MPMG) on Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod in Barnstable County, Massachusetts.

Based on the information provided about the proposed MPMG Range project, the inadequate environmental assessment regarding it, and the long history of environmental degradation and destruction past military activities have caused – and continue to cause – in the Upper Cape Cod towns of Bourne, Sandwich, Falmouth and Mashpee, I strongly urge the MAARNG to reconsider its decision to develop a MPMG Range on Cape Edwards.

I believe that no further construction – including the proposed MPMG Range -- should take place on Camp Edwards until all pollution from past practices has been contained and cleaned up, and until all potential health impacts of MMR activities have been identified and mitigated.

Resources devoted to military training should instead be spent protecting Cape Cod residents from the danger of polluted water supplies caused by well-documented groundwater plumes travelling out in all directions from the base. These plumes, though many have been and are being extracted and treated, are an ongoing serious threat to residents in each of the four towns around JBBC.

As long ago as November 1994, concerned residents from Upper Cape communities asked for a reasoned discussion of the Upper Cape's sole-source aquifer and the base's position at the top of that aquifer -- and a commitment from the Department of Defense and MAARNG to protect it and "make it whole." Promises were made, some promises were partially kept. However, no reasoning has ever been provided as to why development of any kind, much less the proposed MPMG Range, with its potential for increasing the load of toxic chemicals in our air and groundwater, should be allowed in the middle of a critical regional watershed.

The large-scale environmental damage which routine military activity at JBCC base has caused the people and environment of the Upper Cape region over many decades should be satisfactorily dealt before any new construction is even considered.

Here are my arguments against the proposed MPMG Range:

- The proponent, MAARNG, assumes that the training requirements of the Massachusetts National Guard are the only priority. Arguments in favor of the projects, and evaluation of alternatives, are given solely in terms of what the Guard needs, what will be most convenient for the Guard, and what will save the most time and money for the Guard. There is no discussion whatever of the merits of the project as seen from the perspective of people living in communities around the base. The communities around the base need fewer, not more, training activities at Camp Edwards and JBCC.
- To be built and serviced, the proposed MPMG Range calls for the clear-cutting of 170.5 acres of forest, the development of new and improved roads, and extensions of utility lines to the area. Approximately 5,197 acres, according to the proposal, are needed to accommodate the "Surface Danger Zones (SDZs) associated with the use of the proposed weapons and ammunition: pistols, shotguns, 50-caliber and ball-firing machine guns, and grenade launchers. This type of the destruction of our forests, soil and groundwater – on top of decades of previous harm caused by military weapons practice, artillery live fire, and associated activities -- is simply unnecessary and unacceptable to local people.
- Decades of artillery, mortar, and small arms practice, and associated transport, bivouacking, dumping and storage, and the accidental and intentional spills of toxic chemicals at Camp Edwards, especially in and around, the Central Impact Area, have caused documented massive incidents of soil and groundwater contamination with toxic substances such as RDX, HMX, 2,4-DNT, lead, dioxin, perchlorate, EDB, TCE and PCE. Millions of gallons of the Upper Cape's sole source of drinking water have been contaminated.
- As far back as July 1996, in the "Health Study Of Communities Surrounding Otis Air National Guard Base/Camp Edwards Falmouth, Massachusetts" Final Report and other studies from that decade, health impacts of past activities at Camp Edwards and Otis Air Force Base have been identified – and minimized by government authorities. There have been consistently high numbers of symptoms and illnesses in the Ashumet Valley as well as adjacent neighborhoods above known or suspected groundwater plumes from the MMR: Hatchville, Tri-Town Circle, the area between Johns and Ashumet Ponds, the eastern side of Johns Pond, and the Snake Pond neighborhoods.
- According to the proponent's own report, situating a MPMG Range on Camp Edwards will increase traffic (most of it from off-Cape) by 18.6%, or up to 17,650 man-days. Cape Cod – already suffering from past and present environmental and health harms from military activities at JBCC -- does not need additional automobile and truck traffic and its associated

air and water pollution. The MPMG Range will be used not just by MAARNG members but by “other” – undisclosed – DoD organizations. Why should Cape Cod residents already damaged by past military activities at Camp Edwards/Otis Air Base (now JBCC) have to bear more abuse of our health, groundwater, wildlife, and ecosystems?

- The Central Impact Area is still littered with the residues of past artillery and weapons practice, including lead bullets and shell casings, rusting target remnants, concentrations of untreated chemicals in the soil, and unexploded ordinance, despite partial cleanup.
- For nearly 90 years, military, law enforcement, and military contractor activities have been conducted in Camp Edwards training ranges and the Central Impact Area. These activities included:
 - Small arms firing at several ranges involving the use of small caliber munitions,
 - Artillery firing and mortar firing into the Impact Area from gun and mortar positions,
 - Burning of excess propellant bags at firing ranges and gun and mortar locations,
 - Demolition training with explosives at demolition ranges,
 - Detonation and/or abandonment of unexploded ordnance,
 - Training activities with various other munitions including pyrotechnic devices, rockets, grenades, and mines,
 - Packing, testing, development, and disposal of weapons by Department of Defense contractors.
- Plumes of polluted groundwater still flow from under the Central Impact Area and other parts of JBCC and into the vicinities of public supplies, residential wells, and surface waters, from south-side estuaries to Snake, Johns and Ashumet Ponds.
- The closest houses are within approximately 0.2 miles southeast of the proposed MPMG Range and over 100 houses are situated immediately adjacent to the JBCC boundary. Noise pollution, air pollution, and the possibility of damage from errant bullets and grenade-launchings are not even mentioned in the proposal. Such is the disregard of the local population by the military and JBCC authorities that, even after severely polluting the region’s groundwater and environment for decades, the safety and comfort of neighbors is not even cited in the report.
- The proposed MPMG Range will overlap with the old KD Range. Soil and subsequent groundwater pollution from past use and misuse of munitions in this area has already caused multi-decadal damage to our sole-source aquifer, habitats, and wildlife. In fact, seven plumes of toxic chemicals in our groundwater – emanating from the Impact Area on Camp Edwards -- are currently being extracted and treated. Allowing more damaging activities makes no public health or environmental sense at all.
- Previous investigations have identified explosives, metals, propellants, and pesticides in soil and sediment in the KD range firing points and target areas, Gun position 7, Armored Personnel Carrier, J-3 Wetland, Study Area 2 of the Impact Area, and other nearby locales. Making it more difficult to remove these contaminants, and add even more, makes no public health or environmental sense at all.
- According to previous environmental assessments at JBCC, 28 species of mammals, 105 bird species, 11 amphibians, 12 reptiles, 46 distinct species of dragonflies, and 528 species of microlepidoptera (butterflies and insects) are all present in or near the proposed MPMG Range. It is ecologically foolhardy to put all these endemic species at risk for the

convenience of the MAARNG.

- Development of the proposed MPMG Range will disturb and/or destroy documented and currently used habitat, as well as potentially useable habitat for significant species that include the American toad, pine and prairie warblers, the blue jay, white-tailed deer, groundhog, red fox, black-billed cuckoo, and Eastern whip-poor-will.

All in all, at every juncture in the MPMG Range proposal and supporting documents, the MAARNG concludes that there will be “less than significant impacts.” However, there has been no investigation or consideration of the cumulative impacts of decades of soil, air, and, most significantly, groundwater pollution. This new range will clearly increase and add to historic military-caused pollution.

Residents are supposed to be content with the unproven assertion that consuming slightly less than the allowable contaminant level of four, five or more toxic chemicals in their drinking water or via air exposure routes will not harm their health and the health of their children. Out-of-state training opportunities presumably exist at Camp Ethan Allen in Jericho, Vermont, Fort Pickett in Virginia; Fort Dix in New Jersey; and Fort Drum, New York. But these alternatives are ruled out because travel time to these installations is far above what is recommended in NGB training manuals.

Satisfying MAARNG travel time recommendations at the expense of additional damage to the health of the Upper Cape’s residents, aquifer and environment is not acceptable. If alternate sites exist, they should be used. Cape Cod has paid enough for military training and national defense. We cannot afford to sustain the additional environmental burdens of a MPMG Range.

Sincerely,

James Kinney

On behalf of Cape Cod chapter: Democratic Socialists of America (CCDSA)

Commenter

#203

From: [LisaM](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Opposed to Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 10:51:09 AM

Hello Mr. Driscoll,

I am a concerned Falmouth resident requesting that this project not move forward. Environmental and traffic concerns are too great for fragile Cape Cod, and although it is less convenient, there is another facility available in Vermont.

Thank you for registering my opposition.

Lisa Maregni
145 Antlers Shore Dr.
Falmouth, MA 02536

From: [mary.manghis](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed MPMG range
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 10:24:11 PM

Commenter
#204

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed Multi--Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod. Cape Cod is an extremely unique and sensitive ecosystem with an important tourist component. We need to do everything possible to preserve the integrity of this delicate landscape. There are too many lives - human, bird, mammal, fish- that depend on a functioning environment. We cannot afford to jeopardize this ecosystem with such disruption and pollution that this proposed MPMG Range will certainly entail.

Thank you for your time and consideration. It would be a tragedy for this project to be allowed.

Sincerely

Mary Manghis
13 Chase Ave
Dennisport, Ma

From: [Robert Manz](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Cc: [Susan Moran](#); [Dylan Fernandes](#); [David Vieira](#); [Selectmen](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Firing Range development at Camp Edwards
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 7:36:27 AM

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.

Dear Mr Driscoll

Below is a copy of a letter to the editor that I have sent to the Enterprise Newspapers and to the Cape Cod Times. I am hoping for publication in at least one of them at the end of the week.

I am also hoping that the concerns expressed are way off base (pun intended) and would excuse any inaccuracies or misconceptions by the impossibly compressed timeline that has been established for reaction and comment by the public.

This is in fact my main point. That timeline needs to be expanded so that in this year of so many concerns and preoccupations, residents of Cape Cod can go through due problems in gaining comfort with the future of their drinking water supply.

What reassurances can you supply as to the impact of all that copper and lead landing on the ground above the aquifer that supplies 3 million gallons of water per day to the towns of Bourne, Sandwich, Mashpee and Falmouth?

1. How much lead and how much copper do you expect to be added to the ground annually?
2. What modeling exists to show expected leaching of same into the groundwater?
3. What health impacts are expected on a population exposed to this in their drinking water.
4. Does the current plan follow EPA guidance for best practice with respect to firing ranges and potential impact on groundwater?

Thanks for your attention.

Robert Manz

(Copy of letter to editor)

To the editor,

Within an avalanche of pandemic concerns and vote mailing deadlines comes notice that the

public has until September 7 < x-apple-data-detectors://0 > to respond to a National Guard plan to dump 50 or more tons of lead and copper annually into a new machine gun and other weaponry firing training and qualification range for all of the Massachusetts National Guard, at Camp Edwards. The report estimates that an additional 14,000 man-days of firing activity will be incurred as a result of this mission expansion. If each man day results in 100 rounds being fired and each round weighs 700 grains (1/10 < x-apple-data-detectors://1 > of one pound) then 70 tons of bullets will be fired and much of that go into the ground.

Into the ground that sits over the aquifer supplying the towns of Bourne, Sandwich, Mashpee and Falmouth with their water.

Haven't we been through this before? We all know how that turned out - plume, monitoring wells, bottled water as the Mashpee water supply.

There are an awful lot of questions that have NO CHANCE of being answered by any comment period ending September 7. < x-apple-data-detectors://3 >

I call on Colonel Mathew Porter (Commander Camp Edwards), State Representative David Vieira, State Representative Dylan Fernandes and State Senator Susan Moran as well as the Select Boards of Falmouth, Mashpee, Bourne and Sandwich to stop this process in its tracks. Take a breath, and organize a process by which questions and concerns can be addressed and answered in appropriate public fora for citizens concerned about the water that they drink. Or to provide assurances that this is no danger from the 50 plus tons of copper and lead that will be added to the ground over the aquifer for these towns. Transparency and informed consent are needed here.

Not a misfire where our water supply is concerned.

Sincerely

Robert Manz

1 Jonathan Bourne Drive

Pocasset, MA 02559

774-269-6846 < tel:774-269-6846 >

Caution-www.robertmanz.net < Caution-http://www.robertmanz.net/ >
facebook:RobertManzStudioandGallery

Robert Manz

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Sent from my iPhone

Commenter

#206

From: [Pat Ob](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] public comment for machine gun range plan
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 8:10:30 PM

Mr. Driscoll,

I'm appalled that the National Guard contends in the Environmental Assessment of the Machine Gun Range plan for the Joint Base Camp Edward that there will be no significant impact on the environment of our very fragile peninsula, Cape Cod.

Reading the final version of the draft impact statement, leads me to conclude that the decision to go ahead with this project has already been made and that the legal notice inviting public comments for a 30 day period came as an afterthought---maybe somebody forgot that it was a regulation before the planning meetings were held that supposedly required **public** input.

I find it distressing and offensive to read the list of reviewers for the project who agree that there is no impact on the habitats of wildlife, birds and endangered species of plants and trees that are probably being clearcut as we residents of Cape Cod express our outrage, hoping to stop the environmental and climate damage such an extension as this machine gun range will effect.

Maybe it shouldn't come as such a surprise that the public is ignored here, considering the current atmosphere of unfettered dishonesty without repercussion we currently live in. It seems the reviewers and signers off on this project fit right in.

Pat OBrien
Orleans, MA 02653

From: [Regina O'Connor](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Opposition to development of a Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 6:11:16 PM

Mr. Driscoll,

I am a resident of Brewster, MA, on Cape Cod, and want to submit my opposition to the development of a Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards. Cape Cod is a special place—a unique and wonderful natural haven that deserves to have all elements of its environment protected.

Without a comprehensive study of the major issue areas associated with the project, there is no way to know the total environmental consequences. Specifically, we need to understand the potential adverse impacts the proposed large-scale forest clearcutting in this region of Cape Cod would have on carbon sequestration, rare species habitat, high-value pine barren natural communities and groundwater resources. Noise pollution needs to be assessed as well.

Additionally, a reassessment of the project should examine whether this project is an appropriate use for the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. I believe there are better uses for this land.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regina O'Connor

10 Waldun Way, Brewster, MA

From: [Joanne Patterson](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Machine Gun Range
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 10:42:29 PM

I oppose setting land aside for a machine gun range.
Let's keep machine guns in the military.
Joanne Patterson

From: [Dick Payne](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] MPMG
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 9:09:02 PM

Dear Mr. Driscoll:

I wish to register my opposition to the proposed machine gun range in Camp Edwards. As a committee member of The 300 Committee (T3C) land trust of Falmouth and as a retired physical oceanographer from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution I have been acutely aware of Global Climate Change for over 40 years. We simply cannot lose 170 acres of trees that are absorbing carbon every day. In addition the forests of Camp Edwards are prime habitat for a number of declining species. Mitigation by protecting land to the north of Route 151 will not suffice.

Richard Payne

PO Box 734

West Falmouth, MA 02574

From: [JEANNE PRENDERGAST](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Machine gun range at Camp Edwards
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 12:19:19 PM

Commenter
#210

Dear Mr. Driscoll,

I am vehemently opposed to a machine gun range a where it is proposed. There are numerous reasons for this.

-You already have a facility for this in nearby Vermont. You don't need two in New England.

-The base sits upon our sole source aquifer. We are still dealing with the pollution left in years past.

- The Cape cannot handle a 19% increase in traffic, especially as we build two new bridges.

The most important reason is that this is TOO CLOSE to an elementary school. Camp Edwards takes up a huge part of Cape Cod, yet it seems the only place you want to add dangerous and obnoxiously loud activity is near the Forestdale School which houses Kindergarten through Grade Three. Can you guarantee their safety? Will there be stray bullets? What about the noise of machine gun fire while they are trying to learn?

Also, I will ask you to refer to an agreement the military made with the Town of Sandwich in which there is a 500 yard buffer zone between the base and the school in which all ballistic activity must be authorized by the Town. A few years ago the military insisted, after digging them up with a backhoe, on blowing up unexploded ordnance while the children were in school. After a public outcry, this agreement was reached.

I ask you to look it up.

Please reconsider this plan as it is the wrong area for this training.

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Jeanne Prendergast
11 Sedgewick Lane
Sandwich, MA 02563
774 238- 2929