

Commenter

#236

From: [Hill, Ann](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Machine Gun Range?
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 10:19:42 AM

I am 100% opposed to the creation of this range on the Cape. Why is it that there is one proposal after another to develop relatively pristine areas on Cape Cod for purposes that could equally well be served elsewhere?

Our country has no lack of vacant sites that are already developed and stripped of natural resources. New England, and more generally the East Coast, has thousands of abandoned industrial areas. Why not re-purpose some of this land for a shooting range?

Respectfully,

Ann Maxwell Hill
23 Willow St
Yarmouth Port

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [David Jones](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Camp Edward's
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 5:08:16 PM

Commenter
#237

Having grown up in West Harwich, I can appreciate the need for conservation of the Cape and its sensitive nature. Surely there are alternative sites that could be found. That is particularly true in the post covid19 times that will see large tracts of brick and mortar malls becoming available. I urge you delay this project and find a more appropriate and less ecological destructive location.

Thank you,
David Jones

'The meek shall inherit the earth but the brave will get the oceans.'

From: [George Jumper](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] The machine gun range
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 4:45:59 PM

Commenter
#238

Dear Mr. Driscoll,

I am quite concerned about the proposed machine gun range on Camp Edwards. This is in a very fragile environment that has already suffered greatly from earlier waste disposal at Otis. You already are aware of the multiple environmental concerns about anything like this being built on the Camp. Please strongly consider the use of other ranges, such as the one in Vermont.

Thank you,

George Jumper

George Y. Jumper, Jr., LtCol USAF Retired
george.jumper@verizon.net
Cell: (508) 208-7570

From: [WALTER KLAR](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comment regards Machine Gun Range oh Cape Cod
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 12:39:05 PM

Mr. Keith J. Driscoll,

It seems to me that keeping the Machine Gun Range at Camp Fort Ethan Allen in Jericho, VT makes good environmental and economic sense.

Jericho may be 270 miles from Cape Cod, but I'm assuming that NOT ALL the people who will use the base are from Cape Cod.

The article In the Cape Cod Times does not support any reason for me to think otherwise.

As for the environment, most people will agree that Cape Cod, in general, is fragile, and that the cutting of 170 acres of forest and the disturbance of about 199 additional acres, plus the additional 5,000 acres needed to fully support a Machine Gun Range is a massive intrusion on the hooked sandy peninsula, called Cape Cod.

The area comprises 339 square miles, which equals 217,600 acres. Deduct the acres that encompass the National Seashore, the 1,200 ponds, the 365 lakes, and the many conservation areas, and one can readily understand why the 5,000 acres will have an impact on the overall life on Cape Cod. Both environmentally and economically.

Therefore, in this brief request, I support the continuing use of Fort Ethan Allen, which already has such a facility.

Respectfully,

Walter H. Klar, 2 Haromar Heath, Harwich

From: blamviola@verizon.net
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Machine gun range
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 10:21:25 AM

I oppose the proposed gun range for several reasons.

1. **Deforesting** 170 acres is not that different from burning down parts of the Amazon Rain Forest. Everyone knows that forests are the lungs of the planet changing CO2 into O2 . This helps stabilize CO2 levels and is a part of mitigating Global Warming.
2. Increased activity at the Base will impact the **Cape Cod Aquifer**. We have a single lens aquifer and no county-wide treatment systems so the effects will be problematic.
3. I used to live in central PA 10-12 miles from Fort Indiantown Gap. The **noise** when they were training was shocking and easily traveled that far. Although the base is big, the residential neighborhoods are numerous & close.

There are many ways the gun range would impact the area. Please don't continue with this plan.

Thank you- Barb Lambdin

Commenter

#241

From: [Ellie Lascari](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Firing Range at Joint Base Cape Cod
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 5:00:57 PM

Dear Mr. Driscoll:

I am a resident of Bourne and I'm writing to emphatically request that another site other than Cape Cod be found for the proposed firing range. As you are well aware, the Base sits on top of the sole source aquifer that provides the largest source of fresh water on the Cape. This resource is far too precious to be subjected to this proposed firing range. In addition, the range will be located over the lens that provides drinking water to my town, Bourne, as well as the towns of Sandwich, Falmouth, and Mashpee.

It is unbelievable that it is considered acceptable to clear-cut 170.5 acres of woodlands at a time when this resource is so critical in the effort to mitigate climate change.

I urge you to locate the firing range on another base in Massachusetts where there would be less environmental impact.

Thank you.

Eleanor Lascari
56 Barlows Landing Road
Pocasset, MA 02559

From: [NAN GARRETT-LOGAN](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Cc: [susan moran](#); [dylan fernandes](#); [selectmen](#); [Elizabeth Warren](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Machine gun range at Camp Edwards
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 3:07:11 PM

Commenter
#242

Sir:

I am writing to register my opposition to the plans to clear cut nearly 200 acres of woods for a machine gun training site at Camp Edwards. My concern is not only for the destruction of the woods but the addition of tons of bullets that will eventually be fired and the addition of heavy metals to the earth and potentially to the ground water.

Since another New England site is available I ask you to cancel the plans for the Camp Edwards project.

Sincerely

Nan Logan
482 Woods Hole Road
Woods Hole
Falmouth MA
508 566 6793



Commenter
#243

September 3, 2020

Mr. Keith Driscoll
MAAENG
2 Randolph Rd.
Hanscom Air Force Base 01731

Dear Mr. Driscoll,

This letter is to address the plans to develop a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod. In general, the League of Women Voters of Cape Cod are opposed to this development for a number of reasons.

1. While an Environmental Impact Assessment was done, the scope was limited, did not adequately explore alternative options possible and was done little notice to the public.
2. There was no open public hearing for the communities directly affected or Cape residents at large to address their concerns and ask questions. With the ongoing concern regarding transparency in government, this lack of openness, as well as the low level of publicity surrounding the plan causes some concern.
3. The Cape League as well as the League of Women Voters of MA hold positions that look to protect land use and water quality. The Range Development Plan calls for clear cutting of approximately 200 acres as well as the additional problem of potential fires that may be caused by artillery bursts. In both cases, there is potential harm to the only aquifer that supplies all of the Cape's drinking water supply. In addition, the Base is still undergoing ground water contamination clean-up from previous military and fire-fighting training that has caused water pollution problems in the surrounding communities. There should be no further actions permitted that may impact the water quality at all going forward unless or until the ongoing cleanup is completed.
4. While the League holds no definitive position on noise pollution, we do believe that air quality is a concern both with weapons residue discharge as well as smoke from potential artillery generated fires. There are numerous residential communities that abut the Base.
5. Finally, given the fact that there is an Elementary School in the community adjacent to the Base that will be within hearing of the artillery fire, it seems unconscionable that those in decision making positions would not take this into consideration.

In closing, The LWVCCA believes that it would be in everyone's interest to postpone any decision to go forward with the Range Development until after a well-publicized open meeting with a question and comment period takes place.

Thank you for your consideration.
Respectfully,
Suzanne Brock – President
LWVCCA

From: [Cheryl Lubin](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: corrected: Opposition to to proposed MPMG range on cape cod
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 8:52:33 AM

Commenter

#244

Correction:

>

> I am writing to register my strong opposition to the proposed multi-purpose gun range at Camp Edwards Joint Base Cape Cod. I am a resident of Chatham, MA and am appalled at the consideration to clear cut more than 170 acres of land for this proposed project. We need to protect the diminishing forests and habitats on Cape Cod. This is so wrong-headed I don't even know where to begin...

>

> Cheryl Lubin
> Chatham, MA

Sent from my iPad

> On Sep 4, 2020, at 8:38 AM, Cheryl Lubin <lubincheryl@icloud.com> wrote:

>

> I am writing to register my strong opposition to the proposed multi-purpose gun range at Camp Edwards Joint Base Cape Cod. I am a resident of Chatham, MA and am appalled at the consideration to clear cut more than 170,000 acres of land for this proposed project. We need to protect the diminishing forests and habitats on Cape Cod. This is so wrong-headed I don't even know where to begin...

>

> Cheryl Lubin
> Chatham, MA

From: [Brian McGurk](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Camp Edwards
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 8:13:21 AM

Commenter
#245

Dear Sir,

I write to voice my strong opposition to the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards.

On many levels this is a bad idea that does not serve the interest of our community. At a time when the climate is in crisis, this project further damages ecosystems.

Thank you,

The Rev. Brian William McGurk
Rector,
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
Chatham, MA

(508) 945-2832
(650) 995-4155

From: [KEVIN MINNIGERODE](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Machine Gun Range on JBCC
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 3:25:21 PM

Commenter
#246

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:

I have concerns with a number of issue with the proposed project:

- How many Massachusetts Army Guard soldiers actually require this training?
- How often must they qualify?
- Is the cost of this project 'cost effective' when compared to mileage and per diem to train however many soldiers out of state?
- I've worked with organizations on JBCC in the past and know there are numerous agencies that 'own' different tracts on the base:
 - There are vast areas of open fields-
 - do we *really* need to clear cut hundred of acres of trees, when negotiating 'land swaps' between agencies could prevent this?
 - The environmental impact of clear cutting over one hundred acres of established forest has to be addressed
- Trees provide storage for carbon that otherwise winds up in the environment and contributes to long term climate change
- As with so many major projects, there are numerous issues to consider, not the least of which is the environmental impact on the area, especially water resources
What will be done to mitigate the impact of noise pollution in surrounding residential area?
- The Barnstable Police Department closed its' shooting range in 2012; there are efforts to reopen but concerns about lead contamination continue [see links below]
- The cost for clean up of the Barnstable Police Department's shooting range in May 2015 was expensive: "The cost to clean up the property was estimated at \$7.5 to \$9.5 million"
 - source:Caution-<https://www.capecod.com/newscenter/barnstable-town-officials-look-way-forward-shooting-range/>
< Caution-<https://www.capecod.com/newscenter/barnstable-town-officials-look-way-forward-shooting-range/> >

Thank you for your consideration.

Kevin Minnigerode

Additional links:

Caution-<https://globalforestatlas.yale.edu/climate-change/climate-change-and-tropical-forests> < Caution-<https://globalforestatlas.yale.edu/climate-change/climate-change-and-tropical-forests> >

Caution-<https://www.rutgers.edu/news/how-tackle-climate-change-food-security-and-land->

degradation < Caution-<https://www.rutgers.edu/news/how-tackle-climate-change-food-security-and-land-degradation> >

Caution-<https://www.barnstablepatriot.com/news/20190419/bpd-to-operate-revived-shooting-range> < Caution-<https://www.barnstablepatriot.com/news/20190419/bpd-to-operate-revived-shooting-range> >

From: [Tom](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Machine Gun Range
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 10:52:40 AM

I am a member of APCC and would like to register my support of the need to reevaluate the plan to construct a machine gun range in the area of Joint Base Cape Cod. It is inconceivable that an objective Environmental Assessment could determine the project's impact would be 'less than significant'.

Please also direct me to the publicly available information that concluded the Army National Guard needs such a range on Cape Cod. What changes, if any, are driving the decision to change the long standing means of providing machine gun training in Vermont to Cape Cod.

Would appreciate acknowledgment of this email.

Thomas Quill

From: [Wendy Reveri](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Multi-purpose machine gun range on Cape Cod
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 7:09:00 AM

Commenter
#248

Dear Mr. Driscoll,

I am a resident of Orleans, MA, and I am writing to register my concern about **and opposition to** the proposed multi-purpose machine gun range (MPMG) to be located at Camp Edwards on Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) on The Upper Cape Water Supply, to which the JBCC's own website refers as the "largest piece of protected, undeveloped land on Cape Cod?"

I object to many aspects of this -- among my objections are:

- the 199 acres of land disturbance to one of the largest protected, undeveloped areas on the Cape.
- the clear-cutting of 170+ acres of forested land on Cape Cod
- the likely surface danger zones, where fired projectiles would land
- the noise disturbance to surrounding areas.

I am adamantly opposed to this proposal.

Thank you,

Wendy Reveri
51 Clayton Circle
Orleans, MA 02653

Commenter
#249

From: [Ann Ryan](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range Proposed at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 10:34:16 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

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.

Ann Ryan
20 Hammond Hill Rd
Chatham, MA 02633
ryan.anrp@gmail.com < Caution-mailto:ryan.anrp@gmail.com >

September 4, 2020

Keith J. Driscoll
MAAENG
2 Randolph Road
Hanscom Air Force Base 01731
Keith.J.Driscoll.nfg@mail.mil < Caution-mailto:Keith.J.Driscoll.nfg@mail.mil >

Re: Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range Proposed at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod

Mr. Driscoll:

I oppose the installation of the proposed multi-purpose machine gun range is to be installed at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod for environmental, noise and increased traffic impacts that will surely result.

I believe that its assumed value is outweighed by the reasons I've cited.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Ann Ryan

Commenter

#250

From: [Peter Sampou](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Opposition to the multipurpose machine gun range
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 10:13:59 AM

Good day Mr. Driscoll,

I can speak with some understanding of the overwhelming environmental impacts of locating a MPMG at Camp Edwards given I've a PhD in science and am a teacher of Environmental Systems and Societies here at Sturgis. Furthermore, I am well aware of past groundwater pollution problems associated with JBCC actions in the past and expect that a MPMG operated on our sole source aquifer will be deleterious. Therefore, I am in strong opposition to the proposed siting of the MPMG range and the clear-cutting of 170 acres of forest.

Respectfully,

Pete Sampou

--

Pete Sampou, Ph.D
Science teacher
Sturgis Charter Public School
427 Main St.
Hyannis, MA 02601
508-862-2658

From: [Sally Schumann](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Gun range at Camp Edwards
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 12:34:41 PM

Commenter
#251

I write to register my opposition to this gun range and the clear cutting of forest.

From: [Karen Schwartzman](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] My opposition to Machine Gun Range Plans for Camp Edwards
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 9:13:38 AM

Commenter

#252

Dear Mr. Driscoll:

I am a resident of Brewster on Cape Cod and am writing to voice my opposition to the development of a Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards. Cape Cod strikes me as the wrong place for a machine gun range and I'm dumbfounded, frankly, that anyone would even consider siting one here.

I urge you to take the time to conduct a comprehensive study of the significant environmental impacts associated with the project, without which there is no way to know the damage that such a project might inflict.

Please add my name to the scores of Cape Cod residents who oppose this project on its face and question how such a project could even be entertained for such an environmentally precious place as Cape Cod.

Respectfully,

Karen Schwartzman
25 High Point Drive
Brewster, MA 02631

From: [Karen Serdy](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Machine gun range
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 3:20:41 PM
Attachments: [IMG_4434.PNG](#)

I live near the base and I do not want a machine gun range to be installed. It is bad enough that since the fighter jets left that I have cargo planes that are almost the size of 737's flying directly over my house - some days at intervals of every 15 minutes. On those days I am unable to enjoy my backyard due to the noise and the frequency. I also hear the shooting practice that already occurs at the base. Then there are the helicopters that fly over my house on a weekly basis, sometimes so loud that our windows shake. I feel like I live in a war zone. I do not need the additional noise and environmental risks that come with this new military project. I was told when we looked at our house that we were not on the base flight path. But we learned too late that we certainly were. We have accepted most of the noise and endured it quietly. I am now going to write to our local leaders and implore them to not add another project that impacts our quality of life. Enough is enough. Please see picture where large jets fly frequently over our house.



The contents of this e-mail, and any attachments, are the property of the Falmouth Public School District, and are subject to the Public Records Law, M.G.L. c. 66, Sec. 10.

From: [Sandy Faiman-Silva](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Testimony re: RE: Joint Base Cape Cod machine gun range proposal
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 7:51:10 PM
Attachments: [Machine Gun Range testimony S Faiman-Silva Sept 23 2020.pdf](#)

Commenter
#254

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.

Subject: Testimony re: RE: Joint Base Cape Cod machine gun range proposal

Please find below (and attached) testimony I hereby submit concerning the proposed machine gun shooting range on Camp Edwards/Joint Base Cape Cod.

Thank you.

To: Keith J. Driscoll, MAARNG, 2 Randolph Road, Hanscom Air Force Base, 01731; keith.j.driscoll.nfg@mail. < [Caution-mailto:keith.j.driscoll@nfg@email.com](mailto:keith.j.driscoll@nfg@email.com) > mil
From: Dr. Sandra Faiman-Silva, 50 Davis Road Falmouth, MA 02540, sfaiman@aol.com < [Caution-mailto:sfaiman@aol.com](mailto:sfaiman@aol.com) > , 508-274-1131
RE: Joint Base Cape Cod machine gun range proposal
Cc: Falmouth, Mashpee, Bourne Sandwich Select Boards; Falmouth (MA) Enterprise, Cape Cod Times
Date: September 3, 2020

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed machine gun range to be placed on more than 200 acres of Joint Base Cape Cod/Camp Edwards located on the Upper Cape. This proposal will have serious environmental, cultural and socioeconomic impacts and must be stopped. My complaints are about both the proposal itself and the process undertaken which has left out opportunities for any community input.

The Process: First, No public meetings have been scheduled on this proposal over the more than 1 ½ years the proposal was being developed. Second, the public was officially notified on August 7, only one month prior to the closing of a public comment period, September 7. This is a COVER UP plain and simple. I served on the 1980s Base Clean-up Committee and we faced this very same problem—cover up of the problem and how to rectify it. Let's not do this again! Each Select Board on the Upper Cape, the Cape Cod Commission, and other impacted parties must weigh in on this proposal. This has not occurred.

Environmental impacts:

This same region was declared part of a superfund site containing **42 separate superfund-designated sites of contamination** in the 1980s when plumes of contamination were found to be travelling through the single source aquifer beneath the Base and much of the Cape Cod

peninsula. At the time elevated cancer rates were also found (BU School of Public Health studies), which some linked to base pollution. My own well in West Falmouth was closed and town water was brought to our neighborhood as a result of this contamination.

Now, Joint Base Cape Cod proposes to re-introduce more potentially contaminating activities on the Base, with full knowledge of the past contamination and the vulnerability of our sole source aquifer. Furthermore, the proposal to clear cut more than 200 acres is highly problematic, given the importance of forest cover to solving the global warming crisis.

Economic, health and sociocultural consequences:

I served on the Camp Edwards/MMR Committee to clean up the Base after what later became 42 superfund sites were discovered on the base (later more than 100), contaminating the Upper Cape drinking water and putting the health of local residents in danger. Contamination was linked to elevated cancer rates, including breast and brain cancers. A superfund cleanup plan was implemented, as scientists traced the movement of plumes of contamination toward West Falmouth harbor. Do we really want to repeat this catastrophe and put ourselves in danger again by introducing more contaminating substances permanently and threatening the health and well-being of the Upper Cape and all of Cape Cod? The Upper Cape cleanup has cost more than one billion taxpayer dollars, and the status of the cleanup is unknown at this time.

Here is an undated statement from the MA National Guard: Caution-
<https://www.massnationalguard.org/JBCC/afcec.html> < Caution-
<https://www.massnationalguard.org/JBCC/afcec.html> >

The Installation Restoration Program (IRP) began in the early 1980's investigating and then cleaning up source areas and groundwater contamination at Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC). The base was listed on the Superfund National Priorities List in 1989. The Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) assumed managerial control from the Air National Guard in 1996.

Interim treatment systems were used to begin addressing many of the groundwater plumes while final decisions on how to address the contamination were ongoing. There are over 100 locations on JBCC that have been evaluated as part of the Air Force cleanup efforts. Many of those locations were confirmed as source areas that contributed to soil and/or groundwater contamination at some point in the past and over 70 have been cleaned up. Sixty-one source areas have been delisted as Superfund sites. Several potential source areas are being investigated under the Military Munitions Response Program and for emerging contaminants which were recently added to the AFCEC program.

AFCEC is addressing 18 groundwater plumes, four of which have been cleaned up as the contamination is now below applicable standards. There are nine IRP treatment systems currently treating approximately nine million gallons of groundwater per day and those



systems and the groundwater in the area of each plume are regularly monitored to verify that cleanup goals are being achieved. AFCEC owns and operates three 1.5 megawatt wind turbines that offset 100% of the power used by the treatment systems. The program continually looks at ways to optimize system operations and cleanup actions, and will be working with state and federal regulators to determine when cleanup efforts are complete and systems can be shut down.

As part of its cleanup efforts, the IRP has replaced impacted drinking water supplies located off base and connected over 1,300 homes in the area of groundwater plumes to municipal water. In addition, the IRP conducts extensive reviews to identify and test private wells in the vicinity of the plumes.

Another undated resource can be found at: Caution-
https://www.massnationalguard.org/JBCC/afcee-documents/jbcc_cleanup_update_092619.pdf < Caution-
https://www.massnationalguard.org/JBCC/afcee-documents/jbcc_cleanup_update_092619.pdf > In this document it was reported that as of the date of publication (unpublished) **MORE THAN \$1.2 billion has been spent on ‘investigation and clean up activities at JBCC’** by the US EPA and the MA DEP.

Another critical piece of this proposal is that Cape Cod is probably the largest tourist destination in all of Massachusetts, an activity that is incompatible with elevated noise, traffic, congestion, and environmental assaults to our fragile environment and water supply. Ours is a state and ours is a region with a more than 5,000-year history, which has become a world tourist destination. At a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has rendered our economy highly vulnerable to collapse, now is not the time to add yet another challenge to our economic and cultural viability.

Ours is also a site of important cultural heritage throughout the Upper Cape and all of Cape Cod, a region that evidence indicates has been an indigenous homeland for at least 5,000 years. I myself participated in archaeological research which discovered sites of prehistoric habitation from 500 BC to 500 AD on Nantucket Island. The Cape Verdean and Portuguese communities also have a long-standing presence on Cape Cod, as migrants perhaps in the early the 17th Century. Cape Verdeans were prominent on the Upper Cape, engaging in the largest strawberry producing region in the United States during the pre- and post-World War II era. They continue to be an important part of Cape Cod’s cultural heritage, and are currently opening the Cape Cod Cape Verdean Museum and Cultural Center to be located on the Upper Cape.

The cultural heritage and economy of Cape Cod must be protected, and placing the water supply, endangered species, forests, and economy in danger is unacceptable. The benefits of this project must be weighed against its potential detrimental effects: potential congestion, noise pollution, air, water, and soil environmental degradation, economic consequences, and cultural assaults.

Furthermore, there are other highly reasonable alternative sites for military weapons training, including in Vermont and New York. If estimates of the costs to travel to these sites is weighed against the cost to re-tool Joint Base Cape Cod, the comparisons are startling. Given the cost of this proposal, it would take decades if not centuries to recoup an astronomical estimated cost of \$7

million to transform more than 200 acres to a wasteland for machine gun training (See envimpmgrSEIR-MPMG-main.pdf. P. 1-10).

I urge the Committee to withdraw this application immediately and use existing resources in neighboring states for this military-style training. If the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States used \$7 million to tackle community problems that give rise to violence, conflict, and war, including homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction and mental illness, the money would be far better-spent. We do not need a military-style weapons training facility on Cape Cod. It's as simple as that.

Sincerely,

Sandra Faiman-Silva, Ph.D.
Professor Emerita, Anthropology, Bridgewater State U
50 Davis Road
Falmouth, MA 02540
sfaiman@aol.com < Caution-mailto:sfaiman@aol.com > , 508-274-1131

Sandra Faiman-Silva, Ph.D.

Professor Emerita, Anthropology, Bridgewater State U
Convener, Cape & Islands Common Start Chapter
Coalition for Social Justice Board & Steering Cmtee.
50 Davis Road, Falmouth, MA 02540
508-274-1131

sfaiman@aol.com < Caution-mailto:sfaiman@aol.com >

Learn more about Coalition for Social Justice's (CSJ) work:

Caution-https://youtu.be/scwkT1lc6ZY?list=PLkDkZsSMuETz_2Whez0pX8R-Q0tz102x7 < Caution-https://youtu.be/scwkT1lc6ZY?list=PLkDkZsSMuETz_2Whez0pX8R-Q0tz102x7 >

From: [Betsy Smith](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Cc: [Betsy Smith](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] trees, not machine guns
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 12:05:07 PM

Dear Mr. Driscoll (aka the Once-ler),

When my children were little, The Lorax, by Dr. Seuss, was one of their favorite books. He claimed that it was also his favorite. In case you're not familiar with the story, a character named the Once-ler cut down all of the trees and turned a thriving environment into a polluted wasteland. Those of us who live year-round on the Cape value our trees and the creatures who live there. We do not need a machine gun range on JBCC. We need our trees. Since I am sure that you do not want to be remembered as the Cape Cod equivalent of the Once-ler, I trust that you will abide by the wishes of those of us who live here and not move forward with your plan.

Sincerely,
Betsy Smith.

Commenter

#256

From: [Janet Soja](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] machine gun range
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 7:40:26 AM

Mr Driscoll,

Please consider this email as the strongest objection possible to the proposed machine gun range at Joint Base Cape Cod. We are blessed with a beautiful, but fragile ecosystem here on the Cape. Removing 170 acres of trees will damage that fragile ecosystem and result in unique habitat loss. We also stand in unison with objecting neighbors who would have to endure the noise that would accompany such a range. Let's continue to be known for our beautiful beaches and not guns, noise and ecosystem destruction.

Sincerely,

Janet Soja
Joan Sullivan
99 Zona Drive
Brewster, MA 02601

From: [Charles Wilder](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Camp Edwards multi-purpose machine gun range
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 10:49:28 AM

Commenter
#257

Dear Mr. Driscoll, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed MPMG to be sited at the Camp Edwards on Joint Base Cape Cod.

Deforestation of 177 acres of land protecting the upper cape water supply bodes ill for safe and clean drinkable water and would be irresponsible. As you know, this land is the largest piece of protected and undeveloped forest on Cape Cod.

Please carefully consider the future of generations to come living here and the health of the environment in Massachusetts.

Respectfully yours,
Charles Wilder
170 Thorne Rd.
Eastham, MA.

From: [Beverley](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed gun range
Date: Saturday, September 5, 2020 3:23:32 PM

Commenter
#258

Dear Mr. Driscoll

I strongly oppose the proposed creation of a machine gun range on Cape Cod. Cutting down trees and destroying acres of undeveloped land for this purpose is unconscionable! The Cape has such a fragile environment, and every effort should be made to preserve what is left.

The location is also too close to homes and the noise would create an unbearable disturbance for those that live nearby. If a gun range is needed, Cape Cod is not the place to put it! Please choose another location off Cape!

Sincerely, Beverley LeBlanc

Sent from Xfinity Connect App

From: [Eunice Burley](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] re: Camp Edwards
Date: Saturday, September 5, 2020 3:50:15 PM

Commenter
#259

Dear Sir,

I am dramatically opposed to the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards !! To disturb 199.0 acres of land and in particular to clearcut 170.5 acres of forest area is totally irresponsible & a true harm to the environment !!

Eunice D. Burley
170 Inlet Road
Chatham, Ma. 02633

From: [Frank A Dahlstrom](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Machine gun range
Date: Saturday, September 5, 2020 8:56:19 AM

Good morning Mr Driscoll.I guess if you live in Washington DC and in a perpetual state of unawareness and slumber,you don't realize the impact a weapons range can have on an enviornmentaly sensitive land as is Cape Cod.We basically have two glasses that we drink from with giant straws.One from the canal to Bass River and the other from Bass River to PTown.So the Rip Van Winkle contingent in DC don't care if they contaminate the drinking source for the thousands of people who drink from that aquifer.I guess there is nothing better than more lead in the drinking water to bring our mental capacity down to their level.Please wake Mr Wheeler at the EPA and inform him that that lead is toxic.(you might have to explain what toxic means to him) and we won't stand for this and by the way tell him to put his resume on line because after January he will need a job more in line with his education and experience.Whatever that might be???

Glad you're going for it

FD