

From: [Cynthia Lawton-Singer](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Forrest Clearing for Machine Gun Range
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 9:37:17 AM

Commenter
#308

Dear Mr. Driscoll,

This is a time unlike earlier days in our country when resources seemed unlimited and the workings of natural systems were relatively a mystery. The time ahead of us needs to be a time of repair and working WITH nature not against it. When we ignore the infinite ways that natural systems make our planet livable and conduct our plans simply on convenience and monetary cost comparisons we risk the ENTIRE future of not only our state and our country, but the future of life on planet earth.

There is so much more to an intact mature forest than meets the eye. Forests are essential for carbon sequestration of past carbon, present carbon and future carbon. They protect our water sheds and our soil. In a time of drought this is more pertinent than ever. With climate change, we seem to move between “100 year floods” and “100 year droughts” every several years! Sometimes we experience both of these in a single year. Trees help hold the soil, channel water deep into the ground, produce oxygen, keep us cool AND provide habitat for important native species struggling to maintain their numbers. Forests also protect and build soil communities where carbon is stored (50% of stored carbon in a mature forest is stored in the roots and soil), water is retained (like a sponge), and tiny organisms (we are just beginning to learn about) contribute to the growth of plants (which EVERYONE depends on). The 170 acre forest Massachusetts National Guard is considering cutting for a machine gun range is the largest unfragmented ecosystem on Cape Cod. Cutting it would be a body blow to to the health of the entire area.

In this time of increasing climate change, we need every arrow in our quiver to protect our world for future generations. The choice between a more convenient location for training National Guard Soldiers today and a livable planet for our kids is no choice at all. The Vermont location has worked for years. It is already there. We should thank Vermont for making it available and continue to use it. Let the forest grow and we will receive gratitude in the form of VITAL services nature provides. There is no other planet for us. We need to make this one last.

Sincerely and with with respect,

Cynthia Lawton-Singer

From: [Jane A. Leifer](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Cc: ["BERNADETTE ERICSON"](#); [David Vieira](#); [Dylan Fernandes](#); [Susan Moran](#); [Selectmen](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Camp Edwards Training Range - Comment in Opposition
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 1:37:42 PM

Commenter
#309

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: Keith Driscoll
Re: Camp Edwards Training Range

We write to object to the recent reports that conclude that the proposed \$11.5 million gun range for Camp Edwards will have no significant environmental impact on the Cape Cod community. It is inconceivable that, after the former 100+ year old gun range polluted the Upper Cape aquifer and is currently in remediation, the agencies concluded that the new range will not harm the only Upper Cape water supply further.

As noted in the reports, noise, traffic, animal habitat and plant disturbance will all be affected, with concurrent effects on the climate and neighboring towns. Without diminishing the importance of these, it is likely that many, though not all, of those disturbances could be reversed over time.

The Sagamore Lens of the Cape Cod Aquifer, which sits under the Base, is designated as a sole-source aquifer under the Safe Water Drinking Act.

The potential permanent pollution to the groundwater beneath Camp Edwards, which provides up to three million gallons of clean drinking water daily to Camp Edwards and the towns of Sandwich, Bourne, Falmouth, and Mashpee will not be reversible.

It is not sufficient that in the Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan, the MAARNG will establish a monitoring schedule where samples will be taken of the range's soil and groundwater. Once the monitoring shows a rise in the contamination, the damage will have already begun and it is hard to imagine that the Base, which has just spent \$11.5+ million in the range construction will cease or minimize operations or figure out a way to effectively stop the pollution.

It is important to note the dates of the release of the reports and notices:

February 10? June 10? July 7?, August?

(Detail: An expanded Notice of Project Change to the Final Area Wide Environmental Impact Report

for Massachusetts National Guard Properties at JBCC–MPMG was published on February 10, 2020 and a Single Supplemental Environmental Impact Report was published for agency and public review on June 10, 2020. On July 7, 2020 a certificate from the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs determined the proposed MPMG adequately and properly complied with MEPA and its implementing agencies. An Environmental Assessment was completed and submitted in August 2020 for a 30-day public comment period.)

These dates coincide with the Covid Pandemic, during which a large portion of the affected Cape community was burying their dead, sick themselves, hospitalized, or caring for the sick, in addition to protecting young and elderly relatives, transitioning to working from home, losing child care, home schooling or monitoring their children’s virtual learning and trying to procure food and household supplies which were in short supply.

In short, although the agencies in question state that they have complied with all procedures with regard to the public and governing bodies, this is not a time of “business as usual”. There needs to be additional time to review and challenge the conclusions of this report especially with regard to our sole source of drinking water.

We are not ignoring the needs of the Guard to keep their members away from their families and work as little as possible, while being well trained for their essential missions. However when weighing the environmental effects against the extra day or two of travel to training areas further away, the reports have gravely miscalculated the balance and not given the community ample time to challenge the findings.

Jane A. Leifer
620 Scraggy Neck Rd, P.O. Box 194
Cataumet, MA 02534
J.Leifer@comcast.net < Caution-mailto:J.Leifer@comcast.net >

Bernadette Sullivan Ericson
38 Pasture Road – P.O. Box 703
Cataumet, MA 02534
jon5293@msn.com < Caution-mailto:jon5293@msn.com >

From: [Linda Marsh](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Machine Gun Range
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 11:53:11 AM

Dear Mr. Keith Driscoll

Please convey my opposition to the Massachusetts Army National Guard's plan for a machine gun firing range at Camp Edwards. The proposal to clear cut 170 acres, disturb 29 more and create a surface danger zone 5,197 acres for stray bullets would create a simulated war zone on Upper Cape Cod. This plan would effect a scorched earth plan for all native wildlife, birds, vegetation, underground water supplies, air, earth and below-ground strata. The machine-gun range area would merely be the epicenter of ever expanding circles of ecological destruction and damage that bring havoc to the physical and psychological health of families living in the immediate area of Snake Pond, to the military personnel on the base itself, and indeed, to all residents of Upper Cape Cod.

While I recognize the need for such training sites for our troops, Camp Edwards is NOT the site which should be selected. This area's water supplies have already been polluted by base activities in the not too distant past. This proposal, if effected, would have an equally deleterious outcome.

Please count me in opposition to this proposed plan!

Linda P. Marsh
23 Water Street,
Sandwich, MA 02563

Commenter
#311

From: [Mimi McConnell](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Machine gun range at Camp Edwards
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 9:31:52 AM

I am contacting you as a private citizen to request an extension of 30 days beyond the Sept. 8 deadline to enable the people of Cape Cod to respond to the Massachusetts Army National Guard's wish to establish a machine gun range at Camp Edwards. It is in the best interest of the Guard to grant this extension.

Mimi McConnell

From: karlmeyer1809@verizon.net
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] machine gun practic range
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 12:32:35 PM

Karl Meyer
91 Smith St., Apt. 303
Greenfield MA 01301

September 7, 2020

Mr. Keith Driscoll
Hanscom AFB

Dear Mr. Driscoll,

I write to express my opposition to citing a new machine gun practice range at Joint Base Cape Cod. Having worked at the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve I understand how fragile the Cape Cod ecosystem is—particularly in relation to groundwater. Removing 170 forested acres anywhere will have significant impacts on groundwater. In a shallow freshwater lens landscape, the dangers of pollution and impact are magnified when removing tree cover. Please allow the forest to continue filtering the groundwater in this fragile ecosystem. I'm sure many Guardsmen can easily stop in Vermont on their way to or from training.

Thank you,
Karl Meyer

From: [Tribal Scribal](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Cc: [Glen Ayers](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Public Comment Re: FONSI Draft on Proposed Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 6:25:08 PM

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.

Contrary to the Draft FONSI regarding the proposed destruction of 170 acres of forest to build a machine gun range on Cape Cod at Camp Edwards location, the largest intact forest on the Cape, there most certainly is a significant impact. Quite frankly, to claim clear cutting such a vast tract of forest has no impact is absurd and flies in the face of sound science. The climate and wildlife impacts of such a project are extreme and seemingly based on no science at all.

We are in total opposition to this ill-conceived project and will inform our listeners about it at the first opportunity.

Don Ogden, Producer/Co-host
The Enviro Show
WXOPJ/WMCB/WNMB
140 Pine Street
Florence, MA 01062

"We are here on earth to do good unto others. What the others are here for, I have no idea."

~ WH Auden

"I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical world."

- Thomas Jefferson

more rebellion here:

Caution-<http://concertobi.blogspot.com/> < Caution-<http://concertobi.blogspot.com/> >

Checkout The Enviro Show on WWOJ-LP, 103.3fm. Northampton, MA, Tuesdays, 6pm
[Webstreaming at:

Caution-<http://valleyfreeradio.org/listen/> < Caution-<http://valleyfreeradio.org/listen/> >

Also on WMCB, Greenfield; 107.9, Mondays & Tuesdays at 6pm. Streaming at

Caution-<http://wmc.net/Listen.html> < Caution-<http://wmc.net/Listen.html> >

[Blog w/links and YOUR comments at: Caution-<http://envirosho.blogspot.com/> < Caution-<http://envirosho.blogspot.com/> >]

Email: enviroshow@valleyfreeradio.org < Caution-mailto:enviroshow@valleyfreeradio.org >

From: [Gwen Phillips](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] I request you extend the public comment time regarding the machine gun range for another 30 days.
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 5:35:19 PM

Thank you for considering this request.
Gwen Phillips

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kathleen Quinn-Kortis](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] MPMG Range on Camp Edwards/Joint Base Cape Cod
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 10:25:48 PM

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:
MassachusettsArmy National Guard
Joint Force Headquarters
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731
Mr. Keith J. Driscoll, MEPA/NEPA Manager

From:
Kathleen Quinn-Kortis
307 Woodside Rd.
West Barnstable, MA 02668
kquinnkortis@gmail.com < Caution-mailto:kquinnkortis@gmail.com >

September 7, 2020

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

There is a long history of pollution and disregard for the fragile ecosystem of Cape Cod. There have been promises made over the decades by the Department of Defense that this site would be "cleaned up", and while some work has been done in that regard, it is by no means complete. The large-scale environmental damage which routine military activity at JBCC base has caused the residents of the Upper Cape region should be satisfactorily dealt with before any new construction is even considered. Decades of artillery, mortar and small arms practice and associated transport, bivouacking, dumping and storage activities at Camp Edwards, especially in and around the Central Impact Area have caused documented incidents of soil and groundwater contamination. Millions of gallons of the Upper Cape's sole source of drinking water have been contaminated. Plumes of polluted groundwater still flow from under the Central Impact Area and other parts of JBCC and into the vicinity of public supplies, residential wells and surface water. The Central Impact area is still littered with the remains of past artillery and weapons practice including lead bullets and shell casings and concentrations of untreated chemicals in the soil despite partial clean-up. Soil and subsequent groundwater pollution in the proposed MPMG Range site has already caused multiple decades of damage to our sole-source aquifer, habitats and wildlife.

Contrary to the Army environmental assessment, that the proposed MPMG Range would have "no significant impact", the facts speak otherwise. Cape Cod is not an appropriate location for this MPMG Range. Increased air pollution, noise pollution, groundwater pollution and traffic

will have a detrimental impact on this already fragile peninsula. Joint Base Cape Cod has not been a good neighbor. It has made promises that have not been fulfilled. It is time to make the surrounding residents' needs a priority.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Quinn-Kortis

Commenter
#316

From: [Rick](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EIS for proposed firing range on JBCC
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 9:44:41 AM

Mr. Driscoll,

Please provide me with a link to the EIS for the proposed firing range on JBCC. Thanks.

Rick

Rick Rheinhardt
Pocasset, MA

Commenter

#317

From: [Jim](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Cape Cod machine Gun Range
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 12:15:57 PM

Dear Mr. Driscoll,

On this, the last day of public comments, I urge you and the National Guard to reconsider the appropriateness of a machine gun range at Joint Base Cape Cod.

There are so many reasons to deny this ill advised installation at Joint Base Cape Cod.

However, I'll keep it short and only focus on the Guard as good neighbor:

You deserve the respect of the citizenry for your work; we deserve no less from you when it comes to the quiet sanctity of our neighborhoods.

Please rethink this project (you have alternatives) and cease further planning for it.

A Respectful Neighbor,

James F Rogers
197 Main Street
Sandwich 02563

From: [ERNEST ROGERS](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Citizen Comments on the Multi-Purpose Gun Range
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 2:55:56 PM

Commenter
#318

Dear Mr. Driscoll,

Please press the pause button on the Multi-Purpose Gun Range project at Camp Edwards. As a concerned Cape Cod citizen, the proposal worries me for several reasons:

- The environmental study's conclusion that the project has no significant impact needs another look specifically around how it will affect the water supply, the grounds that would be disturbed to clear land and build the infrastructure, and the waste from the spent cartridges.
- The noise pollution and increased traffic is concerning, especially since there are neighborhoods and is a school in hearing distance. The idea students or neighborhood kids hearing machine gun sounds is appalling.
- There has been very little information made public about the project in the Cape Cod Times or the Cape Codder, and I don't believe there have been community hearings about the project – if there have been meetings. I'm not aware of them and I keep a close eye on matters affecting our local environment. The Cape is a fragile, vulnerable, and finite treasure; the effect of disturbing so much acreage affects more than just the Upper Cape. As Cape residents, we deserve full disclosure of what's going on and a meeting to discuss the project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anita and Ernie Rogers
PO Box 266
South Orleans, MA 02662

From: [Penny](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Voter against gun range
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 5:13:17 PM

Commenter
#319

My name is Darlene Schiller of 5 Palmer Rd. in East Sandwich. I do not want this noisy pollution ridden gun range to be on Cape cod. Our water has been polluted in the past and I do not trust you to respect it in the future. You have lost our trust. I also have really enjoyed sitting outside on a Sunday afternoon and not feeling like I am in a war zone.

Will fight you to the finish.

Darlene Schiller

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Penn Szitty](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Machine gun training range at Joint Base Cape Cod
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 3:33:50 PM

Commenter
#320

Dear Sir --

I want to register my strong opposition to this project, not only for environmental reasons (our groundwater in Sandwich will be under further threat, as in the past, from pollution from the base) but also because my daughter lives John's Pond Village, Mashpee, which is a residential neighborhood of primarily older people just beyond the Base fence. They can hear trucks starting up on the base, not to mention air traffic -- but to add to that MACHINE GUN fire, at times (we read) late into the night is appalling. John's Pond is surrounded by the Base's neighbors, including another over-55 residential complex. Sandwich/Mashpee does not need a firing range in such close proximity. Please reconsider.

Penn Szitty
27 Shaker House Rd
Sandwich, MA 02563

From: [Sue Walker](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Cc: [Forest, Mark](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fwd: Fw: Proposed new firing range at Joint Base Cape Cod
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 2:11:11 PM

Commenter
#321

Dear Keith J Driscoll. NFG:

I am a former active member of the Community Working Group. I am very concerned about the machine gun range within the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve at Joint Base Cape Cod. The clear cutting required will affect the flora and fauna of a large area.

The Cape has been greatly damaged by the past military activities on the Base. This enormous project should be carefully planned with citizen input. I request a public meeting and an extension of 30 days of the comment period.

We must protect the Upper Cape aquifer !

Sincerely,

Susan V. Walker

Lake Arrowhead, CA

To:
Massachusetts Army National Guard
Joint Force Headquarters
Hanscom Air Force Base, MA 01731
Mr. Keith J. Driscoll, MEPA/NEPA Manager

September 7, 2020

We are 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, We strongly urge the MAARNG to reconsider its decision to develop a MPMG Range on Cape Edwards.

We 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 the base.

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 the 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 adding toxic chemicals to the air and groundwater, should be allowed in the middle of a 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 should be satisfactorily dealt before any new construction is even considered.

Here are our arguments against the proposed MPMG Range:

- The proponent, MAARNG, assumes that the training requirements of the Massachusetts National Guard is the only priority. Argument in favor of the projects, and evaluation of alternatives, is given solely in terms of what the Guard needs, what will be most convenient for the Guard, what will save the most time and money for the Guard. There is no discussion whatever of the merits of any of the projects as seen from the perspective of people living in communities around the base. The communities around the base need less, 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 proposed weapons and ammunition: pistols, shotguns, 50-caliber and ball-firing machine guns, and grenade launchers. This type of the destruction of our forests, soils 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 activities at Camp Edwards, especially in and around, the Central Impact Area, have caused documented incidents of soil and groundwater contamination with toxic substances such as RDX, lead, dioxin, 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 (much 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, and concentrations of untreated chemicals in the soil, despite partial cleanups.

- 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, that the safety and comfort of neighbors is not even mentioned 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.
- 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 report proposing the MPMG Range, 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.

Residents are supposed to be content with the unproven assertion that consuming slightly less than the allowable contaminant level of four or more toxic chemicals in their drinking water 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.

Although we are residents of Wellfleet, at the other end of the Cape, we feel we are still seriously impacted by these decisions.

Sincerely,
Wellfleet Town Democratic Committee

From: [Wellfleet Dems](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Letter in Opposition to the proposed Machine Gun Firing Range
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 9:05:22 AM
Attachments: [donkey_small.png](#)
[Wellfleet DTC Opposes MPMG Range.pdf](#)

Commenter
#323

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
Hanscom Air Force Base, MA 01731
Mr. Keith J. Driscoll, MEPA/NEPA Manager
Keith.J.Driscoll.nfg@mail.mil < Caution-
mailto:Keith.J.Driscoll.nfg@mail.mil >

See
Commenter
322 for
Attachment



Dear Mr. Driscoll,
The members of the Wellfleet Democratic Town Committee wish to go on record in joining many others on Cape Cod in opposition to the proposed machine gun firing range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod.

Lydia Vivante, Chair
320 Main Street
Wellfleet, MA 02667

Tel. 508 349 6619

Wellfleet Democratic Town Committee
PO Box 27
Wellfleet, MA 02667

wellfleetdems.org < Caution-<http://wellfleetdems.blogspot.com> >

From: [Hollis Wheeler](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] An opinion ADAMENTLY AGAINST a machine gun range on Edwards Joint Base or anywhere else on Cape Cod
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 10:21:49 AM

Dear Sir:

I cannot say forcefully enough how against a machine gun range I am for Edwards Joint Base or any place on Cape Cod. I am 74 y. o., an Air Force brat, a previous "sharpshooter," hold an unrestricted gun license in MA, and want a well trained National Guard and military. But Cape Cod is an irreplaceable National Treasure, a fragile sand bar and fragile environment for fauna, surrounded closely by the ocean. A machine gun range belongs elsewhere.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

(Ms.) Hollis C. Wheeler
Northampton, MA

From: [Jenna Wright](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Machine gun range expansion on Camp Edwards
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 11:19:33 AM

As a resident of Sandwich, I am writing to express my concerns about the expansion of the machine gun range. First I am concerned that more wasn't done to notify the community of rapidly approaching final steps towards approving the expansion. Until the Cape Cod Times report I was totally unaware of it. I know from talking to others in my neighborhood that we would have wanted to be involved in meetings. I think more could be done to keep residents notified and up to date about the process as it unfolded over the years. I appreciate that there have been community advisory meetings in years past, and you have gone through extensive work to address the concerns brought up by state regulatory bodies. However the issue of noise remains highly problematic. Nothing I could find about noise in your reports, as well as minutes of community meetings, had any definitive recourse for residents if noise is a problem that isn't resolved by your noise complaint process. I see reports acknowledging possible impacts, and noting very loud decibel levels, and stating that the National Guard will implement measures to reduce noise "to the extent practical". But, ultimately, and most concerning of all, the guard's bottom line response has been to point to your exemption from noise regulations. This was your response to the recommendation that a berm would reduce noise, this was your response when community members asked why more studies haven't been done, and this was your response to the findings of your own studies. The impact of increased military grade noise on quality of life is profound. Having a noise complaint management plan, and giving people notice of noise events, and assuring us there will be process to deal with concerns is not a sufficient plan. Our community needs more clarity about how we are going to be affected by noise, and what recourse we will have to mitigate it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Jenna Smith

Commenter
#326

From: [Joan Bernstein](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comment
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 3:58:56 PM

I write to oppose the installation of a machine gun range at JBCC . The Cape has suffered and continues to suffer the effects of residue from past artillery and weapons practice, including shell casings, rusting target remnants, and untreated chemicals in the soil, all of this only partially cleaned up. Cape COD's fragile environment and single source aquifer can't take any more. Nor should we lose 1700 acres of precious woodlands.

Joan B. Bernstein
880 Satucket Road, Brewster, MA

Sent from my iPad

From: [Heather Blume](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] MPMG
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 1:44:56 PM

Commenter
#327

Dear Mr. Driscoll, I just learned about the proposed multipurpose machine gun range on Camp Edwards while listening to WCAI last week and am writing to let you know that I think this plan is a disastrous one. Having grown up on Grove Street in Sandwich and as a direct decendent of the Ellis and Hoxie families that have long inhabited Cape Cod, I understand the negative impact it will have on the local community as well as the environment. The reasons for my objection are substantial, noise pollution, habitat destruction, ground water impact, property devaluation. Clear cutting can not be justified in a region of this size, even if there is more acreage elsewhere. Our environment is overdeveloped as it is. Cape Cod is no longer a rural area, it has become a suburb. If we are to keep a modicum life quality on the Cape, an area which is really no more than a very large sand bar, we can not sustain a project of this type. It will severely distress civilians, wildlife,the land, and deplete air quality. Looking at the cumulative effects of the past decades of development, an MPMG would do nothing but push an already ecologically stressed region into a state it may not be able to recover from.

At present I live in Harwichport with my husband, however my Sandwich heritage will always hold special significance to me. I still visit my childhood home on Grove St. from time to time and am acquainted with the present owners. The Sandwich Historical Society, founded by my Great Grandmother Melissa Thurston Ellis, houses some of our family's relics. It is my deepest wish that you and those in charge rethink this matter, find another area better suited to the project's needs, and do not locate an MPMG range on Cape Cod.

Sincerely,
Heather Blume
19 Old Tavern Lane
Harwichport, MA

From: [J Dubis](#)
To: [Driscoll, Keith J NFG NG MAANG \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Machine Gun Range
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 8:19:21 PM

Commenter
#328

Mr. Driscoll,

It is truly unbelievable that Massachusetts Army National Guard is proposing to construct a multipurpose machine gun range at Camp Edwards Joint Base Cape Cod which would involve the removal of up to over 170 acres of trees and which would be so close to residents and at least one school. The citizens of this town have a right to a hearing about this 5000 acre development and the removal of so many trees.

Do you personally have any idea of the environmental effects of such action on the fragile Cape Cod ecosystem?

To start with, there would be 170 acres less of shade. If you live here, you know the summers have become substantially hotter than any time in the past. Trees cool the earth. You surely must be aware that based on worldwide meteorological records, 2015 was the warmest year on record and 2006–2015 was the warmest decade on record since thermometer-based observations began.

Furthermore, shade holds moisture in the ground and provides cooling for animals, birds and insects, among whom are pollinators which are dying off from pesticides — let alone lack of shelter in vegetation and trees.

Then there is the noise from machine gunning and the negative impact this will have not only on adult residents, but more so on babies, children in nearby schools, on domestic pets & on wildlife. Gunning will be at least as traumatic as fireworks and firecrackers which have been documented to cause major stress in horses and domestic pets — not to mention wildlife. Because of the frequency of the machine gun fire because other military services would be using the range, the impact will be far worse than occasional fireworks. Military personnel can cover their ears — the residents, pets and wildlife cannot.

Third is the erosion. Trees hold the soil together .. removing 170 ac will certainly have an erosion effect. In recent years, there has been an increase in erosion because of weather extremes such as the 10” rain shortage we’re having this summer and even less rain just 3 yrs ago. In addition, climate changes are resulting in erratic weather resulting in more intense rain during storms resulting in major run-off and in some cases, local flooding. Trees absorb and retain rainwater thereby preventing erosion.

In addition, it is much more windy now than in the past. Trees block the wind and reduce erosion. Think of the dry, dusty conditions in the Midwest, let alone so many other places in the world, with few trees and soil that has been depleted of nutrients.

And finally and most importantly, it is well documented that Joint Base CC has inflicted permanent, irreversible damage to our local groundwater. We do not need additional permanent damage to our environment, our residents and our wildlife which would be inflicted by your agency creating this totally unnecessary range.

To paraphrase a statement quoted in the Cape Cod Times late last month: to use 5,000 acres of forested land to create this range, to invite any and all military to use it, and to clearcut 170+ acres for it most certainly will have negative environmental impact.

This is an irresponsible proposal that most definitely will lower property values. The residents of this and surrounding communities have a right to study & comment on this proposal and to a hearing to decide its fate.

Joan C Dubis
Sandwich, Mass