

**Final**

**Public Comment Summary Report for the  
Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range  
at the Known Distance (KD) Range Environmental Assessment  
(EA)**

**Camp Edwards  
Joint Base Cape Cod  
Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts**

**MILCON # 250194**

**Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Project**

**Prepared For:**

**Massachusetts Army National Guard**

**Joint Force Headquarters**

**Hanscom Air Force Base, MA 01731**



April 2021

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

CAC	Community Advisory Council
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMP	Conservation and Management Permit
DCR	Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
EA	Environmental Assessment
EMC	Environmental Management Commission
EO	Environmental Officer
EPS	Environmental Performance Standards
FNSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FY	Fiscal Year
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan
JBCC	Joint Base Cape Cod
KD	Known Distance
MAARNG	Massachusetts Army National Guard
MassDEP	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
MEPA	Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act
MPMG	Multi-Purpose Machine Gun
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGB	National Guard Bureau
NOA	Notice of Availability
SAC	Science Advisory Council

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Public Comment Summary Report has been prepared to summarize the public comment process that was conducted by the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) for the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range at the Known Distance (KD) Range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC), Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts. The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S. Code §§ 4321 et seq.), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and 32 CFR Part 651 (*Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*, Final Rule, 29 March 2002).

The public comment period for the Final EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) was formally initiated with publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the EA in the *Cape Cod Times* on 8 August 2020 in accordance with CEQ regulations (see **Appendix A**). Following the publication of the NOA, there was a 30-day public review and comment period, during which the Final EA and Draft FNSI were made available for comment to the general public, stakeholders, other relevant groups, and government agencies that have been identified as having particular interest in, or jurisdiction over, the proposed action. At the conclusion of the 30-day comment period for the Final EA and Draft FNSI, the MAARNG and the National Guard Bureau (NGB) reviewed and responded to all comments received. This Public Comment Summary Report represents the culmination of the MAARNG's efforts to inform the public about the proposed MPMG Range.

## 2.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The MAARNG is committed to being a valued member of the regional community and has demonstrated this through cooperative and collaborative project design and conservation planning. The MAARNG considers the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) a partner and is proud of the successes both parties have achieved together to ensure the highest quality wildlife habitat, clean groundwater, and critical soldier training. The MPMG Range planning process has demonstrated best principles with truly unique and innovative solutions to meet the high standards of the EMC and the MAARNG for sustainable training development compatible with the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.

The MAARNG formally initiated MPMG Range project outreach with a presentation of the proposed action at the EMC, Community Advisory Council (CAC), and Science Advisory Council (SAC) meetings in June 2016. The EMC oversees compliance with and enforcement of the Environmental Performance Standards (EPS) established to protect resources in the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve, which is coterminous with a 15,000-acre area in northern JBCC. The EMC is comprised of commissioners from the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game; the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The CAC and SAC report to the EMC. The CAC includes representatives from each of the surrounding towns, base housing, the military, the Cape Cod Commission, the Upper Cape Regional Water Supply Cooperative, and the Wampanoag Tribe, as well as other members appointed by the governor. The SAC, also appointed by the governor, consists of scientists and engineers recognized for their expertise in the areas of public health, water protection, wildlife habitat management, and land use management. All SAC, CAC, and EMC meetings are advertised public meetings.

The EMC Environmental Officer (EO), located at Camp Edwards, was afforded the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed MPMG Range design at each of the 30%, 60%, and 90% design stages to ensure compliance with the EPSs. In addition, the EMC has authority to approve, or disapprove, the proposed MPMG Range design once it is finalized and after the environmental review processes are completed. All ranges at Camp Edwards have Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring Plans (OMMP) that are reviewed regularly with the EMC EO to ensure all ranges use and maintenance is compliant with the EPS and protective of habitat and water quality. Range monitoring results, including water quality sampling, are briefed to the SAC, CAC, and EMC and provided in the Annual State of the Reservation Report.

### 2.1 Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)

The MAARNG conducted thorough public outreach efforts in accordance with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). Throughout the MEPA process, the MAARNG held two 30-day public and agency review periods in which 67 local and state entities were afforded the opportunity to provide comment. These stakeholders include, but are not limited to, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Association to Preserve Cape Cod, The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts, and all Town Managers and Select Boards from surrounding towns (including Falmouth). In addition, during the public scoping period for the EA, the MAARNG invited several Federal and state agencies to provide comments and concerns regarding the proposed action, in accordance with CEQ regulations. Agencies and local entities consulted for the EA include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - New England District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service,

MassDEP, MA DCR, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Cape Cod Commission, and Sandwich and Bourne town boards.

The MEPA process was completed in July 2020 when the MAARNG received a certificate signed by the Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs that determined the Single Supplemental Environmental Impact Report submitted for the project adequately and properly complies with MEPA and its implementing regulations. The certificate included a comprehensive summary of best management practices, impact minimization measures, and conservation actions associated with the MPMG Range. Additionally, multiple supportive letters citing the level of partnership and environmental consideration in project design were submitted by regulatory agencies as part of the MEPA process and attached to the certificate. A copy of the certificate and supporting documents in accordance with MEPA are available for download at <https://www.massnationalguard.org/ERC/publications.htm>.

## **2.2 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

In accordance with NEPA requirements, the MAARNG solicited public comments on the Final EA and Draft FNSI during a 30-day public review period between 8 August 2020 and 7 September 2020. The general public, government agencies, and other stakeholders were notified of the opportunity to comment on the Final EA and Draft FNSI via a NOA published in the *Cape Cod Times* on 8 August 2020 (see **Appendix A**). Comments received on the Final EA and Draft FNSI are addressed in **Section 4**.

No substantial concerns arose during prior outreach efforts during the NEPA process that warranted additional public hearings.

### 3.0 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

MAARNG incorporated environmental considerations throughout project planning during the MEPA and NEPA processes and in consideration of regulatory requirements. During these processes, the MAARNG evaluated various alternatives, including different MPMG Range designs and layouts to maximize feasibility and minimize environmental impact.

All ammunition used on the MPMG Range would be copper-only. The Department of Defense has moved entirely to copper ammunition for many of its weapons systems, and the MAARNG and EMC would not authorize or make available lead ammunition for use on this range. The MPMG Range as described in the EA is specifically designed to minimize impacts to the environment while complying with the EPSs. Specific MPMG Range design measures to ensure compliance with the EPSs include individual earthen impact berms behind each target. These impact berms are designed to capture and contain copper ammunition projectiles to the maximum extent practicable. These berms would also assist in the recovery of copper projectiles for recycling, prevention of fragmentation, ricochets, and prevention of subsurface percolation of residue associated with range operations. As required by the EPSs, the MAARNG developed an OMMP for the MPMG Range that requires the MAARNG to conduct regular groundwater and soil sampling to determine if range operations are protective of the environment. The MPMG Range-specific OMMP has been developed in close cooperation with the on-site EMC EO at Camp Edwards. The EMC will issue its approval, or disapproval, of the OMMP along with its final determination of MPMG Range design as described previously.

During the NEPA process, resource area analyses were conducted to determine the proposed action's potential impact. Through coordinated efforts of the USEPA, MassDEP, and the U.S. Army Public Health Center, the MAARNG completed a live fire noise study in 2015 which identified potential on- and off-base noise impacts. In 2019 the proposed location of the MPMG Range was relocated approximately 100 meters north to aid in the reduction of off-post noise impacts, as determined through noise modeling analyses.

In support of the EA the MAARNG assessed impacts to wildlife and habitat through a multi-year development of a Conservation and Management Permit (CMP) application with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. The CMP is a long-term mitigation plan that is guided by the MAARNG's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) for Camp Edwards and strives for net benefit to state-listed species. The INRMP provides for sustainable land management integrating regional conservation issues and trends, Army training needs, on-site resource monitoring results, and active habitat management. The long-term planning of the INRMP ensures army training and training infrastructure, including ranges, exist within a holistic conservation strategy based on natural resources monitoring and adaptive ecosystem management.

The loss of habitat from the proposed MPMG Range would be directly offset by significant habitat improvement over many hundreds of acres and a perpetual conservation management requirement. Site-wide conservation planning and management ensures that Army mission activities, including range and facility construction, are ecologically sustainable at the project level and training site level. The MAARNG has already implemented much of the habitat and rare species mitigation, including a 4:1 mitigation ratio for rare species habitat improvement (i.e., four acres preserved for every one acre impacted). These MAARNG mitigation measures resulted in the direct transfer of 260 acres from Camp Edwards to expand the Francis A. Crane Wildlife Management Area, which is managed by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and applies additional habitat protections. A total of 562 acres of habitat restoration

was completed as mitigation in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 with an additional 226 completed in FY 2020. Ongoing mitigation is funded and being implemented for FY 2021, budgeted for continuation in future years, and coordinated with MADFW at least twice per year. Additional mitigation for rare species is addressed through long-term surveys, monitoring of rare plants and animals, and overall ecosystem health indicators. This allows for interagency evaluation of mitigation objectives and adaptive management response with respect to both range development and conservation actions. The MAARNG received approval of the MPMG Range CMP from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program on 29 September 2020. The finalized permit and regulator's approval letter is available for download at <https://www.massnationalguard.org/ERC/publications.htm>.

In addition, the MAARNG conducted a greenhouse gas analysis as required under the MEPA process. This analysis found the proposed MPMG Range to be sustainable from a climate change perspective and was evaluated by MassDEP during the MEPA process. Both long-term climate resilience planning at the training site level and short-term project level planning are key to balancing carbon emissions. The MPMG Range project includes emissions reduction efforts and combines these with both forest protection and habitat management that would provide for healthier woodland habitat, increasing both diversity and vegetative growth. Climate change models predict significantly increased wildfire hazard and large-scale tree mortality from forest pests in the Upper Cape Cod region. In order to comply with the CMP permit for the MPMG Range, the MAARNG will increase conservation funding and resilience planning, resulting in a substantial reduction in potential long-term negative impacts to air quality that would otherwise occur in the absence of conservation management. Large-scale forest protection and habitat mitigation efforts at Camp Edwards will be completed because of the mitigation and funding requirements MAARNG must meet in order to construct and operate the MPMG Range. The greenhouse gas analysis is available for download at <https://www.massnationalguard.org/ERC/publications.htm>.

The MEPA greenhouse gas analysis also considered the cost of carbon releases. Putting an exact price tag on carbon emissions is difficult if not impossible due to variance in different platforms available for the costs. However, the long-term carbon sequestration by on-site vegetation would assimilate short-term carbon releases in a fairly short duration (3.5 years) and continue to provide carbon sequestration benefit to the surrounding area for decades. Therefore, the short-term impacts from carbon releases due to construction activities would be minimal compared to the long-term benefits of carbon sequestration and climate resilience resulting from the proposed MPMG Range mitigation.



## 4.0 COMMENTS RECEIVED

During the 30-day public comment period for the Final EA and Draft FNSI, the MAARNG sought and received comments from the public and relevant agencies via written submittals to the MAARNG. The MAARNG received a total of 367 individual comments from 352 commenters. Comments were further broken out into specific sub-comments and cataloged according to their main topic of concern to ensure all comments received a complete and accurate response. Using this method, the MAARNG identified 916 sub-comments from the 367 individual comments received.

Sources of comments include written comment letters from Federal agencies (1 commenter), state/local representatives (7 commenters), private citizens (328 commenters), and public/private entities (16 commenters). A complete comment matrix of the 916 sub-comments, including the original comment, the comment's related resource area and sub-resource area, and the MAARNG's response to the comment, is provided in **Appendix B**.

The 916 sub-comments were grouped into categories relating to their main topic of concern. The ten topics with the greatest number of comments received are as follows: Biological Resources (191 comments), Alternatives Considered (86 comments), Noise (80 comments), Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Waste (HTMW; 77 comments), General Opposition (62 comments), Air Quality (58 comments), Water Resources (54 comments), Public and Agency Involvement (47 comments), Purpose and Need (44 comments), and Cumulative Effects (39 comments). **Table 3-1** provides a complete summary of comments received, organized by main topic of concern. Overall, the majority of commenters were private citizens (808 comments, or 88 percent).

All comments received thorough subject matter expert and legal review. No comments were found to identify specific impacts that were not already sufficiently addressed through the NEPA process and supporting analysis (e.g., MEPA, MESA). Many commenters questioned whether the analysis of potential environmental impacts in the MAARNG's EA was sufficiently rigorous and detailed to support a FNSI. The process of reviewing and responding to these public comments led MAARNG to carry out a focused, detailed review of the EA – to give the EA a renewed, “hard look.” General comments related to the level of NEPA analysis did not identify the need for additional analysis or studies based on the level of impacts. No insufficiencies were identified during a review of comments related to the level of significance, as the Proposed Action's level of impacts is in accordance with the CEQ regulation's definition of “significantly” (40 CFR §1508.27). No significant adverse impacts would result from the Proposed Action that would require mitigation. Likewise, specific resource area comments did not identify any new issues or significant adverse impacts not already addressed. Formal comment-responses were able to address all public concerns and support the findings of the EA as is; therefore, no revisions to the Final EA are required and a FNSI is appropriate.

Table 3-1: Summary of Comments Received by Main Topic of Concern

Main Topic of Concern	Total Number of Comments Received	Federal Agency Comments	State/Local Representative Comments	Private Citizen Comments	Private/Public Entity Comments
Biological Resources	192	0	4	171	17
Alternatives Considered	86	0	1	81	4
Noise	80	0	2	75	3
Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Wastes	77	9	0	59	9
General Opposition	62	0	0	58	4
Air Quality	58	0	2	48	8
Water Resources	54	0	1	50	3
Public and Agency Involvement	47	0	6	37	4
Purpose and Need	44	0	0	40	4
Cumulative Effects	39	0	0	35	4
Infrastructure	37	0	0	35	2
Socioeconomics	37	0	0	37	0
Request for Additional Analysis	32	0	2	23	7
Information Request	16	0	3	12	1
Public Health and Safety	11	0	0	10	1
General Support	8	0	0	8	0
Best Management Practices and Regulatory Compliance Measures	7	1	0	6	0
Land Use and Cover	7	0	0	7	0
Soils	6	0	0	6	0
General Comment	5	1	0	4	0
Environmental Consequences	3	0	0	3	0
Media	2	0	0	0	2
Proposed Action	2	2	0	0	0
Wildfires	2	0	0	2	0
Cultural Resources	1	0	0	1	0
Reduced-scale Alternative	1	0	0	1	0
	<b>916</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>73</b>

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

The MAARNG and NGB have reviewed and provided written responses to all comments received on the Final EA and Draft FNSI. The MAARNG and NGB have determined that there were no comments that warranted revisions to the Final EA. Analyses from the Final EA remain and conclude there would be no significant adverse impact, either individually or cumulatively, to the local environment or quality of life as a result of implementing the proposed MPMG Range. Therefore, a FNSI is appropriate, and no changes were made to the Final EA. The FNSI has been revised to document the MAARNG's final decision as well as incorporate responses to substantive public comments received during the 30-day public review period on the Final EA and Draft FNSI.

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## **Appendix A: Notice of Availability**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION AND**  
**OPERATION OF A MULTI-PURPOSE MACHINE GUN RANGE AT**  
**CAMP EDWARDS, JOINT BASE CAPE COD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**DESCRIPTION:** Interested parties are hereby notified that the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (EA), and a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) regarding the proposed action described below. **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** This notice is being issued to all interested parties in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 United States Code [USC] 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and 32 CFR 651 (Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, Final Rule, 29 March 2002).

**PROPOSED ACTION:** This EA evaluates the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic effects of establishing a new Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod, in Barnstable County, Massachusetts. The proposed MPMG Range would comprise approximately 199 acres, while approximately 5,197 acres would be required to accommodate the Surface Danger Zone, although this area would not be disturbed for range construction. Construction of the MPMG Range would require up to 170.5 acres of forested land to be cleared and converted to maintained grassland to accommodate the range footprint and the small arms range operations and control area facilities. In addition, range construction would include the addition of lighting, utility extensions, access and maintenance road development, and firebreaks. An Army standard MPMG Range does not currently exist within Massachusetts; as such, the MAARNG must travel out-of-state to meet their full training requirements. The Proposed Action would ensure the continued and long-term viability of Camp Edwards to support the MAARNG's and other military users' assigned training missions. **PUBLIC REVIEW:** The EA and draft FNSI will undergo a 30-day public comment period from 8 August to 7 September 2020 in accordance with 32 CFR § 651.14, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions. During this period, the public may submit comments on the EA. The EA can be accessed online at <https://www.massnationalguard.org/ERC/publications.htm>.

**COMMENTS:** Comments on the EA and draft FNSI are welcomed and should be submitted during the 30-day comment period to: Keith J Driscoll, MAARNG, 2 Randolph Road, Hanscom Air Force Base, 01731, or via e-mail to [Keith.J.Driscoll.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:Keith.J.Driscoll.nfg@mail.mil).

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**Appendix B: Public Comment – Response Matrix**



Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction and Operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range, Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts Public Review Comments 8 August - 7 September 2020								
Comme nter #	Comm ent #	Commenter	Commenter Type	Organizati on/Agency	Comment	Resource Area	Sub-Resource Area	Final Response
1	1	Joan Nagle	Citizen	N/A	Please abandon plans to set up a militarized zone at Camp Edwards, Cape Cod, MA!!!!!!!	General Opposition	Militarization	Comment noted. The Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range would be located within the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) Camp Edwards portion on Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC), formerly known as Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR). Camp Edwards has been in use continuously since training began in the area in 1911. Small arms range training is a historical—and current—use of Camp Edwards. Camp Edwards currently operates five small arms ranges and machine gun training occurs at 3 of the 5. Numerous areas support soldier training activities such as land navigation, bivouacs (temporary camp sites), and engineer/infantry/artillery skills training.
2	2	Beth Chapman	Citizen	N/A	I am opposed to the deforestation of the acreage that is planned to be used for the machine gun range. We need all the trees we can sustain. Camp Edwards has already been a major player in serious environmental damage -- let's not add to that history.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #566 and #35.
	3	Beth Chapman	Citizen	N/A	I am opposed to a machine gun range here on the Cape that would be the only one in Massachusetts. I am opposed to the militarization of Camp Edwards.	General Opposition	Militarization	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #1.
	4	Beth Chapman	Citizen	N/A	Please find another place for this if it must be found. It is not in keeping with the goals of Cape Cod residents.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) evaluated several alternatives, including using a training site at another installation; using an undisturbed area at Camp Edwards; using a different existing range at Camp Edwards; implementing a standard-size Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range; and using an alternate location 100 meters south of the Proposed Action. Through comprehensive alternatives development and screening processes, as summarized in <b>Section 2.3</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), the Preferred Alternative and Reduced-Scale Alternative were found to be reasonable alternatives that best meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Action and the screening criteria as listed in <b>Section 2.3.1</b> of the EA. Neither alternative would result in significant adverse environmental impact. For more information on the purpose and need of the Proposed Action, please see the response to Comment #14.
3	5	Shelly Fredman	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to urge you, please do not build a multi purpose machine gun range at Camp Edwards in Cape Cod! Our dear Cape is a refuge for all of us, a place of nature, beauty and peace. We all come here to soak up the landscape and its treasures. A machine gun range is not needed here, and does not suit our fragile environment.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #1
	6	Shelly Fredman	Citizen	N/A	We are in the grip of uncertain times and the money spent on this venture is better used for environmental, cultural and socioeconomic survival. What is needed in the current battle for technology and information is not more machine guns but more technical training.	Purpose and Need	Financial Need	Comment noted. As specified under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 1502.22), a monetary cost-benefit analysis is not required as part of the Environmental Assessment (EA). The Proposed Action has been developed based on U.S. Army military training needs and mission requirements. As such, the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) has not performed a quantitative financial assessment as part of the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) EA.

Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction and Operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range, Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts								
Public Review Comments 8 August - 7 September 2020								
Comment #	Comment #	Commenter	Commenter Type	Organization/Agency	Comment	Resource Area	Sub-Resource Area	Final Response
	7	Shelly Fredman	Citizen	N/A	Instead of the refuge it has become in a pandemic, is our fragile peninsula to play host to hordes of military who will travel over our two aged and structurally compromised bridges to get here? Please do not build this machine gun range here. I urge you to listen to the many many hundreds of people who are against this.	Infrastructure	Bridge Structure	Comment noted. The Proposed Action would not jeopardize the existing bridge infrastructure. As discussed in <b>Section 2.2.2.4</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), it is anticipated that Camp Edwards site usage as a result of military personnel utilizing the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range would not be extensive. Training events would be spread out and occur over the course of several months from March through November, with peak training months from May through June. Given the proposed training would only occur sporadically (i.e., at irregular intervals) throughout the training year, the amount of personnel, and associated vehicles and equipment, transported to the range would not have a significant adverse impact. In addition, the proposed range training would not require Soldiers to remain at or in the vicinity of Camp Edwards for extended periods. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) ( <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA) to proactively minimize or avoid impacts on infrastructure.
4	8	Patricia Sullivan	Citizen	N/A	Please vote no on a machine gun range in Cape Cod	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #1
5	9	Candace Perry	Citizen	N/A	As a year round resident on Cape Cod, I strongly oppose the use of any part of the Cape as a machine gun range. I understand the range requires cutting acres of trees, which we can't afford to lose.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	10	Candace Perry	Citizen	N/A	I can only imagine the noise!	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. As discussed in <b>Section 4.4.1</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), noise impacts would be less than significant. The U.S. Army Public Health Center (USAPHC) performed a Noise Assessment ( <b>Appendix D</b> of the EA) for the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range in May 2019. Per the USAPHC Noise Assessment, Sections 6 and 7 ( <b>Appendix D</b> of the EA), under the Preferred Alternative noise greater than 104 decibels (dB), which are not compatible with noise-sensitive land uses, would remain entirely within the Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) boundary. Noise levels between 87 dB to 104 dB, which are generally not compatible with noise-sensitive land uses, would extend to less than approximately 0.5 mile beyond the nearest eastern boundary of JBCC ( <b>Appendix D</b> Section 7 of the EA). Potential noise impacts on the surrounding communities and property owners can vary based on weather conditions due to differences in sound propagation. Residents within these areas may find training activities noticeable and distinct, however peak noise levels that may be very loud or possibly startling would not be experienced in these areas. In addition, noise from the proposed range would not encroach upon the nearby National Cemetery ( <b>Appendix D</b> , and <b>Figures 4 and 6</b> of the EA) Additionally noise increases to the Forestdale School area would only increase with the use of the .50 caliber rifle which has not been approved for use on this range as designed and approved by the EMC. Additionally live fire training on Camp Edwards primarily takes place during weekends, and Annual Training periods during the months of June, July and August when school is typically not in session. The Proposed Action would implement Best Management Practices (BMP) and Regulatory Compliance Measures ( <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA) to proactively minimize potential adverse impacts on noise.

Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction and Operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range, Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts Public Review Comments 8 August - 7 September 2020								
Commenter #	Comment #	Commenter	Commenter Type	Organization/Agency	Comment	Resource Area	Sub-Resource Area	Final Response
	11	Candace Perry	Citizen	N/A	I grew up in a military family and have members of my family on active duty, so I'm no stranger to military need. But this seems the wrong place for machine gun practice. Please do not do this.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #1.
6	12	Lee Roscoe	Citizen	N/A	I am a state commended and USEPA awarded environmentalist and a Woods Hole Ocean Science Fellow journalist. (I have taught environmental education at the base in the past.) I agree with the statement below in the My View enclosed. The further destruction of land at Edwards and the further militarization of the Cape is unacceptable. The money would be best used for preservation.	General Opposition	Militarization	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #1.
	13	Lee Roscoe	Citizen	N/A	Excerpt from "My View Questioning the Militarizing of Cape Cod: The Construction and Operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards, Cape Cod" (Aug. 8, 2020 Cape Cod Times, backpage notification, C-5.) "Does a multi-purpose machine gun range at Camp Edwards fit into my future image of Cape Cod? The proposed MPMG range would comprise 199 acres, plus the 5,197 acres required to accommodate the Surface Danger Zone, whatever that entails. Does the idea of 170+ acres of forested land cleared for said range footprint, the small arms range operations and control area facilities with the addition of lighting, utility extensions, access and maintenance road development and firebreaks jibe with the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) claimed by the Massachusetts Army National Guard? Acres of forest cleared away and replaced by machine gun practice and no significant environmental, cultural, or socioeconomic effects on us, to say nothing of our wild life? Far-fetched claim."	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.

Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction and Operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range, Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts Public Review Comments 8 August - 7 September 2020								
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	14	Lee Roscoe	Citizen	N/A	Excerpt from "My View Questioning the Militarizing of Cape Cod: The Construction and Operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards, Cape Cod" (Aug. 8, 2020 Cape Cod Times, backpage notification, C-5.) "Does the fact that there is no other Army standard MPMG Range in Massachusetts cause you to want this designation for Cape Cod, to become the ONE, the only multi-purpose machine gun range in Massachusetts, hosting any and all trainees in all of Massachusetts, and, as stated, "other military users' assigned training missions"[1] < #_ftn1 > ? Such as the "Home land Security" in Portland recently?"	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. As discussed in <b>Sections 1.2.1</b> and <b>1.2.2</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range is vital in providing a complete, sustainable, and viable training facility for Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) Soldiers. An Army standard MPMG Range does not currently exist within Massachusetts. To receive training on an MPMG Range and meet weapons qualifications standards and training requirements as set forth under <u>Department of the Army Pamphlet 350-38</u> , Standards in Weapons Training, Soldiers and units must travel to a nearby MPMG Range, the closest being 270 miles away at Camp Ethan Allen in Jericho, Vermont. The need for travel causes the loss of critical training resources MAARNG units need, and reduces the time available for conducting required training exercises at Camp Edwards. This travel time frequently violates <u>Training Circular 3-20.40</u> , Training and Qualifications – Individual Weapons, which establishes a reasonable travel distance as 100 miles. In addition, continued out-of-state travel for training requirements would impact troop morale, training time, and use of fiscal resources. The Proposed Action would address shortfalls in required small arms training facilities and capabilities, allowing multiple units to attain required weapons qualification levels simultaneously and efficiently, primarily to support the MAARNG's training requirements. If range time vacancy permits, this range may be utilized by other Department of Defense (DoD) and law enforcement agencies (i.e.: US Coast Guard, Sheriff's Department, and local police departments). The MPMG Range would be located within the MAARNG Camp Edwards portion on Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC), formerly known as Massachusetts Military Reservation. Camp Edwards has been in use continuously since training began in the area in 1911. As Camp Edwards serves as the primary ARNG training site for Massachusetts, the Proposed Action would continue to support higher quality, mission-essential, training activities at JBCC. No significant adverse environmental, socioeconomic, or cultural effects would occur as a result of this project.
	15	Lee Roscoe	Citizen	N/A	Excerpt from "My View Questioning the Militarizing of Cape Cod: The Construction and Operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards, Cape Cod" (Aug. 8, 2020 Cape Cod Times, backpage notification, C-5.) "Instead of the refuge it has become in a pandemic, is our fragile peninsula to play host to all military who will presumably travel over our two aged and structurally compromised bridges? Is this why the Army Corp of Engineers finally agreed that replacement was due? "	Infrastructure	Bridge Structure	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #7.

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	16	Lee Roscoe	Citizen	N/A	Excerpt from "My View Questioning the Militarizing of Cape Cod: The Construction and Operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards, Cape Cod" (Aug. 8, 2020 Cape Cod Times, backpage notification, C-5.) "We are in the grip of uncertain times, politically sensitive times, the money spent on this venture is better used for environmental, cultural and socioeconomic survival. War games are past. What is needed in the current battle for technology and information is not more machine gun training, but more comprehensive training in technology and communications."	Purpose and Need	Financial Need	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #6.
	17	Lee Roscoe	Citizen	N/A	To give us less than a month to submit comments on this proposal is a strategy I object to, as much as I object to the proposal itself with its hidden agenda."	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period	Comment noted. A 30-day public review and comment period is the standard public review timeframe required for an Army National Guard (ARNG) Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact under 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 651.35(b). Through agency scoping letters and a Notice of Availability published in the <i>Cape Cod Times</i> , the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) provided adequate notice to stakeholders for the opportunity to review and comment on the analysis. The Proposed Action was concurrently undergoing the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) (301 Code of Massachusetts Regulations [CMR] Section 11.00) process and underwent two 30-day agency and public review periods in which 67 local and state entities were afforded the opportunity to provide comment. The MAARNG has also presented the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range at Community Advisory Council, Scientific Advisory Council, and Environmental Management Commission meetings in accordance with Massachusetts state law and annual abutting town selectman meetings since 2015. No concerns arose during this process. As such, the Environmental Assessment's 30-day review period will not be extended.



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7	18	Rosanne Shapiro	Citizen	N/A	I have read through the proposed plan for construction and operation of a multi-purpose machine gun range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod. While I understand that the plan was developed to make a training area more accessible for members of the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG), I have strong concerns about the environmental impact of this project. As a result of the current climate crisis, Cape Cod is becoming more fragile with an increased intensity of storms and other meteorological events as well as rising tides that threaten homes and businesses all the way to Provincetown. Last summer's tornado did extensive damage to many areas, resulting in the destruction of hundreds of trees. Even with efforts to reforest areas most severely decimated – like the town of Harwich in which I live – the time it will take for saplings to reach full growth would amount to dozens of years or more. <i>(comment continued below)</i>	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. As discussed in Section 4.3.1 of the Environmental Assessment (EA), a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Analysis was conducted for the Proposed Action in compliance with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) GHG Emissions Policy and Protocol (MAARNG 2020a; MAARNG 2020b). Under the Preferred Alternative, Camp Edwards will continue to provide carbon sequestration on an annual basis through maintenance of forested land. 170.5 acres of forests will be converted to managed grasslands and will be planted with native grassland species. This will allow for the sequestration on an annual basis of 1,705 US Tons of CO <sub>2</sub> for 170.5 acres of grassland. In addition, construction of the Proposed Project would only represent 1.3% of the carbon sequestered in the forests at Camp Edwards, as the estimated amount of sequestered carbon in the 13,500 acres of forest at Camp Edwards is estimated to be approximately 3,105,000 US Tons. The release of CO <sub>2</sub> from the Proposed Project will be mitigated in 3.5 years based on just the annual sequestration of GHG provided by the forested land at Camp Edwards. Further, the estimated CO <sub>2</sub> emissions for the Preferred Alternative represents an insignificant amount (less than .01%) of statewide emissions. To put it in perspective, based on last complete inventory of GHG emissions for the State of Massachusetts at the time of the GHG analysis, in CY 2016, approximately 76,230,000 tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e was released solely due to fuel combustion. Conversion of forest to grasslands would result in an imperceptible impact on climate change or carbon sequestration. For more information on tree clearing, please see response to Comment #358. For more information on air emissions, please see responses to Comments #18, #101, and #130. For more information on cumulative effects, please see the response to Comment #64. <i>(comment response continued below)</i>
					<i>(continuation of above comment)</i> As a Cape Cod resident for almost twenty years, I am involved with ongoing efforts to reverse – or at least forestall – the decimating effects of the climate crisis on our beautiful but fragile peninsula. As you may know, trees serve the critically important function of carbon sequestration, i.e., they remove carbon from the environment as part of the natural process of photosynthesis. With the increase in global warming due to the increase of carbon – and other substances – in our environment, carbon sequestration has become critically important to the environmental health of Cape Cod.			<i>(continuation of above comment response)</i> <b>References:</b> 1) MAARNG. 2020a. Notice of Project Change for the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range at the Known Distance (KD) Range, Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod, Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts. EOEEA #5834. 31 January 2020. 2) MAARNG. 2020b. Single Environmental Impact Report for the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range at the Known Distance (KD) Range, Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod, Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts. EOEEA #5834. 1 June 2020.

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	19	Rosanne Shapiro	Citizen	N/A	Removing 170.5 acres of trees to create the proposed facility will move us in a direction that can only increase the risk to Cape Cod's fragile ecosystem with potentially severe consequences to its residents' homes and businesses as well as its economy.	Socioeconomics	Surrounding Communities/Businesses	Comment noted. The Proposed Action would have no significant adverse impact on surrounding communities and/or businesses. As the Proposed Action would overlap a previously cleared range and remain on Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC), land use would be similar in nature to existing conditions. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #187, and #593 for more information on land use and noise. As mentioned, live fire training on Camp Edwards primarily takes place during weekends, and Annual Training periods during the months of June, July and August. Schools would not be in session during these times.
	20	Rosanne Shapiro	Citizen	N/A	I have read the Final Environmental Assessment (EA). While it includes information about factors such as air quality and climate, noise, soils, groundwater, biological resources, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic materials and wastes, it fails to address the removal of 170.5 acres of trees, a significant omission for the reasons indicated above.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	21	Rosanne Shapiro	Citizen	N/A	I urge you reconsider this plan and develop a viable alternative with less severe consequences. It is a poor trade-off for the convenience of having a local facility for training members of the MAARNG.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #1 and #4.
8	22	Debra Cardinal	Citizen	N/A	Comments on the EA and draft FNSI if the multi-purpose machine gun range : As a year round resident of cape cod my biggest concern is the environmental effect of clearing so many acres of forest. We need any forests that we have as well. There must b somewhere in middle ground that could b sought.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.

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	23	Debra Cardinal	Citizen	N/A	If the wonderful men and women of our military have been accommodated elsewhere till now then why not continue this training there and then possibly reduce the imprint of said range by surely upgrading what exists. Camp Edwards could use an upgrade for sure if it is to be effective for any military needs.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) considered the use of another installation in the development of alternatives (see Section 2.3.3.1 of the Environmental Assessment [EA]). This alternative was eliminated due to insufficient land area and incurred travel costs and time from training at a range outside of Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC). Continued use of Camp Ethan Allen in Jericho, Vermont was determined not to be a viable alternative because the need for travel would violate <u>Training Circular 3-20.40, Training and Qualifications – Individual Weapons</u> , which establishes a reasonable travel distance as 100 miles. In addition, continued out-of-state travel for training requirements would impact troop morale, training time, and use of fiscal resources. All MAARNG unit locations that assemble to convoy to an out of state Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) training site are closer in miles to Camp Edwards than the closest out of state MPMG training site (Camp Ethan Allen). The shortest distance to Camp Ethan Allen from a unit assembly convoy site is the Springfield Armory (206 miles to Camp Ethan Allen versus 147 miles to Camp Edwards). All units that travel to out of state training sites to achieve small arms training must, in addition to the soldiers that require small arms training, incorporate additional support staff (food services, maintenance, command and control) to support the mission. Training at Camp Edwards improves efficiency because of existing support for these units including vehicle maintenance shops, existing food service contracts, and no additional cost for billeting. Additionally units remain longer on Camp Edwards which increases training time to meet mandatory training requirements. The Preferred Alternative and Reduced-Scale Alternative were found to be reasonable alternatives that best meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Action and the screening criteria as listed in <b>Section 2.3.1</b> of the EA. For more information on alternatives considered, please see the response to Comments #4, #14, #259, and #825.
9	24	Rand Burkert	Citizen	N/A	As a Cape citizen involved in education, at Nauset Public Schools, and more broadly involved in cultural development here (I am on Orleans Cultural Council and the Board of Orleans Farmers' Market), I cannot see any place for an automatic rifle firing range and the enormous anti-ecological footprint proposed for it. It is simply antithetical to the character and history of the Cape, and while there may be many who would use it, users would offer no benefit and only detriments to the environment here. I will join many fellow citizens in strongly opposing this development.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #1.
10	25	Molly Cornell	Citizen	N/A	I write in strong opposition to the use of 200 acres of land on Edwards AFB (aka Camp Edwards) on Cape Cod for the purpose of developing a machine gun range on the property. The Cape Cod environment is fragile!	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #1.



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	26	Molly Cornell	Citizen	N/A	The porous, sandy soil, and the presence of a single source aquifer, are only two of the essential features to consider when making decisions regarding land use.	Soils	Soil Degradation	Comment noted. As discussed in <b>Section 4.5.1</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), the Proposed Action would result in short- and long-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts on soils from land disturbing activities, military training operations, and equipment and vehicle use. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) would prepare a site-specific Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Control Plan prior to construction to address all earth-disturbance aspects of the Proposed Action. The E&S Control Plan would incorporate Best Management Practices (BMPs), including specific guidelines and engineering controls to address anticipated erosion and sedimentation impacts. MAARNG would conduct periodic visual inspections during construction to verify that the E&S Control Plan is being followed and is working to ensure compliance with State and Federal standards with regard to groundwater impacts. The Proposed Action would have no significant adverse impacts on soils. The MAARNG would implement BMPs and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) (see <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA) to proactively minimize adverse impacts on soils. Please see the response to Comment #27.
	27	Molly Cornell	Citizen	N/A	The porous, sandy soil, and the presence of a single source aquifer, are only two of the essential features to consider when making decisions regarding land use.	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. As discussed in <b>Section 4.6</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), impacts on groundwater would be less-than-significant and long-term groundwater protection during training operations would be accomplished by maintaining vegetative cover, implementing stormwater management measures, and complying with the Camp Edwards pollution prevention plan. As discussed in <b>Section 4.10</b> of the EA, all Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Waste (HTMW) that would be used or generated would be handled and disposed of in compliance with Federal and State requirements, as well as the Environmental Performance Standards (EPS) as established under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002 to minimize potential impacts to the maximum extent feasible. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) maintains a Hazardous Waste Management Plan, as well as an installation-specific Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCCP), which identifies potential sources of pollution, Best Management Practices (BMPs) to limit this potential, procedures to respond to pollution events, and procedures to handle hazardous materials. The MAARNG would also comply with <u>EPS 19, Range Performance Standards</u> , which requires efforts to minimize harmful impacts to the Upper Cape Supply Reserve. The Proposed Action would implement best management practices and regulatory compliance measures detailed in <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA to proactively minimize adverse impacts on groundwater.

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	28	Molly Cornell	Citizen	N/A	Large areas of open space that exist as natural habitat is rare in Massachusetts. The area under consideration for development of a machine gun range should not be disturbed.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. As discussed in <b>Section 4.7.1.2</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), impacts on wildlife and their habitat would not be significant given the relatively small area of disturbance compared to available undeveloped land within Camp Edwards. The proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range location is primarily composed of low quality habitat due to overgrown and unmanaged condition as described in <b>Section 3.2</b> of the Conservation and Management Permit (CMP) Application attached to the EA ( <b>Appendix E of the EA</b> ). The MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and US Fish and Wildlife Service have both concurred with the determination that the removal of this overstocked, high density forested condition is offset for net benefit through pine barrens restoration surrounding the range and within the other Pine Barrens Mitigation Focal Areas established through the Conservation and Management Permit. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) received approval on its CMP Application from the Massachusetts Natural Habitat and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) on 29 September 2020. As Southeastern Massachusetts ecosystems are not climax natural communities, but disturbance dependent systems, they are dependent upon conservation management. Where pine barrens restoration is applied through conservation management planning, mechanical forestry, and prescribed burning, population improvements are seen for species such as the Eastern Whip-poor-will, numerous listed moths, and plants such as Broad Tinker's Weed. Abundant pine barrens restoration is being implemented outside the Proposed Action area to create improved habitat condition as offset for loss of lower quality habitat for pine barrens flora and fauna. The Proposed Action would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures RCMs (see <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA) to proactively minimize potential adverse impacts on wildlife.
	29	Molly Cornell	Citizen	N/A	Past military usage of the land that encompasses Otis and Camp Edwards resulted in degradation that was severe enough to have the area designated a Super Fund Clean Up Site. We are only beginning to recover from that abuse.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #61.
11	30	Eve Zuckoff	Private/Public Entity	WCAI NPR (Media)	I hope this note finds you well. I'm a reporter with WCAI, the NPR station for the Cape, Coast, and Islands. I'm working on a story today about the machine gun range proposed for Joint Base Cape Cod, and was hoping you might be available this afternoon to talk more about the project, specifically the environmental impacts described in the Environmental Assessment. I'm available after noon. Please let me know what might work for you.	Media	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #1.

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12	31	Barb Lambdin	Citizen	N/A	I understand that a practice shooting range is to be created at Joint Base Cape Cod. This is probably a good idea since travel to distant practice ranges is costly and time consuming. However, clearing 170 acres of woodlands DOES have a an impact on our environment.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	32	Barb Lambdin	Citizen	N/A	The only way this deforestation should be permitted is if an equivalent number of trees were planted elsewhere with a guarantee of not being harvested. I don't care so much about the trees as I do about the longevity of our species on this planet. Please be a good ancestor...leave the trees or replace them!	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
13	33	Alexandra Lancaster	Citizen	N/A	I received notice of this project a few days ago, and have since looked through the Proposal and the CMP Application. This has been in the works for a while so what's there left to say? Here are my comments and concerns. I live south of Joint Base Cape Cod, live on well water, and was living here during the struggle to have the government develop and pay for the decontamination of our ground water. This is my main concern with this project (and the others in the pipeline, i.e. gym expansion other range expansions, etc.). I am glad to see EMC has addressed the ammunition issue (copper, only) and contaminant issues, should they arise.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #61.
	34	Alexandra Lancaster	Citizen	N/A	Are there any groundwater monitoring wells and/or other environmental sampling equipment that will be disturbed by this project?	Water Resources	Groundwater (Monitoring Wells)	Comment noted. Although five (5) groundwater monitoring wells occur within the footprint of the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range, the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) does not expect to disturb any groundwater monitoring wells and/or environmental sampling equipment as a result of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) detailed in <b>Section 4.11</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA) to proactively minimize adverse impacts on groundwater. Please see response to Comment #417.

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	35	Alexandra Lancaster	Citizen	N/A	I appreciate the mitigation steps taken and being taken, and I hope that the monitoring and management of these areas are done for the best for our flora and fauna. The disturbance of such a large area needs much reciprocity.	Best Management Practices and Regulatory Compliance Measures	Biological Resources	Comment noted. The Proposed Action would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) as discussed in <b>Section 4.11</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA) to proactively minimize potential adverse environmental impacts. In addition, the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) is implementing abundant pine barrens restoration on Camp Edwards to create improved habitat condition as offset for loss of lower quality habitat for pine barrens flora and fauna. The MAARNG recently received approval on its Conservation and Management Permit (CMP) Application from the Massachusetts Natural Habitat and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) on 29 September 2020. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated. For more information on biological impacts please see the response to Comments #566, #35, and #28.
	36	Alexandra Lancaster	Citizen	N/A	Will the drones continue to use this Range, or will another area have to be cleared for that use?	Information Request	Proposed Action (Military Training Operations and Usage)	Comment noted. In the past, the Proposed Action area had been used for occasional drone testing due to available open space; however, drone testing would be relocated to another open area on JBCC. There are no plans to clear any additional land to accommodate drone testing at this time.
14	37	Louise Lindsey	Citizen	N/A	I am vehemently opposed to a machine gun firing range on Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC). The propellant from machine guns will eventually flow into our single lens aquifer. Sandwich is down stream from JBCC. That was clearly demonstrated by the jet fuel that ended up in our water.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. All operational ranges on Camp Edwards are managed to minimize harmful impacts to the environment within the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. The Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range is designed to comply with the Environmental Performance Standards (EPS) as established under Massachusetts General Statutes Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002. The MPMG range would be designed with individual earthen impact berms behind each target. These impact berms are designed to capture the expended ammunition to the maximum extent practicable. These berms would also assist in the recovery of copper for recycling, prevention of fragmentation and ricochets, and prevention of subsurface percolation of residue associated with range operations. Information on berms was provided to appropriate regulatory agencies during the scoping process for the Environmental Assessment (EA) (see scoping letters in <b>Appendix A</b> of the EA), as well as in the Conservation and Management Permit application (see <b>Appendix E</b> of the EA). The Operational Maintenance and Monitoring Plan would also require the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) to conduct regular groundwater and soil sampling to determine if range operations are protective of the environment. As discussed in <b>Section 4.10</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), all hazardous and toxic materials and waste that would be used or generated would be handled and disposed of in compliance with Federal and State requirements to minimize potential impacts to the maximum extent feasible. The MAARNG maintains a Hazardous Waste Management Plan, as well as an installation-specific Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCCP), which identifies potential sources of pollution, Best Management Practices (BMPs) to limit this potential, procedures to respond to pollution events, and procedures to handle hazardous materials. The MAARNG would also comply with <u>EPS 19, Range Performance Standards</u> , which requires efforts to minimize harmful impacts to the Upper Cape Supply Reserve. Long-term groundwater monitoring and operation and maintenance of treatment systems are underway and will continue until groundwater cleanup levels are met. <i>(comment response continued below)</i>

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								<i>(continuation of above comment response)</i> As discussed in <b>Section 4.6.1</b> of the EA, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, and long-term groundwater protection during training operations would be accomplished by maintaining vegetative cover, implementing stormwater management measures, and complying with the Camp Edwards pollution prevention plan. The Proposed Action would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) detailed in <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA to proactively minimize or avoid potential contamination. No mitigation measures would be required. Please also see the responses to Comments #49 and #900.
	38	Louise Lindsey	Citizen	N/A	The Cape is much more densely populated than it was when the National Guard dropped a live shell on Rte 6 just after exit 2 heading west. Who could forget forest fires that burned for days from live fire in the woods in the late '60's. The road to hell is paved with good intentions. I believe your intentions are good but the execution of those intentions has not been good. The track record here had been dangerous for the local civilian population.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #1.
	39	Louise Lindsey	Citizen	N/A	I need much more information about your exact plans to mitigate the damage you will cause before I will be comfortable with this.	Best Management Practices and Regulatory Compliance Measures	N/A	Comment noted. As detailed in <b>Section 4.11</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), the Proposed Action would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) to proactively minimize potential adverse environmental impacts on land use and cover, air quality, noise, soils, groundwater, biological resources, cultural resources, and hazardous and toxic materials and waste. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated.
15	40	Lyra Brennan	Citizen	N/A	Please reconsider clearing 170 acres of land for a machine gun range on Cape Cod. There are so few places on Cape Cod left that are undeveloped. That's one thing I admired about the Otis base, that it was a proud steward of the land within its borders.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #1, #35, and #566.
	41	Lyra Brennan	Citizen	N/A	While I do understand this is something the military needs for their exercises, Cape Cod is the wrong place for this project. It's a rapidly developing landscape with degrading waterways, no wildlife connectivity, and diminishing endangered/threatened species.	Water Resources	Surface Waters	Comment noted. No surface waters are present at or near the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range. The proposed MPMG Range would have an onsite stormwater management area and all stormwater measures would be designed to meet Massachusetts Stormwater Standards. Therefore, the Proposed Action would have no impact on surface water. Please also see the response to Comments #28 and #42 for more information.



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	42	Lyra Brennan	Citizen	N/A	While I do understand this is something the military needs for their exercises, Cape Cod is the wrong place for this project. It's a rapidly developing landscape with degrading waterways, no wildlife connectivity, and diminishing endangered/threatened species.	Biological Resources	T&E	Comment noted. As discussed in <b>Section 4.7.1.3</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), impacts on threatened and endangered species would not be significant. It is important to note that the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range location is primarily composed of low quality habitat due to overgrown and unmanaged condition. The MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and US Fish and Wildlife Service have both concurred with the determination that the removal of this overstocked, high density forested condition is offset for net benefit through pine barrens restoration surrounding the range and within the other Pine Barrens Mitigation Focal Areas established through the Conservation and Management Permit (CMP). The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) received approval on its CMP Application from the Massachusetts Natural Habitat and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) on 29 September 2020. Where pine barrens restoration is applied through conservation management planning, mechanical forestry, and prescribed burning, population improvements are seen for species such as the Eastern Whip-poor-will, numerous listed moths, and plants such as Broad Tinker's Weed. As described briefly in <b>Section 4.7.1</b> of the EA abundant pine barrens restoration is being implemented on the installation to create improved habitat condition as offset for loss of lower quality habitat for pine barrens flora and fauna. In addition, the MAARNG would implement seasonal restrictions for tree clearing and best management practices and regulatory compliance measures (see <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA) to further minimize potential adverse impacts on threatened and endangered species. These activities would ensure minimal impacts on State-listed species from routine military activities. Intensive wildlife and plant monitoring already exists at Camp Edwards to evaluate population status of species and impacts from conservation management and Army training. Additional monitoring has been added as part of the CMP, which includes adaptive management to ensure Net Benefit for rare species and their habitats at Camp Edwards. For more information, please refer to responses to Comments #28, #35, and #566.
	43	Lyra Brennan	Citizen	N/A	Another place in Massachusetts would be far more appropriate, where there is more open land available and where fewer neighbors would be affected. Another area in Massachusetts being cleared for this project would be less environmentally devastating.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #4.

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	44	Lyra Brennan	Citizen	N/A	Even if so much land wasn't cleared, continual gunfire sound would again, be ecologically devastating to wildlife.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Noise)	Comment noted. As discussed in <b>Section 4.7.1.2 of the</b> Environmental Assessment (EA), impacts on wildlife and their habitat would not be significant given the relatively small area of disturbance compared to available undeveloped land within Camp Edwards. In addition, the Proposed Action area overlaps an existing cleared range previously used for live-fire training and is adjacent three actively used small arms ranges. Our most actively used ranges at Camp Edwards are also the areas of highest density, with demonstrated nest success, for birds of conservation concern such as the Eastern Whip-poor-will, Prairie Warbler, and many others. Likewise research into bats in the northeast has shown no negative impacts to maternal roost site selection for federally listed species adjacent to actively used small arms ranges. Areas surrounding ranges tend to be biodiversity hotspots on Army facilities despite intensive noise due to the habitat quality and ability to acclimatize to noise. Additionally, large scale restoration of pine barren habitat is being conducted across the installation to broadly improve habitat conditions. The Proposed Action would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) (see <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA) to proactively minimize potential adverse impacts on wildlife.
	45	Lyra Brennan	Citizen	N/A	You might ask how I make these claims-- I am the assistant director of a prominent science organization on Cape Cod, so I see day in and day out how heavy development, heavy human traffic, and noise pollution is destructive to the habitats we care most about. These environments are not just here to look pretty, of course. They provide invaluable ecological services to us-- clean air, clean water, and more. I'd like to think that some of the many objectives of the military are to protect our freedom, our quality of life, and the land we have as Americans. Please don't work against those principles.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
16	46	Richard Conron	Citizen	N/A	This is my second Email to you with additional questions on the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards: 1. Is the use of this machine gun range limited to only members of the MA National Guard so National Guard units from other states (I.e. Rhode Island) will not be allowed to use the range for training? 2. Will the proposed machine gun range support training and live fire using 50 cal. machine guns? Will this armor piercing 50 cal. weapon be mounted on HMMMVs army vehicles as part of live fire training?	Information Request	Proposed Action (Military Training Operations and Usage)	Comment noted. Answers to questions are as follows: 1. While the primary purpose of the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range would be to support Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) training, the range may provide training space for other military users, including National Guard units from out of state. 2. As discussed in <b>Section 2.2.2.2</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), weapons to be used at the proposed MPMG Range include M2 and M82 machine guns, which use .50 caliber ball ammunition; however the current funding and design of the MPMG does not include the two 1500 meter lane extensions that are required to accommodate firing of the .50 caliber ammunition. Additionally .50 caliber ammunition has not been approved for use on Camp Edwards by the Environmental Management Commission (EMC). If .50 caliber ammunition is developed in the future that meets the groundwater protection standards set forth under the Environmental Performance Standards established under Chapter 47 the Act of 2002 a request for use would be initiated through the EMC process. If approved and the two 1500 meter extensions are constructed training with weapons mounted on HMMMVs would be part of the training exercises to be performed on the proposed MPMG. The HMMMVs would be stationary not mobile.

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17	47	Lynne Bates	Citizen	N/A	Dear Sir, I am writing to state that I fully support the Multi purpose machine gun range being proposed at Camp Edwards, Cape Cod. I do not doubt that this proposal will have many opposed, I believe our Troops need the best training and should not have to travel 270 miles for any of it if avoidable.	General Support	N/A	Comment noted. Please refer to responses to Comments #1 and #14.
18	48	Richard Conron	Citizen	N/A	The purpose of this Email is to submit comments and request information on specific questions I have included in this document regarding your proposed machine gun range on Camp Edwards. I am a Vietnam combat veteran who served as an artillery officer in 1965-66. Following my deployment, I served as an artillery 105 battery officer and participated in live-fire training in 1967-68 at Camp Edwards before the implementation of a live fire ban due to the base's Super-Fund designation. I retired to the town of Bourne in 1998 and am familiar with the tungsten bullet ban in the early years of 2000. I represented the town of Bourne as part of a committee called the "Impact Area Review Team" who worked with both the EPA and state environmental regulators on various tasks to restore and protect both land and drinking water. While I participated as a member of this group, a proposal was brought forward and approved to build a rifle/pistol range with what was referred to as a "bullet trap". This was an earthen berm that would capture and hold fired small arms bullets so they could be removed and properly disposed of in order to protect the Cape's drinking water from contamination. From the documents about the proposed machine gun range that I have read so far, it appears the proposed machine gun range does not have this "capture and hold" design. Can you please clarify this design question for me?	Information Request	Proposed Action (Range Construction)	Comment noted. Please refer to <b>Section 2.2.1</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for a summary of Range design and construction. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) has worked closely with the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) on the design of the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range. The EMC Environmental Officer has been afforded the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed MPMG design at each of the 30%, 60%, and 90% design states to ensure compliance with the Environmental Performance Standards (EPS), which are standards for protecting resources in the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. Once the design is finalized and after the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is complete, the Environmental Officer will have the authority to issue final approval of the design and operations of the range. The MPMG range would be designed with individual earthen impact berms behind each target. These impact berms are designed to capture the expended ammunition to the maximum extent practicable. These berms would also assist in the recovery of copper for recycling, prevention of fragmentation and ricochets, and prevention of subsurface percolation of residue associated with range operations. Information on berms was provided to appropriate regulatory agencies during the scoping process for the Environmental Assessment (EA) (see scoping letters in Appendix A of the EA), as well as in the Conservation and Management Permit application (see Appendix E of the EA). <i>(comment response continued below)</i>
								<i>(continuation of above comment response)</i> The Operational Maintenance and Monitoring Plan would also require the MAARNG to conduct regular groundwater and soil sampling to determine if range operations are protective of the environment. In addition, as discussed in <b>Section 4.10</b> of the EA, all Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Waste (HTMW) that would be used or generated, including munitions, would be handled and disposed of in compliance with Federal and State requirements, as well as the EPS to minimize potential impacts to the maximum extent feasible. The MAARNG maintains a Hazardous Waste Management Plan, as well as an installation-specific Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCCP), which identifies potential sources of pollution, Best Management Practices (BMPs) to limit this potential, procedures to respond to pollution events, and procedures to handle hazardous materials. The MAARNG would also comply with EPS 19, Range Performance Standards, which requires efforts to minimize harmful impacts to the Upper Cape Supply Reserve. The Proposed Action would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) detailed in <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA to proactively minimize adverse impacts on groundwater.



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	49	Richard Conron	Citizen	N/A	Another document I read mentioned that grenade launcher training would be conducted at this proposed range. This tells me that chemical residue from exploded grenade projectiles will be deposited on the ground. It is my understanding that Joint Base Cape Cod is still labeled as a "Super Fund" site. I am uncomfortable that grenade weapons will be used on this proposed range because I am unsure that residue from exploded grenades can or must be contained and properly disposed of.	HTMW	Munitions	Comment noted. A standard Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range is used as the record qualification for machine gun rifles (M249, M240B, M2) and the MK19 grenade launcher. The range as designed would only support the M249 and M240B record qualification; only Soldiers required to fire these weapons would use this range. Only copper ammunition will be used at the proposed MPMG range. Approximately 305 Soldiers currently require the use of the range. This number is expected to increase over time as units that travel to other installations would travel to Camp Edwards to meet their training needs. As units realign to Camp Edwards, the number of soldiers who would utilize this range is anticipated to increase to 1,000 or more. On a typically busy weekend, Camp Edwards hosts approximately 2,000 Soldiers training on the installation. This happens once a month during the peak training months (March to November). Once the proposed range is complete and operational, Soldiers would train three weekends per month from April to November. It is important to note that it is the combination of resources that will bring more soldiers to Camp Edwards for training. The current design of the range does not allow for grenade launcher firing. <i>(comment response continued below)</i>
								<i>(continuation of above comment response)</i> However, if future designs incorporate targetry that supports MK19 firing and are approved through the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), the only authorized ammunition for the MK19 to use on this range would be the training purpose round. These rounds are filled with chalk and one in every four rounds has a spotting charge in it. All future rounds that are not currently authorized for use on Camp Edwards will be evaluated, reviewed, and authorized by the EMC prior to their use. The Proposed Action would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) detailed in <b>Section 4.11</b> (of the EA) to proactively minimize adverse impacts from munitions. Any unexploded ordinance (UXO) or munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) that are encountered during construction would be safely removed by an on-call expert. This expert would handle all aspects of the removal process to include regulator notification, implementation of safety measures, and removal of such items. In addition, the MPMG would be designed with individual earthen impact berms behind each target to capture the expended ammunition to the maximum extent practicable. These berms would assist in the recovery of copper for recycling, prevention of fragmentation and ricochets, and prevention of subsurface percolation of residue associated with range operations.

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	50	Richard Conron	Citizen	N/A	Finally, can you provide me some information about the estimated usage of this proposed range. How many members of the National Guard will use this range for live-fire training during one calendar year? How many rounds of live-fire ammunition are forecasted to be expended and deposited within the proposed range boundaries? Will expended projectiles be collected and disposed of? What percent of range time will be utilized for grenade launcher live-firing? Other than pistols, rifles, machine guns and grenade launchers, what other type weapons will be used for live-fire training on this proposed range? In conclusion, it would be extremely appropriate if the information about this new proposed machine gun range be presented to abutting town leadership teams (Select Board and Town Administrator) so that those of us who live here year-round have enough information to determine how this escalation of weapons live-firing affects our quality of life on this part of Cape Cod.	Information Request	Proposed Action (Military Training Operations and Usage)	A standard Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range is used as the record qualification for machine gun rifles (M249, M240B, M2) and the MK19 grenade launcher. The range as designed would only support the M249 and M240B record qualification; only Soldiers required to fire these weapons would use this range. Approximately 305 Soldiers currently require the use of the range. This number is expected to increase over time as units that travel to other installations would travel to Camp Edwards to meet their training needs. As units realign to Camp Edwards, the number of soldiers who would utilize this range is anticipated to increase to 1,000 or more. On a typically busy weekend, Camp Edwards hosts approximately 2,000 Soldiers training on the installation. This happens once a month during the peak training months (March to November). Once the proposed range is complete and operational, the number of training events is anticipated to increase to three weekends per month from April to November. As currently constituted, each Soldier requires 592 rounds to meet qualification requirements. Based on current alignments, the minimum anticipated ammunition use is 180,560 rounds annually with an anticipated maximum ammunition use of 361,120 rounds. However, with the anticipated increase to 1,000 Soldiers or more, ammunition use would vary from a minimum of 592,000 rounds to a maximum of 1,184,000 rounds annually, as established by the US Army Standards in Training Commission (STRAC). <i>(comment response continued below)</i>
								<i>(continuation of above comment response)</i> The current design of the range does not allow for grenade launcher (MK19) firing. Under the current range design, no time will be allocated for MK19 firing. However, if future designs incorporate targetry that supports MK19 firing, then the percentage of use would be determined by the types of units that travel to the range complex. As an estimation, approximately 10% of range time would be allocated to the MK19. The only authorized ammunition for the MK19 to use on this range would be the training purpose round. These rounds are filled with chalk and one in every four rounds has a spotting charge in it. All future rounds that are not currently authorized for use on Camp Edwards will be evaluated, reviewed, and authorized by the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) prior to their use. The usage of the proposed MPMG range will continue to be presented to abutting town leadership through the Community Advisory Council, Science Advisory Council, and EMC meetings as it has been since 2015 and it will be presented annually to each abutting town's board of selectmen as it has been since 2015. The usage of the range will be tracked and posted in the Camp Edwards Annual State of the Reservation Report which is posted and available on the MAARNG Environmental and Readiness Center website ( <a href="https://www.massnationalguard.org/ERC/publications.htm">https://www.massnationalguard.org/ERC/publications.htm</a> ), the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Environmental Monitor, abutting towns' libraries, and the Upper Cape Water Supply Cooperative.
19	51	Ben Wigren	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to express my concerns with the proposed construction of a machine gun range at Joint Base Cape Cod, and to state that I am not in favor of the project. I am supportive of our military forces, their training needs, and providing adequate infrastructure for them to operate. However, I do not believe the Cape is the best location for this facility, and 170 acres of clear cutting is too much for our fragile ecosystem.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #4, #35, and #566.

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	52	Ben Wigren	Citizen	N/A	I believe other areas in MA, with more open land, should be explored as alternatives. I do not support this project moving forward here on the Cape.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #4.
20	53	Christopher Rosenfelder	Citizen	N/A	Cape Cod does not need a machine gun firing range. Please put it somewhere else. The Cape is a very fragile place and certainly does not need 200 acres cleared.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #14.
21	54	Valerie Messina	Citizen	N/A	My husband and I retired here on the Cape over 6 years ago, 24/7, 12 months of the year. We moved here for the beauty, peace and quiet, and to be able to host our family and friends. We live in Mashpee, a stone's throw from the base in question. My husband served the military for 6 years, and is partially disabled. We can't imagine how noisy it would be to have this base become a machine gun range. As a taxpayer, citizen and not in the best of health, we implore you to save our beautiful Cape from this potential noise pollution.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #10 and #593.
22	55	Dale Stein	Citizen	N/A	A letter of August 13, 2020, that you received from Mary Ann Jones states very well my position on the projected Construction and Operation of Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards, Cape Cod (Aug. 8, 2020 Cape Cod Time, back page notification, C-5) Please Do NOT put a machine gun range on Cape Cod. I oppose this plan for all the reasons Ms. Jones so well states.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #1.
	56	Dale Stein	Citizen	N/A	Such an installation would be the antithesis to the idyllic qualities Cape Cod, its vital National Seashore and other areas offer to wildlife, aquatic life and tens of thousands of people who live on and visit Cape Cod. Land and sea, wildlife and aquatic life cannot write letters but if they could I believe there would be millions sent stating concerns about the negative impact of this plan. Thank you for appreciating the importance I place on this request to cancel the projected machine gun range at Camp Edwards.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28 and #44.
	57	Dale Stein	Citizen	N/A	Such an installation would be the antithesis to the idyllic qualities Cape Cod, its vital National Seashore and other areas offer to wildlife, aquatic life and tens of thousands of people who live on and visit Cape Cod. Land and sea, wildlife and aquatic life cannot write letters but if they could I believe there would be millions sent stating concerns about the negative impact of this plan. Thank you for appreciating the importance I place on this request to cancel the projected machine gun range at Camp Edwards.	Socioeconomics	Tourism	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #76.

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23	58	Dr. and Mrs. Lewis and Jean Stern	Citizen	N/A	We write this letter as residents of Falmouth, Massachusetts in strong opposition to the proposed multi- use machine gun practice range on Joint Base Cape Cod. This land has been set aside for conservation. The massive number of trees to be taken down, the impact on the extremely sensitive aquifer, and the significantly increased traffic this project will bring will have a massive negative impact on our natural resources.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #35, and #566.
	59	Dr. and Mrs. Lewis and Jean Stern	Citizen	N/A	This land has been set aside for conservation. The massive number of trees to be taken down, the impact on the extremely sensitive aquifer, and the significantly increased traffic this project will bring will have a massive negative impact on our natural resources.	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #60 and #153.
	60	Dr. and Mrs. Lewis and Jean Stern	Citizen	N/A	This land has been set aside for conservation. The massive number of trees to be taken down, the impact on the extremely sensitive aquifer, and the significantly increased traffic this project will bring will have a massive negative impact on our natural resources.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. As discussed in <b>Section 4.9.1</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), range operations could result in less-than-significant adverse traffic impacts from units transporting vehicles and other equipment to the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range; however, these impacts are not anticipated to be significant given the proposed training would only occur sporadically (i.e., at irregular intervals) throughout the training year. Based on prior Range Facility Management Support System (RFMSS) data, Camp Edwards site usage could increase by up to 18.6 percent (or by up to 17,650 man-days) as a result of military personnel utilizing the MPMG Range. Peak usage would occur from May through June, during the main annual training cycle from March through November. In addition, the proposed range training would not require Soldiers to remain at or in the vicinity of Camp Edwards for extended periods. The MAARNG would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) (see <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA) to proactively minimize or avoid impacts on infrastructure.

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	61	Dr. and Mrs. Lewis and Jean Stern	Citizen	N/A	It a time of climate crisis, poisoned water from previous projects, low water access, and sound, water, ground, and air pollution, this project must not happen.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	<p>Comment noted. All operational ranges on Camp Edwards are designed and managed to minimize harmful impacts to the environment within the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. The Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range is designed to comply with the Environmental Performance Standards (EPS) as established under Massachusetts General Statutes Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002. The MPMG Range would be designed with individual earthen impact berms behind each target. These impact berms are designed to capture the expended ammunition to the maximum extent practicable. These berms would also assist in the recovery of copper for recycling, prevention of fragmentation and ricochets, and prevention of subsurface percolation of residue associated with range operations. The MPMG will also have an Operational Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (OMMP), as required by <u>EPS 19, Range Performance Standards</u>, that will require the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) to conduct regular groundwater and soil sampling to determine if range operations are protective of the environment. This OMMP will requires approval through the Environmental Management Commission. In addition, all hazardous and toxic materials and waste that would be used or generated would be handled and disposed of in compliance with Federal and State requirements, as well as the EPS to minimize potential impacts to the maximum extent feasible. The MAARNG maintains a state-wide Hazardous Waste Management Plan (HWMP), as well as an installation-specific Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCCP), which identifies potential sources of pollution, Best Management Practices (BMPs) to limit this potential, procedures to respond to pollution events, and procedures to handle hazardous materials. Long-term groundwater protection during training operations would also be accomplished by maintaining vegetative cover, implementing storm water management measures. As the Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse impacts on groundwater or contamination, no significant adverse cumulative impacts would be expected (see <b>Section 4.12</b> of the Environmental Assessment [EA]). Please also refer to responses to Comments #18 and #130.</p>



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24	62	Veronica McCormack	Citizen	N/A	I am a resident of Massachusetts and have strong concerns about the proposed gun range at Camp Edwards. I believe this is not the right course for our Cape Cod community, our state and our country. I do believe it is time to think about alternatives to war and weapons. What our country needs now, more than assault style weapons, is socioeconomic development, for survival of our environment and our culture. And for too long the mental health of all people has not been a priority. Why not focus more on training in areas of mental health and intercultural understanding? The recent death of Sgt. Elder Fernandes at Fort Hood, a resident of Massachusetts, begs for a very different kind of training. And Fernandes is not the only one to have died needlessly. There are 7 other soldiers who have died since March, 2020 either killed or by suicide. Please, as a resident and a taxpayer, understand how senseless this gun range is when there is so much more work that should be a priority.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.

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25	63	Jayne lafrate	Citizen	N/A	<p>Please record my opposition to the construction and operation of a machine gun practice range at Camp Edwards.</p> <p>Camp Edwards and Joint Base Cape Cod sit atop the region's primary aquifer; it provides 100% of the Cape's drinking water, and has been designated a Sole Source Aquifer under the Safe Drinking Water Act by the Environmental Protection Agency. The military operating within what is now Joint Base Cape Cod have spent decades remediating the pollution of past military activities, which has caused significant degradation of the Cape's water supply. The prospect of new military activities--a machine gun practice range--is another burden our aquifer and our citizens should not have to bear.</p>	HTMW	Contamination	<p>Comment noted. The Impact Area Groundwater Study Program (IAGWSP) is committed to the cleanup of groundwater contamination and its sources at Camp Edwards on Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC). These efforts are designed to protect public health and safety, and to restore the aquifer that is a source of drinking water for the four towns located on the upper portion of Cape Cod. Working in cooperation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the IAGWSP is investigating and remediating groundwater contamination and its sources in the northern 15,000 acres of Camp Edwards, as well as areas off-base. No public or private drinking water supplies are affected by any of the IAGWSP plumes. All operational ranges on Camp Edwards are managed to minimize harmful impacts to the environment within the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. The Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range is designed to comply with the Environmental Performance Standards (EPS) as established under Massachusetts General Statutes Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002. All small arms ranges are required to have an Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring Plans (OMMPs) approved by the Environmental Management Commission (EMS). The MPMG Range would be designed with individual earthen impact berms behind each target. These impact berms are designed to capture the expended copper ammunition to the maximum extent practicable. These berms would also assist in the recovery of copper for recycling, prevention of fragmentation and ricochets, and prevention of subsurface percolation of residue associated with range operations. The OMMP would require the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) to conduct regular groundwater and soil sampling to determine if range operations are protective of the environment. Long-term groundwater protection during training operations would also be accomplished by maintaining vegetative cover, implementing stormwater management measures, and complying with the Camp Edwards pollution prevention plan. As the Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse impacts on groundwater or contamination (see <b>Sections 4.6 and 4.10</b> of the Environmental Assessment [EA]), no significant cumulative impacts would be expected (see <b>Section 4.12</b> of the EA). <i>(comment response continued below)</i></p>
								<p><i>(continuation of above comment response)</i> All Hazardous and Toxic Materials and Waste (HTMW) that would be used or generated would be handled and disposed of in compliance with Federal and State requirements, as well as the EPS to minimize potential impacts to the maximum extent feasible. The MAARNG maintains a Hazardous Waste Management Plan, as well as an installation-specific Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCCP), which identifies potential sources of pollution, Best Management Practices (BMPs) to limit this potential, procedures to respond to pollution events, and procedures to handle hazardous materials. The MAARNG would also comply with EPS 19, Range Performance Standards, which requires efforts to minimize harmful impacts to the Upper Cape Supply Reserve. Please also refer to the responses to Comments #1, #27, and #153.</p>

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	64	Jayne lafrate	Citizen	N/A	Cape Cod already faces a host of other environmental challenges, from warming coastal waters and erosion to loss of forest from development and disease. A machine gun practice range will represent one more negative impact on our fragile environment.	Cumulative Effects	General	Comment noted. A cumulative analysis is provided in <b>Section 4.12</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA). Implementation of the Proposed Action would not be expected to cause a significant adverse impact to any resource area discussed within the EA when taken in consideration with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) would adhere to Best Management Practices (BMPs), Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs), and installation-specific management plans (see <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA) to ensure that cumulative impacts remain at less-than-significant levels. As such, the Proposed Action would not noticeably contribute to any degradation in natural resources, regionally or locally.
26	65	Thomas K. Burgess	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal to construct a machine gun range at Joint Base Cape Cod. This would mean some 200 acres of forest cleared for said range footprint, the small arms range operations and control area facilities, the addition of lighting, utility extensions access and maintenance road development and firebreaks jibe with the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact claimed by the Massachusetts Army National Guard. Acres of forest destroyed for machine gun practice will certainly cause significant environmental, cultural or socioeconomic effects on residents of Cape Cod? This cannot be done without a thorough study of the impact on wildlife, flora and fauna.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing, Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #566, #28, #161, #35, and #44.
	66	Thomas K. Burgess	Citizen	N/A	Every acre of forest removed is a step backward in ensure clean drinking water for Cape Cod.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #37.
	67	Thomas K. Burgess	Citizen	N/A	We are in the grips of uncertain times, politically sensitive times. The money spent on this venture is better used for environmental, cultural and socioeconomic survival. War games are past. What is needed in the current battle for technology and information is not more machine gun training, but more technical training.	Purpose and Need	Financial Need	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #6.
	68	Thomas K. Burgess	Citizen	N/A	The plumes exiting JBCC are already enough.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #37.
27	69	Nic Tompkins-Hughes	Citizen	N/A	I apologize if there is a more official greeting that should be used here- I am unfamiliar with your station or role! I am a homeowner in Sandwich, and the idea that we would add a machine gun range to the base brings me numerous concerns: - from the lakes nearby kids can already hear the sounds of practice rounds, and parents like myself already answer those questions with grimaces and discomfort.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #10 and #593.



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	70	Nic Tompkins-Hughes	Citizen	N/A	This is too much, there is no need for Assault Rifles in a suburban community, and there are tons of spaces in less habitable areas where this kind of acreage could also be found!	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #1.
	71	Nic Tompkins-Hughes	Citizen	N/A	Why would this location be even remotely practical considering access and the need for symbiotic relationships with the surrounding community. - if the base has the money to build something like this, then they need to put that money towards the families who are accessing food pantries and lunch pickups for their children. Please prioritize the lives and the communities and the human beings over your desire to have more practice using lethal assault rifles and machine weaponry when we are supposedly in a time of peace.	Purpose and Need	Financial Need	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #6.
	72	Nic Tompkins-Hughes	Citizen	N/A	Given that there is no other training ground like this in the state, it also begs the question why it would be put here on cape cod, when we are facing significant updates to our bridge infrastructure, and when traffic in and out of the base is already challenging for residents.	Infrastructure	Bridge Structure, Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #7 and #60.
	73	Nic Tompkins-Hughes	Citizen	N/A	I am strongly opposed to this, what actions can the public do to stop this initiative?	Information Request	Public Review	Comment noted. The final EA and draft FNSI were made available for public review and comment for 30 days following publication of a Notice of Availability in the local newspaper <i>Cape Cod Times</i> . The public review period has now closed. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
28	74	Jason Cullinane	Citizen	N/A	I am perplexed at the proposal to establish a dedicated machine gun range on JBCC. Fort Devens is a better location as it is centrally located in the state of MA, and already has a well established and modern set of ranges. Why are we not looking at expanding at Devens vs the more environmentally sensitive Cape?	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #23.
	75	Jason Cullinane	Citizen	N/A	Also, there is the question of time use and access. A primary time for National Guard Troops to use these ranges is during peak summer season on the cape. Traveling to and from the cape will take valuable training time away from our soldiers while they wait in summer traffic. They could build in extra time to go early and return late but that takes time away from their civilian life and other training responsibilities.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Given the proposed training would only occur sporadically (i.e., at irregular intervals) throughout the training year, the amount of personnel, and associated vehicles and equipment, transported to the range would not have a significant adverse impact on traffic or be significantly impacted by local or regional congestion. Site usage would not be extensive. Peak training months include May through June. MAARNG has historically scheduled travel times to and from Camp Edwards early and late in the day (i.e., off peak travel hours) to avoid losing valuable training time. The MAARNG would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) (see <b>Section 4.11</b> of the Environmental Assessment [EA]) to proactively minimize or avoid impacts on infrastructure.

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	76	Jason Cullinane	Citizen	N/A	Tourism is the life blood of the cape and an active machine gun range will contribute to disturbing tourists as they try to relax.	Socioeconomics	Tourism	Comment noted. The Proposed Action would have no effect on local or regional tourism. The Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range would be situated within the Camp Edwards portion of Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC), which has been used for military training since 1911. The Proposed Action would not change the use of JBCC and no recreational areas occur within the proposed range site. The Proposed Action would have no effect to on- or off-post recreational facilities. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #593, and #187 for more information on land use and noise.
	77	Jason Cullinane	Citizen	N/A	I am an advocate for expanded use of JBCC, such as stationing various low density specialized forces that would benefit from the unique location and environment. A machine gun range designed to bring in extra training forces and carved out of forested lands on JBCC does not make sense.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
29	78	Cheryl Keown	Citizen	N/A	I think the Joint Base is a wonderful asset to Cape Cod. I toured it with other members of the Bourne Newcomers and Neighbors group, and learned a lot at the presentation made to our group a year ago or so. However, I'm surprised to hear that acres are being cleared to facilitate a machine gun range. This may be OK. But the lack of public outreach and information from the military means I don't have enough information to judge. Please reach out to the local public about what this means to us. If you don't, I suspect that we will conclude the worst, with only information from progressive groups to guide us. By the way, as full disclosure, I'm one of those progressives, who will reach the wrong conclusion, if more information is not made public about the potential hazards of this development. I live in Pocasset. It has a bum rap, as a result of being near the base, and thus subject to its batch of environmental hazards. We bought our house here, because we thought that was all behind us. Please don't let us down.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) has conducted thorough public outreach with Federal and State agencies, local towns, the Community Advisory Council (CAC) and Science Advisory Council (SAC), the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), the Cape Cod Commission, and Native American Tribes, among other stakeholders, dating as far back as 2015 in some instances; please refer to <b>Section 1.5</b> and <b>Appendix A</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for more detail. The Proposed Action has also undergone the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) process, including two 30-day public and agency review periods in which 67 local and state entities were afforded the opportunity to provide comment. The proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range has also been presented at CAC, SAC and EMC meetings and annual abutting town selectman meetings since 2015. No substantial concerns arose during prior outreach efforts or the MEPA process that warranted additional public hearings. Further, a 30-day public review and comment period is the standard timeframe required for an ARNG Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact under 32 Code of Federal Regulations 651.35(b). Through agency scoping letters and a Notice of Availability published in the <i>Cape Cod Times</i> , the MAARNG provided adequate notice to stakeholders to review and comment on these documents. As such, no additional public outreach will be conducted.

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30	79	Bonnie Nuendel	Citizen	N/A	This is written to express my considered opinion that the proposal by the Massachusetts Army National Guard for the "Construction and Operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base, Cape Cod" should be dismissed. How could the clearing of 170 acres of forest, construction of accompanying facilities, additional lighting, extensions for utility access and maintenance road possibly have "no significant impact", as declared by the MA Army Guard?	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #566 and #35.
	80	Bonnie Nuendel	Citizen	N/A	We have a sole source aquifer. Once it's poisoned, there is no way to restore it. The high rates of breast cancer on Cape Cod have documented links to this contamination.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27,#37 and #153.
	81	Bonnie Nuendel	Citizen	N/A	Firepower will not put a stop to our greatest danger - pollution of our own living space. This country has spent more by far, for decades, on military defense than any other country in the world, and yet we are less safe than we have ever been. Thank you for seriously considering my deep concern and objections to moving forward with this dangerous, unnecessarily harmful project.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
31	82	MaryAnne Cole	Citizen	N/A	I am concerned of the impact this will have not only on the residents of the Cape and myself but also on the wild life and my own pets. My home is off Sandwich Rd. And I can already hear machine gun fire when I am in my yard and if it gets louder and it will my poor dog will be scared to death.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	83	MaryAnne Cole	Citizen	N/A	We have a family of deer and so many other wild animals, what is going to happen to them?	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28 and #44.
	84	MaryAnne Cole	Citizen	N/A	The other thing I am concerned about is how far away will this be from my home and do I have to worry about Bullets reaching my home? Is this live ammo? I just don't think this is a good idea for anyone or anything living near the Base, I moved here for peace and quiet, I never thought I would have to worry about a gun range in my back yard. I am not happy about this AT ALL!	Public Health and Safety	Munitions	Comment noted. Public health and safety would not be jeopardized by the Proposed Action. Weapons training would be oriented north and munitions and projectiles would primarily remain within the proposed range area. Any potential fragments would remain within the Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) (see <b>Figure 2.2</b> in the Environmental Assessment [EA]), which is a mathematically predicted area where a projectile could impact upon return to earth, either by direct fire or ricochet. The SDZ has specific dimensions for the expected caliber or the weapon being fired so that all projectile fragments are contained in this area. As the SDZ is contained entirely within Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC), there would be no on- or off-post public safety risk from training activities at the new Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) (see <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA) to proactively minimize or avoid adverse impacts. Please also see the response to Comment #187.

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32	85	Brian McWilliams	Citizen	N/A	We already have enough noise with small arms fire from the ranges in use. Suggest you use the driving time to train up on convoy operations (crucial to military movements).	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #10, and #593.
33	86	Allan Dunn	Citizen	N/A	As an abuter to joint base cape cod, I am dead set against a machine gun range being placed there for the following reasons- 1- noise	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #10 and #593.
	87	Allan Dunn	Citizen	N/A	2- ground and water pollution	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27 and #37.
	88	Allan Dunn	Citizen	N/A	3- loss of trees, contributing to climate change. Please reconsider	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
34	89	Claire Watts	Citizen	N/A	Oh, please Mr. Driscoll, I beg of you to reconsider a machine gun range at Camp Edwards. It is devastating to me as a homeowner abutting the base, and also as a long-time and forever Cape Cod resident. The loss of 5400 acres, the loss of all those trees, the noise, the detriment to the environment, all not good.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #35, #187, #566, and #593.
	90	Claire Watts	Citizen	N/A	The loss of 5400 acres, the loss of all those trees, the noise, the detriment to the environment, all not good. Many years ago I stood in protest at the gates for the Base clean-up of pollution. That worked. I might be 81 years old, but I would do it again. This is just not necessary, and will do nothing to protect us, only make us miserable.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #187, and #593.
35	91	Stanley J. Kaczynski	Citizen	N/A	I personally do not think that Cape Cod, a place where my spirit resides is the proper place for a killing machine.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
36	92	Jim Newman	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to register my opposition to the proposed machine gun training range at Otis. I am a semi-retired long-time resident of Falmouth and have observed first-hand the damage to the environment, especially to our aquifer, that has resulted from various activities at Otis where military decisions led to civilian problems. Turning state-owned open space into a shooting range is irresponsible and will be vehemently opposed in our region.	General Opposition	Militarization	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #37.

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37	93	Don Mallinson	Citizen	N/A	Back in the 1960s I was at basic and advanced infantry training at both Fort Dix and Fort Jackson. I recall spending Thanksgiving guarding a mortar range, not from other troops, but from civilians who didn't know where or what they were wandering. Machine gun training is a different issue (no possibility of unexploded rounds). Space for such firing ranges requires lots of clear sightlines. Keep the trees. Now is the time to start conserving not continuing to exploit our fragile environment.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
38	94	Judy Fallon	Citizen	N/A	Hello Keith, I think this is horrible! Please let me know what I can do to help!	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #17.
39	95	Richard Aittaniemi	Citizen	N/A	We need more military practice ranges, because doves have weakened our defenses. I hope some day you are not confronted with a machine gun held by a Chinese soldier just waiting to kill a weak American.	General Support	N/A	Comment noted.
40	96	Elaine Rucker	Citizen	N/A	Against more demolitions and play war fair. Lead is what is used and has already affected the water quality due to past war games used over the years after world war two. I use to hear the guns being fired on Camp Edwards later called Otis Air Force Base. No more of this.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #37.
41	97	Margaret McLaughlin	Citizen	N/A	Dear Mr. Driscoll and Mr. Hunt, I am writing with questions about the recent request for comments regarding the possible construction and operation of a multi-purpose machine gun range on Camp Edwards, here at the Joint Base Cape Cod. Please find below my questions for you both. They respond to statements in the recent environmental assessment conducted by the MAARG that indicates there is a finding of no significant impact (FNSI). I find that very difficult to accept and would like to state my objection to the construction until a more thorough and transparent assessment has been conducted and reviewed by the general public, particularly residents like myself of the area surrounding the base.	Request for Additional Analysis	N/A	Comment noted. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is the appropriate level of analysis for the Proposed Action (see 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1501.5). The primary objective of an EA is to determine whether or not the Proposed Action would produce a significant adverse effect. In a NEPA analysis, significance of an impact depends on context and intensity; significance may vary depending on the setting of the proposed action and the severity of the impact (see definition of "Significantly" at 40 CFR §1508.27). The evaluation performed within the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) EA concludes that the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range (MPMG) Range would not result in significant adverse effects, nor would it require mitigation to reduce significant adverse effects to less-than-significant levels. As such, additional analysis is not warranted. The current analysis satisfies the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (32 CFR Part 651), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, and Army regulations.



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	98	Margaret McLaughlin	Citizen	N/A	<p>My concerns focus on the following statements in the report under Section 3. Environmental Analysis The report states: "Based on the EA's analysis, the MAARNG determined that the known and potential adverse impacts from the Proposed Action would be less than significant on land use and cover, air quality and climate, noise, soils, groundwater, biological resources, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic materials and wastes." 1. Question #1 -What are the known adverse impacts found? 2. Question #2- What are the potential adverse impacts? 3. Question 3#- Why aren't these impacts stated for the public to comment on? 4. Question #4- What do the terms "less significant" mean? "Less significant" than what? 5. Question #5- What are the impacts by each of the following categories: "land use and cover, air quality and climate, noise, soils, groundwater, biological resources, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic materials and wastes." What are these not shared in the report?</p>	Environmental Consequences	Impact Definitions	<p>Comment noted. Potential adverse impacts on land use and cover, air quality and climate, noise, soils, groundwater, biological resources, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic materials and wastes for each of the evaluated alternatives are discussed in detail in <b>Section 4</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), and summarized in the <b>Executive Summary, Table 2-5, and Table 5-1</b> of the EA. The final EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) were made available for public review and comment for 30 days, as announced by a Notice of Availability in the Cape Cod Times. In a NEPA analysis, significance of an impact depends on context and intensity; significance may vary depending on the setting of the proposed action and the severity of the impact (see definition of "Significantly" at 40 CFR §1508.27). Specific significance criteria for each resource area is also established within <b>Section 4</b> of the EA.</p>
	99	Margaret McLaughlin	Citizen	N/A	<p>The report also states: "The implementation of Best Management Practices and Regulatory Compliance Measures specified in the EA, such as establishing a Noise Notification Protocol and implementing a 24-hour noise complaint point of contact, would further avoid or reduce less-than-significant impacts." 1. Question #6- What are the "Best Management Practices and Regulatory Compliance Measures specified in the EA"? What other practices besides noise were considered? Why aren't these described in detail in this report?</p>	Best Management Practices and Regulatory Compliance Measures	N/A	<p>Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #39, and #593.</p>
	100	Margaret McLaughlin	Citizen	N/A	<p>2. Question #7-What is the Noise Notification Protocol that is being proposed? 3. Question #8- Why is there a 24 hour noise complaint point of contact if there is to be no impact of noise assumed in the statement above that there will be no known or potential adverse impacts? I would assume that noise is an adverse impact, especially to young children, birds and animals?</p>	Best Management Practices and Regulatory Compliance Measures	Noise	<p>Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #44 and #593.</p>

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	101	Margaret McLaughlin	Citizen	N/A	Finally the report states: "Regional air quality may experience long-term beneficial impacts. The Proposed Action would have no effect on cultural resources." 18. Question #9- How can there be long-term beneficial impacts on air quality when so many discharges will occur by a site usage "increase by up to 18.6 percent (or by up to 17,650 man-days)"?	Air Quality	Emissions	Comment noted. As discussed in <b>Section 4.3.1</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), the Preferred Alternative would result in long-term, beneficial impacts from a reduction in vehicle-related emissions. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) conducted a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) analysis for the Proposed Action in compliance with the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) to evaluate potential air impacts. It should be noted that although there will be a perceived increase in activity at Camp Edwards, there is an actual decrease associated with a long-term reduction in transportation related CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (i.e., over 82 percent reduction from baseline conditions). Travel associated with personal and military owned vehicles would decrease significantly under the Preferred Alternative because the need to travel to out-of-State facilities to meet weapons qualifications standards and training requirements would be reduced. The GHG emissions have a regional impact and not a local impact. By reducing transportation related emissions, the MAARNG would be benefitting the region as a whole. Emissions generated from training events would be trivial. Overall, air emissions generated from the Preferred Alternative would be de minimis, and would result in an imperceptible increase of criteria pollutants at the Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) or the surrounding area. Further details of the <i>Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range at the Known Distance (KD) Range: Greenhouse Gas Analysis</i> (MAARNG, 2020) are included in <b>Section 4.3.1</b> of the EA. The MAARNG would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) as discussed in <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA to proactively minimize or avoid impacts on air quality. Please also refer to the responses to Comments #18 and #130.
	102	Margaret McLaughlin	Citizen	N/A	19. Question #10- What does "beneficial" mean? I would be most grateful for you to register and respond to my concerns at your convenience.	Environmental Consequences	Impact Definitions	Comment noted. Beneficial impacts are defined as impacts that would be anticipated to improve conditions for a specific resource. Beneficial impacts are discussed in <b>Section 4</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA).
42	103	James R. Garb	Citizen	N/A	Dear Sir, I am writing to express my strong objection to the creation of a multi-purpose machine gun range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base, Cape Cod. Cape Cod is a very special place, a spit of land with a fragile ecosystem. Our year round population of about 213,000 swells by a million visitors in the summer. Indeed, the 'busy' season really extends from early May into October. The Cape has had more than its share of toxic pollution from previous military activity at Joint Base Cape Cod.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #60 and #61.
	104	James R. Garb	Citizen	N/A	We don't need more, nor do we want the military traffic from all over the Commonwealth and beyond, or the noise pollution.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #60.
	105	James R. Garb	Citizen	N/A	We don't need more, nor do we want the military traffic from all over the Commonwealth and beyond, or the noise pollution.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.

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	106	James R. Garb	Citizen	N/A	The Cape's tourism industry is one of the cash cows of Massachusetts. We should think twice before doing anything to jeopardize that.	Socioeconomics	Tourism	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #76.
	107	James R. Garb	Citizen	N/A	The rest of the Commonwealth has much more land suitable for this type of activity, and in addition anyplace else would have much easier access. Surely a more suitable location for this machine gun range can be found elsewhere in Massachusetts in a sparsely populated and less visited site.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #4.
43	108	Thomas Stone and Ann Stone	Citizen	N/A	Mr. Driscoll, My wife and I, Falmouth Residents for almost 40 years are strongly against the construction of a new firing range at Camp Edwards. Problems: Leveling of 200 acres of forest. Why, when Camp Edwards already has extensive areas of grasslands?	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	109	Thomas Stone and Ann Stone	Citizen	N/A	Additional pollution from Range use: how much, types of ammunition used, will all be retrieved to avoid additional contamination of our sole source aquifer?	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27 and #37.
	110	Thomas Stone and Ann Stone	Citizen	N/A	Your definition of impact which is "less than significant" is too vague to be useful. Please be specific and quantitative.	Environmental Consequences	Impact Definitions	Comment noted. Specific significance criteria for each resource area evaluated are identified in <b>Section 4</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA). Impacts that do not meet the criteria for significance are less than significant.
	111	Thomas Stone and Ann Stone	Citizen	N/A	Camp Edwards has a very long history of environmental contamination over several decades due to a lack of knowledge and carelessness so much so that it remain a billion dollar Superfund cleanup site. The remediation has been going on for over 50 years or more and is still not done yet. Why add more problems now?	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #37 and #61.
	112	Thomas Stone and Ann Stone	Citizen	N/A	In addition, why must this be in Massachusetts? Although true that Jericho VT is 270 miles away from Bourne, all units utilizing the base would be coming, I presume, from counties other than Barnstable. For instance, if Massachusetts unit from Pittsfield would come here it would be a 190 mile trip but only 159 miles to Jericho. For Springfield its 200 miles to Jericho but 140 miles to Bourne. Not a huge savings.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #23.



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	113	Thomas Stone and Ann Stone	Citizen	N/A	Finally, this type of military readiness is focused on a conventional ground war when what we are seeing now are massive cyber wars and a massive public health disaster (pandemics etc.) that will not be solved by teaching machine gun skills. The money set aside for this effort should be diverted to public health initiatives that are by far the largest current need of the country. As you know, we have already seen 175,000 dead in the USA from the pandemic with a very poor or non-existent federal response. These deaths are 3 times the number of deaths in the Vietnam War, our last conventional war. And more US dead than from either WWI and the Korean War. Lets put that money where it will do some real good for the American people NOW. Increased public health initiatives! Clearly we would strongly recommend that the "no action alternative" (Alt. 3) as defined in Appendix A.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
44	114	Patrick Flynn	Citizen	N/A	Good afternoon, As a resident who lives in the area of JBCC I fully support the new MG Range that has been proposed for Training at Camp Edwards (JBCC). Having a modern facility for training for this type of weapon would greatly improve the readiness of the NG Units that train here and also provide a local place for local Coast Guard Units, active and reserve to become more proficient with their weapons. A great addition to a long term training mission here on Cape Cod	General Support	N/A	Comment noted.
45	115	David Govoni	Citizen	N/A	Mr Driscoll, On Sandwich News FB page there was a Claire Watts whining about a new range possibly being installed at Joint Base Cape Cod. Said she sent you an email against it. First I've heard of it but wanted to let you know as a resident of Forestdale, a surrounding neighborhood, that I would be fully behind any type of firing range at the base. Perfect spot for it and to train today's military members, guard, etc. I am certain that the base dating back with it's history to WWII was there before Claire arrived. I've lived in Sandwich for over fifty-four years. I can remember every summer as a kid living in downtown Sandwich. There were convoys of ARNG trucks pouring into Otis, Camp Edwards. The base personnel fired mortars, automatic weapons, and flew F-106 Delta Darts. Never once bothered me or my family members. Good luck.	General Support	N/A	Comment noted.

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46	116	Rah Jacobs Bre	Citizen	N/A	Please no gun range at camp Edwards. This will destroy a huge amount of land and impact the environment greatly.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #1.
47	117	Steve Ramar	Citizen	N/A	It's not needed, it's not consistent with the image we wish to project to vacationers, and it's extraordinarily and unnecessarily destructive to the environment and wildlife. Build your gun range out in some desert state.	Socioeconomics	Tourism	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #76.
	118	Steve Ramar	Citizen	N/A	It's not needed, it's not consistent with the image we wish to project to vacationers, and it's extraordinarily and unnecessarily destructive to the environment and wildlife.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28 and #44.
	119	Steve Ramar	Citizen	N/A	Build your gun range out in some desert state.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #4.
48	120	Jonathan Earle	Citizen	N/A	Dear Mr. Driscoll, Please DO NOT put a machine gun range atop Cape Cod's only aquifer!	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #27.
	121	Jonathan Earle	Citizen	N/A	The Army National Guard is endangering Cape Cod's many residents, tourists, and sensitive wildlife habitat. I am in total opposition to the proposed machine gun range.	Socioeconomics	Tourism	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #76 and #84.
	122	Jonathan Earle	Citizen	N/A	The Army National Guard is endangering Cape Cod's many residents, tourists, and sensitive wildlife habitat. I am in total opposition to the proposed machine gun range.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #44, #76, and #84.
49	123	Kathleen Ruth	Citizen	N/A	I am a resident of southeastern Massachusetts. I opposed this machine gun range. Cape Cod is a fragile community, we should not be clearing 200 acres of forested land to make room for a range that could be built elsewhere, where there are more wide open spaces (Texas?). NOT ON CAPE COD. I am forwarding the news of this plan to my friends on Cape Cod.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35, and #566.
	124	Kathleen Ruth	Citizen	N/A	Cape Cod is a fragile community, we should not be clearing 200 acres of forested land to make room for a range that could be built elsewhere, where there are more wide open spaces (Texas?). NOT ON CAPE COD. I am forwarding the news of this plan to my friends on Cape Cod.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #4
50	125	Ron Makara	Citizen	N/A	Sir: I am writing this email to voice my opposition as a concerned Cape Cod resident to the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC). I am certain the funds required for this range could be better spent on much more worthwhile projects to improve the base and contribute to the overall well-being of its Cape Cod neighbors.	Purpose and Need	Financial Need	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #6.

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	126	Ron Makara	Citizen	N/A	Clearcutting 170 acres of forest to accommodate the range clearly would increase the environmental impact of JBCC. I strongly urge you not to move forward with this plan. I am a full-time resident of Bourne as of now and will soon be a full-time resident of Mashpee, both of which towns abut JBCC. I look forward to your response and your thoughts on this very important matter.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
51	127	David and Virginia Neill	Citizen	N/A	Dear Mr. Driscoll: As property owners in East Sandwich, MA, we wish to express our support for your training range and the ancillary operations needed at Joint Base Cape Cod. Although not everyone understand the need for adequate training facilities to have a top notch defense force, some of us do. Thank you for defending our homeland.	General Support	N/A	Comment noted.
52	128	Alexandra Zollo and the Zollo Family	Citizen	N/A	Good Morning, The proposed machine gun range should not be placed at Joint Base Cape Cod. As a neighbor to the base, my family have never taken much issue with the trainings and fly overs but a machine gun range is a whole different package. How will the noise be mitigated when vegetation will be cleared to make way for the range. The trees and vegetation on the base is essential for buffering noise and pollutants. We have been barraged with side effects from the base for decades and are constantly worrying about our water and air quality and the thought of increased noise pollution on top of this is really worrisome. Please consider that the neighborhoods around the base are filled with young families as we have been pushed inland, unable to afford the prices closer to shore. Being squeezed away from the coast on the upper cape means closer proximity to the base which is not ideal but we all understand the important services that base provides. It has been a trying time during covid consoling my toddler from the constant fireworks that keep him awake in the evenings, how would a machine gun range work? Any time late in the day and we have children that can't sleep, and any time during the day or on weekends and we can't enjoy our properties and have our windows open. Please reconsider putting a machine gun range here. This would not be good for neighborly relationships.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.

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53	129	James Balliett	Citizen	N/A	Hello, Please submit my comments regarding the proposed machine gun training facility at the Joint Base Cape Cod. This project should not be built. It is incongruous with the Cape. Cutting down 170 acres of forest, disturbing 199 acres of land and using a total of 5,000 acres would pose a significant level of environmental impact including water, air, and noise pollution.	Water Resources	N/A	Comment noted. As no surface water, wetlands, or floodplains occur within the Proposed Action area, the Proposed Action would have no effect on these resources. As discussed in <b>Section 4.6</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), impacts on groundwater would be less-than-significant and long-term groundwater protection during training operations would be accomplished by maintaining vegetative cover, implementing stormwater management measures, and complying with the Camp Edwards pollution prevention plan. The Proposed Action would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) detailed in <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA to proactively minimize adverse impacts on groundwater. Please also refer to the responses to Comments #10, #18, #187, #417, and #593.
	130	James Balliett	Citizen	N/A	Cutting down 170 acres of forest, disturbing 199 acres of land and using a total of 5,000 acres would pose a significant level of environmental impact including water, air, and noise pollution.	Air Quality	N/A	Comment noted. As discussed in <b>Section 4.3.1</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), air emissions generated from the Preferred Alternative would be de minimis, and would not result in a significant or long-term adverse increase of criteria pollutants at the Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) or the surrounding area. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) as discussed in <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA to proactively minimize or avoid impacts on air quality. Please also refer to the responses Comments #10, #18, #101, #187, and #593.
	131	James Balliett	Citizen	N/A	Cutting down 170 acres of forest, disturbing 199 acres of land and using a total of 5,000 acres would pose a significant level of environmental impact including water, air, and noise pollution. The proximity of the project to several neighborhoods and the canal region will also result in a high level of noise disturbance. Think about local elementary school kids who have to listen to gun fire and exploding grenades during their recess?!	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.
	132	James Balliett	Citizen	N/A	This project should be built on a much larger parcel of land and Cape Cod cannot accommodate this.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #4.
	133	James Balliett	Citizen	N/A	Additionally, as proven by the extreme pollution resulted by jet fuel spills, munition dumps, and other military operations at this base, this project is going in the wrong direction for Joint Base Cape Cod. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #61.
54	134	Gloria Hanson	Citizen	N/A	How can I register my opposition?	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.

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55	135	Bob Gould	Private/Public Entity	Falmouth Climate Action Network	As an organizer for Falmouth Climate Action Network and participant of 350 Cape Cod, the Sierra Club, and Citizen's Climate Lobby, I received the notice about plans to deforest a portion of Otis airforce base to construct a shooting range. We are living on the brink of the most devastating catastrophes to our planet and many of us are doing everything in our power to prevent the ongoing destruction. Although in the face of California Wildfires, you may feel that cutting down 170 acres of forest is not a big deal, but for those of us living on Cape Cod and fearing for the impact of a rising ocean on our property is imminent, everything we do has consequences. Showing that the military has respect for our environment by refusing to sacrifice this forest is a very positive step you can take.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
56	136	Sharon Sodekson	Citizen	N/A	Please do not allow the military firing range at joint base cape cod!! Many factors that would hurt our environment this proposal must be stopped.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
57	137	Marcy Klattenberg	Citizen	N/A	I only recently learned of the MAARNG proposal to construct a new enlarged firing range on Camp Edwards. I am a neighbor of Joint Base, living on the Falmouth side of Ashumet Pond and our well was impacted by the contaminated plume from Joint Base Cape Cod. This happened before we moved to the Cape and we are grateful that you have continued to test our well for emerging contaminants. My husband and I have environmental backgrounds and would like to address the MAARNG proposal. I've read through the prepared EA, including the three alternatives that have been evaluated. I am alarmed by the "Preferred Action Alternative" with the disturbance of 199 acres and clear cutting of 170.5 acres of forested land.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	138	Marcy Klattenberg	Citizen	N/A	Your EA defines Camp Edwards as "The largest intact area of relatively unfragmented forest remaining on Cape Cod. It serves as an important refuge for wildlife that require large interior forest habitat to live in and breed." As stated in the EA, your "Preferred Action Alternative" will have a greater impact on the land area, soil, water, air quality, water, flora and fauna.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28 and #44.



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	139	Marcy Klattenberg	Citizen	N/A	I implore Joint Base to continue to be a good neighbor and steward of this jewel of habitat and choose the "Reduced-Scale Alternative" for your proposed firing range. The "Reduced-Scale Alternative" will still allow you to meet the purpose of your proposed need.	Reduced-Scale Alternative	N/A	Comment noted. As discussed in <b>Section 5.2</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), there would be no significant adverse impacts from either the Preferred Alternative or the Reduced-Scale Alternative; as such, the EA recommends implementation of either Alternative. The decision of which Alternative, if any, to implement will be made based on an evaluation of the potential environmental impacts, training requirements, and available funding, among other factors. Currently, the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) has identified its Preferred Alternative based on its greater versatility for co-locating various training requirements. Please note that the Preferred Alternative is also smaller; the MAARNG eliminated a standard-size MPMG range from further consideration due to its larger size, greater potential environmental impacts, and failure to meet the screening criteria (see <b>Section 2.3.3.4</b> of the EA).
	140	Marcy Klattenberg	Citizen	N/A	With several State Listed species found on Camp Edwards, the preservation of as much of that unfragmented forest as possible is critical.	Biological Resources	T&E	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #42.
	141	Marcy Klattenberg	Citizen	N/A	I didn't see mention of how munitions will be handled and disposed of. The lead contamination from the old firing range is still being mitigated. Please read my email into the record. Thank you.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #37 and #61.
58	142	Julian M. Suso	State/Local Representative	Town of Falmouth	I am writing on behalf of Falmouth Select Board Chair Megan English-Braga and Vice-Chair Doug Brown. This proposed Machine Gun Firing Range has recently come to the attention of the Falmouth Select Board. The Board has received considerable email communications from residents raising significant concerns regarding this proposed clear-cutting of 170 forested acres on Joint Base Cape Cod and the continued concerns about environmental damage potentially caused by the routine operation of this Firing Range to be located within the extremely sensitive Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	143	Julian M. Suso	State/Local Representative	Town of Falmouth	This strategic water supply reserve serves the Upper Cape Towns of Bourne, Falmouth, Mashpee and Sandwich and occupies a fundamental location within Cape Cod's sole source aquifer.	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27 and #153.

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	144	Julian M. Suso	State/Local Representative	Town of Falmouth	We are respectfully requesting that the Army National Guard extend the allowable public comment period on the Environmental Impact Report for an additional thirty days, beyond the specified deadline of September 7 to allow a more adequate opportunity for public review, discussion and input. The timing of this notification process, in the midst of the present COVID-19 pandemic and with the upcoming Labor Day Holiday has presented difficult scheduling circumstances for a reasonable Board discussion. We join with other Upper Cape Towns in urging a formal public presentation on this project by the Massachusetts Army National Guard in advance of this coming deadline. Thank you for your consideration of this request. The Falmouth Select Board will be further reviewing/discussing this matter at one/more upcoming business meetings in the month of September.	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #17.
59	145	Andrew Gottlieb	Public/Private Entity	Association to Preserve Cape Cod	The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod. Based on our review, APCC questions the thoroughness of the EA along with its findings of "no significant impact." APCC calls for the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed project to carefully study the impacts this project would create, propose appropriate mitigation and reexamine the potential viability of the rejected project alternatives.	Request for Additional Analysis	EIS	Comment noted. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is the appropriate level of analysis for the Proposed Action. The primary objective of an EA is to determine whether or not the Proposed Action would produce a significant adverse effect. In a NEPA analysis, significance of an impact depends on context and intensity; significance may vary depending on the setting of the proposed action and the severity of the impact (see definition of "Significantly" at 40 CFR §1508.27). The evaluation performed within the EA concludes that the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range would not result in significant adverse effects, nor would it require mitigation to reduce significant adverse effects to less-than-significant levels. As such, additional analysis in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not warranted. An EIS is only required if a project has the potential to produce significant adverse environmental effects that cannot be reasonably mitigated to less-than-significant levels. As implementation of the Proposed Action would not have a significant adverse impact on the quality of the human or natural environment, an EIS will not be prepared and the issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) is appropriate. The current analysis satisfies the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (32 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 651) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations. Please also see the response to Comment #1.



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	146	Andrew Gottlieb	Public/Private Entity	Association to Preserve Cape Cod	<p>Founded in 1968, APCC is the leading regional nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization on Cape Cod. Supported by thousands of members from every Cape Cod town, APCC's mission is to promote policies and programs that foster the preservation of the Cape's natural resources. APCC focuses its efforts on the protection of groundwater, surface water, and wetland resources, preservation of open space, the promotion of responsible, planned growth and the achievement of an environmental ethic. Over the years, APCC has been actively engaged in actions to protect and restore the natural resources found on Joint Base Cape Cod. APCC was a leading voice in the 1980s and 1990s calling for cleanup of toxic plumes originating from the base that contaminated groundwater in the four Upper Cape towns. APCC also spearheaded efforts that led to the designation of Camp Edwards—the northern 15,000 acres of the base—as the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve, which was created for the protection of drinking water resources and wildlife habitat and compatible military training. According to the EA, the proposed MPMG project would be located at Camp Edwards on the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.                      (comment continued below)</p>	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. See the response to Comment 187.

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					(continuation of above comment) The project consists of construction and operation of an eight lane MPMG range that would require 199.0 acres of land disturbance, including 170.5 acres of forest area that would be clear cut "to accommodate the range footprint, small arms range operations and control area facilities, utility extensions, access and maintenance road development, and firebreaks to reduce wildfire hazards from tracers and other ignition sources." The project plan also includes approximately 5,197 acres (over one-third of the 15,000-acre Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve) that would be required for the MPMG range to accommodate the Surface Danger Zones area where projectiles fired on the range would land. The EA analysis conducted by the MAARNG determined that the known and potential adverse impacts from the project would be "less than significant" on land use and cover, air quality and climate, noise, soils, groundwater, biological resources, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic materials and wastes. The MAARNG concluded that no EIS would be required and no mitigation was necessary for any potential impacts the project may generate. APCC finds the MAARNG's conclusions to be questionable and unacceptable. Clearing 170.5 acres of forested land does have an impact on the area habitat, on loss of carbon sequestration value of the trees and on loss of valuable forest for water recharge for the Upper Cape's drinking water supply.			
	147	Andrew Gottlieb	Public/Private Entity	Association to Preserve Cape Cod	Habitat and Land Use Impacts APCC maintains that there is a regional interest in preserving the unfragmented nature of Camp Edwards and the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. The proposed land clearing would be, by far, the largest single land clearing project on Cape Cod in recent memory. The loss of this forest cover on Cape Cod would, in and of itself, be a significant regional environmental impact.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	148	Andrew Gottlieb	Public/Private Entity	Association to Preserve Cape Cod	As noted in the EA, Camp Edwards is "the largest intact area of relatively unfragmented forest remaining on Cape Cod and serves as an important refuge for wildlife which require large ranges of interior forest habitat."	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #28.

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	149	Andrew Gottlieb	Public/Private Entity	Association to Preserve Cape Cod	The area also supports an important pitch pine-scrub oak barrens community. The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program has ranked the pitch pine-scrub oak barrens natural community as "Imperiled in Massachusetts." According to the project EA, the footprint of the proposed MPMG range that is targeted for clearing consists of high value pine barrens habitat (pitch pine-scrub oak, pitch pine oak forest, immature pitch pine) as well as some disturbed land. The project area is also mapped for Priority and Estimated Habitat for Rare Species, some of which are associated with pitch pine-scrub oak barrens habitat. Although the project's Single Environmental Impact Report filed for MEPA states that the MAARNG proposes to preserve 310 acres of forest and conduct active management of 551 acres of forest, these forests already exist and do not replace the forest area to be cleared by the project. No additional forested land will be created in place of the 170.5 acres.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.

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	150	Andrew Gottlieb	Public/Private Entity	Association to Preserve Cape Cod	<p>Climate Impacts The carbon sequestration value of the to-be-cleared forest will be a net loss in the total carbon sequestration contribution made by Cape Cod's forested lands. Massachusetts' State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (SHMCAP), which was codified in the state's 2018 Environmental Bond, stresses the use of nature-based solutions for climate adaptation and mitigation. It highlights the value of preserving forests for their use as an important source of carbon sequestration, stating that "Massachusetts forests currently absorb more than 15 percent of the carbon generated in Massachusetts every year." APCC strongly supports the state's policy to protect existing forestland as a means to address climate change. In addition to the carbon sequestration loss of the forest if it is cleared, the anticipated increase in training activity at the base described in the EA will increase travel to the Cape and thus add to vehicle carbon emissions in Barnstable County, further exacerbating the local climate impact from this project.</p> <p>Environmental Assessment Findings Considering the above, it is therefore puzzling and rather implausible that the EA concludes the following in the analysis of potential impacts (emphasis is APCC's): For land use and cover: -The No Action Alternative (not going forward with the project) would have "long term, potential significant adverse impact on future land use from a reduction in training use of Camp Edwards." (<i>comment continued below</i>)</p>	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #27, #97, #130, and #145.

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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i></p> <p>-The Preferred Alternative would have "long-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts on land cover from clearing 170.5 acres and permanent conversion of forested areas to maintained grasslands," and a "long-term, beneficial impact on land use by maximizing training value of Camp Edwards."</p> <p>For impacts to air quality:</p> <p>-Long-term, less-than-significant adverse impact on climate change from continued vehicle-generated GHG emissions.</p> <p>-Long-term, less-than-significant adverse impact on air quality from increased emissions due to training and firing operations.</p> <p>-Long-term, beneficial impacts on air quality from decreased emissions due to reduced out-of-state travel.</p> <p>For impacts to groundwater:</p> <p>-The Preferred Alternative would have "long-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts on groundwater from inadvertent release of contaminants during site maintenance and training operations."</p> <p>For biological impacts:</p> <p>-The Preferred Alternative would result in "long-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts on vegetation from the permanent loss of 170.5 acres of forested land," "long-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts on wildlife species from potential habitat loss and training range operations," and "long-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts on special status species from potential habitat loss and training range operations."</p>			
	151	Andrew Gottlieb	Public/Private Entity	Association to Preserve Cape Cod	<p>Consideration of Other Alternatives</p> <p>APCC questions whether land clearing of the scale described in the EA within the protected area of the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve exceeds the threshold of "compatible training" as mandated in the establishment of the reserve. According to the EA, the potential alternative of choosing another MAARNG installation for the location of the training site was dismissed from further analysis. APCC wonders why such an alternative was quickly dismissed from consideration, when another base in Massachusetts may have the capacity for the training site and would result in less impact on environmentally sensitive land and natural resources.</p>	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #23.

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	152	Andrew Gottlieb	Public/Private Entity	Association to Preserve Cape Cod	<p>Conclusion It is clear to APCC that this project proposal needs to be revisited. An in-depth, comprehensive study of the major issue areas associated with the project needs to be conducted through the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, which must include 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. Any analysis conducted in an EIS must also include a more serious look at appropriate mitigation and viable alternatives.</p>	Request for Additional Analysis	EIS	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #145.
	153	Andrew Gottlieb	Public/Private Entity	Association to Preserve Cape Cod	<p>More importantly, a reassessment of the project should examine the larger question of whether this project is an appropriate use for the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.</p>	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	<p>Comment noted. All operational ranges on Camp Edwards are designed and managed to minimize harmful impacts to the environment within the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. The Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range is designed to comply with the Environmental Performance Standards (EPS) set forth under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002. As discussed in <b>Section 1.5.2</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) is consulting with the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), who oversees compliance with and enforcement of the EPS, which are standards for protecting resources in the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. The onsite EMC Environmental Officer has been afforded the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed MPMG design at each of the 30%, 60%, and 90% design stages to ensure compliance with the EPS's. Once the design is finalized and after the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes are completed, the MAARNG will send a letter to the EMC Environmental Officer requesting approval of the range design and operations plan for the range. The onsite Environmental Officer and the MAARNG would then request the EMC to grant the Environmental Officer the authority to approve the design and operations of the range. In addition, the MAARNG would comply with <u>EPS 19, Range Performance Standards</u>, which requires efforts to minimize harmful impacts to the Upper Cape Supply Reserve. The Proposed Action would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) detailed in <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA to proactively minimize adverse impacts on groundwater. Please see response to Comment #417.</p>



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60	154	Sheila Anderson	Citizen	N/A	I'm writing in support of Mary Ann Jones' letter in today's Cape Cod Times regarding her opposition to the proposed machine gun range at Joint Base Cape Cod. I am in no way knowledgeable about the need for such a facility, but it would seem to me that there must be ample space there to build such a range without destroying so much of the environment. Like so many other Americans I have become leery of the militarism that seems to be taking over our police forces and wonder what is behind the National Guard's thinking that such a range is needed at all. Are there not other military places that could be used if such training is truly needed? I presume you are a member of the military, but perhaps not. At any rate, please give very serious thought to this matter for all the reasons expressed in Ms. Jones letter as well as my concerns about an overreaching military.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #4.
61	155	Judith Conway	Citizen	N/A	Dear Mr. Driscoll, with all due respect for the ang, I strongly object to a proposed machine gun range at Otis. As a resident of the Cape, I support any effort to keep the area pristine. There has to be a more appropriate place than a resort area. BAD IDEA!	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #4.
62	156	Lawrence Dingman	Citizen	N/A	I am strongly opposed to the establishment of a Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod. My family and I have been coming to the Cape since the 1950s to enjoy its unique natural setting, and like many others, we chose to retire here and have lived here since 2005. The Cape has long been a vacation spot and refuge from the everyday aspects of modern urban and suburban life. Such a place will become rarer and infinitely more valuable as population and development continue to grow in the Northeast and throughout our country.	Socioeconomics	Tourism	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #76, and #593.
	157	Lawrence Dingman	Citizen	N/A	I am a retired earth sciences professor and am well aware of the destructive impacts, not only environmentally but socially, of devoting almost 5400 acres of this unique peninsula, including the clearing of more than 170 acres of forest, to a function that is totally out of character with the Cape.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #187, #35, and #566.
	158	Lawrence Dingman	Citizen	N/A	Such a facility could be established virtually anywhere – including on reclaimed dump or industrial sites, perhaps even generating a positive overall benefit. Please reconsider your plans for siting this environmentally and socially destructive facility on this unique and invaluable peninsula!	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #4.



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63	159	Meg Massaro	Citizen	N/A	A Cape Cod resident and property owner for over half a century, I am writing to express my consternation and vehement opposition to establishing a multipurposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards. Common sense would dictate that Cape Cod's already overworked infrastructure, fragile ecosystem, and rising population do not need such facilities further endangering our way of life and livelihood. Please do not approve the construction of this gun range.	Infrastructure	General	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #7, and #60.
	160	Meg Massaro	Citizen	N/A	Common sense would dictate that Cape Cod's already overworked infrastructure, fragile ecosystem, and rising population do not need such facilities further endangering our way of life and livelihood. Please do not approve the construction of this gun range.	Biological Resources	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #566, #28, #35, and #44.
	161	Meg Massaro	Citizen	N/A	Common sense would dictate that Cape Cod's already overworked infrastructure, fragile ecosystem, and rising population do not need such facilities further endangering our way of life and livelihood. Please do not approve the construction of this gun range.	Socioeconomics	Socioeconomic Conditions	Comment noted. The Proposed Action would have no effect on socioeconomic conditions at the local or regional level. Overall usage at Camp Edwards could increase up to 18.6 percent; however, Soldiers would not remain at or in the vicinity of Camp Edwards for extended periods. While the region will likely continue to experience increased growth and development in the future, the Proposed Action would not be considered a significant contributor. Coordination between the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) and regional planning and community representatives would serve to minimize any potential conflicts in the future and ensure that future socioeconomic conditions maintain a good quality of life for residents in the area. While construction of the Preferred Alternative would generate temporary jobs and benefit the local economy by generating income, taxes, and revenue, these would have minimal effect in the context of the regional economy. Socioeconomic conditions would not change in the long-term with implementation of the Proposed Action. Please also see the response to Comment #1.
64	162	Betsy Fitzmaurice	Citizen	N/A	Great, that's exactly what the Cape needs. Perfect timing too. Forget the pandemic and all the mental cases. What we need is more people shooting bigger guns.	Public Health and Safety	Munitions	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #84.
	163	Betsy Fitzmaurice	Citizen	N/A	In close proximity to neighborhoods and Elementary Schools as a bonus.	Socioeconomics	Surrounding Communities/Businesses	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #19.
	164	Betsy Fitzmaurice	Citizen	N/A	What a waste of space	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #14.

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65	165	Barbara Stephens	Citizen	N/A	Please record my opposition to the construction and operation of a machine gun practice range at Camp Edwards. Camp Edwards and Joint Base Cape Cod sit atop the region's primary aquifer; it provides 100% of the Cape's drinking water, and has been designated a Sole Source Aquifer under the Safe Drinking Water Act by the Environmental Protection Agency. The military operating within what is now Joint Base Cape Cod have spent decades remediating the pollution of past military activities, which has caused significant degradation of the Cape's water supply. The prospect of new military activities--a machine gun practice range--is another burden our aquifer and our citizens should not have to bear.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #37, and #153.
	166	Barbara Stephens	Citizen	N/A	Cape Cod already faces a host of other environmental challenges, from warming coastal waters and erosion to loss of forest from development and disease. A machine gun practice range will represent one more negative impact on our fragile environment.	Cumulative Effects	General	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #64.
66	167	Debra and Paul Hennessey	Citizen	N/A	We would like to register our opposition to a machine gun range on Cape Cod. We are close to the Joint Base Cape Cod and have been observers as well as recipients of its impact for decades. We live on a pond that required superfund cleanup because of base groundwater pollution. (Our house lot now has 3 abandoned test wells on it.) We have no use of our well water as a result of groundwater pollution caused by our next door neighbor...the base.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.
	168	Debra and Paul Hennessey	Citizen	N/A	We see waterfowl and wildlife disturbed by the noise pollution of planes landing, returning and on Thursdays...just flying in circles over Ashumet Pond and surrounding area. The newspaper article in the Cape Cod Times today sites a report stating noise will be "varied." 130 decibels at peak...I can often hear the train whistle and train whistles are 110 decibels. We have seen ground pollution from gun ranges on the Cape before. Chemicals and waste are a primary concern. These are the days and the times of our lives that we need to move forward in a positive way to protect all of Cape Cod from negative human impact.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Noise)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #44.

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	169	Debra and Paul Hennessey	Citizen	N/A	We first read about this project in the Cape Cod Times this morning. Our understanding is that people only have a month to comment. Where is the transparency? When are the public meetings? We used to receive periodic letters in the mail regarding pollution mitigation at the base as well as notice of public hearings. All residents within the impacted towns should have received notice and been offered ample time to respond thoughtfully. In fact, Cape Codders deserve an opportunity to preserve this fragile peninsula. We are in perilous times. A firing range that wipes out acres and acres of natural habitat and greenspace is unacceptable. We need to scrap this plan. Thank you for listening to our important concerns.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #78, #35, and #566.
67	170	Anne Adams	Citizen	N/A	We are absolutely opposed to the installation of a military gun range at the Otis Air Force Base. Our fragile land and Bridges on Cape Cod would be affected tremendously.. Please do not support this endeavor!!	Infrastructure	Bridge Structure	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #7.
68	171	Susan Anker	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to register my strong opposition to the proposed gun range at Camp Edwards. Cape Cod is no place for such a facility, with our increasingly fragile ecosystem. It requires too much land, too much clearing of forest, too much dangerous invasion. Please explain how this facility represents no significant impact. Thank you for your attention.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35, and #566.
69	172	Dianne Ashley	Citizen	N/A	I am opposed to the machine gun range for the Camp Edwards site. We do not need a machine gun range in Massachusetts. It would be a gross infringement on our environment to destroy 170 acres of forrest and 190 acres of land. Forrests should be saved in our fragile Cape Cod land.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35, and #566.
	173	Dianne Ashley	Citizen	N/A	The loss of natural habitat, anywhere, but especially on Cape Cod is threat to a healthy planet.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, and #566.
	174	Dianne Ashley	Citizen	N/A	The bullets from the the weapons will also destroy wildlife and pollute the soil.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28 and #44.
	175	Dianne Ashley	Citizen	N/A	The bullets from the the weapons will also destroy wildlife and pollute the soil.	HTMW	Contamination, Munitions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #37 and #49.
	176	Dianne Ashley	Citizen	N/A	The noise from the guns is terrible air pollution. World Wildlife has a fall magazine out on the value of Forrests. Trees keep our air clean, provide chlorophyl and homes for birds, squirrels, and insects. The army should make a state forrest in this area with research on climate change which is a great threat to our country. DON'T BUILD A MACHINE GUN WEAPON RANGE. Thank you for asking for opinions.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #35, #44, #566, and #593.

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70	177	Francine Buck	Citizen	N/A	To put it simply, the base has harmed, killed, sickened and saddened the residents of Cape Cod enough from the residual affects of your dumping of contaminated waste into our watershed.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #61.
	178	Francine Buck	Citizen	N/A	It doesn't bother me that our military trainees have to travel over 250 miles to Vermont for training. I drove 65 miles, 5-days a week to go to my job for over 20 years. I'm opposed to this proposal.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #23.
71	179	Richard Carey	Citizen	N/A	I served on Congressman Bill Keating's veterans advisory board and have served on his military academies selection board. There are other military bases in Massachusetts that are more suitable for live fire exercises other than Cape Cod.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #23.
	180	Richard Carey	Citizen	N/A	As densely populated as this area is on Cape Cod I find this to be unwise and unnecessary. As a Marine Corps Vietnam combat veteran I strongly oppose the machine gun range.	Socioeconomics	Socioeconomic Conditions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #84 and #161.
72	181	Richard Conron	Citizen	N/A	Good morning, When can I expect answers to the questions I submitted in my Comments Email to you? Will there be a public hearing on this project?	Information Request	Public Review	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #473.
73	182	Richard and Elaine Crooks	Citizen	N/A	We were horrified to read in CC Times of the proposed machine gun range. Please Do Not create a machine gun range at Camp Edwards Joint Base. There Will be Significant impact to the Upper Cape area. Many acres cleared, wildlife impacted and local residences for MILES AND MILES around the Joint Base airspace will be impacted without regard.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	183	Richard and Elaine Crooks	Citizen	N/A	Many acres cleared, wildlife impacted and local residences for MILES AND MILES around the Joint Base airspace will be impacted without regard.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #28.
	184	Richard and Elaine Crooks	Citizen	N/A	Many acres cleared, wildlife impacted and local residences for MILES AND MILES around the Joint Base airspace will be impacted without regard.	Socioeconomics	Surrounding Communities/Businesses	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #19.
	185	Richard and Elaine Crooks	Citizen	N/A	Haven't we already been impacted enough by the plumes created by the Base??	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #61.
	186	Richard and Elaine Crooks	Citizen	N/A	Our home valuation has plummeted. Please do not create a machine gun range at Joint base.	Socioeconomics	Socioeconomic Conditions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #161, and #368.

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74	187	Kay Delehaunty	Citizen	N/A	I ask that you reconsider the development of a machine gun range at Camp Edwards as was described in the Aug 8 CCTimes and again this morning. It is not an appropriate use of 5000+ acres of finite fragile Cape Cod land, 170 acres of which will have to be cleared - forest and habitat- never to be restored. To devote that much land -2% of the Cape's total land mass- to such a specialized activity seems an extremely disproportionate use.	Land Use and Cover	Compatibility	Comment noted. Camp Edwards has been used for military training since 1911 and the Proposed Action would take place on Camp Edwards within the base. As discussed in <b>Section 4.2.1</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), implementation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term benefits from improving the training use, capability, and value of the training land. As the Proposed Action area overlaps an existing cleared range previously used for live-fire activities, land use would be similar in nature to existing conditions. Coordination between the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) and regional planning and community representatives would serve to minimize any potential land use conflicts in the future. Implementation of land use and resource management plans would continue to serve to control the extent of environmental impacts, and proper planning would ensure that future conditions maintain a good quality of life for residents in the area. The 5,197 acre surface danger zone (SDZ) is a safety management area and parts of the SDZ are currently used for habitat improvement areas. The SDZ would not be directly or negatively impacted by the Proposed Action, and no change in actual land use of the SDZ would occur (see <b>Section 2.2.2.3</b> of the EA). The area of direct impact and clearing is limited to the 170 acres.
	188	Kay Delehaunty	Citizen	N/A	And as the only such range In Massachusetts, it will attract even more traffic to the Cape, which is straining to handle what we already have. Surely there is a more appropriate location elsewhere in the state, a less populated, less congested area where infrastructure could be built without affecting existing neighborhoods, schools and related development.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #60.
	189	Kay Delehaunty	Citizen	N/A	My husband is a (disabled) veteran as were both our fathers; I understand the need for training. But Sir, if you have any influence on this project, please do not build it at Camp Edwards. The planning already completed can be used as a template for a more appropriate, alternate location.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #4.
75	190	Kelly Ferguson	Citizen	N/A	This proposed machine gun range you are proposing to be constructed does not fit in any fashion on Cape Cod. The money to be used for this venture would be better spent on environmental, cultural and socioeconomic survival, especially at this particular point in time. We do not need a machine gun range on Cape Cod now or in the future!	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. See response to Comment #1.
76	191	Mary Grauerholz-Zuck	Citizen	N/A	I am one of the many residents who have taken refuge at the open space in our military base in Bourne, especially during the pandemic. It is a beautiful spacious piece of land, with meandering trails and flora and fauna that I don't get to see in other locations. I have many reasons to object to the plan to turn almost 200 acres into a range for machine gun practice. If you proceed, it will be another blow to our hard-hit communities. Please reconsider and allow the acreage to be at peace. If not, I will seek out ways to fight it. Thank you for listening.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35, and #566.



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77	192	Chesley Haden	Citizen	N/A	Hello, First, thank you for your service to our country. I am writing after seeing an article in the Cape Cod Times about a potential machine gun range to be added at Camp Edwards. I moved to the Cape 4 years ago and live in Sandwich MA. I had no idea when I moved here that I would be hearing any gun firing sounds. According to Google maps, I live 12 driving miles from the base. From the gun sounds I hear, you would think I was 2-3 miles away. It amazes me how loud it sounds. It's an unsettling sound and I definitely don't want to hear machine gums going off too. For the record, I am opposed to adding a machine gun range on the upper Cape.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
78	193	Richard Hugus	Citizen	N/A	The Massachusetts Army National Guard recently filed an environmental assessment for a proposed machine gun firing range at Camp Edwards, a 15,000 acre military base occupying large parts of Sandwich and Bourne on Cape Cod. Not surprisingly, the Army found itself innocent of any possible harm this range might pose to the people and environment around the base -- it came to a "finding of no significant impact." According to the Army, the range would require 170 acres to be clear cut, plus 29 more acres disturbed. In addition, a "surface danger zone" of 5,197 acres would be established roughly north of the range, presumably for stray bullets. The machine gun firing point is about a half mile west of Snake Pond, and 2/10th of a mile from a residential area around Snake Pond. According to the Army document, "peak usage would occur from May through June", including night firing from sundown to 2:00 AM, for up to 74 days per year. Forestdale residents and quite a few people in the southern part of Sandwich and the northern part of Mashpee will be familiar with the sound of 50 caliber machine gun fire from the old days, when it was also considered okay to fire 155 mm Howitzer artillery shells which rattled windows everywhere on the Upper Cape, until the EPA called a halt to that practice in 1997. Apparently it's time to get ready for more sounds of warfare in our quiet residential area.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, #187, and #593.
	194	Richard Hugus	Citizen	N/A	The Army environmental assessment is notable for the attention it pays to the needs of the Massachusetts National Guard and its indifference to the interests of people living around the base. Large sections of the assessment are devoted to arguing that the range is needed (their word in bold) for troop training, the importance of this training, and the idea that it can't reasonably be done elsewhere.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #14.

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	195	Richard Hugus	Citizen	N/A	The document couldn't avoid at least some mention of the immense damage this base caused historically in terms of pollution of the Sagamore lens of the aquifer which provides water for Falmouth, Mashpee, Sandwich, and Bourne. But it finds that the same activities which caused this damage before will not do so today -- it claims groundwater won't be affected and people won't be bothered by the noise. It's as if the change of the name of the base from "Massachusetts Military Reservation" to zero-connotation "Joint Base Cape Cod" was done in order to erase the base's entire history.	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #27, #37, #153, and #593.
	196	Richard Hugus	Citizen	N/A	The military is not only blind to the fact that a large population has grown up around the base since it was founded. They actually consider this to be "incompatible development" and an "encroachment" on their freedom to operate. These words are in the document. While many people are lucky to have a rental or a small fraction of an acre to live on, the local military has full use of 20,000 acres of unzoned land (Otis + Camp Edwards), armed checkpoints, and is now announcing that they "have taken measures to restrict encroachment in lands adjacent to the installation." The attitude here is that the public are intruding in their space. This is why in the '90s the Pentagon treated complaints about environmental pollution as first and foremost a public relations problem, an annoyance, and not a threat to the health and safety of the people they claimed to be protecting.	Socioeconomics	Socioeconomic Conditions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #161.
	197	Richard Hugus	Citizen	N/A	There is no mention in this 111 page document of why it is permissible to pump millions of rounds of lead bullets into the trees, vegetation, and ground. Lead is a heavy metal; not good for groundwater. Indeed, lead is already present in and has not been removed from the former firing range this project is to be sited on. At one time the military said they would prevent lead contamination by using "green munitions." Now they don't even bother with that pretense.	HTMW	Munitions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #37, and #49.



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	198	Richard Hugus	Citizen	N/A	Should Cape residents be asked to sacrifice once again for the Army National Guard's training needs? There is no war abroad that provides a convincing argument for national security -- for quite some time the US has only been involved in wars of aggression. Nor would most like the idea of Guardsmen firing machine guns in the streets of American cities. It has been twenty years since the height of protest against the harm caused by this military base when, because of its position at the top of the region's aquifer, groundwater plumes caused by dumped aviation fuel, cleaning solvents, and explosives were found to be contaminating one water supply well after another. It seems the Army is banking on local residents forgetting or not knowing about this history. Like before, it also hopes to sneak by without the public noticing. Unless you like to read legal notices in small print in the Cape Cod Times, you might never have heard about this shameful proposal. In a just world, this base would have been closed a long time ago.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #14, #17, #27, and #37.
79	199	Sheila Hurteau	Citizen	N/A	I would like to state my objection to the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards. A project of this size is not compatible with Cape Cod. The loss of land and forests already is a major problem.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35 and #566.
	200	Sheila Hurteau	Citizen	N/A	This should be downsized or abandoned completely. Driving 270 miles to VT is not exactly a hardship - it's 270 miles, not 27,000 miles. I hope this does not come to pass.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #14, and #23.
80	201	Judith Johnson	Citizen	N/A	I am writing in response to the August 8th Cape Cod Times article about the Massachusetts Army National Guard proposal to establish a Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod. Please note that I am vehemently opposed to this proposal for many reasons, but most specifically for the environmental damage it will create. As a long-time resident of the Cape, I am well aware of the issues we have been faced with concerning the use of land for anything detrimental to the groundwater table. On the base there still exists remediation efforts to clean groundwater and soil contamination from military operations, heavy equipment maintenance, airplane operations, and firing range training. Bordering towns were affected by all of this contamination to the point that many housing developments private wells were closed and testing wells drilled in their place. Many businesses and residences were provided bottled water or water filtration systems to protect against the dangerous contaminants in the water used for drinking, cooking, gardening, and bathing. All this has been done at great expense.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #27, #37, and #61.

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	202	Judith Johnson	Citizen	N/A	The damage to this environmentally sensitive area will take many more years to rectify. Impact to the loss of forestry and wild life from a new military development of this scale will be felt for generations to come. It is my hope that a better use is found for training military forces which will better serve our communities, both environmentally and economically.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing, Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #566, #28, #161, #35 and #44.
81	203	Priscilla A. Jones	Citizen	N/A	The proposal by the Mass. Army National Guard to place on Joint Base Cape Cod a 199-acre machine gun range, plus 5,197 acres required to provide a Surface Danger Zone, is a terrible idea, a reaction which I presume you might anticipate from people living on Cape Cod. The Cape is a peninsula, known throughout the nation, for its beauty and special place in American history, and should be preserved for future generations. Scarring the Cape by removing 200 or more acres of trees for machine gun practice is a travesty, especially when technology is used more and more in warfare.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #187, #35 and #566.
	204	Priscilla A. Jones	Citizen	N/A	Massachusetts has thousands of rural acres that could be used for such a range -- if the Army insists on one. Cape Cod is not the place to conduct war simulations.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #4.
	205	Priscilla A. Jones	Citizen	N/A	Inviting hundreds of National Guardsmen to travel from all over Massachusetts to Cape Cod where entry relies on two bridges (even when new ones replace them) would be a traffic nightmare and greatly increase carbon monoxide emissions from the trucks used to get to the Cape. Pollution on Rt. 28 and Rt 6 is already bad during heat waves and would increase to a dangerous degree.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18 and #60.
	206	Priscilla A. Jones	Citizen	N/A	The army spent 6 or more years trying to clean up ammunition, etc.on Otis Air Force Base that was polluting water draining into plumes of the Cape's sole source aquifer, and now the plan is to continuously fire thousands of machine guns, with I am sure no way to guarantee that the aquifer will not be polluted again.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #27, #37, and #153.
	207	Priscilla A. Jones	Citizen	N/A	The noise will affect surrounding neighborhoods, and a machine gun range will surely not be a way to advertise Cape Cod as a wonderful tourist destination. Please withdraw this insane plan. The Cape played an important military and air force role in the past but it's time to change the base to better purposes. A decision to pursue this plan will lead to protests across the Cape and the Boston area and certainly lead to a withdrawal of support for any political leaders who support it, including Senator Markey, Joe Kennedy, and Gov. Baker. Thank you for inviting reaction to the plan for the machine gun range.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #76, and #593.

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82	208	Peter Macara and Barbara Rushmore	Citizen	N/A	We strongly oppose the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod. Besides taking land which could be used for better purpose, it is a wasteful, anti-human thing to train people to kill others.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #14.
83	209	Pamela Mulveyhill	Citizen	N/A	I am 100% IN FAVOUR OF the proposed range project. I am a Disabled Vet, former member of the 102d, and live 1/2 mile from the Sandwich Gate entry & less than 10 houselots from the old road to the ranges. I love to hear troops training as I know that the more training troops have the safer they will be in real life situations. Keep training!!	General Support	N/A	Comment noted.
84	210	Pat Obrien	Citizen	N/A	Could you please outline the process of how this decision gets made? Thank you	Information Request	Decision Making Process	Comment noted. The Environmental Assessment (EA) provides the decision-maker with information regarding the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. The decision-maker then considers these potential impacts among various other factors, such as necessary training requirements and available funding, among others, when determining which Alternative, if any, to implement to address the purpose and need of the Proposed Action. As discussed in <b>Section 1.4</b> of the EA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is intended to provide the Army's and National Guard's planners and decision-makers with a meaningful review of environmental considerations associated with a given action. The analysis set forth in this EA allows the decision-makers to carefully balance the protection of these environmental resources while fulfilling the National Guard's essential roles.
85	211	Dr. O'Neill	Citizen	N/A	With all due respect to national guardsmen, whom I hold in very high regard & have the utmost respect & gratitude for, a machine gun range at Otis seems like a terrible idea, given the proximity to campgrounds, an elementary school and bordering neighborhoods.	Socioeconomics	Surrounding Communities/Busin esses	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #19.

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86	212	Fran Pennell	Citizen	N/A	<p>I am alarmed about the recently proposed creation of a Surface Danger Zone which will destroy even more land on our pristine Cape Cod. As a resident of Mashpee, we have already suffered from the existence of this base in the past – with polluted water, excessive noise and air pollution. Do you not remember the goals set forth in the Camp Edwards web site introduction! We are going backwards, not forward. PLEASE fight this proposal. NONE of this is good for the Cape and local residents living near this site. We deserve better as we have already suffered living with this base in our back yard. The Cape is NO PLACE for expansion and further destruction of our environment.As the website says – Camp Edwards will: Demonstrate leadership in environmental protection and improvement, Minimize adverse natural environment; Support a pollution prevention program by reusing and recycling materials, and reducing hazardous waste generation; Manage all Camp Edwards lands and natural and cultural resources, and restore areas contaminated by past activities. You need to stand firm in stopping this project. This project is regressive and unwarranted. We cannot be the military's guinea pigs any longer!! "The Massachusetts National Guard and Camp Edwards are committed to environmental stewardship" COPY -WEB SITE of Camp Edwards (<i>comment continued below</i>)</p>	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #78.

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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> Camp Edwards is located on the 22,000-acre Joint Base Cape Cod on Upper Cape Cod. JBCC is an expansive, secure campus easily accessible from major centers in the Northeast, including Boston, Providence, Portland, Manchester, Albany, Hartford, and New York City. Camp Edwards is the largest training area in the Northeast. Its 15,000-acre training area hosts units from Massachusetts and throughout the region. In addition to Camp Edwards, JBCC is also home to Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod, Otis Air National Guard Base, and other federal and state agencies. These organizations comprise individual capabilities that accomplish Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) objectives.</p> <p>Environmental Info/Policies                      Environmental protection is no longer the province of a few technical experts. It requires Soldiers to prevent environmental problems by caring for those resources entrusted to them by the American people. This responsibility includes financial, material, and environmental stewardship. UH-1 Helicopters flying over Camp Edwards                      Environmental stewardship is the wise use and responsible management of environmental resources, and is a natural outgrowth of the military's mission as a protector of U.S. national security. <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>			

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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> The Massachusetts National Guard has the following goals for environmental stewardship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrate leadership in environmental protection and improvement.</li> <li>- Assure that consideration of the natural and cultural environment is an integral part of decisionmaking.</li> <li>- Minimize adverse natural environment and human health impacts while maximizing readiness and strategic preparedness.</li> <li>- Initiate aggressive awareness actions to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local environmental laws.</li> <li>- Support a pollution prevention program by reusing and recycling materials, and reducing hazardous waste generation.</li> <li>- Manage all Camp Edwards lands and natural and cultural resources, and restore areas contaminated by past activities.</li> </ul> <p>The Massachusetts National Guard and Camp Edwards are committed to environmental stewardship. Everyone, from the Adjutant General to the newest recruit, every civilian employee, as well as every nonmilitary organization that uses Camp Edwards' lands, must apply sound environmental stewardship to their area of responsibility. Why? Because we all want to have a safe environment to train in, but more importantly, we want to pass along a safe and protected environment for future generations.</p>			
87	213	Ken Russell	Citizen	N/A	I wish to register my strong opposition to the proposed machine gun range. The Army National Guard placing a machine gun range atop Cape Cod's only aquifer would endanger Cape Cod's many residents, tourists, and significantly impact our sensitive wildlife habitat. This would be a serious mistake on many levels, and would harm the people and environment of Cape Cod.	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27 and #153.
	214	Ken Russell	Citizen	N/A	I wish to register my strong opposition to the proposed machine gun range. The Army National Guard placing a machine gun range atop Cape Cod's only aquifer would endanger Cape Cod's many residents, tourists, and significantly impact our sensitive wildlife habitat. This would be a serious mistake on many levels, and would harm the people and environment of Cape Cod.	Socioeconomics	Tourism	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #76.



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	215	Ken Russell	Citizen	N/A	I wish to register my strong opposition to the proposed machine gun range. The Army National Guard placing a machine gun range atop Cape Cod's only aquifer would endanger Cape Cod's many residents, tourists, and significantly impact our sensitive wildlife habitat. This would be a serious mistake on many levels, and would harm the people and environment of Cape Cod.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #28.
88	216	Peter and Brenda Sansone	Citizen	N/A	The Cape is an inappropriate place for this planned range for many reasons. We are no longer an isolated community as we were when Camp Edwards was active. Over 200,000 people live here year round.	Socioeconomics	Socioeconomic Conditions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #14, and #161.
	217	Peter and Brenda Sansone	Citizen	N/A	Destroying our limited remaining forest for a passe use of land is ridiculous.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #14, #35 and #566.
	218	Peter and Brenda Sansone	Citizen	N/A	Why is this facility not being placed in mid or western Mass where there would be less disruption to fewer people. The cleanup of Otis took many years and now you want to start polluting and raping the land again. TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!!!	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #14.
89	219	Mariann Scannell	Citizen	N/A	Are you for real? There is absolutely no credible reason for this. This move only encourages men to go out and purchase the guns. Just what we need in society today. OY!!!! Pathetic!	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #14.
90	220	Carol and Kevin Schopfer	Citizen	N/A	As a Mashpee resident I am totally opposed to Army National Guard's proposal for the "Construction and Operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base, Cape Cod." The proposed range would comprise 199 acres plus the 5,197 acres required to accommodate the Surface Danger Zone, covering close to 5,400 acres in total. Will a multi-purpose machine gun range at Camp Edwards fit with your image of Cape Cod's future? We cannot let you do this to Cape Cod!	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see responses to Comments #1, #14, and #187.
91	221	Kathleen and Michael Shaffer	Citizen	N/A	We are stunned to learn of the plans to locate a machine gun range at the Cape Cod base. I have two primary reasons to oppose it: 1. At a time when climate change is roiling our planet -- witness Hurricane Laura in the Gulf and the out-of-control wildfires in the Western states -- your plans include clearing 170 acres of forest and and disrupting nearly 200 acres of land. The proposal calls for 5,000 acres. Our planet is crying out for more trees, more green space to help purify the air, not fewer!	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #64, #187, #35 and #566.

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	222	Kathleen and Michael Shaffer	Citizen	N/A	2. The United States needs more funding for domestic, social problems, not more military facilities and weapons. Our schools need proper ventilation systems to protect students, our citizens need access to health care when they need it, our cities require more funding to manage drug addiction, domestic abuse, affordable housing and more. We do NOT need more military facilities! I sincerely hope the people behind this plan have the moral conscience to reconsider this proposal. If you would like further comment, please reply to this email. Thank you.	Purpose and Need	Financial Need	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #6 and #14.
92	223	Kathleen Shuman	Citizen	N/A	Please don't put a Military machine gun range on Otis. There are too many surrounding homes, schools, businesses that would be adversely affected by this.	Socioeconomics	Surrounding Communities/Businesses	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #19.
	224	Kathleen Shuman	Citizen	N/A	There are so many concerns about our safety and environment please don't add to the problem. When I first moved to Marstons Mills in the late 1970s you would think bombs were being dropped in our attic from the shooting practice at Otis. after so many complaints AND found pollution they practiced with rubber bullets. If the military needs a place to practice please please find a secluded place where humans won't be adversely affected!	Public Health and Safety	Munitions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #84.
93	225	Andrew Simon	Citizen	N/A	I have lived on Cape Cod for 30 yrs now...I moved here for the peaceful nature, big skies, National Seashore and to live a quiet life.. That said, I am absolutely opposed to a "Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range" at Camp Edwards, or anywhere else on Cape Cod. I realize that during WWII and the Cold War there was reason to have a military presence here. Times have changed and Cape Cod is one of the few places remaining as an escape from the everyday world.. We need to respect and preserve the unique character of this place called Cape Cod. There are many other locations on the "Mainland" for a Range. Please consider both the Yearrounders and the multitudes of folks who vacation on Cape Cod before any final decisions are made. This is a very special place. Please help keep it that way.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #4.
94	226	Barbara and Noel Spillane	Citizen	N/A	We are strongly opposed to the accommodation of a Machine gun range on Camp Edwards. This project is totally incompatible with the serene environment which we enjoy as residents on the Cape.	Land Use and Cover	Compatibility	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #14, and #187.
	227	Barbara and Noel Spillane	Citizen	N/A	The noise, traffic and loss of the natural environment is burdensome to all in the surrounding area. A project of this nature is unacceptable.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.
	228	Barbara and Noel Spillane	Citizen	N/A	The noise, traffic and loss of the natural environment is burdensome to all in the surrounding area. A project of this nature is unacceptable.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #60.

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95	229	Susan Starkey	Public/Private Entity	Faith Communities Environmental Network	I was quite surprised to learn of this proposed \$11 Million plan for the construction and operation of a multi-purpose machine gun range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod. We do not have a current military operation on Cape Cod and so I cannot fathom the reason for opening a machine gun range here. As I understand it, this range is SOLELY for training the MASS Army National Guardsmen/women so they don't need to drive a few hours to an existing range in Vermont.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #14.
	230	Susan Starkey	Public/Private Entity	Faith Communities Environmental Network	Actually, I am stunned that the initial environmental impact statement shows "No Significant Impact." This finding for the Environmental, Cultural, and Socioeconomic Assessment comes in spite of the fact that the construction will require up to 171 acres of forested land to be cleared and replaced with grassland for the approximate 199 acres used for the range. The negative impacts that I, as a layperson and resident within Barnstable County can immediately see are: a. Destruction of 171 acres of forested land reduces our Cape's land from sequestering carbon and therefore further add to the CO2 emissions that are causing rises in temperature and extreme weather.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #130, and #566.
	231	Susan Starkey	Public/Private Entity	Faith Communities Environmental Network	b. A more detailed assessment would be needed to ensure that spent bullets and use of the land will not further pollute our groundwater (like the fire retardant used by the Fire Training site in Barnstable).	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #37.
	232	Susan Starkey	Public/Private Entity	Faith Communities Environmental Network	The Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative has studied a somewhat related issue: assessing whether it's worth it to destroy forested lands in order to build solar arrays- and found that it is far more important to our environment and the health of our economy to retain all the woodlands we still have available. Surely if even the grave need to build solar is not a reason to cut down trees we have no reason to build a machine gun range. Let us save the \$11 million and save our precious renewable resources.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #14.

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96	233	Cyle Cabral Thomas	Citizen	N/A	I recently read an article in the Cape Cod times regarding the Army National Guard's proposal for the "Construction and Operation of a Multi - Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base, Cape Cod.", as it was quoted. I am conflicted on the need for such a gun range, and wonder if it can be constructed somewhere else in Massachusetts where it would receive more support. I wish I understood more about what measures are needed to protect our safety. I fear that I don't have enough information to make a strong informed decision on these matters, but I would like to support the members and voices of my community at this time.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #14.
97	234	Steve Waller	Citizen	N/A	My wife and I are retired Air Force officers, with 56 years of service between us. We recently heard that the Mass Army National Guard wants to clear-cut nearly 200 acres at Camp Edwards for another shooting range, and that alternative ranges are on Ft Drum or near Burlington, Vermont. We believe that such redundancy is senseless, and a waste of taxpayer dollars.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #23.
	235	Steve Waller	Citizen	N/A	The plan is flawed and should be abandoned, in the interests of stewardship of our rare wooded environment on Cape Cod and to reduce wasted expense to the taxpayers. We have shared our thoughts with Senators Markey and Warren, Congressman Keating, state senator Cyr, and state rep Crocker.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see responses to Comments #14, #35, and #566.
98	236	Nancy Wigley	Citizen	N/A	In response to the Cape Cod Times article entitled: "Machine gun range proposed for Camp Edwards" this is to ask that you please count me as being very much against destroying forest where indicated for any reason. I have been teaching Forest Ecology to students on the upper Cape for the past several years. There is a saying "we can't protect what we don't understand". The field lessons for these students give them a better understanding. They are the future stewards of the environment. I hope that adults at this time, can make good decisions to protect the forest that we are fortunate enough to have. Forests are necessary for human survival, they provide oxygen allowing all living animals to exist and they are places where people can connect with nature which is so thereapeutic at this difficult time and importantly a place for wildlife to exist. Do the right thing - - leave the land as it is. Please count me in with those who strongly oppose any destruction of forest land on Camp Edwards/Joint Base for any reason.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35, and #566.
99	237	Carol A. Wright	Citizen	N/A	Please register my vote in opposition of this proposal.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.

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100	238	Gordon L. Wright	Citizen	N/A	I am opposed to this project, please register my vote against it.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
101	239	Alan Young	Citizen	N/A	While I totally support our Guard, like everything in today's world given the Guard already has an option in VT it would seem this new machine gun range is a "nice to have" but not a "must have" option (more on this below). Additionally in the description provided today in the CC Times it was unclear whether this range will be ONLY for use by the Guard for their "weapons qualification" and would never permit any public use or for qualification of any type of assault weapons or ammunition by the public. In the interest of transparency, I am fine with hunters owning guns but I want tougher gun laws, a national data base, and a return to the ban on assault weapons and ammunition that is unneeded for hunting. It appears that many of the environmental issues have been considered but have not yet been specifically and transparently discussed. That needs to happen and the tradeoffs agreed to by all sides.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #14 and #49.
	240	Alan Young	Citizen	N/A	My biggest question is where does the funding for this range come from given the huge need for the current unanticipated money needed as a result of covid19 ie testing, protective gear, equipment to reopen schools safely, etc etc and thus shouldn't the Guard just continue to use VT for now? Of course, the cost to use VT also needs to be compared to the cost of this new range. If the cost of the new range is greater then why do it all but especially now? Also since all money comes from us the taxpayers the question should always be asked is this a nice to have or a must have? Since the CC Times noted a request for comments these are mine.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #14 and #23. Funding for the Proposed Action is Congressionally appropriated through the Department of Defense's Military Construction (MILCON) funding program. The Reduced-Scale Alternative is currently approved for MILCON funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. MILCON funding has not been appropriated for the Preferred Action Alternative. Please see <b>Section 2.3.2</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA). At the time of programming the MILCON funding request for the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG), the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) did not include a provision for the additional M2 lanes. As such, the additional features associated with this alternative (e.g., extension of the two middle lanes from 800 feet to 1,500 feet) are not currently funded. Please see the responses to Comments #14 and #23.
102	241	Kathleen M. Joffe	Citizen	N/A	I would like to express my disapproval of a machine gun range being built on JBCC. Cape Cod is a very fragile environment and more so during these times of climate change. This proposed range would require deforestation of 170.5 additional acres of forested land! Residents are further concerned about fired bullets contaminating our water sources.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #37, and #566.
	242	Kathleen M. Joffe	Citizen	N/A	Lead contamination of water up there has been an ongoing issue for years.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #37.
103	243	Dale Ann Cotter	Citizen	N/A	I am deeply concerned about the gun ranging plan at Camp Edwards. This base created a toxic plume effecting ground water in the cape. I am not sure that has been cleaned and now a new risk for the environment.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #37.



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	244	Dale Ann Cotter	Citizen	N/A	In addition cutting trees when we need them to protect the environment is outrageous.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	245	Dale Ann Cotter	Citizen	N/A	Being a resource for all of the people of this state to come to the cape for training brings more cars adding more pollution. This is a scary proposition.	Air Quality	Emissions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #101, #130, and #593.
104	246	Will Crocker	State/Local Representative	State Representative	I write today in regard to the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards at Joint Base Cape Cod. Within hours of this announcement being made public, my office received a number of phone calls and emails from concerned constituents. Several constituents cited issue with the location of the range and its proximity to the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne, specifically the noise that this caliber of training exercise would bring to an area where people go to be with lost loved ones.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors (National Cemetery)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	247	Will Crocker	State/Local Representative	State Representative	Other constituents have expressed serious concern with the environmental impact of clearcutting 170 acres of forest.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35 and #566.
	248	Will Crocker	State/Local Representative	State Representative	It would be in the best interest of all involved for a public hearing take place on Cape Cod, so those who will be directly impacted have the opportunity to make their voices heard. I respectfully ask the Massachusetts Army National Guard to schedule a public hearing as soon as possible on this matter.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #78.
105	249	Alycia Davis	Citizen	N/A	I am very concerned about the expansion for machine gun use for a number of reasons: Due to Cape Cod traffic and already over-whelmed bridge use, especially on weekends. I've been in long lines of previous National Guard trucks, equipment heading to weekend trainings. More congestion is not needed and especially with pending construction of new bridges that will be disrupting traffic greatly.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #7 and #60.
	250	Alycia Davis	Citizen	N/A	We've already seen great environmental hazards through previous training situations that have affected many: people, wildlife, and water supply that still hold unknowns. I moved to Cape and drank tap water often on daily basis. Had been in great health, very active, had walked across the country, good diet, non-smoker, still was walking 5-10 miles, 3x week after move to Cape, and then kidney cancer was found, both kidneys. I had parts of both kidneys removed, then lung cancer and liver cancer found. I am now off-Cape, living near family for help, on hospice, facing death at 71. Do I owe this to the years of Otis Air Force Base/National Guard polluting the water?	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27 and #37.



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	251	Alycia Davis	Citizen	N/A	Weather is increasingly getting warmer annually. This year, 2020, we are in drought condition, far below water average received and needed. The range will increase risk of having wildfires, to an area that is dry and susceptible to wildfire. This is disaster waiting to happen.	Wildfire	N/A	Comment noted. Primary firebreaks have been incorporated into the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range design to reduce wildfire hazard from tracers and other ignition sources while additional firebreak improvements are being developed. <b>Section 6</b> of the supplement Application for Conservation and Management Permit (CMP) addresses fire management actions associated with the MPMG to reduce wildfire risk. The CMP was approved by the Massachusetts Natural Habitat and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) on 29 September 2020. Wildfire risk modeling is guiding planning efforts effectively for fuels management and fire breaks. Standard Operating Procedures for range usage will address wildfire hazard and will be incorporated into the Camp Edwards Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan along with extensive planning and preparedness with Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) Fire Department and Camp Edwards Range Control (see <b>Section 2.2.1.4</b> of the Environmental Assessment [EA]).
	252	Alycia Davis	Citizen	N/A	National Guard is used overseas, but there is no use, need of machine gun training for 'Homeland Stateside' need. Last thing needed in the homeland is military on streets with machine guns. This is death, tragedy waiting to happen, needlessly. This is not Russia or North Korea.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #14.
	253	Alycia Davis	Citizen	N/A	Cape Cod is a limited land area, actually an island without the two bridges, with finite environmental resources. Reutilizing 5000 acres on base to accomodate needs further depletes environment. Plans to set-aside other lands for conservation that are already in natural state does not offset anything. Cutting down more trees to clear 170 acres, adding more traffic, adding more use of resources by increased personnel coming, will only bring more harm to resources, when there is no great need for this training change.	Land Use and Cover	Compatibility	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #14, #35, #60, #187, and #566.
	254	Alycia Davis	Citizen	N/A	Report says this is the 'first' planned within State, indicating others to be used. Why start on the most fragile land area in the State? Start elsewhere if you must, where harm would be far less to people and environment.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) does not have plans to build another Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) in the State of Massachusetts. Please see the response to Comment #4.
106	255	Paula Eissmann	Citizen	N/A	I would like to express my displeasure with the idea of clear-cutting 170 acres of forest land for the machine gun range. In the article I read on WCAI, the only reason given for building the range on the Cape was because soldiers currently have to travel 270 miles to Vermont. This seems like a poor reason to me. With all the travel soldiers do all over the world, it seems that 270 miles is not far at all.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #14, #23, #35, and #566.

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	256	Paula Eissmann	Citizen	N/A	Mainly, though, we need to address deforestation. This is something people don't want done in the Amazon, so we need to address it in our own backyard. All kinds of habitat for all kinds of animals is disappearing quickly, and we should preserve what we have, especially here on the Cape where overdevelopment is a continual problem. Additionally, because of COVID people want to move out of urban areas to places like the Cape. This is already increasing the pressure on the natural environment here, as seen by the increase in real estate prices. Please don't clear cut the forest to build the machine gun range.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
107	257	Jan Hively, PhD	Public/Private Entity	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Cape Cod Branch	The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Cape Cod Branch, is contributing the following comments regarding the Environmental Assessment for the proposed Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards: 1. We urge you to schedule at least one public hearing on Cape Cod regarding the Environmental Assessment. The residents of Cape Cod are the ones who will be affected. At the very least, the group making the decisions about impact should decide to listen to the residents of Cape Cod in a public hearing. This should be an important part of the public review process.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
	258	Jan Hively, PhD	Public/Private Entity	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Cape Cod Branch	2. Military vehicles coming to and leaving from the Machine Gun Range will be adding to the traffic on the bridges during the years while new bridges are being constructed. Additional traffic related to use of the Machine Gun Range will be added to the additional traffic generated by bridge construction over bridges which are already over-congested.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #7 and #60.
	259	Jan Hively, PhD	Public/Private Entity	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Cape Cod Branch	3. In the Environmental Assessment, the justification for not going to the nearest similar range in Vermont is its "distance away of 270 miles." From what point are they making the measurement? Is the Vermont location really farther away from Springfield than Cape Cod is? If so, is the difference in mileage really worth all the taxpayers' dollars that would be spent for building the new range on Cape Cod?	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Camp Ethan Allen in Jericho, Vermont, is 270 miles from Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. All Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) unit locations that assemble to convoy to an out of state Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) training site are closer in miles to Camp Edwards than the closest out of state MPMG training site (Camp Ethan Allen). The shortest distance to Camp Ethan Allen from a unit assembly convoy site is the Springfield Armory (206 miles to Camp Ethan Allen versus 147 miles to Camp Edwards). All units that travel to out of state training sites in addition to the soldiers that require small arms training must incorporate additional support staff (food services, maintenance, command and control) to support the mission. Training at Camp Edwards improves efficiency because of existing support for these units including vehicle maintenance shops, existing food service contracts, and no additional cost for billeting. This would allow units more time on Camp Edwards to complete additional training requirements. Please see the responses to Comments #14, #23, and #825.

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	260	Jan Hively, PhD	Public/Private Entity	Women's Internationa l League for Peace and Freedom, Cape Cod Branch	WILPF agrees with the concerns made by others about the impact of removing 171 acres of trees on carbon sequestration.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #130, and #566.
	261	Jan Hively, PhD	Public/Private Entity	Women's Internationa l League for Peace and Freedom, Cape Cod Branch	And we hope that the Environmental Assessment (EA) took into account the impact of the full range of construction and use on the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #153.
	262	Jan Hively, PhD	Public/Private Entity	Women's Internationa l League for Peace and Freedom, Cape Cod Branch	And please don't discount the impacts on endangered species mentioned in the EA -- butterflies and turtles are significant! Let's face it. The whole idea of creating a giant machine gun (and rifle) range on Cape Cod is abhorrent for those of us who are working for peace and against violence. Please keep us informed about the proceedings of MAARNG on this proposed project.	Biological Resources	T&E	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17, #78, and #42.
108	263	Paul Houlihan	Citizen	N/A	As a resident of East Sandwich I strongly object to the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards. As you know, the Cape's environment is fragile to say the least. On the Cape the proposed removal of one or a few trees is always a major concern to local residents and local governments. The idea of destroying over 175 acres of trees is unconscionable, given the environmental impacts over many years.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	264	Paul Houlihan	Citizen	N/A	In addition, while the proposal indicates that noise levels should "not peak much above 130 decibels" (140 decibels will break eardrums, as you know), it must be noted that this is the equivalent of a military jet aircraft take-off from an aircraft carrier with afterburner at 50 ft (130 dB). Even if the majority of this sound "is contained within the base" it will definitely be heard in the surrounding neighborhoods, including mine. Please register my strong opposition to this proposed machine gun range. Thank you.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.
109	265	Peter W. Hutton	Citizen	N/A	As a lifelong resident of Cape Cod, I strongly oppose the creation of the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards. Firstly, it would seem to make no sense from a logistical viewpoint to located a facility of this kind to which hundreds of National Guard troops will be attending at the furthestmost eastern end of the state. If in fact it critical that the Massachusetts Army National Guard have its own machine gun range, then surely there must be some state or federally owned land where this proposed facility could be located that is more centrally located than Camp Edwards.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see responses to Comments #1 and #4.

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	266	Peter W. Hutton	Citizen	N/A	Furthermore and so critically, Cape Cod is an environmentally fragile island on an environmental fragile ocean coastline. The Cape environment has been under continuous assault from residential and commercial development my entire lifetime and the proposed firing range with its attendant loss of 170 acres of forest land is just totally unacceptable.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	267	Peter W. Hutton	Citizen	N/A	Compound this with the fact that the proposed facility will result in the driving of heavy military equipment over congested highways and bridges most particularly in the warm weather months of the year. This situation which will bad for the environment, residents and visitor will be exacerbated by the fact that the bridges are often partially closed for repair and are very likely going to be replaced in the next few years creating what will be years of traffic congestion and delays. If your proposed facility is truly needed, then you truly need to find a location other than Cape Cod.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #7 and #60.
110	268	Haley Goldman, Dennis	Citizen	N/A	I completely agree with the "your view" article in the cape cod times, from Roseanne Shapiro. This is an outrage.... having just read the article of the New Zealand mosque shooter and turning the page to see this. Yesterday's paper I read the proposal for this range and am so glad Rosanne spoke up. This is a clear No in my book.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
111	269	Michael Katz	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to register my opposition to the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards. As a Forestdale resident whose property borders Weeks Pond, we are already subject, year round, to noise pollution from planes, helicopters and the EXISTING firing range on the base, as well as traffic issues to and from the base. This noise and traffic increases during the summer with the National Guard doing their 2-week sessions. This added range, with larger caliber weapons, machine guns and grenade launchers, will only increase that noise pollution.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	270	Michael Katz	Citizen	N/A	And, the added traffic to and from the base on Snake Pond Rd. would also cause additional issues, especially during the summer season. This range would not only be used by Mass National Guard for their training, but also for law enforcement training and firearm certification by numerous departments around this state and, perhaps, other states as well.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #60.

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	271	Michael Katz	Citizen	N/A	Not to mention the environmental impact caused by deforestation of +/- 190 acres and committing up to 5,000 acres for buffer zones around the range. To quote Ms. Shapiro's opinion in today's Cape Cod Time, "... this proposed construction IS short-sighted and unconscionable". If a Ropes/Obstacle course IN THE WOODS at Heritage Gardens can be squashed because of traffic, noise and perceived resulting property value decreases, by the neighbors around Heritage Gardens, how on earth can a large caliber/machine gun range be acceptable?	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #35, #60, #368, #566, and #593.
112	272	Charles E. Annett	Citizen	N/A	I am a Vietnam Combat Veteran. I do believe the Massachusetts Army National Guard needs training facilities for those combatants to be deployed in times of U. S. National Military requirements overseas and not for domestic requirements which the National Guard also may be empowered to serve. 50 caliber machine guns, grenade launchers and tracer ammunition are serious weapons versus pistols and shotguns. The more serious weapons would be included in pre-deployment training as entry into combat need not be far removed from actual combat. This was the protocol sequence in which I was trained. Cape Cod has provided land and beach areas for military training both in peace time and wartime for all military services for several hundred years. Annually discarded munitions and aircraft have been found in the waters and on beaches. I believe there are current active and abandon military bases located off Cape that would have the land areas required to accommodate the specified training. In mid state and western portions of Massachusetts there are ample virgin land areas that would not impact local inhabitants where a facility as proposed on Cape Cod could be implemented. To my current knowledge there has been no indication of other potential sites investigated in the 100 page consultant study during the last 3 years. I oppose the "Construction and Operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base, Cape Cod."	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #23.
113	273	Kat Brennan	Citizen	N/A	Unless you plan to reenact WW11 I can not imagine why the National Guard Troops would train with a machine gun. Unless of course you plan to go to more U. S. Cities & shoot us. Please do not destroy 5,396 acres of this fragile island we live on. PS: I would rather have a bike path in my back yard instead of a trash & tank rail.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #14.
114	274	Andrea Dawes	Citizen	N/A	I would like to register my opposition to the machine gun range. It is impossible	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, and #23.



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115	275	sdgannon@comcast.net	Citizen	N/A	After reading the article in the Cape Cod Times about the machine gun range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod I am astounded that this has even been discussed in this area. There must be many other venues that are much better suited to this type of military training.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, and #23.
	276	sdgannon@comcast.net	Citizen	N/A	As a native and life long resident of Cape Cod, I have seen so much development and deforestation that it is amazing that all residents have drinking water, never mind the quality of the water in the past. To even consider the cutting of 170 acres of trees is beyond the pale. There must be many other environmental issues that have not even been considered. Why has it not been proposed that this be turned into a wildlife refuge so this land could never be used for such purposes? This issue should be put to some kind of referendum vote by all residents of the Cape. At the very least some kind of hearing should be initiated so that all voices could be heard.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17, #35, and #566.
116	277	Cilla Greenman	Citizen	N/A	Please save this forest and use the gun range in Vermont. It's selfish to take this away after so much of Cape Cod has been destroyed to accommodate people.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #23, #35, and #566.
117	278	Janet Husband	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to protest the creation of a Massachusetts National Guard machine gun firing range at Camp Edwards. There are many other places in Massachusetts where that facility would not be within earshot of residential neighborhoods.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #10, and #593.
	279	Janet Husband	Citizen	N/A	And proposing to cut down forest for such a purpose is sinful.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
118	280	Kathleen M. Joffe	Citizen	N/A	I would like to express my disapproval of a machine gun range being built on JBCC. Cape Cod is a very fragile environment and more so during these times of climate change. This proposed range would require deforestation of 170.5 additional acres of forested land!	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #64 and #566.
	281	Kathleen M. Joffe	Citizen	N/A	Residents are further concerned about fired bullets contaminating our water sources. Lead contamination of water up there has been an ongoing issue for years. Mr. Driscoll, please help preserve the environment of Cape Cod during these ecological tenuous times!	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #37 and #49.



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119	282	Kristen Lans	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to comment on and respectfully register my opposition to the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards on Joint Base Cape Cod. Specifically, I disagree with the finding of "no significant impact" as described in the environmental impact documents posted on the Mass National Guard's Environmental and Readiness Center. I do not feel confident in the study's findings that these impacts will not be a nuisance that would degrade our communities' quality of life and negatively impact our tourist economy. Considering that "Peak usage would occur from May through June, during the main annual training cycle from March through November. Night training would occur approximately 1 to 2 days per week, from sundown to 2:00 AM, for a total of 37 to 74 days during the annual training cycle." (Line 39, main document) and "Potential noise impacts on the surrounding communities and property owners can vary based on weather conditions due to differences in sound propagation. Citizens within these areas may find the activity noticeable and distinct, and there is a moderate risk of the MAARNG receiving noise-related complaints." (Line 1656, main document), these findings do not sound insignificant for the surrounding communities.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #76, #98, and #593.
	283	Kristen Lans	Citizen	N/A	I am concerned that the method of consultation with stakeholders as listed in Appendix A occurred by mail and with a 30-day comment period during a pandemic that has shut down or reduced capacity of many of the offices and groups consulted. Considering these circumstances, and actual business days for comment, I find this consultation method and period to be problematic and am concerned that this proposal did not receive the input of critical local agencies, regulatory bodies, and tribal governments.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
	284	Kristen Lans	Citizen	N/A	Finally, I am concerned with the lack of detail about impacts to our sole source aquifer. I live on a property with a decommissioned well that was shut down as a result of the plume contamination from the base. With the plume contamination still very top of mind for many Cape Codders, and as yet inconclusive links to high incidences of cancer on the Cape, we can not risk any more contamination of our groundwater or ecosystem impacts. Even with various forms of green bullets, we can not know the long-term impacts of this type of sustained activity on our environment and ultimately human health. We simply can't continue this track record of impact on Cape Codders health and environment.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.
120	285	Vida Lashgari mi	Citizen	N/A	Do not allow the machine guns on Cape Cod. It's such a bad example for our children. I am 100% opposed!	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.

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121	286	Philip Lund	Citizen	N/A	I find it rather ironic that a few pages apart in this week's Friday edition of the Falmouth Enterprise we read an article concerning the proposed new machine gun range on JBCC which will involve the clear cutting of over 170 acres of beneficial trees. Five pages later we read an article about trees being part of the solution to climate change. One tree can remove one half a ton of carbon per year from the atmosphere. In this case over 85 tons of carbon, that would have been removed by trees on the base, now if removed, will only add to the devastating effects of climate change. In case you are not aware, the entire Cape is on the endangered list because of climate change. We should be eliminating dangers that contribute to climate change, not add to change by promoting moronic actions that will only create a faster demise. These actions will obviously have a detrimental effect on not only the environment, but how about the thousands of Cape Cod citizens, their families and future descendants. I have been a resident of Falmouth for over 35 years. Through the years I have watched how the irresponsible actions of military personnel at the base have ruined our drinking water as a result of caustic plumes caused by jet fuel spills. The same threat came from lead bullets....bottled water and or expensive home water filtration systems have been the norm for years in order to enjoy a basic necessity. This action to remove 170 acres of trees is not only irresponsible, but very short sighted.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #37, #49, #130, and #566.
	287	Philip Lund	Citizen	N/A	This firing range does not belong on Cape Cod..the Cape's environment is too fragile to accommodate something that impactful. If you must have your machine gun firing range, locate it in the desert, far from the fragile environment of Cape Cod...we can't afford any more military mistakes.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #4.
122	288	Mary Anne Mann	Citizen	N/A	I am writing in opposition to the multi-purpose machine gun range proposed for Joint Base Cape Cod. As we are still facing clean-up of previous JBCC contamination, I am particularly concerned about our sole source aquifer. It is outrageous that the range would be positioned in the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. Our aquifer is already increasingly challenged by sea level rise due to climate change, not to mention more regular periods of drought.	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27 and #153.

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	289	Mary Anne Mann	Citizen	N/A	The plan requires clearcutting almost 200 acres of forested land, habitat of many native plants and animals, including the threatened eastern box turtle. There will be no offsetting the climate effects of destroying the forest, not to mention paving and construction in the middle of the largest contiguous undeveloped area on Cape Cod, that is, a Cape Cod treasure to be protected and cherished, not ravaged.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, #42, and #566.
	290	Mary Anne Mann	Citizen	N/A	But the biggest question is, "Why Here?". The largest and widest air base in the US is conveniently located mid- state, and is currently being used for maintenance and storage. On Westover Air Base, extensive areas are already cleared and paved. This is but one of 6 bases in Massachusetts. What makes JBCC the best choice, located mid-forest on a heavily populated island, on a sole source aquifer? Please oppose this project, and let me know if any actions are planned.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Westover Air Reserve Base is an Air Force installation (i.e., not owned by the Massachusetts Army National Guard [MAARNG]), and therefore does not meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Action to provide a complete and viable training facility for MAARNG Soldiers. Please see <b>Section 1.2</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and responses to Comments #4, #23, and #27.
123	291	Bill OLeary	Citizen	N/A	Removing 170 acres seems foolish especially in a residential environment . So the National Guard has to travel to Vermont to practice . Save the money ,save the trees , save the environment , save Cape Cod find a better use for the land .	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #14, #23, #35, and #566.
124	292	Steve Roehm	Citizen	N/A	The military + Cape Cod do not need a machine-gun range. Saying there is no environmental impact to creating a new machine-gun range is NOT believable. Stop the madness !!	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #97, and #98.
125	293	Renate Sands	Citizen	N/A	As a resident of Sandwich for 35 years, I oppose the construction of a multipurpose machine gun range on Camp Edward, located on Joint Base Cape Cod. That the deforestation of nearly 200 acres will have no environmental impact, as the National Guard claims, makes no logical sense.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #97, #98, and #566.
	294	Renate Sands	Citizen	N/A	The ammunition, the additional human activity, the noise and the traffic will affect our area.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.
	295	Renate Sands	Citizen	N/A	The ammunition, the additional human activity, the noise and the traffic will affect our area.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #49 and #60.
	296	Renate Sands	Citizen	N/A	The machine gun range will be located on our sole source aquifer which provides drinking water to Cape Cod. Please remember that in the 1980's 42 places on the Base were declared Super Fund Sites of Critical Concern, and that clean-up is still on-going.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27 and #37.

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	297	Renate Sands	Citizen	N/A	Although I can understand the need for training required by the National Guard, to put a multi-purpose gun range on such an ecological sensitive area is not a credible decision. Please rethink this project and locate it in area where it will have less environmental impact on its region and its citizens.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #4.
126	298	Susan Schmidt	Citizen	N/A	I live very close to Camp Edwards. I would very much prefer that there not be a machine gun training center. The water is precious and even if the environmental impact appears small, I do not feel it is right to contribute to any further problems.	Water Resources	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27 and #41.
	299	Susan Schmidt	Citizen	N/A	I also feel that machine guns are dangerous and would prefer the training be in someone else's backyard as it were. Please feel free to have peace and diplomacy training on the Joint Base, but not something that adds more weapons. Whatever training has been there recently is enough to disrupt people with sensory problems and pets. The cancer rate near Joint Base is much higher than the rest of the area and that is a consideration to keep our aquifer cleaner.	Public Health and Safety	Munitions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #27, #37, and #84.
127	300	Patricia M Holmes	Citizen	N/A	Please do not designate and clear more acres for machine gun training at Camp Edwards. The Cape has lost too many acres of habitat for wildlife over the years. We cannot afford to lose more. Ocean waters bound this spit of sand on all sides. There is no room for wildlife to go. In an age where we are learning more about pollution (I remember the mess at Otis and the toxics in the soil and in the water), we know we are a fragile environment for humans and animals. The Cape is a Sole Source Aquifer and too many pollution issues already endanger the water table.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #27, and #28.
	301	Patricia M Holmes	Citizen	N/A	I lived on the north side of Dennis for most of my life and could hear the howitzers going off at the base. I am mentioning this because sound travels like crazy over water.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.

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	302	Patricia M Holmes	Citizen	N/A	We don't need the weaponry's brought to the Cape or more people traveling over the two Cape Cod Bridges. Have you experienced the massive traffic jams at the bridges? Replacing them will be a nightmare in traffic logistics. It can take hours just to get here! We are a small, tight land mass with too many people (pop. 215,888 yr round and over 500,000 seasonal) and too little wildlife/fauna/bird habitat already. Designating approximately 5,400 acres to noise and danger would be a huge detriment to Cape Cod and a real danger to kids and animals who are bound to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. We need every acre of woodland preserved and peace to stay. With all the woods in New England, there has to be a less populated, less trafficked area than Camp Edwards area for training machine gun weaponry. Personally, machine guns and any AK type weapons scare the living daylight out of me. I lived in Bourne for a few years and left due to the horrendous traffic situation. There has to be a better place. The Cape has a lot of retirees. Would you want to listen to machine guns going off in your backyard when you retire? The military base has always been famous for wildlife. Please don't kill it off.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #7, #10, #60, #187, and #593.
128	303	Nancy M. Syverson and Charles F. Syverson	Citizen	N/A	We would like to voice our objection to removing 175 acres of trees to construct this proposed machine gun range. At a time when we are in the midst of a climate change which is increasing the worlds temperatures to such a degree that we are experiencing dramatic hurricanes, tornados and forest fires in our country and around the world, it would seem like a very wrong thing to remove all of those trees which help to sequester carbon. Climate change and the warming that is accompanying it is very real! We need to all be doing as much as we can to slow the pace of it, we are already far behind in our efforts. Temperatures are rising, droughts are getting more common all over our country.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #64, #130, and #566.
	304	Nancy M. Syverson and Charles F. Syverson	Citizen	N/A	We would like to suggest that the National Guard Troops travel to an already built site. We understand that it would use more of their time but you can't put the carbon back once you remove the trees. Transport the troops in electric busses and you could help save our world! You can see even on Cape Cod how the temperatures are rising every year. Think of your children and grandchildren and what kind of world will you choose to leave them!	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #35, #64, and #566.



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129	305	Mike Thomas	Citizen	N/A	As an abutter to JBCC, I am very concerned with the noise that this range will emit. I would like to know the location of this range & if there will be any sound barriers or other type of noise protection used for this project. Also what is the estimated decibel level when in use, & will this range be used a night?	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. The proposed range would be utilized for night training. Please refer to <b>Section 2.2.2.4</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for a discussion on night training. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
130	306	Margaret A. Yates	Citizen	N/A	I would like to register my opposition to a Machine Gun Range at Cape Edwards/Joint Base. Here are my reasons. Clear cutting 200 acres is dangerous in that our need for green spaces is ongoing in time of drought especially.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #64, and #566.
	307	Margaret A. Yates	Citizen	N/A	Our drinking water on Cape Cod does not to be endangered by a shooting range on our aquifer.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27 and #37.
	308	Margaret A. Yates	Citizen	N/A	In addition, wild life is endangered by clearing and gun activity. While these reasons are often repeated, they are very important to preserve what is Cape Cod's natural beauty and shelter.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, #44, and #566.
131	309	Jacqueline O Young	Citizen	N/A	I was horrified when I saw the map of the proposed changes for a machine gun training range at Camp Edwards. The land that has been sequestered for the safety of the water supply and the creatures who used to be native to all of Cape Cod, but now only exist in that open space, are now threatened by this appallingly short sighted plan. There is so much potential damage that it is hard to know where to begin, but I will keep this email to the three most egregious and obvious problems that even a quick look at the plan brings to the surface: 1) The map shows construction that breaks up a contiguous environment into smaller parcels of preserved land and adds other small areas to the South. Creatures are not humans - they cannot be told to move house and gain access to what they need through a network of delivery systems. The reason they no longer exist on the rest of the Cape is because, despite pockets of open space, they require large areas to support their migratory existence. Breaking up the spaces is almost as bad as removing it entirely. This is madness.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #28, #35, #44, #187, and #566.



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	310	Jacqueline O Young	Citizen	N/A	2) Near the beginning of the document it is casually thrown in that lead bullets will be allowed. As has been documented over and over again lead is very very bad for all creatures including us humans. The potential for this devastating element to be released into the air, water supply, and bellies of creatures who accidentally ingest this poison is not even close to being worth the supposed benefits of having a convenient range at the base, which the document states has been dealt with successfully by traveling to other bases to do the training.	HTMW	Munitions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #49.
	311	Jacqueline O Young	Citizen	N/A	3) To use the excuse of a technicality to avoid a review of the impact on the drinking water for the base and four surrounding towns is despicable. The report states "it is our understanding that this Project is excluded from review under the SSA program as it is located on a military base" ... Using loopholes to get around the spirit of regulations is the act of a coward.	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. The exemption of the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range from the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) Program was confirmed through consultation with the EPA Region 1 Sole Source Aquifer Program Manager during the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) process. An email received (10 July 2020) from Kira Jacobs of EPA confirmed that "your project is exempt from Sole Source Aquifer review" also identified in Section 2.7 of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) (1 June 2020). Projects excluded from review under the SSA program include those that are funded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entirely by state, local, or private entities</li> <li>• Solely with federal funds for federal agencies</li> </ul> The SSA program applies to federal assistance, but not to direct federal actions. Work performed for or by the federal government is not included among the projects EPA reviews. This includes work on military bases and other federal facilities. Projects undertaken within a designated SSA area without federal funds must still comply with all federal, state, and local water quality requirements. Please see the response to Comment #27.
132	312	Patricia Aurigemma	Citizen	N/A	My husband and I live in Eastham, along the peaceful bike trail, and adjacent to the firing range. We support the right to bear reasonable arms (not semi-or automatic weapons), and support the right to target practice with these reasonable weapons. There are days when the automatic firing of weapons taints our peaceful abode. Sometimes, the noise is compounded by an enormity of bullets being fired, as will be the case with the proposed firing range expansion on the upper Cape.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, #14, and #593.

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	313	Patricia Aurigemma	Citizen	N/A	As someone noted in a letter to the editor, our country requires "more technical training", more diligence to providing optimum mental health care to soldiers and veterans. Put your taxpayer dollars there! We do NOT need more weapons training, especially on our already fragile Cape Cod environment. War games are past. They are NOT the mark of "manhood," contrary to the belief of our military. Protect our fragile Cape, our state, our country, and our world with measured responses of non-violent methods, despite how contrary this thinking is to your career aim. Because these peace-seeking approaches are contrary to your status quo, it does not make them wrong.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #14.
133	314	Linda Cebula and Robert MacCready	Citizen	N/A	We are submitting a public comment on the proposal to add an eight lane machine gun range at Camp Edward ,on cape Cod. Absolutely opposed to this idea. Has not there been enough damage to our environment from all of the chemicals that have leached into our water supply from shooting weapons?	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27 and #37.
	315	Linda Cebula and Robert MacCready	Citizen	N/A	And clearing /disturbing another 200 acres of land?	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	316	Linda Cebula and Robert MacCready	Citizen	N/A	Is there some reason for this other than a few people would have to take a ride off cape to learn how to use grenades et al? No No No	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #14.
134	317	James Coogan	Citizen	N/A	I'd like to register opposition to the proposed machine gun range at Joint Base Cape Cod. Cape Cod is far different than it was when the base was originally set up in the late 1930s. There has been a huge increase in population in the towns surrounding the base and a new firing range will impact them considerably. Noise levels will be a constant problem for abutting residents.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	318	James Coogan	Citizen	N/A	And while some of the range is apparently already cleared, I'm not keen on the removal of trees in the 190 acre plus proposed site.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	319	James Coogan	Citizen	N/A	Environmental concerns are real, particularly with respect to ground water contamination.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27 and #37.
	320	James Coogan	Citizen	N/A	I recognize the need for this kind of training. I'm a retired naval officer and I support our military and the operational commitments that are part of service. I just feel that there has to be a more remote place in Massachusetts that would be more suitable for this activity. I would respectfully ask that the new range be located elsewhere.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #4.
135	321	Susanne Goodman Hallstein	Citizen	N/A	Please do not use the Base for the Artillery Range. It has just too much potential damage to our water supply to say nothing of the clear cutting of 100 plus acres of forest.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. No artillery would be used at the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range. Please see the response to Comment #37.

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	322	Susanne Goodman Hallstein	Citizen	N/A	It has just too much potential damage to our water supply to say nothing of the clear cutting of 100 plus acres of forest.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	323	Susanne Goodman Hallstein	Citizen	N/A	Residents of the towns around the base have endured enough over the years. Please, please, find another plan for the training of our Massachusetts Air Guard. Please keep the National Cemetery a peaceful place for the families of our veterans to bury and to visit their loved ones.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors (National Cemetery)	Comment noted. The proponent of this action is the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG). Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.
136	324	Sue Harvey	Citizen	N/A	I strongly oppose your proposal to install a new machine gun firing range on Joint Base Cape Cod. One acre of forest will absorb six tons of carbon dioxide in a year. Removing 170+ acres will only cause more harm to our already fragile ecosystem.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #130, and #566.
	325	Sue Harvey	Citizen	N/A	Also, destroying a large expanse of wildlife habitat.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #28.
	326	Sue Harvey	Citizen	N/A	Scientific studies have shown copper ammunition is no less toxic to ground water than lead. Past activities on the base have already caused extensive ground water contamination that will remain for decades to come. Haven't they done enough damage to this beautiful and fragile coastal community? Please reconsider this outrageous proposal.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #49 and #61.
137	327	Shirley Hayes	Citizen	N/A	I am appalled at the idea of a machine gun firing range and would like you to speak in opposition on my behalf.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
138	328	Steve O'Neil	Citizen	N/A	I write to oppose the eight lane machine gun range under consideration for Camp Edwards. In my opinion, the land in consideration for this use should remain as is. The destruction of 170 acres of land to accommodate the use of: tracers , machine guns, shot guns, grenade launchers and pistols... adjacent to residential neighborhoods and an elementary school is surely an environmental impact requiring further review by the public and most notably by the abutters.	Socioeconomics	Surrounding Communities/Busin esses	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, #19, #35, #566, and #593.
	329	Steve O'Neil	Citizen	N/A	Additionally, the proposed project's impact ought to consider the impact of increased traffic and the residue left behind from the weapons.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #60.
	330	Steve O'Neil	Citizen	N/A	Additionally, the proposed project's impact ought to consider the impact of increased traffic and the residue left behind from the weapons.	HTMW	Munitions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #49.
	331	Steve O'Neil	Citizen	N/A	The attention ought to be focused on the no use/action alternative and improving upon the existing location in Jericho, Vt.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #23.
139	332	Mary O'Neil	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to say I am completely opposed to the clearing of 170 acres of forest for the purpose of a gun range at Camp Edwards. Despite the environmental report there is clear and obvious impacts on the environment and the bird and animal habitat. If we wonder how the current catastrophic pandemic started; loss of habitat is clearly indicated.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, and #566.

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	333	Mary O'Neil	Citizen	N/A	Trees are a critical part of the fragile eco-system on Cape Cod. Their ability to sequester carbon is also a critical element in our battle with climate change.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #64, and #130.
	334	Mary O'Neil	Citizen	N/A	Going to an existing gun range in Vermont is not such a hardship. I urge you and your committee to reconsider this disastrous undertaking.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #23.
140	335	Dave Read	Citizen	N/A	NO MORE GUN RANGES FOR CAPE COD !!!!! Take your damn gun range and put it somewhere else !!! We have two gun ranges here on the Cape (Brewster and Eastham) that make life miserable for most of us, due to the continuous rapid fire weapons that they use. Please reconsider your ill advised proposal !!!	Cumulative Effects	Noise	Comment noted. As discussed in <b>Section 4.12</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), implementation of the Proposed Action would not be expected to have significant adverse impacts to any resource area discussed within the EA, including noise, when taken in consideration with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) would adhere to Best Management Practices (BMPs), Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs), and installation-specific management plans (see <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA) to minimize noise impacts and ensure that cumulative noise remain at less-than-significant levels. The proposed range would be located approximately 23 miles and 30 miles from Brewster and Eastham, respectively. Peak noise levels would not extend beyond the Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) boundary. As such, the Proposed Action would not noticeably contribute to any degradation in the noise environment, regionally or locally.
141	336	Mark Allard	Citizen	N/A	NO to the machine gun/grenade launching range in a high density residential area between Mashpee and Sandwich. Are you kidding?	Public Health and Safety	Munitions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #49 and #84.
	337	Mark Allard	Citizen	N/A	While you're at it, how about reducing the relentless nightly helicopter flyovers? Please limit them to reasonable hours and let our kids sleep!	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
142	338	Abraham Brody	Citizen	N/A	Word has come on the Cape Cod Times that the base is planning a new machine gun range that takes out 170 acres of woods. Already the base is accountable for the PFAS pollution. We already have so much intrusion on the Cape single source aquifer of pollutants that you can't even swim on Santuit Pond.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #35, #37, and #566.
	339	Abraham Brody	Citizen	N/A	Taking away woods contributes to erosion, less environmental filtering of pollutants, and more air pollution on the Cape.	Soils	Soil Degradation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #26, #35, and #566.
	340	Abraham Brody	Citizen	N/A	Taking away woods contributes to erosion, less environmental filtering of pollutants, and more air pollution on the Cape.	Air Quality	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18 and #130.
	341	Abraham Brody	Citizen	N/A	Not to mention the animals who will listen to the gun range go deaf, and potentially get hit by accident by the bullets fired by the range. As a full year Cape resident, I say no. Do not build any more gun ranges. The base pollutes enough. We've had enough. Please take your guns somewhere else.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #28, #37, and #44.



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143	342	Susanne Hallstein	Citizen	N/A	Thank you for letting me know that you received my comment. The citizens in the towns abutting the Base are patriotic folks who support our military and at the same time are acutely aware of the environmental damage that will occur if this artillery range is permitted. Remember, you would not want this type of activity if your water supply would be compromised. I would say, the track record from the base has Not been good at protecting our water. Please reconsider. This is a painful project to thrust on us, very unexpectedly and quickly, during a pandemic. That adds to our overall distrust of the project. It is all wrong for our Joint Base Cape Cod.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. No artillery would be fired at the proposed range. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #37.
144	343	Marcy Klattenberg	Citizen	N/A	I have added additional comments to my original email and wish them to be read into the record.	General Comment	N/A	Comment noted.
145	344	Liz Klein	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed machine gun range on Cape Cod. It is astounding to me that a proposal to clear cut 170 acres of forest has been deemed of no environmental impact, because the science clearly shows that deforestation results in carbon dioxide emissions, adding to global atmospheric CO2 concentrations and raising global temperatures. I live in Falmouth, and I am extremely worried about sea level rise. To then hear that a project like this has been suggested for the region is disheartening. It is clear to me that climate change is a huge threat facing humanity, and I would hope that the military would be interested in trying to mitigate that threat.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #64, #35, #130, and #566.
	345	Liz Klein	Citizen	N/A	I am aware that the proposed range will use copper ammunition instead of lead, but I am not swayed that there will be no negative impacts of copper leaching into soil or groundwater. Copper is a metal that can leach in the environment, and there are data showing that it can also negatively impact human health. I am all too aware of the impacts of the base on the groundwater here; in my driveway there is a well that is used to track the contamination from the base's firefighting efforts in previous decades. Are we in for another round of suffering in the name of national defense?	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #37 and #49.
	346	Liz Klein	Citizen	N/A	I have also read reports that address the potential for noise pollution. From what I have read, it appears that there may be an elementary school within hearing from the range, and I find it chilling to think of young children hearing the sound of gunfire while attending school. I grew up in Newtown, CT, the location of the Sandy Hook School shooting, and I can not believe that it would be deemed acceptable for students of that age to be exposed to such noise.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.

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	347	Liz Klein	Citizen	N/A	<p>Finally, I am worried about the current economic situation, and I find the defense spending in this country to be outrageous. I am a teacher, and schools have to struggle to purchase basic supplies while the government can budget multiple millions of dollars to fund a machine gun range. That is just plain wrong in my book, and while I know that you don't have the influence over that level of decision making, I wanted to include that as another concern.</p> <p>I do not expect a response to this email, but I could not sit idly by and watch this all unfold without voicing my very serious concerns. I hope that the people in charge of these decisions hear the voices of the citizens that live here and halt this project.</p>	Purpose and Need	Financial Need	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #6 and #14.
146	348	Susan Patterson	Citizen	N/A	<p>I have read through the proposed plan for construction and operation of a multi-purpose machine gun range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod. The plan's overriding objective is to provide a more accessible area for training and enhance its efficiency for members of the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG). While its realization will cause significant environmental impacts, these are deemed acceptable and reconcilable with the purposes of natural resource preservation, including water supply, and wildlife habitat protection. The proposed remedy for the damage to be incurred is "mitigation" and resource management." Yet, strong grounds for concern about the environmental consequences of this project remain. Above all, the loss of 170.5 acres of existing forest is not negligible nor can it be "mitigated" by the proposed commitment to preserve hundreds of acres of extant forest.</p> <p>The justification for the proposed project ignores the fact that Cape Cod is on the frontlines of climate change: Barnstable County has already experienced more than 2 degrees Celsius of warming since the turn of the 20th Century, and our ocean waters are heating up more rapidly than most places on earth. We have already experienced more frequent storms of increasing violence, enhanced erosion of our coastline, as well as acidification of our waters that endanger native species and our fisheries. <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #64, #97, and #566.



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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> As a Cape Codresident, I participate in environmental groups such as 350capecod.org &lt; Caution-http://350capecod.org &gt; that seek to mitigate – or prevent the worst-case scenario of catastrophic changes threatened by the unfolding climate crisis to our beautiful but fragile peninsula. As you may know, trees serve the critically important function of carbon sequestration, which along with reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a crucialtool for limiting global warming. Our current situation requires that we enlarge areas of woodland rather than accept further, especially unnecessary, losses. Removing 170.5 acres of trees to create theproposed facility will move us in the direction of courting disaster and canonly increase the risks to Cape Cod’s fragile ecosystem that our global climateemergency is already visiting upon us. Last summer’s tornadoes did extensivedamage to many areas, resulting in the destruction of hundreds of trees. Even with efforts to reforest areas most severely decimated – like the town ofHarwich in which I live – new growth will not be capable of making a significant contribution to carbon sequestration for decades. I have read the Final Environmental Assessment (EA). <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>			
					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> While it includes information about monitoring and mitigating damage to such factors asair quality, soils, groundwater, rare and endangered species, infrastructure,and hazardous and toxic materials and wastes, it fails to address the removal of 170.5 acres of trees, a significant omission for the reasonsindicated above. I urge you reject this plan and develop a viable alternative with less severe consequences. Compounding the losses our Cape Cod communitieshave already experienced from climate change by permanently removingsignificant numbers of trees only further jeopardizes the survival of our wayof life on Cape Cod. It is too great a price to pay for the convenience of having a local facility for training members of the MAARNG.</p>			

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147	349	Joy Marzolf	Citizen	N/A	I would like to express my opposition to the plan to build a machine gun range on Cape Cod. First, my parents are residents and I am a part-time resident of Cape Cod. A few things... There are other ranges in driving distance-how many trips for 11 million dollars? Especially now, State and Federal funds are short due to COVID-19 spending and a decline of tax income: 11M for this NOW? It will take quite some time to get out of this financial hole too.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, and #6.
	350	Joy Marzolf	Citizen	N/A	No impact on wildlife is definitely NOT the case if 170 acres of forest are removed. That is home to wildlife right now. Sound also has a significant impact on wildlife, including nesting birds, many of which are in decline already. They do not have to live on the grounds of the base to be negatively affected by sound. Sound will not "stay put" on the base as claimed.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, #28, #35, #44, #566, and #593.
	351	Joy Marzolf	Citizen	N/A	Cape residents already deal with many loud sounds from the base with numerous and often low flights. There are also many retirees, including military vets, on Cape. How many have PTSD and other issues that will be affected by this sound? Many people already had issues with the constant sound from the windmills in certain parts of the Cape. The initial claim was there was no issue, until an issue was proved and the windmills shut down.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.
	352	Joy Marzolf	Citizen	N/A	Water quality has already been significantly threatened due to the activities of the base, including an increase in cancer rates on Cape. There are many known issues from materials used to make ammunition such as lead, copper and other materials that will lead to more water issues and contamination. Law suits will be coming from many groups, including those that care about clean water and a healthy Cape Cod. Please save the taxpayers some time and expense and stop this effort now.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #49.
148	353	Sheila Place	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to express, in the strongest terms possible, my objection to the proposed machine gun range at Joint Base Cape Cod. I was stunned to read that this project is considered environmentally acceptable. Cape Cod is one of the most environmentally fragile communities on the East coast. Every measure of climate change is being experienced here, and we rely on a sole source aquifer as our lifeline. I'm sure you're well aware of the "unforseen" impact of earlier activities at the base which directly affected the aquifer.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #35, #37, #61, and #566.

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	354	Sheila Place	Citizen	N/A	Clearing 170.5 acres of forest is particularly offensive in an area threatened daily by climate change, and I'm sure you know trees sequester carbon dioxide, thereby removing CO2 from the atmosphere. We should be planting more trees, not removing those that are here. I am aware that the Department of Defense considers climate change a threat multiplier, so it's curious that this project is in direct contravention of that position.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #64, and #566.
	355	Sheila Place	Citizen	N/A	I have just learned that the Cape Cod Commission approved this project, without public input. I find that to be an abdication of their responsibility, and appreciate the opportunity to comment you have provided.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. The Cape Cod Commission (CCC) participated as a consulting party throughout the development of the Environmental Assessment (EA), and also provided comments through the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) process. In addition, the CCC has been involved in the master planning of Camp Edwards and the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range, and has actively held a seat on the Community Advisory Council (CAC) from its inception. The CCC has attended meetings where the MPMG was discussed and was provided briefing materials from the Environmental Management Commission Environmental Officer prior to these meetings. Please see the response to Comment #78.
	356	Sheila Place	Citizen	N/A	The disruption of life, adding heavy traffic to our bridges when they are in dire need of replacement makes no sense, and a construction zone of just under 200 acres makes even less. Access to the range is sure to be a problem. The infrastructure simply can't handle it now and that will be the case into the foreseeable future. You may be tempted to ask why some of these concerns, such as forest clearing, weren't addressed as the Cape was developed, and that's a fair question. Public awareness has been lacking until relatively recently, but we are now very aware and working hard to address wastewater issues and mitigate the effects of climate change. A machine gun range would be a giant step backwards for our fragile sandbar.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #7, #35, and #60, and #566.
	357	Sheila Place	Citizen	N/A	I accept that this training is necessary, but I would hope a less fragile environment would be found, and as you point out, another option exists. We don't have a lot of time to mitigate climate change, so let's do what we can.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #64.
149	358	Judy and Matt Scavarelli	Citizen	N/A	As tax payers and year round residents , my husband and I do not want a Machine Gun range on the Cape. To take 5, 400 + Acres of forest is abhorrent . The little bit of land left on our peninsular is home for wildlife, flora and fauna, the impact to our environment would be catastrophic.. Please do not consider this proposal..	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing, Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments, #1, #28, #35, #187, and #566.
150	359	Sherry Greene-Starr	Citizen	N/A	I am writing in opposition to the proposed new machine gun training area. I feel that the loss of 170 acres of trees is incomprehensible. For our climate to survive we need to mitigate the effects of carbon, and that is most efficiently done by trees.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, and #566.

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	360	Sherry Greene-Starr	Citizen	N/A	Clear cutting vast swaths of natural growth not only decimates the habitat of many species, it also degrades the soil there.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, and #566.
	361	Sherry Greene-Starr	Citizen	N/A	Clear cutting vast swaths of natural growth not only decimates the habitat of many species, it also degrades the soil there.	Soils	Soil Degradation	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #26.
	362	Sherry Greene-Starr	Citizen	N/A	We sit on top of our water source, the acquifer, and I have no faith at all that this new firing range won't be polluting it as have other firing ranges in that same area. Please Mr.Driscoll, no more guns. Enough already. Let's preserve what little of the natural Cape is left.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.
151	363	Eiblin Swan	Citizen	N/A	A public comment period during the pandemic does not (and cannot) offer citizens the opportunity to fully understand or consider this project. Citizens are dealing with issues related to the pandemic including such considerations as health, employment and child care and thus the opportunity to consider a proposal such as this is limited. Also consider that public meetings where this would be discussed and debated are also severely limited by the pandemic. Thus my first request is an extended public comment period that would include a public (in person) meeting to be held on Cape Cod, at such time as a large gathering would be considered safe.	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
	364	Eiblin Swan	Citizen	N/A	That meeting to include a description of the site and any and all environmental issues (historic and current) related to the site since its inception as a military base. A full review of the proposal with a new EIS written under the auspices of an independent group such as Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) but paid for by the project proposers. Also the meeting should include an environmental analysis by the Cape Cod Commission of the site and the proposal. It is difficult to accept the findings of the report that there would be no environmental impacts when the deforestation alone is problematic; for this reason an independent report should be required. The meeting should allow for comments/presentations by the four towns immediately impacted, interested groups and should include public comment.	Request for Additional Analysis	EIS	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #145.
	365	Eiblin Swan	Citizen	N/A	Currently there is an existing site in Vermont so that training may continue and so there should be no issue in delaying this proposal until such time as meaningful public education and involvement is possible.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #23 and #78.

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152	366	Linda and Ben Valente	Citizen	N/A	As a long time resident of Mashpee since 1991, living next to the base on Cape Cod has come with many challenges. Including our wells being polluted, flyovers at all hours, and regular munitions training. We have withstood many things in the past, but the idea of a machine gun range within earshot of our residential neighborhoods is a terrible idea. Noise travels - we have no tall buildings to block noise here in the surrounding neighborhoods, and we are certainly within ear shot of everything that happens on the base. Machine gun fire would be not only a nuisance, but a hardship that no one should have to tolerate in their own backyard.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	367	Linda and Ben Valente	Citizen	N/A	Nevermind having to clear 170 acres to make it possible...	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #566 and #35.
	368	Linda and Ben Valente	Citizen	N/A	We are so strongly against this. Our property values would go down substantially, at a time in our country when we are all hurting so very much financially and yet still having to fight the COVID virus. Folks are still out of work for who knows how long. The future here on the Cape is so uncertain that to add this machine gun range would be truly irresponsible, reckless and detrimental to our lives here on the Upper Cape. We are begging you to please put a stop to this proposed idea now. There is too much at stake here on Cape Cod.	Socioeconomics	Property Values	Comment noted. The Proposed Action would have no impacts on property and housing values at local and regional levels. An increase in local housing demand would not be anticipated as the proposed range training would not require Soldiers to remain at or in the vicinity of Camp Edwards for extended periods. As Camp Edwards has been used for military training since 1911 and the Proposed Action overlaps an existing cleared range area previously used for live-firing activities, surrounding communities would not experience any noticeable differences to their local environments from the Proposed Action. Socioeconomic conditions, including property values, would not change in the long-term with implementation of the Proposed Action.
153	369	Annette	Citizen	N/A	Please please reconsider. Strongly oppose this proposal for so many reasons: who are use of land, decimating force, squeezing forest animals out of their habitat into other areas, danger to persons straying into the area.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #44, #49, and #187.
	370	Annette	Citizen	N/A	Strongly oppose this proposal for so many reasons: who are use of land, decimating force, squeezing forest animals out of their habitat into other areas, danger to persons straying into the area.	Public Health and Safety	Munitions	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #84.
154	371	Heather Crombie	Citizen	N/A	I want to recommend delaying the start of this project until the following can be accomplished. 1. In-person meetings can be safely held once Covid is under control. This will permit folks who don't have computers, are uncomfortable with Zoom Webinar capabilities and those who would prefer to meet in person. Discussion of this has been very limited and need to be more available to the public.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.



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	372	Heather Crombie	Citizen	N/A	2. An environmental impact statement produced by a non-profit environmental group can be performed. There is a tremendous impact upon the largest track of forest land left on the Cape with the tree cutting and firebreaks. The impact statement provided can't be provided by the military because it is invested in the outcome of the project. The current statement is not credible.	Request for Additional Analysis	EIS	Comment noted. Please see <b>Section 1.4</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA). Please see the responses to Comments #98 and #145.
155	373	L. Michael Hager	Citizen	N/A	The very idea of a machine gun range on Cape Cod is repugnant to me. Beyond the noise and endangerment to bird and animal life, I would hate to see our peaceful Cape refuge turned into a practice place for war. We don't need more militarization here on Cape Cod.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	374	L. Michael Hager	Citizen	N/A	Beyond the noise and endangerment to bird and animal life, I would hate to see our peaceful Cape refuge turned into a practice place for war. We don't need more militarization here on Cape Cod.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28 and #44.
	375	L. Michael Hager	Citizen	N/A	Please find some other place to discharge heavy weapons. Not on this side of the Cape Cod Canal.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. No artillery would be fired at the proposed range. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #4.
156	376	Capt Seth J Hudak, USCGR (Ret.)	Citizen	N/A	A recent My View article by Mary Ann Jones of West Harwich, MA makes a fine case for Not establishing a machine gun range on Cape Cod at Camp Edwards. Caution- <a href="https://www.capecodtimes.com/opinion/20200826/opinionmy-view-does-militarymachine-gun-range-fit-with-your-image-of-cape-cod">https://www.capecodtimes.com/opinion/20200826/opinionmy-view-does-militarymachine-gun-range-fit-with-your-image-of-cape-cod</a> < Caution <a href="https://www.capecodtimes.com/opinion/20200826/opinionmy-view-does-military-machine-gunrange-fit-with-your-image-of-cape-cod">https://www.capecodtimes.com/opinion/20200826/opinionmy-view-does-military-machine-gunrange-fit-with-your-image-of-cape-cod</a> > The proposal to place a machine gun training site at Camp Edwards, Joint Base, Cape Cod also appears to have neglected the millions of dollars spent on Superfund monies to mitigate range damages done at the Base and the many plumes and cancerous issues associated with similar projects (which still exist). Caution- <a href="https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.cleanup&amp;id=0100960">https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.cleanup&amp;id=0100960</a> < Caution <a href="https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.cleanup&amp;id=0100960">https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.cleanup&amp;id=0100960</a> >	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #61.
	377	Capt Seth J Hudak, USCGR (Ret.)	Citizen	N/A	Additionally, the loss of further land cover or the extensive damaging land development is surely not helpful to Cape ecology and affects all in that area. Having lived near a small range in Harwich, where machine guns were fired in close proximity to neighborhoods. the myriad of issues from noise, water pollution, and failures to properly clean and safe the site, are legend.	Land Use and Cover	Compatibility	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, #27, #28, #187, and #593.



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	378	Capt Seth J Hudak, USCGR (Ret.)	Citizen	N/A	The Cape's economy would receive little or no benefit as billeting or feeding would use base troop housing and messing, and the added traffic patterns over the bridges and the Roads of the area would surely not be needed.	Socioeconomics	Socioeconomic Conditions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #7, #60, and #161.
	379	Capt Seth J Hudak, USCGR (Ret.)	Citizen	N/A	Having served in Coast Guard Reserve, living on the base and serving in reserve units there, my opinion is the last useful purpose the upper Cape land, communities and facilities can use now is another anachronistic weapons training range such as a machine gun training platform.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #14.
157	380	Jane and Doug Kelly	Citizen	N/A	Please count us among the opposition to the proposed machine gun range. We would be supportive IF the noise issues outside the base are addressed. (The following is excerpted from CapeCod.com on August 31). "Most of the noise from the range would be contained on the base, but some noise could affect multiple neighborhoods as well as an elementary school."	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.
158	381	Jennifer O'Neil	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to strongly object to the proposed machine gun range for Camp Edwards in Bourne. As a resident of Bourne, my family and I already have our peace disturbed on a regular basis by low flying military aircraft. Their route goes directly over our house. We also hear live gun fire already. Adding machine gun fire to that mix will make us feel as if we're in a militarized war zone.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	382	Jennifer O'Neil	Citizen	N/A	In addition, as the proposed only facility in the state it would mean more military vehicles traversing our aging Cape Cod Canal bridges, bridges that are slated for replacement in the next few years. Bourne and the Upper Cape has already sacrificed a lot in having Camp Edwards located here.	Infrastructure	Bridge Structure	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #7.
	383	Jennifer O'Neil	Citizen	N/A	No one can forget the devastating pollutants that seeped into the ground and designated the area a Superfund site. Groundwater plumes (plumes of toxic pollutants!) are still being dealt with more than 30 years after it was designated a Superfund site. Cape Cod is an area of world renown beauty and tranquility - we shouldn't be known for machine gun fire. I am confident there are far more suitable sites in the state for machine gun training.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #27, #37, and #153.

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159	384	Mary Wallace	Citizen	N/A	I have lived on Cape Cod for 42 years, It is my mission to work toward protecting the environment by saving the trees so that we will have fresh air. Removing 170.5 acres of trees to create a military machine gun range will take us in the wrong direction and increase the risk to Cape Cod's fragile ecosystem . We, the residence of Cape Cod, do not need this. Trees are a critical element in all of our efforts as they sequester carbon from the atmosphere and, thus, reduce the process of warming that has contributed to the climate crisis. I live behind Nickerson State Park and have seen the destruction of hundreds of trees caused by storms in recent years. Please realize that your plan to willingly destroy forested land for any purpose is not acceptable. I wholeheartedly disagree with your plan for this machine gun range or any other purpose that requires destroying forested land. The ability to replace forest in this amount would take many, many years and with the bad weather, and lack of rain we are already experiencing maybe never. I do not want this for Cape Cod. Please do not do this to our beautiful peninsula.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, and #566.
160	385	Melissa Bird	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to express my 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. Again, please reconsider this proposal, our community is very much not in favor of it.	Cumulative Effects	General	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17, #64, and #145.
161	386	Traci Gionfriddo	Citizen	N/A	As a longtime Cape Codder, I am vehemently opposed to this proposal and will invest whatever time and money I can towards its defeat. Our sandbar is ecologically fragile and there has been enough contamination from the base already.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28 and #44.
	387	Traci Gionfriddo	Citizen	N/A	Our sandbar is ecologically fragile and there has been enough contamination from the base already.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #37 and #61.
162	388	Kathleen and Jeffrey Miller	Citizen	N/A	I am very concerned about this military proposal for our limited resource land of Cape Cod. The Cape has been exposed to enough environmental degradation and destruction from past military activities stemming from the base. Have these all been addressed and cleaned up?	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Contamination plumes are currently being remediated and unlikely to affect conditions at the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range. Further, the Proposed Action would not interfere with current or planned remediation activities. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #61 and #153.

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	389	Kathleen and Jeffrey Miller	Citizen	N/A	The base sits atop a regional aquifer. There are many communities that have been and will be affected by this proposal, not to mention the increase in traffic. Arms practice carries with it the toxic substances.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #49, #60, and #153.
	390	Kathleen and Jeffrey Miller	Citizen	N/A	The clear cutting of so many acres of forest, in this day and age when we need to consider climate mitigation, is unacceptable.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	391	Kathleen and Jeffrey Miller	Citizen	N/A	The impact on species is unacceptable.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing, Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #566, #28, #35, and #44.
	392	Kathleen and Jeffrey Miller	Citizen	N/A	The impact on neighbors is unacceptable. This is clearly a poorly planned, and wrong decision for our Cape Cod. I stand opposed to this proposal as does my husband.	Socioeconomics	Surrounding Communities/Businesses	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #19.
163	393	Michael Katz	Citizen	N/A	Good morning. In a follow up to my previous email, has Ft. Devens been looked at as a possibility for this proposed gun range?	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Utilizing a different installation such as Fort Devens for the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range would not meet the screening criteria for the Proposed Action. A suitable alternative to the Proposed Action must be located within a Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG)-controlled training area. Since Fort Devens is a US Army Reserve facility it fails to meet this screening criteria (see <b>Section 2.3.1</b> of the Environmental Assessment [EA]). In addition, conducting training at Fort Devens would still incur travel costs and time, affecting MAARNG efficiency and training capacity. Please see the response to Comment #4.
	394	Michael Katz	Citizen	N/A	It seems like it would be more accessible as it's in the middle of the state, has more major roads close by, doesn't have the tourist and their traffic to contend with during summer months, not to mention 2 aging bridges (the ONLY access to the Cape) that will be replaced, causing traffic issues, in and of themselves, for the next 8-10 years during construction of new bridges and then demolition of the old ones. Ft. Devens seems to be a better alternative.	Infrastructure	Traffic, Bridge Structure	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #7 and #60.
164	395	Kris Nasinnyk	Citizen	N/A	I strongly oppose the destruction of 170 acres of forest area to accommodate the Multipurpose Machine Gun Range's nearly 200 acres of land disturbance. I have been a strong advocate of conservation and open space here on our beloved Cape Cod. Why are you willing to decimate such a large area? And for machine guns? This sounds preposterous to me from all angles. I do not understand how the environment will not be affected. Was wildlife ever considered? I also believe that the plan includes 5,200 acres in order to accommodate the areas where the ammunition would land. Really- do you honestly believe that our small piece of Massachusetts can afford to just give up on such a parcel of land? I heard about this proposal from conservation groups- I had not seen or heard of this as I do not subscribe to the Cape Cod Times. I sincerely hope that you all reconsider this plan and maybe use one of Donald Trump's many golf courses instead. He is very much in favor of these types of destructive weapons.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17, #35, #187, and #566.

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165	396	Kim Anstey	Citizen	N/A	I am a resident of Eastham MA, on Cape Cod, and want to express my opposition to the development of a Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards. Cape Cod is a unique and wonderful natural haven. We must ensure all elements of its environment are protected. Without a comprehensive study of the major issues 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.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #145, and #566.
	397	Kim Anstey	Citizen	N/A	Additionally, a reassessment of the project should examine whether this project is an appropriate use for the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #153.
166	398	Rosemarie Aussant	Citizen	N/A	I am opposed to the construction of a machine gun range at Camp Edwards Joint base because of the likely damage it will cause to Cape Cod water, air quality and forested land.	Water Resources	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #27, and #37.
	399	Rosemarie Aussant	Citizen	N/A	I am opposed to the construction of a machine gun range at Camp Edwards Joint base because of the likely damage it will cause to Cape Cod water, air quality and forested land.	Air Quality	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #130.
	400	Rosemarie Aussant	Citizen	N/A	I am opposed to the construction of a machine gun range at Camp Edwards Joint base because of the likely damage it will cause to Cape Cod water, air quality and forested land. I am a full time resident of Harwich Ma.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35, and #566.
167	401	Jo Brisbane	Citizen	N/A	I am fully opposed. Do you not realize that the Cape Cod groundwater has been ruined before, by everything from firefighting "practice" foams, to leftover ordnance in the past? Take this machine gun practice somewhere inland and remote. Somewhere the hell else.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #27, #37, and #153.
168	402	Christine Briscoe	Citizen	N/A	This is to ask that the assault rifle (or any weapons) practice range not be placed in our beautiful and vulnerable environment. The destruction of 170 acres of trees will have a huge impact on the ecosystem including the displacement of and potential harm to a variety of species already in jeopardy due to our lack of good stewardship. We must work diligently to maintain and, it is to be hoped, improve our entire ecosystem. Our climate crisis is real and we must act responsibly to address it in every form.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35, #64, and #566.



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169	403	Maria Burks	Citizen	N/A	I am a resident of Wellfleet, 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. I managed the natural resources of Cape Cod National Seashore for nine years, and have personal knowledge of their fragility - and of their interdependence. 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.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #64, and #145.
	404	Maria Burks	Citizen	N/A	Additionally, a reassessment of the project should examine whether this project is an appropriate use for the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #153.
170	405	Nancy Civetta	Citizen	N/A	I oppose the proposed machine gun range for many reasons. Here are a few: I have no clue about machine guns, and I am sure the military needs to be able to train to use them, but Cape Cod is not the right spot for that.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #4.
	406	Nancy Civetta	Citizen	N/A	We have limited natural resources left on Cape Cod, and we need to be protecting them not clear cutting them.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	407	Nancy Civetta	Citizen	N/A	This is a delicate peninsula, and development is having detrimental effects on everything from our drinking water supply to habitat for the flora and fauna that also make their home here. The construction and operation of the machine gun range could too easily throw the fragile nature of this spit of sand out of balance.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing, Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #28, #35, and #566.
	408	Nancy Civetta	Citizen	N/A	You can never fully predict nor mitigate for the unintended consequences that such a massive project will have.	Best Management Practices and Regulatory Compliance Measures	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #39.
	409	Nancy Civetta	Citizen	N/A	If people complained about the noise from the wind turbines, what will they say about a machine gun range even if "silencers" are able to be used.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, #49, and #593.
	410	Nancy Civetta	Citizen	N/A	Less exposure to guns here is better for our children, who are already dealing with the stresses of school shooter drills and the uncertainty of COVID-19. Please take these few thoughts into consideration and stop this project from moving forward.	Public Health and Safety	Munitions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #84.

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171	411	Marcella Curry	Citizen	N/A	I am a resident of Cape Cod and oppose the creation of the gun range at Camp Edwards. To secure the health of the Cape we need to protect our water and the clear cutting will have an adverse effect no matter that your EA says it won't. Also to secure the health of our planet, we need to acknowledge climate change and to clear cut 170 acres is ignoring climate change. Your EA says Camp Edwards is "the largest intact area of relatively unfragmented forest remaining on Cape Cod and serves as an important refuge for wildlife which require large ranges of interior forest habitat." We need to preserve this.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #35, #64, #145, #187, and #566.
172	412	Joan Francolini	Citizen	N/A	I 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. 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 clearcutting in this region of Cape Cod would have on carbon sequestration, rare species habitat, high-value pine barren natural communities and groundwater resources.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #42, #64, #145, #187, and #566.
	413	Joan Francolini	Citizen	N/A	Additionally, a reassessment of the project should examine whether this project is an appropriate use for the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #153.
173	414	Bonnie Hempel	Citizen	N/A	The eight-lane machine gun range, the first in the state, being planned for Camp Edwards is a catastrophe. It will require clear cutting 170.5 acres of trees, and would require 5,000 plus acres for the venture. This is Cape Cod, a slip of land that is slowly being eroded by Mother Nature and rapidly being devoured by greedy developers getting rich by gobbling up our precious land. It's early in this calamity and there hasn't been much feedback from our elected officials. It's difficult to imagine that Representative Peake, Senator Cyr, Representative Whelan and all the other Cape officials are in support of this debacle.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #187, and #566.



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	415	Bonnie Hempel	Citizen	N/A	Surely, there is a more suitable area for this in the whole state of Massachusetts, gives one pause, one wonders what incentive is driving this project. Please, I'm reduced to begging, please Cape Cod Commission, Conservation Trusts, Environmental Groups, County Government, any public servant, agency, organization who care very much for our beautiful Cape Cod, don't let this happen. Those of us who have absolutely no control over anything it seems, are looking to you for support and clear-headedness, DO NOT LET US DOWN!	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, and #14.
174	416	Carolyn Kemp	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to express strong opposition to the Machine Gun Range proposed for Camp Edwards. Clear cutting 170 acres of forest and polluting one third of the Upper Cape fresh water supply is an unacceptable environmental cost that can't be recovered.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #35, #153, and #566.
	417	Carolyn Kemp	Citizen	N/A	Clear cutting 170 acres of forest and polluting one third of the Upper Cape fresh water supply is an unacceptable environmental cost that can't be recovered. Fresh water sources are scarce on the Cape and need preservation not desecration. Please support people, air and clean water, not more weapons of destruction and death.	Water Resources	Groundwater	Comment noted. All operational ranges on Camp Edwards are designed and managed to minimize harmful impacts to the environment within the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. The Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range is designed to comply with the Environmental Performance Standards (EPS) set forth under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002. As discussed in <b>Section 4.6</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), impacts on groundwater would be less than significant and long-term groundwater protection during training operations would be accomplished by maintaining vegetative cover, implementing stormwater management measures, and complying with the Camp Edwards pollution prevention plan. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) would also comply with <u>EPS 19, Range Performance Standards</u> , which requires efforts to minimize harmful impacts to the Upper Cape Supply Reserve. The Proposed Action would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) detailed in <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA to proactively minimize adverse impacts on groundwater.
175	418	Patricia Marti	Citizen	N/A	I write to you to oppose the planned construction of a new MPMG range at Fort Edwards. I am strongly opposed to the destruction of over 170 acres of forest land in Barnstable. With all the valuable things trees do to improve our environment, It makes no sense to destroy so many, especially to create a killing field. Please register my opposition to this project as a citizen who is concerned about our environment and wants to promote conservation.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #14, #35, and #566.

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176	419	John S. Parke	Citizen	N/A	As a resident of Cape Cod and taxpayer I strongly oppose the proposal for a gun range at Camp Edwards. We don't need more noise, traffic and most of all more use of guns here on the Cape. Especially weapons that encourage mass killing and mayhem. Please put a stop to this plan.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	420	John S. Parke	Citizen	N/A	As a resident of Cape Cod and taxpayer I strongly oppose the proposal for a gun range at Camp Edwards. We don't need more noise, traffic and most of all more use of guns here on the Cape. Especially weapons that encourage mass killing and mayhem. Please put a stop to this plan.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #60.
177	421	Mary T. Slayter	Citizen	N/A	I want to strenuously endorse the opposition of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod to your proposed machine gun range (as expressed in their letter to you of September 1, 2020). I concur with their recommendation that you engage an independent environmental consulting agency to reassess the impact of the proposed project, and reconsider its suitability for Cape Cod, from both an environmental and cultural standpoint. As you plan to clear cut such a large swath of land, I am contemplating a significant expenditure this year to replace trees lost from my property in recent years. We should all be working together to protect and preserve what is left of our precious environment!	Request for Additional Analysis	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #97.
178	422	Theresa Veira	Citizen	N/A	I protest the construction of the machine gun range at Camp Edwards because of the threat to our environment. Cape Cod is threatened by the climate change and has already been seriously effected.	Air Quality	Climate Change	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18 and #64.

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179	423	Brett Warren	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed machine-gun range at Joint Base Cape Cod. I am a year-round resident of Cape Cod, a voter and taxpayer, and the former owner of a seasonal business here. Everyone who lives on the Cape knows how important tourism is to our economy. Tourism here relies on the preservation of our fragile Cape ecosystem, which is already suffering from climate change and from pollution caused by fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and other chemicals leaching into our single-source aquifer. People come to the Cape, supporting our economy, to see and enjoy the natural beauty and the wildlife here. Destroying 170 acres of forested land for a military training facility will irreparably harm our environment and our economy. People also come here, and live here, to enjoy the peaceful surroundings. A machine-gun facility, even an indoor one, will harm that experience too. I urge you to abandon this terrible plan, which will cause great harm to the majority of people and wildlife on the Cape and benefit very few. This kind of training should continue to be done at existing facilities in the region.	Socioeconomics	Tourism	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35, #76, and #566.
180	424	Renate Wasserman	Citizen	N/A	Many years ago when my daughter, Sherri Wasserman Goodman, was Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Environmental Security, she worked very hard to clean up this base to protect the water quality and environment of Cape Cod. She succeeded. I cannot believe there are now plans to undo all this good work. As a nearly 30 resident of the Cape myself, I want you to know that I strongly oppose the proposed machine-gun range at Camp Edward.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
181	425	Steve O'Grady	Citizen	N/A	I was terribly disappointed to learn of the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod. As someone who works in the field of conservation and is familiar with environmental impact assessments, I cannot begin to fathom how anyone reached the conclusion that disturbing 200 acres of natural land, including the clearing of 170+ acres of intact and contiguous pine barren woodlands anywhere on Cape Cod would have "less than significant" impact on the area and its water resources. I sincerely hope that the environmental assessment will be redone with more integrity and that this proposal will be reconsidered, so that we as Cape Codders can keep faith in the MAARNG for protecting our interests and keeping us safe. The proposed project does quite the opposite.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #145, and #566.

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182	426	Lynn Stevens	Citizen	N/A	The expansion of Camp Edwards to 5,000 acres is a bad idea and this is why: 1. SAFETY: It will be too close to schools, roads, and homes. Even though you have taken steps to maintain a safe distance, nothing is foolproof (i.e. Stray bullets and grenades misfiring). Also, even though there are existing fire breaks to contain a fire, fires can and do jump fire breaks and sparks can be carried by wind into surrounding neighborhoods (think drought conditions).	Public Health and Safety	Munitions, Fire	Comment noted. The Proposed Action would not expand the size of Camp Edwards. Please see the response to Comment #84. In addition, as discussed in <b>Section 2.2.1.4</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), a network of firebreaks is proposed and primary firebreaks have been incorporated into the construction design. Additionally, Chapter 6 of the Conservation and Management Permit (CMP) application attached to the EA ( <b>Appendix E</b> of the EA) discusses overall fire management associated with the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range to reduce wildfire hazard through proactive fuels management, development of broad shaded fuel breaks, and increased wildfire preparedness. The CMP application was approved by the Massachusetts Natural Habitat and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) on 29 September 2020. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) (see <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA) to proactively minimize or avoid adverse impacts including standard operating procedures and best management practices for range utilization that include minimizing wildfire potential.
	427	Lynn Stevens	Citizen	N/A	2. AIR POLLUTION: There will be discharge of weapons, increased traffic with resulting emissions, and the removal of almost 200 acres of trees! Have we learned nothing about global warming? We should be planting trees, not cutting them down!	Air Quality	Emissions, Climate Change	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #60, #101, #130, and #566.

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	428	Lynn Stevens	Citizen	N/A	3. WATER POLLUTION: What impact will the chemicals from the discharge of weapons and pyrotechnics have on the soul source aquifer underneath the base? Who will be monitoring this? How will communities be informed?	HTMW	Contamination	<p>Comment noted. All active small arms ranges on Camp Edwards require an Environmental Management Commission (EMC) approved Operational Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (OMMP). The OMMP requires the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) to conduct regular groundwater and soil monitoring to ensure training activities are not impacting the environment specifically groundwater. Baseline environmental sampling will occur prior to approval of range use by the EMC. Monitoring results will be compared to Action Levels defined within the OMMP. Surface soil action levels for lead, copper, and antimony are set using selected concentrations from the Massachusetts Contingency Plan. These values are not necessarily directly applicable to active small arms ranges, but they provide a framework for comparison to concentrations that are considered potentially hazardous. <i>(comment response continued below)</i></p>

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								<p><i>(continuation of above comment response)</i> Groundwater action levels for lead, copper, and antimony are set equal to one half of the drinking water standard; a detection of range related metals in groundwater at these concentrations would indicate a potentially significant and unexpected occurrence and response actions should be taken before concentrations exceeding safe drinking water concentrations occur. If a result exceeding an Action Level was not expected or appears to be anomalous, the sample area can be re-sampled in duplicate with both samples analyzed to determine if the original result is representative of actual site conditions. If an exceedance of the action levels is accepted or confirmed through resampling, the specific media, e.g. soil, in the applicable area will be removed and replaced so that the potential for migration of the contaminant is reduced. MAARNG will coordinate with the EMC Environmental Officer to identify appropriate removal or other maintenance actions. Remediation or maintenance, if needed, will occur prior to the next training season. If the resampling demonstrates that the actual concentration does not exceed the Action Level, remediation or maintenance is not needed. The Action Level is one half the regulatory limit for the media in question, soil and water for the MPMG. Pyrotechnics use at Camp Edwards is guided by a Camp Edwards Pyrotechnics SOP. If not on the approved munitions list for Camp Edwards; all pyrotechnic use must be coordinated and approved with and by the EMC Environmental Officer. Potassium perchlorate is the substance of concern with current pyrotechnic use. Soil and groundwater sampling for pyrotechnics is conducted as determined and approved by the EMC Environmental Officer. The communities will be informed through the Environmental Management Commission meetings and through the Annual State of the Reservation Report. Please see the responses to Comments #17, #27, #37, #61, and #153.</p>



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	429	Lynn Stevens	Citizen	N/A	<p>4. NOISE POLLUTION: The best part of COVID 19 this past winter was the "Quiet". Noise pollution is something we don't give much thought to, but it can negatively effect our mental and physical health. I don't want my grandchildren to have to listen to the constant noise from the Base as my children had to. You said yourself we won't be able to contain all the noise, which is probably an understatement.</p> <p>I came to Sandwich almost 40 yrs ago, looking for beauty and peace. Many tourists flock to the Cape for the same reasons. No one wants to live near a war zone, but that seems to be what you wan to build. Therefore, before even one tree is cut down, or one lane is paved, you owe the people of Sandwich and the Cape many discussions and opportunities to ask questions. You also owe us INDEPENDENT environmental reviews. It's impossible to believe this monstrosity of a plan won't have a negative environmental impact on this fragile peninsula we call home.</p>	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #78, #145, and #593.
183	430	Kathy Andrews	Citizen	N/A	<p>I'm writing because I understand public comment is sought regarding the Army National Guard's intention to build a machine gun range in south Sandwich, MA. As someone who recently moved to this region in great part because of the area's commitment to environmental stewardship and preservation, I'm flabbergasted to learn of this proposal to sacrifice 170 acres of forestland to add a machine gun training site. Why can't military training continue to take place in Vermont? Why is it a better choice to cram this project into this area?</p>	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #23, #35, and #566.
	431	Kathy Andrews	Citizen	N/A	<p>It's shocking to read that the Massachusetts National Guard believes it is "embracing our responsibility to our community and the environment" by reducing the number of its proposed machine gun lanes to eight instead of 10. And "preserving 4 acres of rare species habitat for every acre affected" simply does not cut it. That still comes to 1 of every 5 acres being sacrificed.</p>	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #39, #98, and #566.

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	432	Kathy Andrews	Citizen	N/A	Massachusetts, the Cape in particular, should not be asked to host a machine gun range to which military trainees from all over would be invited. Please listen to the voices of people who care about this environment, this region, and the fact that climate change is such a critical issue to consider now with every decision involving our environment. Your assessment concludes there are no significant environmental impacts, but that's inconceivable. This would have a hugely significant impact. Please do not move forward with this plan. At the very least, please hold a public hearing so you can listen to area residents' concerns and respond to their questions. I'm cc'ing journalists covering this story as well as the National Guard spokesman and the Town of Sandwich Town Manager as I believe they are also interested in public comments on this proposal.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #17, #64, and #78.
184	433	Chris Bailey	Citizen	N/A	I am outraged by the plan to deforest hundreds of supposedly protected acres to create a machine gun range. This is a completely inappropriate use of land that borders on a small residential town and would greatly impede the tourist trade in our community of Sandwich.	Socioeconomics	Tourism	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #76, and #566.
	434	Chris Bailey	Citizen	N/A	It would negatively affect our property values and our quality of life.	Socioeconomics	Property Values	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #368.
	435	Chris Bailey	Citizen	N/A	Imagine sitting in your backyard on Cape Cod and listening to machine gun fire. We already hear the existing range, but this would be much worse!! I can't believe this is being considered. Please register my opposition, and that of my neighbors.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.
185	436	Sherrie Burson	Citizen	N/A	As a full-time Cape Cod resident I am writing to request that an Environmental Impact Statement be completed for the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range (MPMG). The Environmental Assessment finding of "no significant impact" is not believable.	Request for Additional Analysis	EIS	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.
	437	Sherrie Burson	Citizen	N/A	Some of the impacts that need further study are: 1. Clear cutting 170.5 acres of intact forest and its effect on both the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve, loss of carbon sequestration value of the trees removed, and the impacts on wildlife and the designated Priority and Estimated Habitat for Rare Species.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #42, #153, and #566.

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	438	Sherrie Burson	Citizen	N/A	2. Possible degradation of the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve during construction of the MPMG Range as well as releasing some of the toxic substances remaining from Camp Edwards. 3. Toxicity of the exploded and unexploded ordnance, such as the lead in bullets. I urge you to complete a more thorough assessment of the environmental impacts in addition to reassessing whether creating another MPMG Range is necessary. Use of existing ranges, even if travel is required to get to them, would prevent this potential ecological disaster.	HTMW	Contamination, Munitions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #37, #49, and #153.
186	439	Katelyn Cadoret	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to oppose the new machine gun range at Camp Edwards due to the clearing of 170.5 acres of forest. This is important habitat for rare and endangered species and groundwater recharge.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing, T&E	Comment noted. Please see responses to Comments #566, #35, and #42.
	440	Katelyn Cadoret	Citizen	N/A	This is important habitat for rare and endangered species and groundwater recharge.	Water Resources	Groundwater	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #417.
	441	Katelyn Cadoret	Citizen	N/A	At the very least, an environmental impact statement should be filed to better understand the effects of such a proposal. The Cape has limited resources and this doesn't seem like a wise use of what natural areas are left.	Request for Additional Analysis	EIS	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.
187	442	Janine M, Corsano	Citizen	N/A	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.	Request for Additional Analysis	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.
	443	Janine M, Corsano	Citizen	N/A	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.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, and #566.
	444	Janine M, Corsano	Citizen	N/A	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.	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #153.

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188	445	Lonnie Cosmer	Citizen	N/A	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).	Request for Additional Analysis	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #64, #97, and #145.
	446	Janine M, Corsano	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing, Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #28, #35, and #566.
	447	Lonnie Cosmer	Citizen	N/A	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;	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing; Climate Change	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #64, and #566.
	448	Lonnie Cosmer	Citizen	N/A	(2) lacks a cumulative impacts analysis;	Cumulative Effects	General	Comment noted. Please refer to <b>Section 4.12</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Cumulative Effects analysis. Please see the response to Comment #64.
	449	Lonnie Cosmer	Citizen	N/A	(3) avoids the robust alternatives analysis and mitigation assessment that would be required under an EIS; and	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #39, and #145.
	450	Lonnie Cosmer	Citizen	N/A	(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."	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
189	451	Rigney Cunningham	Citizen	N/A	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. 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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35, and #566.
	452	Rigney Cunningham	Citizen	N/A	This area is home to wildlife, like meadowlarks, not seen in other parts of the Cape.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28 and #44.
190	453	Sharon Davis	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #187, and #566.
191	454	Steph DeFerie	Citizen	N/A	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.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #1.

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192	455	Linda Dima	Citizen	N/A	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.	Request for Additional Analysis	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #97, and #145.
	456	Linda Dima	Citizen	N/A	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.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #130, and #566.
	457	Linda Dima	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing, Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #566, #35, and #28.
193	458	Claire Driscoll	Citizen	N/A	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!!	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #187, #35, and #566.
	459	Claire Driscoll	Citizen	N/A	Let the soldiers go to Vermont! I must express my extreme objection to this whole plan.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #23.
194	460	Bud Dunham	State/Local Representative	Town Manager, Sandwich MA	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? 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.	Information Request	N/A	Comment noted. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) responded to this comment via email dated 4 September 2020 and indicated the Camp Edwards Base Commander would provide an informational project fact sheet. The fact sheet was posted that same day on the MAARNG website.
	461	Bud Dunham	State/Local Representative	Town Manager, Sandwich MA	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.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.



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195	462	Nancy Eaton	Citizen	N/A	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.	Water Resources	Groundwater	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #153 and #417.
	463	Nancy Eaton	Citizen	N/A	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.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
196	464	Jonathan Finn	Citizen	N/A	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.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10 and #593.
	465	Jonathan Finn	Citizen	N/A	It could impact property values and tourism.	Socioeconomics	Property Values, Tourism	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #368 and #76.
	466	Jonathan Finn	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17, #35, #78, and #566.



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197	467	Steven Gass	Citizen	N/A	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.	Request for Additional Analysis	EIS	Comment noted. Please see <b>Section 1.4</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for information on the decision making process. Please see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.
	468	Steven Gass	Citizen	N/A	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.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18 and #130.
	469	Steven Gass	Citizen	N/A	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.	Water Resources	Groundwater	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #417.
	470	Steven Gass	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing, Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, #42, and #566.
198	471	Gene and Barbara	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #14, #35, and #566.
	472	Gene and Barbara	Citizen	N/A	Think of your children and grandchildren, do you wish to leave them only a denuded toxic wasteland? Very concerned citizen.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.

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199	473	Jan Hively	Public/Private Entity	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Cape Cod Branch	<p>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?</p> <p>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.</p>	Information Request	Public Review	<p>Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #210. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) and National Guard Bureau (NGB) will review and respond to comments. The comments and responses will be available on the MAARNG Environmental and Readiness Center website (<a href="https://www.massnationalguard.org/ERC/publications.htm">https://www.massnationalguard.org/ERC/publications.htm</a>). The MAARNG will issue a final Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) as signed by the Chief of Army National Guard G9 Branch. Further information can be requested through the MAARNG Public Affairs Office at (339) 202-3952 or <a href="mailto:ng.ma.maarng.mbx.paoma@mail.mil">ng.ma.maarng.mbx.paoma@mail.mil</a>.</p>
200	474	Randy Hunt	State/Local Representative	MA State Representative	<p>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.</p>	Information Request	Public Review	<p>Comment noted. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) will review public comments and revise the final Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI), if appropriate. If after review of public comments, it is determined that the Proposed Action would still result in no significant adverse impacts, the MAARNG would publish a final FNSI. Please see the response to Comment #473.</p>
201	475	Donald and Joan Komosa	Citizen	N/A	<p>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.</p>	Infrastructure	Traffic	<p>Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #7, #14, and #60.</p>

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202	476	James Kinney	Public/Private Entity	Cape Cod Democratic Socialists of America	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>	HTMW	Contamination, Munitions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #49, #153, and #417; as well as responses to comments received from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) (Comments #899-#911).

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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> 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.</p> <p>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. <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>			

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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> 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.</p> <p>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. <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>			

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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> 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, <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>			



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					(continuation of above comment) 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 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.			
	477	James Kinney	Public/Private Entity	Cape Cod Democratic Socialists of America	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 grenadelaunchings 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.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	478	James Kinney	Public/Private Entity	Cape Cod Democratic Socialists of America	Noise pollution, air pollution, and the possibility of damage from errant bullets and grenadelaunchings are not even mentioned in the proposal.	Air Quality	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18 and #130.

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	479	James Kinney	Public/Private Entity	Cape Cod Democratic Socialists of America	Noise pollution, air pollution, and the possibility of damage from errant bullets and grenadelaunchings are not even mentioned in the proposal.	Public Health and Safety	Munitions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #49, #84, and #187.
	480	James Kinney	Public/Private Entity	Cape Cod Democratic Socialists of America	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 theconvenience of the MAARNG.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #42, and #44.
	481	James Kinney	Public/Private Entity	Cape Cod Democratic Socialists of America	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.	Cumulative Effects	General	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #61 and #64.
	482	James Kinney	Public/Private Entity	Cape Cod Democratic Socialists of America	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.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.
203	483	Lisa Maregni	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, and #566.
	484	Lisa Maregni	Citizen	N/A	Environmental and traffic concerns are too great for fragile Cape Cod, and although it is less convenient, there is another facility available in Vermont.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #23 and #60.
204	485	Mary Manghis	Citizen	N/A	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.	Socioeconomics	Tourism	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #76.
	486	Mary Manghis	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing, Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, #37 and #566.

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205	487	Robert Manz	Citizen	N/A	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?	Water Resources	Groundwater	All operational ranges on Camp Edwards are designed and managed to minimize harmful impacts to the environment within the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. The Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range is designed to comply with the Environmental Performance Standards set forth under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 47 the Acts of 2002. Answers to specific questions are as follows:  1. Ammunition used on this range would be limited to copper ammunition, no lead ammunition would be fired. Based on current alignments, the minimum anticipated ammunition use is 180,560 rounds annually with an anticipated maximum ammunition use of 361,120 rounds. However, with the anticipated increase to 1,000 Soldiers or more, ammunition use would vary from a minimum of 592,000 rounds to a maximum of 1,184,000 rounds annually. The MPMG Range would be designed with individual earthen impact berms behind each target to capture the expended ammunition to the maximum extent practicable. These berms will also assist in the recovery of copper for recycling, prevention of fragmentation and ricochets, and prevention of subsurface percolation of residue associated with range operations. The MPMG would also have an Operational Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (OMMP) that will require the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) to conduct regular groundwater and soil sampling to determine if range operations are protective of the environment. Please see the responses to Comments #37, #50, and #61.  2. Site investigations conducted by the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program under United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) orders of past small arms ranges at Camp Edwards found that copper has extremely low mobility in soil and has not been found in groundwater above natural background levels (Impact Area Groundwater Study Program Final Small Arms Ranges Investigation Report, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts Military Reservation, Cape Cod, Massachusetts. January 2014 Prepared for: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Concord, Massachusetts, For, Army National Guard, Impact Area Groundwater Study Program, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts Prepared by: Tetra Tech, Inc., 160 Federal St., Boston, MA 02110, Contract No. DACW33-03-D-0006). <i>(comment response continued below)</i>
								<i>(continuation of above comment response)</i> In compliance with the OMMP for current active ranges, monitoring has shown similar results with no levels of copper above background levels in groundwater and slightly above background levels of copper at target locations.  3. Regular groundwater and soil sampling are conducted to determine if range operations are protective of the environment. Due to these protective measures that will be in place and monitored, no health impacts are expected.  4. The MPMG range is designed to comply with applicable environmental standards, including those set forth by federal and state regulations. The MAARNG consulted with agencies and local entities, including the USEPA, during development of the Environmental Assessment (EA). The USEPA input have been incorporated into the EA as appropriate, in addition to responses to Comments #899-#911.

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	488	Robert Manz	Citizen	N/A	<p>(Copy of letter to editor)</p> <p>To the editor, Within an avalanche of pandemic concerns and vote mailing deadlines comes notice that the public has until September 7 &lt; x-apple-data-detectors://0 &gt; 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 &lt; x-apple-data-detectors://1 &gt; 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. &lt; x-apple-data-detectors://3 &gt; 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. <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>	HTMW	Munitions	<p>The proposed MPMG is a copper only range. Additionally lead ammunition is not an EMC approved ammunition on the proposed MPMG and as identified in Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Certificate issued 7 July 2020. All operational ranges on Camp Edwards are designed and managed to minimize harmful impacts to the environment within the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. In addition, the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range would be designed with individual earthen impact berms behind each target to capture expended ammunition to the maximum extent practicable. These berms will assist in the recovery of copper for recycling, prevention of fragmentation and ricochets, and prevention of subsurface percolation of residue associated with range operations. Regular berm maintenance will occur at a regular intervals as identified within the MAARNG and EMC approved Operational Monitoring and Maintenance Plan (OMMP). Please note the Environmental Assessment (EA) is not a site investigation. The purpose of the EA is to evaluate potential impacts and provide a document to facilitate the decision-making process for the proposed MPMG Range. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, #417, #487.</p>
					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> 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.</p>			



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206	489	Pat Obrien	Citizen	N/A	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. 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.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please refer to <b>Section 1.4</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA). Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
	490	Pat Obrien	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #42, and #44.
	491	Pat Obrien	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
207	492	Regina O'Connor	Citizen	N/A	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.	Request for Additional Analysis	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.
	493	Regina O'Connor	Citizen	N/A	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.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #64, and #130.

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	494	Regina O'Connor	Citizen	N/A	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. I believe there are better uses for this land.	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #153.
	495	Regina O'Connor	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing, Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, #42, and #566.
	496	Regina O'Connor	Citizen	N/A	Noise pollution needs to be assessed as well.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.
208	497	Joanne Patterson	Citizen	N/A	I oppose setting land aside for a machine gun range. Let's keep machine guns in the military.	General Opposition	Militarization	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #14.
209	498	Richard Payne	Citizen	N/A	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.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #64, and #566.
	499	Richard Payne	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #28.
210	500	Jeanne Prendergast	Citizen	N/A	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.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #14 and #23.
	501	Jeanne Prendergast	Citizen	N/A	-The base sits upon our sole source aquifer. We are still dealing with the pollution left in years past.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.
	502	Jeanne Prendergast	Citizen	N/A	- The Cape cannot handle a 19% increase in traffic, especially as we build two new bridges.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #7 and #60.
	503	Jeanne Prendergast	Citizen	N/A	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?	Public Health and Safety	Munitions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, #19, #84, and #593.
	504	Jeanne Prendergast	Citizen	N/A	What about the noise of machine gun fire while they are trying to learn?	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.



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	505	Jeanne Prendergast	Citizen	N/A	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.	Land Use and Cover	Compatibility	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #187 and #593.
211	506	David Roth	Citizen	N/A	The Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative (Climate Collaborative) submits this letter in response to the request from the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) for comment on its Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range (MPMG) at Camp Edwards, Barnstable County, Massachusetts. The Climate Collaborative represents businesses, institutions, organizations and citizens of Cape Cod and the Islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts (Cape & Islands). Its mission is to unite the knowledge, resources, talent and tools of its hundreds of members to mitigate climate change impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect natural processes of carbon sequestration and work toward achieving net zero-based goals for the Cape & Islands. The broad-based membership of the Climate Collaborative Board includes leaders in finance and banking, housing, construction, environment and education, municipal and county government, and faith, youth, and civic climate activism. <i>(comment continued below)</i>	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #18.
					<i>(continuation of above comment)</i> All are committed to mitigating the climate crisis, which on the Cape & Islands, has become an existential threat. The Climate Collaborative believes that, for the reasons described below, the EA and resulting FONSI are fatally deficient. The proposed MPMG project will have significant climate change impacts, which while ignored in the EA and FONSI, 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;			
	507	David Roth	Citizen	N/A	(2) lacks a cumulative impacts analysis;	Cumulative Effects	General	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #61 and #64.

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	508	David Roth	Citizen	N/A	(3) avoids the robust alternatives analysis and mitigation assessment that would be required under an EIS; and	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #145.
	509	David Roth	Citizen	N/A	(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.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
	510	David Roth	Citizen	N/A	The FONSI's unjustifiable conclusion that there is no significant impact from the proposed MPMG project lacks any support in the EA. For these reasons, the Climate Collaborative believes the EA and FONSI should be withdrawn and a new EA prepared in compliance with NEPA requirements, resulting in a recommendation that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared.	Request for Additional Analysis	EIS	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.
212	511	Paula Schnepf	State/Local Representative	Barnstable Town Council, Prec. 12	I'm one of thirteen elected Councilors in the Town of Barnstable. Although our Town does not abut Joint Base Cape Cod and we were therefore not included in the list of state and local agencies contacted about the environmental assessment completed for the proposed machine gun range, we are very much affected by the activities conducted on the base. This matter has come to my attention too late to include on tonight's agenda. What is the possibility of extending the deadline for Public Comment beyond September 7th as we are required to follow strict Open Meeting Laws on what we can discuss and vote on during our meetings. I would appreciate a response before 4 p.m. this afternoon so I may plan accordingly for tonight's meeting.	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
213	512	Roberta Shaw	Citizen	N/A	I write with great concern about the plans to build a machine gun range on Cape Cod without the opportunity for the residents of the area to engage in a public meeting. Is it not possible to provide an opportunity for residents of the Cape to be part of this decision? I appreciate your time and consideration, and this opportunity to request further information and involvement of the Cape community.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
	513	Roberta Shaw	Citizen	N/A	The Cape has a very sensitive ecosystem and local scientists are quite concerned about losing as many trees as is being suggested. We believe this forest is an important climate change buffer and natural carbon sink.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #64, and #566.
	514	Roberta Shaw	Citizen	N/A	I am a Navy brat, familiar with and supportive of our military's important role. I urge those involved in this decision to seek alternate locations for the range. What about the Fort Devens Range Complex? Could that not be a reasonable solution? What other locations have been considered?	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Utilizing a different installation such as Fort Devens for the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range would not meet the screening criteria for the Proposed Action. A suitable alternative to the Proposed Action must be located within a Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG)-controlled training area. Since Fort Devens is a US Army Reserve facility it fails to meet this screening criteria (see <b>Section 2.3.1</b> of the Environmental Assessment [EA]). Additionally, conducting training at Fort Devens would still incur travel costs and time, affecting MAARNG efficiency and training capacity. Please see the responses to Comments 4 and #393.

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214	515	Rosemary Shields	Citizen	N/A	As a year-round resident of Cape Cod I object to the installation of the machine gun range. The Cape has a single source aquifer and what happens on the land covering the aquifer leeches into the water supply. More than 5,000 acres would be required to accommodate the operation, since it would include the area where projectiles fired on the range would land, based on types of weapons and ammunition used. My assumption is the projectiles will be lead, a very toxic pollutant, and other heavy metals. I believe this area is still under Superfund supervision for toxic waste. How can that possibly contribute to water quality?	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #49, #153, and #187.
	516	Rosemary Shields	Citizen	N/A	It is stated that the project would have no significant environmental impacts, yet it calls for clearing 170 acres of forest and disturbing about 199 acres of land. This is indeed a significant impact.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	517	Rosemary Shields	Citizen	N/A	There is a machine gun range in Camp Ethan Allen in Jericho, Vermont, 270 miles away. Can the National Guard handle the logistics of transporting troops such a distance? I think this would be a great training exercise for you.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #23.
	518	Rosemary Shields	Citizen	N/A	Range use at Camp Edwards introduces "significant wildfire hazard into unmanaged and highrisk fuels conditions, through the use of tracers (pyrotechnic charge to show trajectory) and ammunition," the assessment says. This is unacceptable for the health and beauty of Cape Cod. For the reasons stated above I am against this project.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #44, and #251.
215	519	Eileen Smith	Citizen	N/A	I'd like to register my opposition to the gun range.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
216	520	Mae Timmons	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to express my staunch opposition to the proposed deforestation at Camp Edwards in order to build a machine gun practice range. Proponents of this project, and the EA and FONSI reports I have read about it, say that the forest clear cut will have no adverse impact. This is just impossible at worst and misguided at best. To lose 170 acres of forest and report that this loss of forest will not have a negative impact is blatantly ignoring and misrepresenting the degree to which our forest absorbs carbon dioxide emissions. To do this as climate change is being driven by rising levels of carbon in our Cape Cod environment is unthinkable.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. The proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range location is primarily composed of low quality habitat due to overgrown and unmanaged condition as described in Section 3.2 of the Conservation and Management Permit (CMP) Application attached to the EA (Appendix E of the e EA). The Massachusetts (MA) Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and US Fish and Wildlife Service have both concurred with the determination that the removal of this overstocked, high density forested condition is offset for net benefit through pine barrens restoration surrounding the range and within the other Pine Barrens Mitigation Focal Areas established through the Conservation and Management Permit. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) received approval on its CMP Application from the Massachusetts Natural Habitat and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) on 29 September 2020. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #18, and #64.
	521	Mae Timmons	Citizen	N/A	I look forward to participating in a public hearing on this issue	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.

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217	522	Pat Vineis	Citizen	N/A	I am writing with concerns about the proposed firing range. While I understand the role of a military base, what I do not understand is the reason behind locating the firing range in such close proximity to a residential and educational zone. Out of the 22,000 acres the base contains, surely there must be another suitable location. I would appreciate your taking a few minutes to clarify the location decision process.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #4.
218	523	Jane Ward, MD, MPH, Colonel (retired) USAF	Citizen	N/A	My husband, Steve Waller, and I are both USAF physician veterans and colonels, now retired from active duty with 56 years of service between us. We were stationed in Washington DC, Maryland, Massachusetts, Texas, Mississippi, the Philippines, and Germany. We were aware of some of the environmental impact concerns and cleanup efforts at JBCC and Otis AFB in the late 1990's and early 2000's time frame just before we completed our USAF careers. I am writing to express my strong opposition to further development on JBCC. Instead DoD funding should continue to support Cape Cod's efforts to clean up previous environmental degradation to our fragile aquifer. The Cape is essentially a "fragile sand bar" with a veneer of development eating away from the top as sea rise and increasingly violent storms linked to climate change eat away at the Cape around the edges. Our water supply is in a very precarious state now- even without further development. <i>(comment continued below)</i>	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #14 and #23.

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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> I basically don't agree with the Massachusetts Army Guard that the training requirement has been well thought through and certainly the environmental impact was a complete white wash. It seemed to me that the Guard justification for the machine gun range, was an attempt to justify maintaining the joint base on Cape Cod as a military location. "As Camp Edwards serves as the primary training site for Massachusetts, the proposed action is also needed to ensure the continued and long-term viability of Camp Edwards as a training center."                      Associated Press coverage                      My suggestion would be for DoD to deed back the majority of JBCC to an environmental trust who could work towards remediation of the environmental and water supply damage with continued DoD funding. A very small presence by the US Coast Guard should be enough military for the Cape.</p>			



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	524	Jane Ward, MD, MPH, Colonel (retired) USAF	Citizen	N/A	<p>A couple of my arguments beyond the environmental destruction would be to point out:</p> <p>1. I am sure it would it take many years, if not decades, for the travel and temporary duty pay for Massachusetts guard members to travel from their various home locations in Massachusetts to Vermont for machine gun training to add up to the nearly \$12 million dollars proposed expenditure for the Cape Cod training range. Cape Cod residents and Town Managers and Selectmen deserve a briefing with this funding issue clearly presented for the various training options. The current largest annual nationwide National Guard live ammunition training event is in Michigan- with units travelling from over 20 states to participate - clearly the travel time and costs have not gotten in the way of this exercise!</p> <p><a href="https://www.army.mil/article/236778/northern_strike_remains_guards_premier_joint_fires_exercise">https://www.army.mil/article/236778/northern_strike_remains_guards_premier_joint_fires_exercise</a> 3. "Asymmetric warfare" today rarely involves troops shooting at each other with machine guns. The 911 Terrorist attacks involved hijacked civilian airliners used as missiles to destroy the Twin Towers, part of the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania</p> <p>b. Many, if not most of our injured troops in Afghanistan and Iraq are badly injured or killed from improvised explosive devices which kill troops on foot or in vehicles. Machine guns would not have been useful in these two settings. Is the Army training for yesterday's warfare? <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #14 and #23.
					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> Pentagon planners have consistently ranked Climate Change as one of the top threats to US national security since at least January 2017. Clear-cutting a significant number of acres on Joint Base Cape Cod will accelerate climate change and increase our national security threat from extreme weather events and sea-level rise.</p> <p>a. <a href="https://climateandsecurity.org/2019/11/update-chronology-of-u-s-military-statements-andactions-on-climate-change-and-security-jan-2017-november-2019/">https://climateandsecurity.org/2019/11/update-chronology-of-u-s-military-statements-andactions-on-climate-change-and-security-jan-2017-november-2019/</a></p> <p>b. <a href="https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2019/01/18/dod-majority-of-missioncritical-bases-face-climate-change-threats/">https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2019/01/18/dod-majority-of-missioncritical-bases-face-climate-change-threats/</a></p>			

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	525	Jane Ward, MD, MPH, Colonel (retired) USAF	Citizen	N/A	I think that both the Falmouth and Sandwich Town Boards of Selectmen and town managers should be presented with detailed information sessions by the Mass Army Guard regarding this proposed Machine Gun training range. There should also be information sessions open to the public so that residents from locations impacted most by the activities on Joint Base Cape Cod are able to have all their concerns answered.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
	526	Jane Ward, MD, MPH, Colonel (retired) USAF	Citizen	N/A	A careful environmental impact assessment should be done involving many climate change and environmental experts familiar with the challenges on Cape Cod- such as the experts at Woodwell Climate Research Center.	Request for Additional Analysis	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #64 and #97.
	527	Jane Ward, MD, MPH, Colonel (retired) USAF	Citizen	N/A	I request an extension until at least 1 October, 2020, of the comment period for citizens and towns to respond to the very late publicity regarding the plans for this machine gun training range. I also request a thorough briefing by the Massachusetts Army National Guard planners regarding this proposal.	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
219	528	Micahel Westgate	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to oppose the machine gun range proposed for Camp Edwards on Cape Cod. I cannot imagine what would justify the amount of acreage and the destruction of natural habitat proposed. I support the Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod in its opposition.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
220	529	Beverly White	Citizen	N/A	I am strongly opposed to the proposed machine gun range. I think it would make a lot more sense to develop this large area as a wildlife sanctuary and/or park. Without a comprehensive study, there is no way to know the environmental consequences. I suspect that the proposed gun range would have a very negative environmental impacts. At the very least this area needs to have its environment protected.	Request for Additional Analysis	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #14, #97, and #187.
	530	Beverly White	Citizen	N/A	Also, a reassessment of the project should examine whether this project is an appropriate use for the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #153.

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221	531	Elizabeth Aldred	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal by the Massachusetts Army National Guard to clear 170 acres of forested land at Joint Base Cape Cod, in order to construct a multi-purpose machine gun range at Camp Edwards. I have lived and worked on Cape Cod for more than 50 years and my children grew up and attended school here. We cannot afford to lose those 170 acres of forested land. Our livelihoods, our homes and businesses, all are at risk. We cannot undo the damage that has already been done, but we CAN choose not to wreak further unnecessary destruction on our fragile ecosystem. Please respect this place we call home and those of us who earn our living here. Do NOT construct the machine gun range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #19, #35, and #566.
	532	Elizabeth Aldred	Citizen	N/A	I have watched with dismay the increasing threats to this vulnerable place posed by climate change. By sequestering carbon from the atmosphere, trees play an essential role in our efforts to mitigate the devastating effects of the warming process that drives the climate crisis which is affecting us all.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #64, and #130.
222	533	Jana Bertkau	Citizen	N/A	I oppose this project which calls for 199 acres of land disturbance including the clearcutting of 170+ acres of forested land to accommodate a gun range.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #187, and #566.
	534	Jana Bertkau	Citizen	N/A	The Environmental Assessment's (EA) unsubstantiated findings of "No Adverse Environmental Impacts." is premature.	Request for Additional Analysis	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.
	535	Jana Bertkau	Citizen	N/A	It is essential that we are good stewards of our precious land and that we not contribute to climate change through this project.	Air Quality	Climate Change	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18 and #64.
223	536	Ann Canedy	Citizen	N/A	Good morning. I am a member of the Community Advisory Council of the Environmental Management Commission for Joint Base Cape Cod. I am writing as an individual interested party however and my comments do not purport to represent the collective opinion of the Council. I am writing to ask respectfully that you extend the comment period for the proposal to install a machine gun firing range on the Base. I realize that as a Council we have received some briefings about this over the past few years but as this has drawn to conclusion we have not, as a Council or as a community, fully focused on the details and ramifications of the proposal. I attribute this to the difficulties of effective communication under COVID constraints. Extending the courtesy of an additional 30 days comment period and a community outreach on this subject would I believe go along way furthering this goal.	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.

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	537	Ann Canedy	Citizen	N/A	In addition to an extension of the public comment period, I would like to suggest a CAC meeting solely dedicated to this issue. It would of course be a public meeting but I leave it up to the CAC Chair Mimi McConnell and Leonard Pinaud as Managing Officer, if such a meeting is scheduled, to determine whether members of interested stakeholders should be invited to participate. I would advocate for their conclusion, either at the CAC presentation or at a separate CAC led meeting. The bottom line is I think the public needs to feel like they are being included in the decision making as much as feasible and at a minimum, given a rationale for the proposed use. Thank you for your consideration. I think the Military does an admirable job balancing the important need for military readiness with our sensitive environmental issues.	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period, Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #17 and #78.
224	538	Bill and Roslyn Coleman	Citizen	N/A	Cape Cod needs its trees and taking 200 acres of trees and wildlife off line for a machine gun range is a desecration of the limited land of Cape Cod. "...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;	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #64, and #566.
	539	Bill and Roslyn Coleman	Citizen	N/A	(2) lacks a cumulative impacts analysis	Cumulative Effects	General	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #61.
	540	Bill and Roslyn Coleman	Citizen	N/A	(3) avoids the robust alternatives analysis and mitigation assessment that would be required under an EIS	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, and #39.
	541	Bill and Roslyn Coleman	Citizen	N/A	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."	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
225	542	Jeanne Cosgrove	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to express opposition to the deforestation and gun range project at the base.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	543	Jeanne Cosgrove	Citizen	N/A	Given the past history of polluting Cape Cod's sole source aquifer, this project clearly should not happen. This project would negatively impact Cape Cod environment, drinking water, and climate.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #61.

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226	544	Richard F. Delaney	Public/Private Entity	President, Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative	<p>The Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative (Climate Collaborative) submits this letter in response to the request from the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) for comment on its Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range (MPMG) at Camp Edwards, Barnstable County, Massachusetts.</p> <p>The Climate Collaborative represents businesses, institutions, organizations and citizens of Cape Cod and the Islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts (Cape &amp; Islands). Its mission is to unite the knowledge, resources, talent and tools of its hundreds of members to mitigate climate change impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect natural processes of carbon sequestration and work toward achieving net zero-based goals for the Cape &amp; Islands. The broad-based membership of the Climate Collaborative Board includes leaders in finance and banking, housing, construction, environment and education, municipal and county government, and faith, youth, and civic climate activism. All are committed to mitigating the climate crisis, which on the Cape &amp; Islands, has become an existential threat. <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18 and #64.
					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> The Climate Collaborative believes that, for the reasons described below, the EA and resulting FONSI are fatally deficient. The proposed MPMG project will have significant climate change impacts, which while ignored in the EA and FONSI, must be identified, quantified and thoroughly analyzed with input from the affected public as required by the National Environmental Act (NEPA). Specifically, the EA:</p> <p>(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;</p>			
	545	Richard F. Delaney	Public/Private Entity	President, Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative	(2) lacks a cumulative impacts analysis;	Cumulative Effects	General	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #61.



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	546	Richard F. Delaney	Public/Private Entity	President, Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative	(3) avoids the robust alternatives analysis and mitigation assessment that would be required under an EIS; and	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #39.
	547	Richard F. Delaney	Public/Private Entity	President, Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative	(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.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
	548	Richard F. Delaney	Public/Private Entity	President, Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative	The FONSI's unjustifiable conclusion that there is no significant impact from the proposed MPMG project lacks any support in the EA. For these reasons, the Climate Collaborative believes the EA and FONSI should be withdrawn and a new EA prepared in compliance with NEPA requirements, resulting in a recommendation that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared. NEPA's decision-making requirements are clear. Under NEPA, an EA must consider direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts of a proposed action in order to determine whether the comprehensive environmental assessment contained in an EIS is required. NEPA's procedural requirements are designed to ensure that a decision-making process provides a thorough analysis and public involvement. In this case, the EA and the FONSI do neither. MAARNG was charged with deciding whether any environmental impact associated with the MPMG is "significant." To determine the significance of potential impacts, the EA contains only the most cursory discussion of the project's possible environmental impact. To determine the climate change associated with the MPMG project, the EA looked only at emissions associated with vehicle travel to and from the Camp Edwards site, finding that the project could have a beneficial impact on climate by eliminating those emissions. The Climate Collaborative's review of the EA is particularly focused on the MPMG's calls for clear-cutting 170 acres of forest. <i>(comment continued below)</i>	Request for Additional Analysis	EIS	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17, #78, #97, and #145.

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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> The Climate Collaborative is categorically opposed to forest destruction for any reason and has issued a formal position statement opposing tree cutting, even to accommodate solar arrays. This position is based on studies examining forests' ability to provide significant storage and sequestration of the carbon pollutants that drive climate change. Research on carbon sequestration indicates that mature forests, such as those on Camp Edwards, can potentially sequester between 1 and 1.6 metric tons per acre per year. It is clear that MAARNG failed to conduct any research to determine and quantify the sequestration losses, and attendant carbon releases, associated with clear-cutting 170 acres of forest lands. These impacts must be analyzed and quantified. The MAARNG purports to go through the motions of considering climate change in its assessment, but the outcome fails to reflect NEPA's purposes. As a result, the Cape &amp; Islands region is left with less carbon storage capacity and more GHG emissions. This significant loss is not quantified or even addressed anywhere in the EA or the FONSI. <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>			
					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> We close our comments with the recommendation by the United States Army War College in Implications of Climate Change for the US Army, published in 2019: 1.1 Problem: The Lack of a Culture of Environmental Stewardship Recommendation: Army leadership must create a culture of environmental consciousness, stay ahead of societal demands for environmental stewardship and serve as a leader for the nation or it risks endangering the broad support it now enjoys. Cultural change is a senior leader responsibility. Implementation Timing: Now The time to create a "culture of environmental consciousness" is now. That begins with rejection of the fatally flawed EA and FONSI and undertaking of a full EIS including an examination of alternatives, mitigation measures, a thorough vetting of environmental and climate concerns, and a deep dive into the science regarding the climate impact(s) of de-forestation. Such a process must also include a robust schedule of public hearings.</p>			

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227	549	Dr. David D. Dow	Citizen	N/A	I am commenting as a grassroots environmental activist and retired marine scientist living on Cape Cod. I have been engaged in the SDWA/CERCLA cleanup on Joint Base Cape Cod, since the late 1970's (the Ashumet Valley Plume lies underneath the Yearling Meadows development where I live in East Falmouth). In addition, I represented the Sierra Club on the Community Working Group which helped frame the compromise of military training that is consistent with the conservation of State-listed species and the protection of groundwater from toxic chemicals from military training. I have learned that the military likes to train like it fights, since Army National Guard troops get deployed throughout the world to defend US treaty obligations and business interests. These are my personal comments and don't represent the view of the Massachusetts Chapter/Cape Cod Group- Sierra Club Executive Committees. Recently I have been focused on commenting on 1, 4- dioxane in the CS-10 plume, but was concerned by reporting on the Multi-purpose Machine Gun Range in the Cape Cod Times by Christine Legere & WCAI's story by Eve Zuckoff. My scientific college, Dr. Chris Neill (Woods Hole Research Center), expressed concerns about this endeavor & I respect his views as a terrestrial climate change scientist and habitat expert. My climate change activism is focused on the mortalities of North Atlantic right whales from entanglements in American lobster gear. My sense is that the important habitats for state-listed species on Camp Edwards is Savannah and grasslands and not scrub oak/pitch pine forests, but will leave it up to the Massa. Division of Fisheries & Wildlife to comment on this issue. (comment continued below)	Cumulative Effects	Climate Change	Comment noted. As discussed in <b>Section 4.12</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), implementation of the Proposed Action would not be expected to cumulatively significantly adversely impact any resource area discussed within the EA when taken in consideration with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Given the nature of climate change, the region will likely continue to experience associated climate change effects; however, the Proposed Action would not be a significant contributor to climate change. The Proposed Action's incremental impacts on climate change are discussed in <b>Section 4.3 of the EA</b> . The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) would adhere to Best Management Practices (BMPs), Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs), and installation-specific management plans to ensure that cumulative impacts remain at less-than-significant levels. As such, the Proposed Action would not noticeably contribute to any degradation in natural resources, regionally or locally. Please also see the responses to Comments #18, #64, and #187.

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					(continuation of above comment) My concerns focus on the 5000 acres of land which will be effected by the 170 acre machine gun range which is a significant portion of the land at Camp Edwards. This is bound to have negative consequences on wild things, wild places at JBCC.  I feel that the Army National Guard should conduct a cumulative impact assessment (CIA) and utilize an adaptive, ecosystems-based management approach that allows responses to unexpected changes from climate disruption & increased noise/ human activities within a large area at JBCC. There should be some type of public hearing to review the CIA and discuss management alternatives. As the COVID-19 Pandemic health and socioeconomic effects have shown, we live in a complex world which is not at equilibrium/ exhibits non-linear interactions that effect both human activities and the natural environment. In my experience neither the Ma. EOEEA MEPA process nor Cape Cod Commission Assessments include this new reality and assume the continuation of a steady state natural/human system which is at equilibrium (the marine equivalent of this is the Northeast Continental Shelf Ecosystem conceptual model which ignores climate change; increased ocean noise; effects of other human activities on the "productive capacity of Essential Fish Habitat; 2020 Ecosystem Status report for the Mid-Atlantic/New England regions shows that "natural mortality" increases as fish/shellfish species and their prey change in space/time; etc.).			

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	550	Dr. David D. Dow	Citizen	N/A	Many years ago, I pointed out to AFCEC (Air Force Civil Engineering Center) that the "natural attenuation" of toxic contaminants of concern in the soil at JBCC would be effected by climate change. After the glaciers our earthworms came from Europe which has a much more temperate climate than what currently occurs here on Cape Cod. The biogeochemical cycles are based upon interactions between soil microbes/microfauna/earthworms, so that if one converts forests to grassland or Savannah habitats changes are bound to occur which could lead to unexpected consequences in a dynamic complex natural world. For many years I have warned about PFAS and contaminants of concern pollution of Ashumet pond, but it was only recently that PFAS was discovered in the water column and sediments. This newly discovered PFAS source (in addition to the Fire Training Area/old Wastewater Treatment Plan) has caused the down gradient Ashumet Valley Plume to become a big blob which has contaminated public and private drinking water wells in Falmouth and Mashpee with PFOS and PFOA. This is one reason why we need a cumulative impact assessment for the Multi-purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards to avoid surprises (like the PFAS contamination of Ashumet pond). If such surprises are detected an A, EBM approach would allow an appropriate response to negative effects on wild places, wild things in the surrounding environment.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are not expected to be discharged during construction or operation of the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #61.
	551	Dr. David D. Dow	Citizen	N/A	As a marine scientist I am especially concerned about noise effects on wildlife and losing greenhouse gas storage in trees/roots as the Cape Cod Commission moves to develop a Climate Action Plan by January 21, 2021	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Noise)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #44, and #130.
	552	Dr. David D. Dow	Citizen	N/A	Changes in the soil biogeochemistry could effect plants and natural cycles of toxic substances in the soil. More attention needs to be given to the biological aspects of this cycling/natural attenuation process (perhaps the US Geological Survey could provide more insights on this process).	Soils	Soil Degradation	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #26.



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228	553	Bud Dunham	State/Local Representative	Sandwich Town Manager	At the Sandwich Board of Selectmen meeting last night, the Board really had three areas of concern they wanted me to look into: 1. Confirming how many acres were going to be cleared as part of the range construction and operation; 2. If there was noise attenuation or barriers put in place to minimize the sound impact on surrounding neighborhoods; and 3. Clarifying what time of day or parts of the week the range would be used. I will await Col. Porter's outreach, but if it could be recorded what the Sandwich Board of Selectmen concerns are as part of the official record for the project, that would be appreciated.	Information Request	Proposed Action	Comment noted. Answers to questions are as follows: 1. The Preferred Alternative would require clearing of approximately 170.5 acres of existing forest. This acreage would be converted to maintained grassland. 2. As discussed in <b>Section 4.4.1</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) would minimize noise impacts partly through design, and would adhere to Camp Edwards Range Regulations, and the Statewide Operational Noise Management Plan. The MAARNG would create a 24-hour noise complaint hotline and post training events in advance, as recommended in the 2019 Army Public Health Center Noise Assessment for the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range (see <b>Appendix D</b> of the EA). The MAARNG would also complete a future noise study to evaluate real-time firing conditions and will consider all resultant recommendations. The Preferred Alternative would not result in significant adverse impacts from noise. 3. As discussed in <b>Section 2.2.2.4</b> of the EA, the proposed MPMG Range would primarily be used from March through November, during the main annual training cycle. Peak range usage would occur from May through June. Night training would occur approximately 1 to 2 days per week, from sundown to 2:00 AM, for a total of 37 to 74 days during the annual training cycle. Please also see the response to Comment #593.
229	554	Susan Moran and Julian Cyr	State/Local Representative	MA State Representatives: Plymouth and Barnstable, and Cape and Islands, respectively	We are writing to you today regarding the recently announced plans to construct a machine gun firing range on Joint Base Cape Cod. As the elected State Senators for the affected communities we would like to share our concerns and those of our constituents that the public review process for this decision is being rushed. We respectfully request that you reconsider the decision to close the comment period on September 8 and provide a 30-day extension to allow for more discussion and review of this important decision. As you know, Joint Base Cape Cod includes the largest piece of undeveloped land on Cape Cod which is home to 37 protected species. The base also sits atop an underground aquifer that supplies the drinking water for the Upper Cape communities we represent. Since the National Guard took up residence in 1911, it has been a steward of this land and a valued community partner. <i>(comment continued below)</i>	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.

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					<i>(continuation of above comment)</i> The communities of the Upper Cape have worked with the National Guard on numerous occasions, most recently regarding the water processing plant currently operated on the base. I have no doubt that you recognize the value of this partnership in the same way our communities have valued the ability to work with you over the years. We understand and respect that as the steward of 22,000 acres of land on Cape Cod you appreciate the tenuous environmental balance our communities must navigate. Given the ecologically diverse and fragile land you plan to develop, we and our constituents believe this plan needs more time and analysis. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact our offices should you have any questions.			
	555	Susan Moran and Julian Cyr	State/Local Representative	MA State Representatives: Plymouth and Barnstable, and Cape and Islands; respectively	While deforesting 170 acres may not seem impactful in the grand scheme of the base, it may have an outsize impact on our communities by changing the quality of our groundwater, drinking water, and air. In light of these hazards, we respectfully request an extension of the comment period on these plans.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #28, #35, #153, and #566.
230	556	Brooke Eaton-Skea	Citizen	N/A	I've just learned of the proposal to clear cut a large forest to make room for a gun range on the upper Cape. I have lived in Brewster for 16 years and am very concerned about the impact this clear cutting would have on our environment. I am adamantly opposed to this idea.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35, and #566.

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231	557	Alfred Gaechter	Citizen	N/A	I write in vehement opposition to the deforestation program proposed on JBCC for a gun range and peripheral functionality. I am the President of the Truro Conservation Trust and a member of the Town of Truro's Climate Change Action Committee. Both these organizations have programs to plant trees throughout our town for water conservation and purification, for environmental protection from erosion and development, and for carbon sequestration. Similar organizations, in other Cape towns have comparable programs. What all these organization would accomplish would be more than negated by the one gun range program as proposed, thereby, defeating Cape Cod's volunteer efforts to protect the Cape's environment, improve air quality, and respond to climate change impacts on our rural communities and way of life. It's just unimaginable that JBCC could be so insensitive to your neighbors on this very special peninsula. And for what, an MPMG. My God, what an insult to all of us who live and make a living here. We request, for the good of the citizens of Cape Cod and Massachusetts that this unnecessary and harmful project be cancelled.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #14, #35, and #566.
232	558	Maureen Grandmont	Citizen	N/A	The beauty of Cape Cod will be hampered greatly by the deforestation that is supposed to take place at camp Edwards. Who is responsible for this action? Is this really necessary? There are very few pristine places left on the Cape and this would be a shame if it were to go forward. Please do the right thing and we consider this action. For your immediate attention to this matter,	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #14, #35, and #566.
233	559	Dawna Hammers	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to tell you that I am VERY CONCERNED about the proposed machine gun range at Joint Base Cape Cod! We don't need more machines of death! We need trees of life! Our humanity, democracy and planet are at a crucial time of change & survival. This smells of Trump's White Supremacy's ruthless killing of unarmed, peaceful protestors in the name of justice for the Black Lives Matter Movement. It's appalling! Who on God's good earth want to kill or be killed by a machine gun? Why do men not care about their fellow human beings and animals habitat? Your family and grandchildren will be proud of you in the end for having a heart and taking a moral stand against death & destruction.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #14.

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	560	Dawna Hammers	Citizen	N/A	It is unconscionable of the National Guard to cut down 170.5 acres of precious & environmentally crucial trees for this selfish, dangerous & deadly reason at this crucial time. This shooting range will only devastate our natural wildlife, water, air, quiet & peace of mind but it will also unleash a militia of killers upon our soil. Please for the love of God, the people, animals, trees and peace upon the Earth STOP THIS PROJECT FROM HAPPENING.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
234	561	Phyllis Helfrich	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposal for building a machine gun shooting range on Cape Cod, so close to my home. You cannot cut down almost 200 acres and say you are not having an impact on the environment.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	562	Phyllis Helfrich	Citizen	N/A	I live in Forestdale and will be impacted by the noise. I don't want the children of Forestdale School to be subjected to that noise either. Children have enough problems concentrating without that added. Also, Cape Cod is a tourist destination. This noise will be heard at Snake Pond, a favorite beach for residents and visitors. LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE!!!	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
235	563	Shad Heller	Public/Private Entity	President, Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance	The Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance (SEMPBA) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to raise awareness about the need for urgent action to conserve, protect and restore the globally rare Massachusetts Coastal Pine Barrens ecoregion, and to facilitate cooperative action among federal, state, municipal and tribal agencies, conservation organizations and landowners in furtherance of that mission. SEMPBA has reviewed the Environmental Assessment for a proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range at Joint Base Cape Cod and has concluded the project should not go forward. On a very basic level, Cape Cod and the adjacent communities of Southeastern Massachusetts encompass a particularly rare and fragile ecosystem which is ill-suited to projects of this kind. Additionally, SEMPBA is concerned that the MPMG proposal is a large step in the wrong direction, in terms of the status of Joint Base Cape Cod and, in general, development of Camp Edwards located within one of the few remaining large tracts of Coastal Pine Barrens.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35, and #566.
	564	Shad Heller	Public/Private Entity	President, Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance	We also concur with a review of the proposal by the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) which publicly questions the "the thoroughness of the projects' EA (environmental assessment) along with its findings of 'no significant impact.'"	Request for Additional Analysis	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.

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	565	Shad Heller	Public/Private Entity	President, Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance	Since the conclusion of World War II, the military infrastructure within the base has gradually diminished—and major cooperative efforts have taken place to address the pollution of groundwater resulting from irresponsible practices of the military managers of the site in the past— to the point that today the perceived value of the majority of the grounds within the fences has been understood to be its significant forests, habitat and aquifer recharge capabilities— all of which had, to date, been capably managed by the Natural Resources and Integrated Training Area Management program manager for the Massachusetts Army National Guard.	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #35, #37, #153, #187, and #566.
	566	Shad Heller	Public/Private Entity	President, Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance	The 5000+ acres that are part of the MPMG proposal would represent a major loss for the region's environment: it is nearly a quarter of the base's total acreage and includes hundreds of acres where the forest would be clear-cut for a firing range and the remainder off-limits to guard against accidentally exposure to live fire and unexploded munitions. Though this area includes the second largest remaining expanse of coastal pine barrens left in the world, the reality is that only 10 percent of the natural communities that once comprised this ecoregion remain. Every acre of remaining Pine Barrens is therefore critical to the regions' continued environmental vitality, as those intact natural communities protect our air, our aquifers, and the more than 200 state listed (rare or endangered) species of plant and animal found herein: in short, the Pine Barrens protects our quality of life. To many residents of the area the closed base and it's 22,000 mostly wooded acres, is a mystery. Yet by their own admission, expressed within the environmental assessment undertaken as part of this proposal, Joint Base Cape Cod contains the "largest intact area of relatively unfragmented forest remaining on Cape Cod." Anywhere else in this region a proposal to clear-cut hundreds of acres of pristine Pine Barrens habitat would be greeted with incredulity. <i>(comment continued below)</i>	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. As discussed in <b>Section 4.7.1.1</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), under the Preferred Alternative, a total of approximately 170.5 acres of existing forest would be cleared and converted to maintained grassland. No land disturbance would be required for the remainder of the 5,197-acre surface danger zone. The proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range location is primarily composed of low quality habitat – not "pristine forest" - due to overgrown and unmanaged condition as described in Section 3.2 of the Conservation and Management Permit (CMP) Application attached to the EA (see <b>Appendix E</b> of the EA). The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and US Fish and Wildlife Service have both concurred with the determination that the removal of this overstocked, high density forested condition is offset for net benefit through pine barrens restoration surrounding the range and within the other Pine Barrens Mitigation Focal Areas established through the Conservation and Management Permit. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) obtained the CMP from the Massachusetts Natural Habitat and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) on 29 September 2020. The Proposed Action Area was largely chosen to overlap an existing cleared range area that has been maintained for several decades – the roughly 40 acre Known Distance (KD) Range area – which reduces the necessary clearing. Additionally, the surrounding area that is being cleared was previously inaccessible to management and, like much of Cape Cod's forested areas was allowed to regenerate in the absence of forest management after centuries of tree clearing. This leads to an unhealthy forest condition and overall low habitat suitability for both rare and common species. Southeastern Massachusetts ecosystems are not climax natural communities, but disturbance dependent systems. Where pine barrens restoration is applied through conservation management planning, mechanical forestry, and prescribed burning, population improvements are seen for most of our species of concern, especially rare species such as the Eastern Whip-poor-will, numerous listed moths, and plants such as Broad Tinker's Weed. <i>(response continued below)</i>



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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> Here however, at least in the words of the proponents in their initial, limited environmental assessment, potential adverse impacts would somehow be “less than significant.” The proposal includes what appears to be a carrot to go with the stick: an agreement to transfer 310 acres to the state, and actively manage (for species and habitat) an additional 551 acres. But as the APCC notes in their official response to the proposal, “these forests already exist and do not replace the forest area to be cleared by the project. No additional forested land will be created in place of the 170.5 acres (that will be clear-cut).” Our major concern is that this proposal represents a backward step, and a betrayal of the community’s understanding that additional, intensive military use of the grounds of Joint Base Cape Cod is a relic of the past, a danger to the area’s fragile ecology, and a severe blow to the effort to preserve the second largest example of Coastal Pine Barrens left in the world.  <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>			<p><i>(continuation of above response)</i> As described briefly in <b>Section 4.7.1</b> of the EA abundant pine barrens restoration is being implemented outside the project area to create improved habitat condition as offset for loss of lower quality habitat for pine barrens flora and fauna. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) has a track record of success and regional leadership and partnership in pine barrens restoration and management. The high investment in pine barrens and sandplain grassland management at Camp Edwards is to ensure the net benefit and long-term sustainability of these habitats while supporting military training, including making the overall system highly resilient to some amount of loss through range development and similar actions. The MAARNG Natural Resources Program has consistently demonstrated, including through public meetings and base tours partnering with groups such as the Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance and Association to Preserve Cape Cod, that Army conservation works for pine barrens. Fragmentation and disturbance are part of the natural system. Additionally, the high level of investment in pine barrens management is to support the overall Army mission; continued training at Joint Base Cape Cod is one of the best ways to ensure long-term improvement of pine barrens on Upper Cape Cod and conditions for the variety of state-listed species dependent upon them. MAARNG remains committed (and is required to demonstrate success) to managing the Coastal Pine Barrens community for mutual benefit of the ecosystem, military training, and the public trust resource. The Conservation and Management Plan/Permit establishing the overarching mitigation bank within Camp Edwards is a step forward for pine barrens conservation and restoration of this ecosystem.                      Please also see the response to Comment #187.</p>

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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> We recognize the military's need for training facilities, for grounds and infrastructure that help maintain the readiness of our troops, but this area is – today – unsuitable for the proposed expansion of those capabilities. 75 years ago, the region was sparsely populated, and there were few who understood the longterm ramifications of clear-cutting forests, blocking waterways, restricting wildlife movement and the like. At that moment in time there were few who would argue against the placement of an MPMG at this location. Today, however there is little if any justification for choosing this site, or for purposefully creating these environmental impediments and deficits – except perhaps expediency. There are a variety of obvious potential alternatives to this proposal which we believe have not been adequately explored, including a dramatic reduction in the size of the project and/or greater reliance on simulators, or the use of other sites that are even more remote and environmentally less significant.</p> <p>It is difficult enough to find a balance between development and preservation, even in an area renowned unique culture and environment. Sacrificing large tracts of that culture and environment is imprudent, at best.</p>			
236	567	Ann Maxwell Hill	Citizen	N/A	<p>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?</p>	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #4.

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237	568	David Jones	Citizen	N/A	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.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #4.
238	569	George Y. Jumper	Citizen	N/A	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.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, and #23.
239	570	Walter H. Klar	Citizen	N/A	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.  Therefore, in this brief request, I support the continuing use of Fort Ethan Allen, which already has such a facility.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, and #23.
	571	Walter H. Klar	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #187 and #566.
	572	Walter H. Klar	Citizen	N/A	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.	Land Use and Cover	Compatibility	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #187.
240	573	Barb Lambdin	Citizen	N/A	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.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #130, and #566.

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	574	Barb Lambdin	Citizen	N/A	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.	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.
	575	Barb Lambdin	Citizen	N/A	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.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
241	576	Eleanor Lascari	Citizen	N/A	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. I urge you to locate the firing range on another base in Massachusetts where there would be less environmental impact.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, and #23.
	577	Eleanor Lascari	Citizen	N/A	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.	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.
	578	Eleanor Lascari	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #64, #130, and #566.
242	579	Nan Logan	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	580	Nan Logan	Citizen	N/A	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.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37 and #49.
	581	Nan Logan	Citizen	N/A	Since another New England site is available I ask you to cancel the plans for the Camp Edwards project.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #23.
243	582	Suzanne Brock	Public/Private Entity	President, League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area	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.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #17, #97, and #145.

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	583	Suzanne Brock	Public/Private Entity	President, League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area	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.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
	584	Suzanne Brock	Public/Private Entity	President, League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. No artillery would be fired at the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range. Please see the response to Comment #566 and #35.
	585	Suzanne Brock	Public/Private Entity	President, League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area	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.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.
	586	Suzanne Brock	Public/Private Entity	President, League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area	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.	Air Quality	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. As discussed in <b>Section 4.3.1</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), the training activity and associated air emissions would be limited by the time and duration of activities. Any residual discharge generated by the Proposed Action would fall rapidly within a short distance within the site. The surrounding heavily wooded area would also limit the distance and amount that residual discharge and smoke would travel. Impacts would be further reduced through the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) (see <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA). Nearby residences would not experience any measurable effects. For more information on air emissions, please see responses to Comments #18, #101, and #130.
	587	Suzanne Brock	Public/Private Entity	President, League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area	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.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, #19, and #593.



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244	588	Cheryl Lubin	Citizen	N/A	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...	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #14, #35, and #566.
245	589	Brian William McGurk	Citizen	N/A	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.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #14.
246	590	Kevin Minnigerode	Citizen	N/A	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? 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- <a href="https://www.capecod.com/newscenter/barnstable-town-officialslook-way-forward-shooting-range/">https://www.capecod.com/newscenter/barnstable-town-officialslook-way-forward-shooting-range/</a> < Caution- <a href="https://www.capecod.com/newscenter/barnstable-town-officials-lookway-forward-shooting-range/">https://www.capecod.com/newscenter/barnstable-town-officials-lookway-forward-shooting-range/</a> > (comment continued below)	Information Request	Proposed Action	A standard Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range is used as the record qualification for machine gun rifles (M249, M240B, M2) and the MK19 grenade launcher. The range as designed would only support the M249 and M240B record qualification. Ammunition used on this range would be limited to copper ammunition; no lead ammunition would be fired. Additionally, the MPMG range would be designed with individual earthen impact berms behind each target. These impact berms are designed to capture the expended ammunition to the maximum extent practicable. These berms would also assist in the recovery of copper for recycling, prevention of fragmentation and ricochets, and prevention of subsurface percolation of residue associated with range operations. The Operational Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (OMMP) would also require the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) to conduct regular groundwater and soil sampling to determine if range operations are protective of the environment. As discussed in <b>Section 4.10</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), all hazardous and toxic materials and waste that would be used or generated would be handled and disposed of in compliance with Federal and State requirements to minimize potential impacts to the maximum extent feasible. Further, only approved personnel would use this range. If range time vacancy permits, this range may be utilized by other Department of Defense (DoD) and law enforcement agencies (i.e., US Coast Guard, Sheriff's Department, and local police departments). The type of unit that is to fire, for example a military police company or transportation company, determines the number of firers per unit. The Soldiers require this qualification annually. Based on current alignments approximately 305 Soldiers require the use of this range. This number is expected to increase over time as units that travel to other installations will travel to Camp Edwards to meet their training needs. (comment response continued below)

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					<i>(continuation of above comment)</i> Additional links: Caution- <a href="https://globalforestatlas.yale.edu/climate-change/climate-change-and-tropicalforests">https://globalforestatlas.yale.edu/climate-change/climate-change-and-tropicalforests</a> < Caution- <a href="https://globalforestatlas.yale.edu/climate-change/climate-change-andtropical-forests">https://globalforestatlas.yale.edu/climate-change/climate-change-andtropical-forests</a> > Caution- <a href="https://www.rutgers.edu/news/how-tackle-climate-change-food-security-and-land-degradation">https://www.rutgers.edu/news/how-tackle-climate-change-food-security-and-land-degradation</a> < Caution- <a href="https://www.rutgers.edu/news/how-tackle-climate-change-foodsecurity-and-land-degradation">https://www.rutgers.edu/news/how-tackle-climate-change-foodsecurity-and-land-degradation</a> > Caution- <a href="https://www.barnstablepatriot.com/news/20190419/bpd-to-operate-revived-shootingrange">https://www.barnstablepatriot.com/news/20190419/bpd-to-operate-revived-shootingrange</a> < Caution- <a href="https://www.barnstablepatriot.com/news/20190419/bpd-to-operate-revivedshooting-range">https://www.barnstablepatriot.com/news/20190419/bpd-to-operate-revivedshooting-range</a> >			<i>(continuation of above comment response)</i> As units realign to Camp Edwards, the number of Soldiers who would utilize this range is anticipated to increase to 1,000 or more Soldiers. On a typically busy weekend, Camp Edwards hosts approximately 2,000 Soldiers training on the installation. This happens once a month during the busy months (April to November). Once this range is complete and operational, the number of training events is anticipated to increase to three weekends a month from April to November. National Guard Bureau (NGB) and the Department of the Army (DA) deem this project to be a viable need for the MAARNG in order to address its training shortfalls. A cost benefit analysis is not part of the decision making process. Please see the response to Comment #6.
	591	Kevin Minnigerode	Citizen	N/A	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 fieldsdo 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	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. The proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range must remain on Camp Edwards and the surface danger zone must remain within the boundaries of Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC); thus, a land swap is not feasible. Please see <b>Section 2.3.3</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for a discussion of alternatives considered. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #18, and #64.
	592	Kevin Minnigerode	Citizen	N/A	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	Water Resources	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #97, and #153.

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	593	Kevin Minnigerode	Citizen	N/A	What will be done to mitigate the impact of noise pollution in surrounding residential area?	Best Management Practices and Regulatory Compliance Measures	Noise	Comment noted. As part of the preliminary planning process, Camp Edwards conducted a test fire at Known Distance (KD) Range on August 14, 2015 to simulate noise from the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range. Bordering neighborhoods were notified and asked for input. No input was received. As a result of this test, the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) shifted the location of the proposed MPMG Range north to reduce potential noise in bordering neighborhoods. In addition, as detailed in <b>Sections 4.4.1 and 4.11</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), the Proposed Action would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) to proactively minimize potential adverse impacts on noise. A previously established Noise Notification Protocol would be updated to provide public notification of upcoming training events. A 24-hour noise complaint point of contact would be established for less-than-significant adverse operational noise that may be anticipated due to increased site use and firing operations from training activities on the MPMG Range. However, peak noise levels would not extend beyond the Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC) boundary. Please see the response to Comment #10.
247	594	Thomas Quill	Citizen	N/A	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'.	Request for Additional Analysis	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #97, #98, and #145.
	595	Thomas Quill	Citizen	N/A	Please also direct me to the publicly available information that concluded the Army National Guard needs such a range on Cape Cod.	Information Request	Purpose and Need	Comment noted. Publicly available information on the Proposed Action is available on the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) Environmental and Readiness Center website ( <a href="https://www.massnationalguard.org/ERC/publications.htm">https://www.massnationalguard.org/ERC/publications.htm</a> ). As discussed in <b>Sections 1.2.1 and 1.2.2</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range is vital in providing a complete, sustainable, and viable training facility for MAARNG Soldiers. An Army standard MPMG Range does not currently exist within Massachusetts. To receive training on an MPMG Range and meet weapons qualifications standards and training requirements as set forth under <u>Department of the Army Pamphlet 350-38, Standards in Weapons Training</u> , Soldiers and units must travel to a nearby MPMG Range, the closest being 270 miles away at Camp Ethan Allen in Jericho, Vermont. The need for travel causes the loss of critical training resources MAARNG units need, and reduces the time available for conducting required training exercises at Camp Edwards. This travel time frequently violates <u>Training Circular 3-20.40, Training and Qualifications – Individual Weapons</u> , which establishes a reasonable travel distance as 100 miles. In addition, continued out-of-state travel for training requirements would impact troop morale, training time, and use of fiscal resources. The Proposed Action would address shortfalls in required small arms training facilities and capabilities within Massachusetts, allow multiple units to attain required weapons qualification levels simultaneously and efficiently, and support the MAARNG's and other military users' assigned mission training objectives and requirements. Camp Edwards has been used for military training since 1911. As Camp Edwards serves as the primary Army National Guard (ARNG) training site for Massachusetts, the Proposed Action would continue to support higher quality, mission-essential, training activities at Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC). No significant adverse environmental, socioeconomic, or cultural effects would occur as a result of this project.

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	596	Thomas Quill	Citizen	N/A	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.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #14, and #23.
248	597	Wendy Reveri	Citizen	N/A	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 am adamantly opposed to this proposal.	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #14 and #153.
	598	Wendy Reveri	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #187, and #566.
	599	Wendy Reveri	Citizen	N/A	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.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.
249	600	Ann Ryan	Citizen	N/A	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.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #14, and #593.
	601	Ann Ryan	Citizen	N/A	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.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #60.
250	602	Pete Sampou	Citizen	N/A	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.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.
	603	Pete Sampou	Citizen	N/A	Therefore, I am in strong opposition to the proposed siting of the MPMG range and the clear-cutting of 170 acres of forest.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
251	604	Sally Schumann	Citizen	N/A	I write to register my opposition to this gun range and the clear cutting of forest.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.

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252	605	Karen Schwartzman	Citizen	N/A	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. 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.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, and #14.
	606	Karen Schwartzman	Citizen	N/A	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.	Request for Additional Analysis	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #97.
253	607	Karen Serdy	Citizen	N/A	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. <Picture of large jet>	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.



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254	608	Sandra Fairman-Silva	Citizen	N/A	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.	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period, Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17, #27, #37, #78, and #153.

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	609	Sandra Fairman-Silva	Citizen	N/A	<p>Environmental impacts: This same region was declared part of a superfund site containing 42 separate superfunddesignated 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 Codpeninsula. 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.</p> <p>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. <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.

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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> 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<a href="https://www.massnationalguard.org/JBCC/afcec.html">https://www.massnationalguard.org/JBCC/afcec.html</a> &lt; Caution<a href="https://www.massnationalguard.org/JBCC/afcec.html">https://www.massnationalguard.org/JBCC/afcec.html</a> &gt; 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. <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>			

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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> Sixtyone 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. <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>			

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Comme nter #	Comm ent #	Commenter	Commenter Type	Organizati on/Agency	Comment	Resource Area	Sub-Resource Area	Final Response
					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> 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: <a href="https://www.massnationalguard.org/JBCC/afceedocuments/jbcc_cleanup_update_092619.pdf">Cautionhttps://www.massnationalguard.org/JBCC/afceedocuments/jbcc_cleanup_update_092619.pdf</a> &lt; <a href="https://www.massnationalguard.org/JBCC/afceedocuments/jbcc_cleanup_update_092619.pdf">Cautionhttps://www.massnationalguard.org/JBCC/afceedocuments/jbcc_cleanup_update_092619.pdf</a> &gt; 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.</p>			
	610	Sandra Fairman-Silva	Citizen	N/A	<p>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.</p>	Socioeconomics	Tourism	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, #60, #76, and #593.



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	611	Sandra Fairman-Silva	Citizen	N/A	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 longstanding 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.	Cultural Resources	Archaeology	Comment noted. As discussed in <b>Section 4.8.1</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), the Proposed Action is anticipated to have no effect on historic, archaeological, or recorded tribal resources, as no historic structures or archaeological sites have been identified in the Proposed Action area. Section 106 consultation efforts are summarized in <b>Appendix A</b> of the EA.
	612	Sandra Fairman-Silva	Citizen	N/A	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.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, #14, and #23.

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255	613	Betsy Smith	Citizen	N/A	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 al 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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
256	614	Janet Soja and Joan Sullivan	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35, and #566.
	615	Janet Soja and Joan Sullivan	Citizen	N/A	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.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
257	616	Charles Wilder	Citizen	N/A	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.	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.
	617	Charles Wilder	Citizen	N/A	Deforestation of 177 acres of land protecting the upper cape water supply bodes ill for safe and clean drinkable water and would be irresponsible.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #153, and #566.
258	618	Beverley LeBlanc	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35, and #566.
	619	Beverley LeBlanc	Citizen	N/A	The location is also too close to homes and the noise would creat an unbearable disturbance for those that live nearby.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	620	Beverley LeBlanc	Citizen	N/A	If a gun range is needed, Cape Cod is not the place to put it! Please choose another location off Cape!	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, and #14.

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259	621	Eunice D. Burley	Citizen	N/A	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 !!	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
260	622	Frank Dahlstrom	Citizen	N/A	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 environmentally 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	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.
261	623	Dorria DiManno	Citizen	N/A	Please add my name and voice to those who oppose the establishment of a new machine gun training range on Cape Cod. In addition to truly significant environmental concerns with the loss of many acres of foliated land and wild animal habitat, we must consider community impact. - Does a gun range make Cape Cod a better place? - Is it something we cannot live without? - Does it improve the lives of the human and wildlife populations surrounding it?	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #14, #28, #35, and #566.
	624	Dorria DiManno	Citizen	N/A	- Is there a better location elsewhere for this project? I implore you and other decision-makers to reconsider this proposal.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #4.
262	625	John R. Everett	Citizen	N/A	It is distressing to learn that there is a plan to clear up to 171 acres of forest land at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod in order to construct a machine gun range. In addition to losing the beauty of almost 200 acres of forest, four aspects of the proposed project concern me.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.

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	626	John R. Everett	Citizen	N/A	First) Forests play an important role in reducing the effects of climate change/global warming. As you know through the magic pf photosynthesis trees take in carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere and using the sun's energy break "CO"2 into carbon and oxygen. The carbon is stored as wood and the oxygen is released back to the atmosphere. This in effect sequesters CO2 and at the same time increases the oxygen content of the atmosphere. The sun's energy used in the process reduces the amount of heat energy reflected back into the atmosphere. In short trees are a partial solution to reducing the effects of climate change.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #64, and #130.
	627	John R. Everett	Citizen	N/A	Second) The proposed project is said to cost \$11,000,000,.00 an amount of money that might be better spent elsewhere within or outside of the defense budget. This is especially true in that the project seems redundant. There are other firing ranges at Fort Drum and elsewhere in New England.	Purpose and Need	Financial Need	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #6.
	628	John R. Everett	Citizen	N/A	Third) World wide forest habitat is being destroyed at an alarming rate. Forests are essential to maintaining biodiversity, which is essential for the health of the planet, and hence to the wellbeing of human kind.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	629	John R. Everett	Citizen	N/A	Fourth) As a former Chemical Corps officer I am well aware of the efforts too improve the image of the military with regard to environmental and family welfare concerns. A good example is the evolution of Fort Dietrick Maryland from a research and production facility for chemical warfare agents to a general support facility, cancer research institute, and housing area. This forest clearing project would appear to have a negative effect on these public relations goals. For climate, financial, public relations, and environmental considerations I urge you to consider canceling this project.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.

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263	630	Barbara Anderson Everett	Citizen	N/A	Please consider seriously the environmental consequences of clearing almost 200 acres of forested land at the base for the construction of the proposed machine gun range. Personally I have been a big fan of trees since I was a child but clueless about their environmental significance until a few years ago. At that time my husband and I were incredibly fortunate to attend a presentation given by Wayne Walker, Forest Ecologist, Woods Hole Research Center. With vivid detail and scientific clarity we were introduced to the protective role trees play in storing carbon from the atmosphere and safeguarding all of us in the process. If you have not had the opportunity to hear Dr. Walker, I would like to recommend gently that you make it a point to meet with him and/or his colleagues before moving ahead with this proposal. I believe you will find the experience enlightening and empowering.. Perhaps you may even emerge with a new commitment to becoming a defender of the forests as we did. The knowledge these researchers have amassed about the critical role trees play in protecting the planet, and us, is staggering in amount and impact. This would be worthy of our attention under any circumstances but is essential during these times of the dramatic environmental challenges we are facing in the era of climate change, or the climate crisis as it is increasingly being categorized. <i>(comment continued below)</i>	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.



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					(continuation of above comment) When I was a child, walking in the woods behind my grandmother and grandfather's home in Stoughton, Massachusetts, I developed a deep appreciation of the trees for their beauty, their shade, the habitat they provided for other plants and for birds and small animals. I learned a great deal from my grandfather about the Native Americans' reverence for nature and it has remained with me. I am no longer a child, but an 81-year-old elder, hopefully wiser as well as older. Over the course of my lifetime I have become increasingly aware of how little appreciation later arrivals to America had for that history or for the natural world and the consequences of that ignorance for all of us living here now. My grandfather died when I was six years old. The houses in the neighborhood where he and my grandmother lived were purchased soon afterward by a "big box" company of the time. The woods were demolished and the ground paved over for a huge parking lot. I never went back to see that. I am hopeful that you will consider the woods at Camp Edwards with a renewed appreciation of their beauty and beneficence as you consider the proposals for their destruction. The knowledge these researchers have amassed about the critical role trees play in protecting the planet, and us, is staggering in amount and impact. This would be worthy of our attention under any circumstances but is essential during these times of the dramatic environmental challenges we are facing in the era of climate change, or the climate crisis as it is increasingly being categorized.			
264	631	Barbara Hines	Citizen	N/A	I am a resident of Mashpee, just up the street from the base. Building machine gun training area so close to homes, a school and with such impact to the habitat, environment and the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve seems ludicrous to me.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, #153, and #593.
	632	Barbara Hines	Citizen	N/A	Building machine gun training area so close to homes, a school and with such impact to the habitat, environment and the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve seems ludicrous to me.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #28.
	633	Barbara Hines	Citizen	N/A	Building machine gun training area so close to homes, a school and with such impact to the habitat, environment and the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve seems ludicrous to me.	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #153.
	634	Barbara Hines	Citizen	N/A	Please insist on a public hearing!	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.

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265	635	Bill Holcombe	Public/Private Entity	Quaker Representat ive, Fairth Communitie s Environmen tal Network, Sandwich Quaker Meeting	I live in East Sandwich and recently heard about the proposed machine gun range on Joint Base Cape Cod. I read the letter written to you by Andrew Gottlieb of Association to Protect Cape Cod and a transcript of Sandra Faiman-Silva's testimony. I totally support their detailed and well thought out objections and strongly urge you to decommission the planned machine gun range before it gets started and does permanent harm to our precious eco-system on the Cape.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
266	636	Martha Knapp	Citizen	N/A	Using the Camp Edwards location for a machine gun range is almost beyond comprehension. The affects this could have on ground water, the habitat for our wildlife and endangered species, and an increase in noise pollution are only a few of the considerations.	Water Resources	Groundwater	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #27, #37, and #417.
	637	Martha Knapp	Citizen	N/A	The affects this could have on ground water, the habitat for our wildlife and endangered species, and an increase in noise pollution are only a few of the considerations.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #42, and #44.
	638	Martha Knapp	Citizen	N/A	The affects this could have on ground water, the habitat for our wildlife and endangered species, and an increase in noise pollution are only a few of the considerations.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.
	639	Martha Knapp	Citizen	N/A	What about the basic issue that no one needs to own a machine gun, let alone have a place to shoot it? In the current climate of hatred, division, racism, and intolerance, why is encouraging people to own and shoot these weapons even a consideration? I am appalled that this is being proposed and I'm disappointed in what is becoming of the Cape. We are losing what has always made the Cape so special. We are no longer a community that cherishes and protects its natural beauty and have become a commercialized commodity that exploits it. Please rethink this and do the right thing before it is too late.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #14.
267	640	Doria Marsh	Citizen	N/A	Please add my name and voice to those who oppose the establishment of a new machine gun training range on Cape Cod. In addition to truly significant environmental concerns with the loss of many acres of foliated land and wild animal habitat, we must consider community impact. - Does a gun range make Cape Cod a better place? - Is it something we cannot live without? - Does it improve the lives of the human and wildlife populations surrounding it? - Is there a better location elsewhere for this project? I implore you and other decision-makers to reconsider this proposal.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing, Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #28, #35, and #566.

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	641	Doria Marsh	Citizen	N/A	In addition to truly significant environmental concerns with the loss of many acres of foliated land and wild animal habitat, we must consider community impact. - Does a gun range make Cape Cod a better place? - Is it something we cannot live without? - Does it improve the lives of the human and wildlife populations surrounding it? - Is there a better location elsewhere for this project? I implore you and other decision-makers to reconsider this proposal.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, and #14.
268	642	Lisa McNeill	Citizen	N/A	I write in opposition of the proposed machine gun range at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod. I've lived on Cape Cod for 25 years, and in that time there have been long conversations and projects related to the clean up of the base from past emissions, and there have been wonderful environmental (and community) programs that have occurred there. Cape Cod is a fragile ecosystem. Anything we do today will impact the environment for decades to come. Additionally, our nation (and world) is in the midst of horrendous natural disasters due to global warming. (Science tells us this is a fact and not debatable.)	Air Quality	Climate Change	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #18, and #64.
	643	Lisa McNeill	Citizen	N/A	Please, we must not add to the problem by taking away a large swath of existing forest now.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
269	644	Sandra Pietragalla	Citizen	N/A	Please do not put a machine gun training range at Otis AFB! We need another place for gun training in this country like we need a hole in the head. This land would better serve the people as a wildlife sanctuary and also better represent the heart and soul of Massachusetts citizens. At this time, with so much division in our nation, the last thing that is needed is a training range for weaponry. Please do the right thing.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #14, and #187.
270	645	Donna Savino	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to voice my disapproval of the proposed machine gun firing range on Joint Base Cape Cod. I object to its development due to its potential environment impacts on the delicate environmental balance here on the Cape. Clearing of several acres of land for the range will disrupt several wildlife species.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, and #566.
	646	Donna Savino	Citizen	N/A	The spent ammunition will decay and contribute to further leakage of toxins into the Cape aquifer, jeopardizing our water supply. Lastly, as a near neighbor and one who would likely hear this, I do not want my peace and quite disturbed by the sounds of machine gun fire.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #27, #37, #49, #153, and #593.
	647	Donna Savino	Citizen	N/A	The thought of it is horrendous. Please find a more remote place to locate this.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #14, and #23.

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271	648	Ceil Smith	Citizen	N/A	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 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.	Request for Additional Analysis	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #97, and #145.
	649	Ceil Smith	Citizen	N/A	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.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18 and #64.
	650	Ceil Smith	Citizen	N/A	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.	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.
	651	Ceil Smith	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing, Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #566, #35, and #28.
	652	Ceil Smith	Citizen	N/A	Noise is another consideration that should be looked at. Thank you for your time and consideration.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.
272	653	Brian Sullivan	Citizen	N/A	With respect to the machine gun range proposal for Camp Edwards, I simply don't know where to begin...but let me try: •Obviously, the Army National Guard is aware of the long-standing PFAS, lead contamination and water pollution issues that have impacted Joint Base Cape Cod for decades •And obviously, despite those very serious concerns, The Guard would still like to destroy 177 acres to create an eight-lane machine gun range on the base, a designated Superfund Site	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #61, and #566.
	654	Brian Sullivan	Citizen	N/A	Furthermore, in view of the fact that the Cape is experiencing one of the driest summers in many years, we don't think the already budgetary-challenged surrounding towns would relish the threat of responding to forest fires created by the firing range	Wildfire	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #251.

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	655	Brian Sullivan	Citizen	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Additionally, as has been recently reported, many Cape lakes and ponds are suffering from increased levels of toxic algae and cyanobacteria</li> <li>•Therefore, we don't think it would be prudent to burden our water system with additional toxins created by the lead from a machine gun range</li> </ul>	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #41.
	656	Brian Sullivan	Citizen	N/A	<p>But beyond the land &amp; water contamination, there are many other related environmental issues to be considered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•While the proposal minimizes the noise impact from a machine gun range, currently the noise pollution level from current training exercises as well as from jets, cargo aircraft and Coast Guard choppers is already overwhelming</li> <li>•And then let's consider children trying to focus on learning while the noise and disruption from grenade launchers and .50 caliber weapons are firing right next to their elementary school</li> <li>•We think school children are already significantly challenged due to the Covid threat don't you?</li> </ul>	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	657	Brian Sullivan	Citizen	N/A	<p>Then let's consider the impact upon traffic flow resulting from a 19% increase in usage of the base</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•If you haven't attempted to drive over either the Sagamore or Bourne bridges during the summer and fall months, we think you'd find that exercise already quite challenging</li> <li>•Beyond, that if you haven't driven on Route 130 recently, you might think you were in a Mad Max movie...</li> <li>•When traveling on the Cape, we try to avoid the town of Sandwich as much as possible since the number of huge commercial sand &amp; gravel trucks dominate and intimidate vehicles on the 130 corridor (spilling clouds of dust and smoke in their wake)</li> <li>•Thus, a 19% incremental traffic flow of army caravans each season would only exacerbate an already distressful experience for cape residents</li> </ul>	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #7 and #60.
	658	Brian Sullivan	Citizen	N/A	<p>Moreover, it's going to take many years for the Cape's small businesses to rebound from these troubling times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•So let's help those small businesses and not discourage tourists from returning to one of their favorite destinations each season due to a 19% increase in traffic disruption</li> </ul> <p>In closing, Mr. Driscoll, we all love our soldiers and appreciate their heroic sacrifices for us over the last two decades...but we believe there is a better suited alternative site for a machine gun range than on Cape Cod.</p>	Socioeconomics	Surrounding Communities/Busin esses	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, #14, #19, and #161.



Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction and Operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range, Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod, Massachusetts Public Review Comments 8 August - 7 September 2020								
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273	659	Pamela Truesdale	Citizen	N/A	<p>I am opposed to the siting of the proposed machine gun range within the Northern Training Area (NTA) of Camp Edwards on Joint Base Cape Cod, formerly known as Mass Military Reservation (MMR).</p> <p>I served as a member of the original Community Working Group (CWG), established in May, 1997, consisting of representatives of neighboring towns, military services located at MMR, and the Massachusetts National Guard. We were established to advise the Secretary of Environmental Affairs on acceptable future uses of the MMR for both the developed 5,000 acre Cantonment area, and the @ 15,000 acres of the NTA. Our collective work produced the MMR Master Plan Final Report, September 8,1998.</p>	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. The Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR) Master Plan Final Report (September 8, 1998) as referenced in the comment is a product of the Community Working Group of which the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) was a member. The MAARNG provided input in the development of the September 8, 1998 Master Plan Final Report. The Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range is not identified within it.
	660	Pamela Truesdale	Citizen	N/A	The 14,410 acres of the Northern Training Area represents the largest intact remaining contiguous open space of relatively unfragmented forest remaining on Cape Cod. This open space primarily consists of the largest remaining habitats in the Northeast of Pitch Pine/Scrub Oak barrens.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	661	Pamela Truesdale	Citizen	N/A	The NTA also lies entirely within the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve of 13,352 acres designated to protect the Cape's sole source aquifer.	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.
	662	Pamela Truesdale	Citizen	N/A	The Army National Guard, as the proponent of this project, has not provided a satisfactory explanation of why such a range is "necessary", and why it is necessary specifically on Cape Cod within the Upper Cape Water Supply reserve. How is this project deemed a "compatible military activity"? Clearly, troops have been receiving this training elsewhere; why can't that practice continue? Cape Cod residents deserve answers.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #14.
	663	Pamela Truesdale	Citizen	N/A	I find it disheartening to learn that this enlarged/improved range will clear over 170 acres of trees, and this is deemed to be of "no significance".With climate changes already being experienced, reducing acres of forest and wildlife habitat is unwise and short sighted.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #97, and #566.

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	664	Pamela Truesdale	Citizen	N/A	In addition to clear cutting in the largest contiguous open space on the Cape, the project will also “take” several rare species by disrupting habitat. Then there is the admission that actually more like 5,000 acres of the NTA—that’s one third of it!—will be required to accommodate the operation, since it includes unspecified acreage where the projectiles fired on the range could land. I fail to see how this lives up to the Executive Order mandate of “permanent protection” of this acreage.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #44, and #187.
	665	Pamela Truesdale	Citizen	N/A	The creation of the Water Supply Reserve, Executive Order #414 by Governor Celluci in October, 1999, was also a direct result of the CWG’s work. I felt extremely proud on that day, standing on the highest point in MMR, and looking out over the canopy of green space to Buzzards Bay as the Governor read his Order. I felt I had participated in something significant for the future of Cape Cod. The Executive Order states that approximately 15,000 acres of the MMR be subject to “permanent protection and coordinated management plans for water supply, wildlife habitat, and open space protection consistent with necessary and compatible military activities”.	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #153.
	666	Pamela Truesdale	Citizen	N/A	To my mind, this is a totally unacceptable percentage of alteration to the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve, and nothing of the scope that the CWG would have envisioned as “necessary and compatible” military activities. It represents extremely poor environmental stewardship of this property. The impacts of this proposed range are not insignificant at all and not compatible with protecting our environmental resources. I urge you to withdraw the plans for this unacceptable gun range at Camp Edwards.	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Comment noted. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) manages natural resources on Camp Edwards through implementation of an Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) consistent with the Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997. A formal update with signatures from the MAARNG, National Guard Bureau, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife was recently completed in February 2021. Please see the response to Comment #153.
274	667	Christopher Wadsworth	Citizen	N/A	I AM WRITING TO VOICE MY OPPOSITION TO THE PREPOSED TARGET RANGE.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
275	668	Elizabeth Wegman	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed plan for the installation of a machine gun range at Joint Base Cape Cod. I believe that this plan is inimical to the environment and community. I contend against the report finding that this range will not significantly impact the environment; in contrast, I believe that it will.	Request for Additional Analysis	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #97, and #145.
	669	Elizabeth Wegman	Citizen	N/A	At the very least, I believe that a virtual public forum is necessary to discuss this plan and the impact study's findings. Thanks for taking the time to read this email. Enjoy the rest of your weekend.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.

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276	670	Lawrence Austin	Citizen	N/A	I am a licensed psychotherapist who deals almost exclusively in trauma issues. My concern about the machine gun firing range is for both adults and children. I have worked with a number of adult patients who live near firing ranges (police and private). The intermittent trainings at the police range come as a type of shock to these people, meaning that if the firing simply starts at random times it pushes them into a fight or flight state in which their bodies become flooded with cortisol and adrenaline. These hormones come with physical implications including a raise in blood pressure and, if unchecked, hardening of the arteries, stroke or cardiac events. Adding to the distress of the police trainings, which are during the week, the private ranges (including a sand and gravel business that allows use by private citizens) can operate on Saturdays and Sundays. With that as a base, I would ask you to consider the effects of this same scenario on children, especially children in pre-school and elementary school. Move them into a fight or flight state repeatedly and the overall effect could be emotional damage that lasts a lifetime. Anticipatory anxiety, waiting for the firing to start again without knowing when, creates anxiety disorders. Do our children need that? Do adults need that? Please reconsider the value of this firing range keeping in mind the serious effects on people.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, #14, and #593.
	671	Lawrence Austin	Citizen	N/A	There is already a range available for these trainings.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #23.
277	672	John Brazier	Citizen	N/A	I am a full-time Cape Cod resident living in Mashpee quite close to the JBCC. I urge you to abandon the project to clear-cut 170 acres of forested land.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	673	John Brazier	Citizen	N/A	Not only is this project unwise from an environmental standpoint, but it will continue the need for remediation for decades to come. As you know, there is a long history of such highly expensive remediation caused by contamination of the aquifer from chemicals and the soil from expended ammunition.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.
	674	John Brazier	Citizen	N/A	Please do not contaminate the Upper Cape any further nor worsen the base's contribution to climate change.	Air Quality	Climate Change	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18 and #64.
278	675	Catherine Ellis	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to oppose the machine gun range on JBCC. The amount of land that will be deforested is unconscionable. Please do not proceed with this range.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #187, and #566.
279	676	June Hager	Citizen	N/A	This is a terrible idea! I write to express my opposition and dismay re the proposed Gun Range at Cape Edwards. Cape Cod is and should be a haven of nature and peace and not ring out with the sounds of war.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, #14, and #593.

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	677	June Hager	Citizen	N/A	We are not at all convinced that the proposed gun range has been studied enough for environmental damage to the surrounding areas. There is still much pollution from past practices which must be contained and cleaned up and the health and environmental impacts have been identified and removed.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #61 and #145.
280	678	Allen Hardon	Citizen	N/A	There are plenty of existing sites in state that would be better locations. Many better alternatives exist without clearing 170 acres of prime forestland! MAARNG should be ashamed of themselves.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #23.
	679	Allen Hardon	Citizen	N/A	Many better alternatives exist without clearing 170 acres of prime forestland!	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	680	Allen Hardon	Citizen	N/A	Your track record with ground water contamination is not good and the initial findings are a sham.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.
281	681	Kim Hines	Citizen	N/A	I am writing in concern to the proposed machine gun training site on cape cod. I want to state that I am completely opposed to having this site installed. I believe that having such a facility in a densely populated area such as we are around the base at present would pose a burden. Both in terms of environmental impacts and our basic ability of quiet enjoyment at our properties.	Socioeconomics	Socioeconomic Conditions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #161.
	682	Kim Hines	Citizen	N/A	I am strongly requesting that a great deal more of outreach be done to our communities informing people about potential impacts of this installation. I believe you should be holding a number of public presentations that clearly and definitively describes your proposal. I have had experience with these sorts of installations having grown up near Fort Devens in Ayer MA. I am a Mashpee resident and look forward to hearing more detail and reasons for it before this project moves forward	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
282	683	Laurie Hutton-Corr	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to object to the multi-purpose machine gun range proposed for the Joint Resource Base Cape Cod. I strongly disagree with the Army's view that disturbing almost 200 acres of forested land will have "No Adverse Environmental Impacts." Any time that many trees are removed there is environmental impact, to say nothing of the lead that will go into the ground (and water).	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #49, #417, and #566.

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	684	Laurie Hutton-Corr	Citizen	N/A	Also, I cannot find any reference to the Cape Cod Commission weighing in on this proposed project and their input/view is vital as they are there "to protect the unique values and quality of life on Cape Cod by coordinating a balanced relationship between environmental protection and economic progress." They are the only unbiased source that can do that. There has been enough harm done to Cape Cod by the military over the years and this most recent project represents yet another internally-focused view, without the appropriate transparency, that lacks regard for the people and the environment of the Cape.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. The Cape Cod Commission (CCC) was consulted regarding the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range during the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) process. In correspondence dated 10 July 2020, the CCC responded positively and provided recommendations for mitigation. The CCC has a seat on the Community Advisory Council (CAC), which was also formally consulted as part of the MEPA process. In addition, the CCC was consulted during development of the Environmental Assessment (EA) (see <b>Appendix A</b> of the EA for a record of relevant correspondence); however, no response was received. Please see the response to Comment #78.
	685	Laurie Hutton-Corr	Citizen	N/A	Any time that many trees are removed there is environmental impact, to say nothing of the lead that will go into the ground (and water).	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, and #417.
283	686	Sheila Lyons	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed National Guard Machine Gun Training Facility, at Joint Base Cape Cod. As a former Commissioner of Barnstable County, and a citizen of Cape Cod, this proposal is wrong on many levels. First is, we have had this same experience in our recent past. As a child, sitting on the beaches in Yarmouth, I remember the booming sounds that echoed from the same location, when military excises were being conducted. I cannot imagine what it must have been like for those who lived in Sandwich, Falmouth Mashpee and Barnstable. However, it was a time when Americans lived in the lingering afterglow of being the hero's of WWII. People trusted the military, and they believed the military's assurances that exercises were necessary for national security, and were harmless to the surrounding environment. Since, based on the analysis of military leadership, this country has been dragged through unnecessary wars and murderous conflicts that we started, none of which proved to be warding off a clear and present danger to national security. Time revealed the clear and present danger was in fact those past military exercises, polluting the fragile pristine aquifer lens that provides drinking water to the densely populated upper cape towns. That clean up has cost over \$40 million dollars. Cape Cod's ecology is just recovering from the damage done by such activity conducted 30 years ago. Its environment is fragile and under stress just from the everyday population.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #61 and #417.



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	687	Sheila Lyons	Citizen	N/A	On top of the environmental and noise pollution this range will produce, the Cape isn't the sleepy little outer land it was even 20 years ago. The Upper Cape is now a year round community with a significantly increased population and a year round economy. This is a dangerous and disruptive endeavor for all in the surrounding area..	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	688	Sheila Lyons	Citizen	N/A	My final objection is that, the fact that the National Guard is being trained in heavy assault weapons is objectionable in todays climate. This action will just create more distrust, protest and division within our communities. That distrust and division will be directed at your organization, and it will stoke anger and disagreement within our communities. I am asking from those who will make the final decision, if your mission is to protect and keep the peace, then please let this go. No good will come of this action.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
284	689	Ellen-Jeanne Mckenna-Hieb and Louis Hieb	Citizen	N/A	We would like to comment on the proposed machine gun range for joint base cape cod. We feel that this is a misuse of the forested public area to clear cut such a large area and allow machine gun training. This base is still cleaning up pollution from years of misuse and is thought to be a source for possible carcinogens resulting in high rates of cancer in that part of cape cod.	Land Use and Cover	Compatibility	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #187, and #566.
	690	Ellen-Jeanne Mckenna-Hieb and Louis Hieb	Citizen	N/A	As a military family who has lived on numerous army bases over the years and heard that same story at each location, we feel strongly that these practices must stop. Cape Cod is largely one giant aquifer and our water source should be protected and free of toxins	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #37, #153, and #417.
	691	Ellen-Jeanne Mckenna-Hieb and Louis Hieb	Citizen	N/A	This use will only add to the problem in addition to taking away precious woodland that aids in climate cooling and habitat for endangered species.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #42 and #44.
	692	Ellen-Jeanne Mckenna-Hieb and Louis Hieb	Citizen	N/A	In addition, we are well aware of the noise such a range will generate having lived near training ranges before in both Europe and the US.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.
285	693	Trish Mullen	Citizen	N/A	Regarding plans for a machine gun training site at Camp Edwards, please consider the following. Clear cutting 200 acres of woods has a huge environmental impact, not only for residents of Cape Cod, but also for the flora and fauna flourishing there.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, and #566.
	694	Trish Mullen	Citizen	N/A	The military base has a history of pursuing projects which have caused serious negative environmental impact. There are other, better alternatives to reach your goal, such as using an existing range. Please do not continue with this ill-conceived project	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #23.

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286	695	Lillie Peterson-Wirtanen	Citizen	N/A	I would like a more thorough environmental impact statement, including noise pollution, prior to the plan for the machine gun range moving forward.	Request for Additional Analysis	EIS	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #145.
125	696	Renate Sands	Citizen	N/A	The ammunition, the additional human activity, the noise and the traffic will affect our area.	HTMW	Munitions	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #49.
286	697	Lillie Peterson-Wirtanen	Citizen	N/A	The natural beauty and quiet of Cape Cod are two of the most attractive aspects of living here. The quality of life of the residents surrounding the base should be considered much more carefully, and alterations made before this project moves forward.	Socioeconomics	Surrounding Communities/Businesses	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #19.
287	698	Karen Pierson	Citizen	N/A	By any standards, Cape Cod is a fragile landscape. Economically, environmentally, and socially as you look at our population strata. Not quite a year ago, the Boston Globe premiered a series on climate change showing Cape Cod at the edge of a rising ocean, which won a Pulitzer Prize for accuracy and importance of reporting. Those of us who live here have watched water slosh down Commercial Street in Provincetown, seen it scour the Sandwich town beach and toss houses into the water. We watched a car swallowed by a Sand dune outside Wellfleet's Beachcomber, while chunks of coastal bank drop off the edge not only of the powerful Atlantic, but of the calmer Cape Cod Bay. We are more and more confident that it's not just a big decision, but a confluence of many small decisions that took us down this dangerous path as a nation and a world. The 15 towns on the Cape already set up a Resilience network of fighters who don't use guns but funds, harnessing sheer brain power and creativity to combat the relentless water. So regardless of the monstrous thought of a military machine gun training center in a nation that kills more innocents by weapons, who thought that clear-cutting 170.5 acres could possibly be a good idea on a fragile peninsula already buffeted by Mother Nature's wrath? How could there be a finding of no environmental impact? <i>(comment continued below)</i>	Air Quality	Climate Change	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #97, #145, and #566.

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					(continuation of above comment) Read the Globe article cited here and the things they learned. Read the Cape Cod Commission news, look at the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative. Caution- <a href="https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2019/09/26/things-learned-researching-climatechange-cape-cod/ydl10vGJ7ummlw1JQLxSAL/story.html?event=event12">https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2019/09/26/things-learned-researching-climatechange-cape-cod/ydl10vGJ7ummlw1JQLxSAL/story.html?event=event12</a> < Caution <a href="https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2019/09/26/things-learned-researching-climate-changecape-cod/ydl10vGJ7ummlw1JQLxSAL/story.html?event=event12">https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2019/09/26/things-learned-researching-climate-changecape-cod/ydl10vGJ7ummlw1JQLxSAL/story.html?event=event12</a> > According to the US Department of Agriculture in a 2019 report calling trees “superheroes” ... Here is the super hero part. Through a process called photosynthesis, leaves pull in carbon dioxide and water and use the energy of the sun to convert this into chemical compounds such as sugars that feed the tree. But as a by-product of that chemical reaction oxygen is produced and released by the tree. It is proposed that one large tree can provide a day’s supply of oxygen for up to four people. Trees also store carbon dioxide in their fibers helping to clean the air and reduce the negative effects that this CO2 could have had on our environment. According to the Arbor Day Foundation < Caution <a href="http://www.arborday.org/trees/treefacts/">http:// www.arborday.org/trees/treefacts/</a> > , in one year a mature tree will absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen in exchange.			
	699	Karen Pierson	Citizen	N/A	Shame on you all for thinking clear cutting this land was a good idea on our fragile peninsula, with no environmental impact.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #153, and #566.
288	700	Pamela Polloni	Citizen	N/A	As a Cape Cod resident and once a member of the Community Working Group helping to preserve an important part of Cape Cod’s natural resources, I agree with others that Camp Edwards and the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve habitat could be significantly impacted by the clear-cutting of 170 acres of woodland including pitch pine-scrub oak barrens (not to mention impact on the 5000 acres where projectiles could land) and habitat for the rare species occurring there.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing, Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, #130, and #566.
	701	Pamela Polloni	Citizen	N/A	What we all know now is that with our climate increasingly warming, a project like this limits carbon sequestration and will be a detriment.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #64, and #130.

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	702	Pamela Polloni	Citizen	N/A	Whether the proposed Machine Gun Range is a "compatible use" of the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve remains to be carefully considered. In my opinion, there is no reason to add to the already well defined, limited, and accepted training facility on Camp Edwards, which is the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #14, and #153.
289	703	David Prosten and Sarah Flynn	Citizen	N/A	My wife and I have homes in Falmouth and Mashpee, the latter being a seasonal cottage. We oppose the creation of a machine gun training center at JBCC. The designated 170 acres are overwhelmingly forested; leveling a forest to create what apparently would be a little-used \$11 million facility is environmentally unsound and financially irresponsible.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #14, #35, and #566.
	704	David Prosten and Sarah Flynn	Citizen	N/A	The army has used nearby states' ranges for years and we urge that arrangement continue.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #23.
290	705	Paula Schnepf	State/Local Representative	Barnstable Town Council, Prec. 12	I agree strongly that the Environment Assessment presented for a 30 day Public Comment period is insufficient to support the findings of "no significant impact" to the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. An in-depth, comprehensive study of the major issue areas associated with the project needs to be conducted through the preparation of the an Environmental Impact Statement, which must include a 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 barre natural communities and groundwater resources. As stated in the response from the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), "any analysis conducted in an EIS must also include a more serious look at appropriate mitigation and viable alternatives. More importantly, a reassessment of the project should examine the larger question of whether this project is an appropriate use for the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve."	Request for Additional Analysis	EIS	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #97, #145, and #566.

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	706	Paula Schnepf	State/Local Representative	Barnstable Town Council, Prec. 12	As a 26 year resident of Marstons Mills (western edge of Barnstable), I have always been concerned about the environmental impact of past, current and future activities on JBCC (or the former Massachusetts Military Reservation). Given that there is a current alternative for machine gun training for Guard members in Vermont, I can't fathom the reason to destroy forested acres on Cape Cod, risk degradation of our water supply, and increase noise pollution in residential neighborhoods surrounding the base. The availability of funding or a perceived need to keep JBCC relevant should not be the main driver for creating this machine gun range.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #10, #14, #23, and #593.
	707	Paula Schnepf	State/Local Representative	Barnstable Town Council, Prec. 12	I highly recommend that in addition to conducting a full EIS, that the public comment period for this Environmental Assessment be kept open at least another 30 days.	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
291	708	Anne Smaglia	Citizen	N/A	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. Mr. Driscoll, Cape Cod is a unique and wonderful natural haven that deserves to have all elements of its environment protected. The noise to the surrounding community as well as the clear cutting of 170 acres should be discussed at a public hearing. A project that will impact 5000 acres needs careful review by the surrounding community.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	709	Anne Smaglia	Citizen	N/A	The noise to the surrounding community as well as the clear cutting of 170 acres should be discussed at a public hearing. A project that will impact 5000 acres needs careful review by the surrounding community.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #187, and #566.
	710	Anne Smaglia	Citizen	N/A	We need public hearings to fully understand a project of this magnitude.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
292	711	Bob Smarglia	Citizen	N/A	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. Mr. Driscoll, Cape Cod is a unique and wonderful natural haven that deserves to have all elements of its environment protected. The noise to the surrounding community as well as the clear cutting of 170 acres should be discussed at a public hearing.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #17, #78, and #593.
	712	Bob Smarglia	Citizen	N/A	The noise to the surrounding community as well as the clear cutting of 170 acres should be discussed at a public hearing.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.



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	713	Bob Smarglia	Citizen	N/A	The noise to the surrounding community as well as the clear cutting of 170 acres should be discussed at a public hearing. A project that will impact 5000 acres needs careful review by the surrounding community. We need public hearings to fully understand a project of this magnitude.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17, #78, and #178.
293	714	Myra Suchenicz	Citizen	N/A	I am sending this message in opposition to the plan to destroy 170 acres of forest here on Cape Cod. I agree wholeheartedly with the attached letter. A much more thorough, scientific environmental review is needed! 1.1 Problem: The Lack of a Culture of Environmental Stewardship Recommendation: Army leadership must create a culture of environmental consciousness, stay ahead of societal demands for environmental stewardship and serve as a leader for the nation or it risks endangering the broad support it now enjoys. Cultural change is a senior leader responsibility. Implementation Timing: Now	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) manages natural resources on Camp Edwards through implementation of an Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP), consistent with the Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997. A formal update with signatures from the MAARNG, National Guard Bureau, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife was recently completed in February 2021. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35, and #566.
294	715	Margaret Sulanowski	Citizen	N/A	I am concerned about the proposal to clear land on the base for a machine gun range.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35, and #566.
	716	Margaret Sulanowski	Citizen	N/A	This area is a large unfragmented habitat providing home for many animals; some are rare.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #28, #42, and #44.
	717	Margaret Sulanowski	Citizen	N/A	The forest also stores greenhouse gases, providing a buffer for climate change. Cutting all the trees would mean losing a natural sink. This could also have an impact on our groundwater aquifer. Please refrain from establishing this machine gun range on Cape Cod and use other sites in the NorthEast for such training.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #23, and #64.
295	718	Karen Watson-Estell	Citizen	N/A	Please, please do not allow the proposed machine gun range to go any further. Stop it NOW. Many individuals and organizations have weighed in describing all the reasons this is not a good idea for Cape Cod, APCC among them -- noise pollution, water pollution, air pollution, ground pollution, increased military transport vehicles creating increased traffic on our already busy bridges.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #17, #178, and #593.
	719	Karen Watson-Estell	Citizen	N/A	Many individuals and organizations have weighed in describing all the reasons this is not a good idea for Cape Cod, APCC among them -- noise pollution, water pollution, air pollution, ground pollution, increased military transport vehicles creating increased traffic on our already busy bridges.	Water Resources	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, and #417.
	720	Karen Watson-Estell	Citizen	N/A	Many individuals and organizations have weighed in describing all the reasons this is not a good idea for Cape Cod, APCC among them -- noise pollution, water pollution, air pollution, ground pollution, increased military transport vehicles creating increased traffic on our already busy bridges.	Air Quality	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18 and #130.

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	721	Karen Watson-Estell	Citizen	N/A	Many individuals and organizations have weighed in describing all the reasons this is not a good idea for Cape Cod, APCC among them -- noise pollution, water pollution, air pollution, ground pollution, increased military transport vehicles creating increased traffic on our already busy bridges.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #7 and #60.
	722	Karen Watson-Estell	Citizen	N/A	If Joint Base Cape Cod has acreage that it does not need, rather than creating a machine gun range, consider returning it to local municipalities to create more housing. Or how about creating a Camp Edwards Institute to teach de-escalation strategies and techniques, rather than better killing rates through improved marksmanship? I am 76 years old and have lived in Orleans and Brewster for 50 years. During that time in our nation, gun violence has become a major public health issue. We don't need to train military machine gun users on this fragile peninsula we call home. Cape Cod is a special place where people come to find a sense of peace and tranquility in nature. Please do not destroy any more of the trees which help to clean our air and shelter animals and humans alike. I hope to read soon that this idea has been shelved permanently.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #14.
296	723	Felicity Young	Citizen	N/A	I'm writing to express my concern with the proposed machine gun range in Forestdale, MA. My family lives here- I have two small children. My children will eventually attend Forestdale School.	Socioeconomics	Surrounding Communities/Busin esses	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, #19, and #593.
	724	Felicity Young	Citizen	N/A	The articles/reports available to the public have had very little and vague information about the impact to our community. Words like "varied" and "minimal" are terribly concerning for residents because they are deliberately evasive. Residents deserve a public hearing. We live here year around. Our children are growing up here. We deserve the right to have the facts and full picture before such changes are forced upon our community.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17, #78, #97.
297	725	Judith Beams	Citizen	N/A	I 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. 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 clearcutting in this region of Cape Cod would have on carbon sequestration, rare species habitat, high-value pine barren natural communities and groundwater resources.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #42, #64, #97, #145, and #566.

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	726	Judith Beams	Citizen	N/A	Additionally, a reassessment of the project should examine whether this project is an appropriate use for the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Water Resources	Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #153.
298	727	Alan Burt	Citizen	N/A	My name is Alan Burt. I am a licensed social worker LICSW and have been a homeless advocate on Cape Cod since 1993. I have worked with several thousand homeless men and women over the years and can tell you that the number one cause of homelessness is a lack of affordable housing. I have held a homeless memorial service on Dec 21st for the past 20 years to pray for the hundreds who have died in the state of homelessness on the streets of Cape Cod. Whereas you have land available, I would ask, I would plead, that you not use it for killing practice and instead use it to prevent further needless deaths on Cape Cod by allowing the land to be used for affordable housing projects. Over the years, statistics indicate that nearly a third of the homeless are veterans. I would suggest that one good use of the land be used for affordable housing projects for veterans with particular emphasis on housing those most in need first and then go from there. I would recommend your contacting Housing Assistance Corporation and Falmouth Housing Corporation for proposals. I would like to think that they would be very interested in providing project proposals. Another importance resource to talk to about providing affordable housing projects would be contacting Beth Alpert at Barnstable County Department of Human Services.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #14.
299	728	Larry Cole	Citizen	N/A	I support the granting of an extension for public consideration of the proposed machine gun range.	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
	729	Larry Cole	Citizen	N/A	However, I'm inclined to support the National Guard's plan, assuming it would be implemented as carefully as the plans for opening the other ranges have been, which I observed first hand during about 15 years of membership on the Community Advisory Council. As it happens, I was assigned to a machine gun squad in an infantry rifle platoon in Korea during the war. Thorough, rigorous training is absolutely essential to its effective deployment.	General Support	N/A	Comment noted.
300	730	Pat Cronin	Citizen	N/A	Please honor this request to extend the public comment period re the National Guard's plan to create a machine gun range at Joint Base Cape Cod's Camp Edwards for an additional 30 days. The public deserves this time to review the request for this facility. It came out of the blue at the busiest time of the year here on the Cape, hence this request.	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.

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	731	Judith Beams	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing, Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, #42, #187, and #566.
301	732	Joseph Masse	Public/Private Entity	President, The Dennis Conservation Land Trust	The Dennis Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) strongly opposes the proposed Multi-Purpose Gun Range plan at Camp Edwards in Bourne, MA that would result in the clear-cutting of 170+ acres of forested land. I am writing on behalf of the DCL T, whose mission is to protect land and other natural and cultural resources in the town of Dennis, 29 miles to the east of Camp Edwards on Cape Cod. We support and encourage sustainable development when it does not negatively impact the sensitive coastal, marine and inland ecology of the region. We are very concerned about the clear-cutting of 170+ acres of forested land to accommodate the gun range, "surface danger zones" where fired projectiles would land, and ancillary site elements such as roadways. Residents of Cape Cod appreciate the value of the training that has occurred on the base since 1911 - preparing soldiers for combat, training nurses for field stations, housing POWs, and scrambling jets on September 11, 2001 among other things. As Americans, we believe in the best training for our military. We rely on the military to protect our communities, but we also believe it is the military' s responsibility to cause no harm to our quality of life unless absolutely necessary to their mission. Quality of life includes access to clean drinking water, a healthy ecosystem, and the absence of noise or chemical pollution. <i>(comment contiued below)</i>	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #17, #35, #64, #78, #130, #187, and #566.

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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> In the past, the military has needed the local community to sound the alarm about environmental issues. In the 1950's, Dr. Alfred C. Redfield and other scientists from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution alerted the military to the dangers of storing radioactive on the top of our groundwater supply. Fortunately, the military listened. In 1989, after reports of drinking water contamination in local communities, Joint Base Cape Cod was designated a "Superfund Site." Years of fire training, improper landfill disposal, petroleum fuel storage and disposal, and other toxic chemical spills had created plumes of contaminated groundwater. Again the military responded and began a clean-up program. The most recent five year review of the clean-up notes that the contamination has decreased but still exists, with exposure to groundwater from the original seven plumes in some areas resulting in increased risk rates for cancer (p. 141 ). Section 3.9 refers to the need for more sustainable engineering practices in a world concerned with climate change (p. 52) including concern for "impacts on land and ecosystems."</p> <p>The DCLT, its Board of 17 and over 600 members, strongly urge the Massachusetts National Guard to revisit, reconsider, and revoke the recent proposal to clear-cut 170+ acres of forestland on the base for a multi-purpose machine gun range. We depend on the National Guard to make the right decisions with our health and welfare paramount. <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>			



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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> We call upon the National Guard to acknowledge the significance and stewardship responsibilities for some the last remaining large areas of forestland on Cape Cod. Please continue to listen to and honor the wider civilian community on Cape Cod, and consider alternatives to your current proposal. Our trees contribute oxygen to the air we breathe, reduce the impacts of climate change, and are integral to the overall ecological health of our environment.</p> <p>We also ask you to please consider adding more public representation to your decision-making process. Our mutual health and well-being depend on your making the best, most informed decisions for Cape Cod now and into the future.</p> <p>* References Cape Cod Today (www.capecod.today) December 29, 2007. "Today in Cape History: Camp Edwards recommended for nuclear processing plant" - 1958. Final Fifth Year Review, 2012-2017, Joint Base Cape Cod Superfund Site, Otis Air National Guard Base, MA; September 2018, AFCEC/JBCC, Installation Restoration Program, Otis ANGB, MA 02542. Massachusetts Executive Order 414: Establishing the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve and Commission. 1999. US Environmental Protection Agency, <a href="https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-success-stories-epa-region-1#otis">https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-success-stories-epa-region-1#otis</a>. US Geological Survey. Fact Sheet 2006-3096. Cape Cod Toxics Substances Hydrology Research Site. June 2006.</p>			

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302	733	Grove Harris	Citizen	N/A	I write in great dismay over the very idea of clearcutting about 170 acres of mature forest on Cape Cod. This has a huge environmental impact, and represents unnecessary destruction, out of touch with the current climate emergency. Sharing resources with Vermont to conduct training there is reasonable- why on earth destroy more forest just to have a Massachusetts range? People will still have to travel to access it. I appreciate the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) for asking for comment on its Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range(MPMG) at Camp Edwards, Barnstable County, Massachusetts, and I say to you that the findings are seriously in error, using backward thinking and false measures. I live in Barnstable County and own my home there- I can tell you first hand that we are seeing the impacts of climate change, and that the deforestation already prevalent on Cape Cod is a tragedy.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #14, #23, #64, and #97.
	734	Grove Harris	Citizen	N/A	Please rethink the financial investment in this proposed clearcutting, and look for other alternatives, including inviting community input and ideas, prior to extensive development of a proposal that goes in the wrong direction. Any map of the Cape will show the incredible amount of forest lost over recent decades, this simply has to stop as much as possible. Forests are the lungs of our planet, and our collective lives and future. The calls to rewild and reforest grow louder, and your plan flies completely in the face of that, and unnecessarily so. Continuing sharing in Vermont seems sensible, as does considering other already devastated landscapes for repurposing. Clear cutting mature forest is in no way a reasonable option. Leadership at this time must include new perspectives, not just old solutions and old thinking. The public good is very much put at risk by this plan. Environmental damage leads to conflicts, the very ones you're thinking to control with machine gun training!	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #17, #35, #78, and #566.

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303	735	Bette Hecox-Lea	Public/Private Entity	St Barnabas Outreach Ministry Chair	<p>The Outreach Ministry (Outreach) of St Barnabas Memorial Episcopal Church in Falmouth submits this letter on behalf of Outreach members in response to the request from the Massachusetts Army National Guard for comment on its Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range (MPMG) at Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod, Barnstable County, Massachusetts. First, we appreciate the important role of Camp Edwards as the primary military training facility for National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers throughout New England. We commend your responsive planning to the 2016 publication of Training Circular (TC) 25-8, Training Ranges. We are however, deeply concerned about the finding of no significant impact (FNSI) because the EA does not consider the rapid changes in climate and the related ecological devastation between 2016 and present.</p> <p>References: 1. Schwalm, C. R., Glendon, S. &amp; Duffy, P. B. RCP8.5 tracks cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 117, 19656–19657 (2020). 2. Xu, Y. &amp; Ramanathan, V. Well below 2 °C: Mitigation strategies for avoiding dangerous to catastrophic climate changes. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 114, 201618481 (2017). 3. Lenton, T. M. et al. Climate tipping points — too risky to bet against. Nature 575, 592–595 (2019). (<i>comment continued below</i>)</p>	Air Quality	Climate Change	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #14, #18, #64, and #145.

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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> 4. Steffen, W. et al. Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A. 115, 8252–8259 (2018). 5. Ceballos, G., Ehrlich, P. R. &amp; Raven, P. H. Vertebrates on the brink as indicators of biological annihilation and the sixth mass extinction. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A. 117, 13596–13602 (2020). 6. Bologna, M. &amp; Aquino, G. Deforestation and world population sustainability: a quantitative analysis. Sci. Rep. 10, 1–9 (2020). 7. United States Army War College et al. Implications of Climate Change for the US Army. (2019). 8. Lavelle, P. et al. Soil aggregation, ecosystem engineers and the C cycle. Acta Oecologica 105, 103561 (2020). 9. Haddad, N. M. et al. Habitat fragmentation and its lasting impact on Earth’s ecosystems. Sci. Adv. 1, e1500052 (2015). 10. Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment. Report on Effects of a Changing Climate to the Department of Defense. (2019). Since the initial planning of this range, the broadly accepted state of the climate and likely future outcomes have become substantially worse, with our rate of change matching the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5, previously considered an extreme, alarmist scenario <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>			

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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> 1. Warming scenarios differ in when certain global changes will be seen, but the progression of every pathway begins with dangerous weather including heat waves, excessive precipitation events, and severe storms. The next phase is catastrophic, with devastating, irreversible losses that are in fact tipping points, global changes that feed into climate change and rapidly push temperatures higher 2. These catastrophes include altered jet stream flow; changing ocean currents, including thermohaline circulation; the dieback of coral reefs, boreal forests, and rainforests; thawing permafrost; and the loss of polar and glacial ice. The tipping points feed into each other as well as into climate, and as of 2019, nine of the identified 15 tipping points were active, suggesting that we are in a state of planetary emergency 3. Every week brings additional news of tipping point activity, and we are facing the possibility of reaching the point where we can no longer change Earth's trajectory toward an uninhabitable planet 4. The climate tipping points tie into biodiversity loss, and we are losing our planet's life and life-support systems in the ongoing 6th mass extinction 5. Finally, deforestation alone is enough to drive human civilization to collapse within two to four decades 6, and the Army may itself collapse from climate change 7. Outreach strongly supports Falmouth's declaration of a climate emergency, to be considered at town meeting next week. <i>(comment continued below)</i></p>			



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					<i>(continuation of above comment)</i> Further, Outreach is working with others in our diocese to present a resolution of climate and ecological emergency to the convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts. We believe that at this point in time, no deforestation is negligible, and no death is negligible. To adequately assess the environmental impacts of the MPMG proposal, we assert that the EA should be reevaluated for the air quality, and we ask for a more detailed greenhouse gas (GHG) assessment, breaking out the different types of GHG generated by the different scenarios, and including GHG impacts for the preferred and alternative proposals in the Executive Summary and in Section 5. Comparison of Alternatives and Conclusions. Rather than normalizing GHG to carbon dioxide equivalents, keeping the information broken out to identify the super pollutants (nitrous oxide, halocarbons, methane, etc.) will better predict impacts 2. Related to the air quality, the GHG impact of the forest loss and the changes in the soil's organic matter should also be included. Soil organic matter and soil organisms are important in carbon cycling and carbon sequestration 8. The EA states, "The evaluation performed within this EA concludes there would be no significant adverse impact, either individually or cumulatively, to the local environment of quality of life." The use of the word "cumulative" here does accurately apply over time because the GHG analysis did not take into account the annual carbon sequestration of the forest vs the land use changes.			
	736	Bette Hecox-Lea	Public/Private Entity	St Barnabas Outreach Ministry Chair	We also believe the effects of forest fragmentation should be reassessed. According to the EA, "Camp Edwards is the largest intact area of relatively unfragmented forest remaining on Cape Cod and serves as an important refuge for wildlife with require large ranges of interior forest habitat." Habitat fragmentation reduces biomass and biodiversity, and alters nutrient cycling 9.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, and #566.
	737	Bette Hecox-Lea	Public/Private Entity	St Barnabas Outreach Ministry Chair	We suggest the impacts to soil and aquifer be re-evaluated to include toxicity and impacts on the animals, microbes, and plants, and well as humans.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #26, #27, and #37.

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	738	Bette Hecox-Lea	Public/Private Entity	St Barnabas Outreach Ministry Chair	Finally, moving beyond the scope of EA comments, yet relevant in 2020, we suggest a high-level reconsideration of mission priorities in light of the 2019 reports by the US Army War College and Department of Defense regarding the impacts of climate change 7,10. Risk assessment and mitigation strategies may affect land use priorities at Camp Edwards because of its temperate location in the northeast corridor, and its position on an aquifer. Preserving infrastructure, especially the grid, in the populated region, preserving freshwater resources, and providing new services if bases in the southwest US become unusable. Thank you in advance for your consideration of these comments.	Request for Additional Analysis	N/A	Comment noted. Please see <b>Section 1.4</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA). Please see the responses to Comments #1, #14, #35, #64, #97, and #566.
304	739	Deb and Paul Hughes	Citizen	N/A	We wish to object to this proposal due to environmental and noise concerns.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.
305	740	Mary Ann Jones	Citizen	N/A	The overall threat to Cape Cod is climate change. Your project flies in the face of the science and outcome of climate change, already happening, already a known danger, the encroaching sea menacing the land, the homes, and livelihood of Cape Codders. You must be aware that the Northeast coast is considered the canary in the coal mine in the fallout from climate change, that the drop line from what the Maine coast is already experiencing falls directly to Cape Cod. Yet, you propose a massive onslaught of building, clear cutting, and military activities that will only exacerbate the dangers we face. What good are machine guns against climate change? What is the motive for this invasion other than to assert scale and dominance? Land swaps, berm building, catching lead and copper bullets, these things will not placate those of us who fear the loss of unique environment. We are citizens with certain rights and privileges. We will not put our concerns aside nor see them relegated to collateral damage. This project cannot go forward.	Air Quality	Climate Change	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18 and #64.

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306	741	Michael Kellett	Public/Private Entity	Executive Director, RESTORE: The North Woods	I am writing on behalf of RESTORE: The North Woods to comment on the draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Massachusetts Army National Guard Proposed Construction and Operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range, Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod. RESTORE has hundreds of members and supporters across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who have a direct interest in ensuring the health of the Cape Cod ecosystem and of people who live in and visit the area. Our staff and board have more than 35 years of experience in reviewing, commenting on, and appealing documents and decisions produced under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In the draft FONSI, Col. Anthony Hammett states: After careful review of the EA, I have concluded that implementation of the Proposed Action would not generate significant controversy or have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment. [p. 3] On the contrary, we believe that this project is extremely controversial among the people who have learned about it. And we believe the Environmental Assessment (EA) provides only a superficial review that does not adequately assess the true impacts of moving forward with this project. Therefore, we strongly oppose the construction of this facility and recommend that the proposal be abandoned.	Request for Additional Analysis	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.
	742	Michael Kellett	Public/Private Entity	Executive Director, RESTORE: The North Woods	There was minimal public notice regarding the availability of the draft FONSI and final EA. It is highly likely that few people on Cape Cod, much less elsewhere in Massachusetts, have even heard about the project. It appears that no nonprofit organizations were officially notified. Our organization only learned about the availability of the documents for public comment a few days ago. Yet, the process only allows a 30-day public comment period. This is a completely inadequate timeframe for citizens to review the 111-page document, analyze its contents, and compile and submit comments. We urge you to extend the public comment at least another 30 days and to reach out. In light of the short timeframe, our comments only touch on a few of our questions and concerns.	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.

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Comme nter #	Comm ent #	Commenter	Commenter Type	Organizati on/Agency	Comment	Resource Area	Sub-Resource Area	Final Response
	743	Michael Kellett	Public/Private Entity	Executive Director, RESTORE: The North Woods	Negative Impacts on Wildlife and Ecosystems The Final EA states Construction activities would include up to 199.0 acres of disturbance and would require up to 170.5 acres of tree clearance to accommodate the range footprint, small arms range operations and control area (SAROCA) facilities, utility extensions, access and maintenance road development, and firebreaks to maintain or improve pitch pine and scrub oak (PPSO) and scrub oak shrubland (SOS) conditions while reducing wildfire hazard from tracers and other ignition sources. Approximately 5,197 acres would be required for the MPMG Range to accommodate the SDZs associated with the proposed weapons and ammunition [p. ES- 1]. In other words, 170.5 acres of forest would be liquidated and a far greater area would be severely degraded. Cutting down a large tract of forest will release significant amounts of carbon and worsen climate change, spread invasive species, churn the thin soil, and increase fire risk by opening the forest to increased heat and drying. Although the EA claims this forest liquidation would “maintain” or “improve” PPSO and SOS conditions, but there is no evidence in the EA to substantiate any substantive ecological benefits that would be provided.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #26, #35, #64, #130, #187, #251, and #566.
	744	Michael Kellett	Public/Private Entity	Executive Director, RESTORE: The North Woods	On the other hand, the EA acknowledges Camp Edwards is the largest intact area of relatively unfragmented forest remaining on Cape Cod and serves as an important refuge for wildlife which require large ranges of interior forest habitat. The proposed MPMG Range footprint is primarily comprised of disturbed land, immature pitch pine, pitch pine oak forest, and pitch pine scrub oak. One Federally listed and 34 state-listed wildlife species have been documented at Camp Edwards. [pp. ES-3 to ES-4] The full footprint of the MPMG Range project would be much larger than the area of the forest that is obliterated. More than 5,000 acres would be turned into an industrial zone where the firing of heavy weapons would override all other values. This is a vast area that would be permanently stripped of its natural ecological values. Yet, the EA glosses over the impacts, claiming the project would have: Long-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts on wildlife species from potential habitat loss and training range operations. [p 2-6; emphasis in original] The claim of “less-than-significant” is purely a subjective judgment, and no objective measures or standards for evaluation are offered to ensure that this will be the case.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #42, #145, #187, and #566.

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	745	Michael Kellett	Public/Private Entity	Executive Director, RESTORE: The North Woods	Negative Impacts on Groundwater The EA is shockingly blasé about the potential for serious negative impacts on Cape Cod's fragile aquifer. The document acknowledges that this aquifer is unique and critically important: The predominant source of groundwater is the Sagamore Lens of the Cape Cod Aquifer, designated as a sole-source aquifer under the Safe Water Drinking Act. In 2015, the four military agencies at JBCC (Joint Base Cape Cod) signed a Memorandum of Agreement to implement the JBCC Groundwater Protection Policy to enforce protections for the existing and future water supplies at the JBCC. The groundwater beneath Camp Edwards provides up to three million gallons of clean drinking water daily to Camp Edwards and the towns of Sandwich, Bourne, Falmouth, and Mashpee. [pp. ES-3 to ES-4] The EA acknowledges egregious toxic pollution and contamination as a result of past operation of the military base. The JBCC's use as a military training area has resulted in potential and confirmed contamination at the installation, resulting from munitions, firefighting activities, chemical/fuel spills, legacy landfills, and sewage treatment facilities (Cape Cod Commission, 2020). <i>(comment continued below)</i>	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27 #37, #153, and #417.
					<i>(continuation of above comment)</i> Past operations and waste disposal practices have resulted in subsurface contamination in areas near the Impact Area, where the existing KD Range is located. Contaminants include fly ash, bottom ash, waste solvents, waste fuels, herbicides, and transformer oil. Additionally, seven groundwater plumes in the Impact Area are undergoing extraction and treatment. The nearest plume, located on L Range, is approximately 0.5 mile to the east of the KD Range. The plume is being remediated and is unlikely to affect conditions at the KD Range. Affected Environment Final Environmental Assessment, Proposed Construction and Operation of an MPMG Range 3-24 Camp Edwards, Sandwich, Massachusetts August 2020 monitoring and operation and maintenance of treatment systems are expected to continue until groundwater cleanup levels are met.			



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	746	Michael Kellett	Public/Private Entity	Executive Director, RESTORE: The North Woods	The ECOP Pre-Construction Assessment (PCA) of the KD Range found evidence of potential contamination, specifically from munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) discovered in the surface and potentially existing in the subsurface (MAARNG, 2019). In addition, known propellant and explosive compounds and heavy metals, including lead, resulting from past range activities were previously identified in the soil. Although targeted soil remediation has been performed, there is a possibility that additional contamination is still present. No stationary sources of HTMW occur within the Proposed Action area, although the area is accessed occasionally by military and civilian vehicles, which could act as mobile sources. Examples of hazardous materials often associated with vehicles include antifreeze, motor oil, brake fluid, hydraulic oil, grease, battery acid, fuel oil, diesel fuel, and other fuels for vehicle maintenance. <i>(comment continued below)</i>	HTMW	Contamination	Environmental investigations and cleanup of the 15,000-acre Training Ranges and Impact Area at Camp Edwards have been ongoing since 1997. The work is being conducted by the Army National Guard Impact Area Groundwater Study Program (IAGWSP) under Administrative Orders issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Both EPA and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) have provided direct, daily oversight of the work conducted since the beginning of the program. The purpose of the Administrative Orders was to identify groundwater contamination at Camp Edwards, from whatever source, and to clean up the groundwater impacts.  In the course of the investigation at Camp Edwards, 1,400 monitoring wells have been installed and over 100,000 soil and groundwater samples have been collected for analysis for a complete suite of contaminants to include explosives, perchlorate, volatiles, semi-volatiles, metals, pesticides, herbicides, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The groundwater investigations have identified twelve plumes of the explosive RDX and/or perchlorate. A total of 17 groundwater treatment systems have been constructed for seven of the plumes. These systems treat 4.1 million gallons of groundwater per day using granular activated carbon and ion exchange resin. Over 14 billion gallons have been treated to date. The other five plumes are being monitored as they degrade naturally. These 17 plumes are the result of two kinds of activities: disposal of explosives via open burning and detonation, and in the case of the Impact Area, decades of use of munitions containing high explosives. Significantly for the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range, RDX and perchlorate are the only contaminants of concern found in the groundwater, no metal or fuel related contamination has been found in groundwater from historic range use. <i>(comment continued below)</i>
					<i>(continuation of above comment)</i> We believe this past toxic legacy, and the failure to ensure adequate clean up to this day, is good reason for skepticism regarding how seriously such problems would be addressed in the future in connection with the proposed machine gun range. Yet the EA claims that there would be Long-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts on groundwater from inadvertent release of contaminants during site maintenance and training operations. [p. 2-15; emphasis in original] This claim is made with no credible documentation to support it and without any assurance that, despite past negligence, future management and mitigation of pollution would prevent any significant impacts on groundwater. We find this argument ingenuous and unconvincing			<i>(continuation of above comment)</i> All known sources of groundwater contamination have been addressed by the IAGWSP. Over 125,000 tons of contaminated soil (primarily RDX, perchlorate and lead) has been excavated and either treated or disposed of off-site. Ultimately, EPA has issued final Decision Documents for all 14 operable units (sites), the most recent one for the Training Areas Operable Unit was issued in 2019 and includes the Known Distance (KD) Range, where the proposed MPMG range is located.  Overall, the Army National Guard has invested over \$500 million in the investigation and cleanup of Camp Edwards/Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC). Specifically concerning the area covered by the proposed MPMG range; under the direction and oversight of the EPA and MassDEP, the IAGWSP conducted a thorough investigation of the KD Range. The investigation was guided by an understanding of historic range use and a conceptual site model to identify and address potential sources of groundwater contamination. The site went through investigation and cleanup phases and a final decision document was issued by EPA in 2019. All required cleanup work has been completed at the range. Significantly, the clean-up work involved removal of potential source areas and munitions debris only; groundwater contamination has not been found at the KD Range as a result of past training use. Please see responses to Comments #900 through #904, #908, and #909.

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	747	Michael Kellett	Public/Private Entity	Executive Director, RESTORE: The North Woods	<p>Conclusion We have only focused here on only two of the most egregious negative impacts likely to result from approval and implementation of the machine gun shooting range project. Based on our assessment, our conclusion is that the EA was written with a pre-determined outcome of approving the project. No other alternative was seriously considered — in apparent violation of the National Environmental Policy Act — and the significant potential impacts on the natural and human environments was glossed over. As a result, the EA is striking in its lack of any serious analysis or conclusions and, as a result, the determination that the project is worthy of a Finding of No Significant Impact is wholly unjustified.</p> <p>For these reasons, we strongly oppose the approval of the project as now configured and justified. We believe that Massachusetts Army National Guard Joint Force Headquarters needs to put this process on hold, take a fresh look at the purpose and need for the project, reassess the true potential impacts on the environment, issue a revised EA — or, more appropriately, a full Environmental Impact Statement — and open the process up to broad public review and comment.</p>	Request for Additional Analysis	EIS	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #17, #78, #97, and #145.
307	748	Frederick S. Lane	Citizen	N/A	<p>I am writing to express the outrage of many living here on the Upper Cape regarding the proposed Machine Gun Range for Camp Edwards. Here are our questions:</p> <p>1. Why has this proposal suddenly and at the last minute become a topic for public discussion? Why has there been no public forum or hearing? Why has there been — from the beginning — no discussion with the Select Boards or Town managers of the four Upper Cape towns, or with the Barnstable Assembly of Delegates or County Commission, or the Cape Cod Commission? From here, it appears that, in the middle of a pandemic and election season, the MAANG is trying to quietly slip an eight-lane, machine gun range onto Camp Edwards.</p>	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
	749	Frederick S. Lane	Citizen	N/A	<p>2. Why was there no environmental impact assessment by a neutral, outside firm with the expertise and relevant experience? In the fragile environment of the Upper Cape, the prospect of using 5,000 acres and clear-cutting 170 acres of trees for this purpose seems foolhardy. Environmental degradation affecting land, water, air, and animal species seems inevitable, and the ear-shattering noise pollution unimaginable in this setting.</p>	Request for Additional Analysis	EIS	Comment noted. Please see <b>Section 1.4</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA). Please see the responses to Comments #10, #35, #97, #145, #187, #566, and #593.

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	750	Frederick S. Lane	Citizen	N/A	3. Precisely what weapons will be used on this “automated” “multipurpose” range? Are we talking about .50 caliber machine guns, mounted M240B machine guns, and Mk19 grenade launchers? What else?	Information Request	Proposed Action (Military Training Operations and Usage)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #46 and #49. In addition, please refer to <b>Table 2-2</b> in the EA for a complete breakdown of weapons to be used at the proposed MPMG Range.
	751	Frederick S. Lane	Citizen	N/A	4. Why are limited temporary trips to existing machine gun ranges in Vermont and New York so difficult? The proposal makes no reference to the increasing use of virtual reality and other technologies to train troops, including the New Jersey National Guard, thereby minimizing travel to live-fire ranges.	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) units have 24 days annually to meet basic weapons training requirements in addition to military occupational specialty training and command directed training. This gives commanders a very limited amount of time to meet basic training requirements prior to annual training. With increased travel time commanders have to make the decision on what tasks they do not complete contributing to a negative impact on readiness. The MAARNG currently conducts virtual training; however this does not meet the Army’s live fire requirement, which includes firing a record qualification course on an Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #14, and #23.
	752	Frederick S. Lane	Citizen	N/A	5. Why is the proposal insensitive to the considerable experience of those of us living on the Upper Cape with land and ground water contamination at Joint Base Cape Cod/Otis Air Force/Massachusetts Military Reservation/Camp Edwards. I am told that this area has been the nation’s largest government-mandated and government-funded environmental cleanup project. Congressman William Delahunt proposed closing Camp Edwards in 1998. A year later Massachusetts Governor Paul Cellucci recommended turning the northern 15,000 acres into a state conservation area. Your proposal should be withdrawn – and further suggests that it may be time to completely re-purpose the Camp Edwards area.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, and #417.

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308	753	Cynthia Lawton-Singer	Citizen	N/A	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. 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).	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #64, and #130.
	754	Cynthia Lawton-Singer	Citizen	N/A	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. 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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #130, and #566.
	755	Cynthia Lawton-Singer	Citizen	N/A	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.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #23.

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309	756	Jane A Leifer and Bernadette Sullican Ericson	Citizen	N/A	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 solesource 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.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, and #417.



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	757	Jane A Leifer and Bernadette Sullican Ericson	Citizen	N/A	<p>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.)</p> <p>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.</p>	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
	758	Jane A Leifer and Bernadette Sullican Ericson	Citizen	N/A	<p>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.</p>	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #14, #17, and #78.

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310	759	Linda P. Marsh	Citizen	N/A	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!	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #14, #28 and #44.
	760	Linda P. Marsh	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	761	Linda P. Marsh	Citizen	N/A	This plan would effect a scorched earth plan for all native wildlife, birds, vegetation, underground water supplies, air, earth and below-ground strata.	Water Resources	Groundwater	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, and #417.
	762	Linda P. Marsh	Citizen	N/A	This plan would effect a scorched earth plan for all native wildlife, birds, vegetation, underground water supplies, air, earth and below-ground strata.	Air Quality	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #64, and #130.
	763	Linda P. Marsh	Citizen	N/A	This plan would effect a scorched earth plan for all native wildlife, birds, vegetation, underground water supplies, air, earth and below-ground strata.	Soils	Soil Degradation	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #26.
311	764	Mimi McConnell	Citizen	N/A	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.	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.

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312	765	Karl Meyer	Citizen	N/A	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.	Water Resources	Groundwater	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #23, #27, #35, #37, #153, #417, and #566.
313	766	Don Ogden	Public/Private Entity	Produce/Co-host, the Enviro Show	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. We are in total opposition to this ill-conceived project and will inform our listeners about it at the first opportunity.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #35, and #566.
	767	Don Ogden	Public/Private Entity	Produce/Co-host, the Enviro Show	The climate and wildlife impacts of such a project are extreme and seemingly based on no science at all.	Air Quality	Climate Change	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18 and #64.
	768	Don Ogden	Public/Private Entity	Produce/Co-host, the Enviro Show	The climate and wildlife impacts of such a project are extreme and seemingly based on no science at all.	Biological Resources	Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #42, and #44.
314	769	Geven Phillips	Citizen	N/A	I request you extend the public comment time regarding the machine gun range for another 30 days. Thank you for considering this request.	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.

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315	770	Kathleen Quinn-Kortis	Citizen	N/A	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. <i>(comment continued below)</i>	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, and #417.
					<i>(continuation of above comment)</i> 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.			
	771	Kathleen Quinn-Kortis	Citizen	N/A	Increased air pollution, noise pollution, groundwater pollution and traffic been a good neighbor. It has made promises that have not been fulfilled. It is time to make the surrounding residents' needs a priority.	Air Quality	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #64, and #130.
	772	Kathleen Quinn-Kortis	Citizen	N/A	Increased air pollution, noise pollution, groundwater pollution and traffic been a good neighbor. It has made promises that have not been fulfilled. It is time to make the surrounding residents' needs a priority.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	773	Kathleen Quinn-Kortis	Citizen	N/A	Increased air pollution, noise pollution, groundwater pollution and traffic been a good neighbor. It has made promises that have not been fulfilled. It is time to make the surrounding residents' needs a priority.	Water Resources	Groundwater	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, and #417.

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	774	Kathleen Quinn-Kortis	Citizen	N/A	Increased air pollution, noise pollution, groundwater pollution and traffic been a good neighbor. It has made promises that have not been fulfilled. It is time to make the surrounding residents' needs a priority.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #60.
316	775	Rick Rheinhardt	Citizen	N/A	Please provide me with a link to the EIS for the proposed firing range on JBCC. Thanks.	Information Request	N/A	Comment noted. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was conducted for the Proposed Action and is available at <a href="https://www.massnationalguard.org/ERC/publications.htm">https://www.massnationalguard.org/ERC/publications.htm</a> . An EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the Proposed Action. The primary objective of an EA is to determine whether or not the Proposed Action would produce a significant adverse effect. In a NEPA analysis, significance of an impact depends on context and intensity; significance may vary depending on the setting of the proposed action and the severity of the impact (see definition of "Significantly" at 40 CFR §1508.27). The evaluation performed within the EA concludes that the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range would not result in significant adverse effects, nor would it require mitigation to reduce significant adverse effects to less-than-significant levels. As such, additional analysis in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not warranted. An EIS is only required if a project has the potential to produce significant adverse environmental effects that cannot be reasonably mitigated to less-than-significant levels. As implementation of the Proposed Action would not have a significant adverse impact on the quality of the human or natural environment, an EIS will not be prepared and the issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) is appropriate. The current analysis satisfies the requirements of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations.
317	776	James F Rogers	Citizen	N/A	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.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
318	777	Anita and Ernie Rogers	Citizen	N/A	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.	Water Resources	Groundwater	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, and #417.
	778	Anita and Ernie Rogers	Citizen	N/A	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.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.



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Comme nter #	Comm ent #	Commenter	Commenter Type	Organizati on/Agency	Comment	Resource Area	Sub-Resource Area	Final Response
	779	Anita and Ernie Rogers	Citizen	N/A	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.	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #60.
	780	Anita and Ernie Rogers	Citizen	N/A	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.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
319	781	Darlene Schiller	Citizen	N/A	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.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	782	Darlene Schiller	Citizen	N/A	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.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, and #417.
320	783	Penn Szittyta	Citizen	N/A	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.	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, and #417.
	784	Penn Szittyta	Citizen	N/A	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.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
321	785	Susan V. Walker	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, #153, and #566.
	786	Susan V. Walker	Citizen	N/A	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 !	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period, Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.

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322	787	N/A	Public/Private Entity	Wellfleet Town Democratic Committee	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. <i>(comment continued below)</i>	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, and #417.
					<i>(continuation of above comment)</i> 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 solesource 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:			

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	788	N/A	Public/Private Entity	Wellfleet Town Democratic Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, and #14.
	789	N/A	Public/Private Entity	Wellfleet Town Democratic Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #187, and #566.

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	790	N/A	Public/Private Entity	Wellfleet Town Democratic Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #61, #153, and #417.
	791	N/A	Public/Private Entity	Wellfleet Town Democratic Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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?</li> </ul>	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #14, and #60.

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	792	N/A	Public/Private Entity	Wellfleet Town Democratic Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27 and #37.
	793	N/A	Public/Private Entity	Wellfleet Town Democratic Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	794	N/A	Public/Private Entity	Wellfleet Town Democratic Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, #42, and #566.



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	795	N/A	Public/Private Entity	Wellfleet Town Democratic Committee	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.	Cumulative Effects	General	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #37, #61, and #153.
	796	N/A	Public/Private Entity	Wellfleet Town Democratic Committee	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.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #23.
323	797	Lydia Vivante, Chair	Public/Private Entity	Wellfleet Town Democratic Committee	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.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
324	798	Hollis C. Wheeler	Citizen	N/A	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.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.

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325	799	Jenna Smith	Citizen	N/A	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.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #17, #78, and #593.
					<i>(continuation of above comment)</i> 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.			

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	800	Jenna Smith	Citizen	N/A	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.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, #19, and #593.
326	801	Joan B. Bernstein	Citizen	N/A	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.	HTMW	Contamination, Munitions	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #1, #14, #26, #37 and #49.
	802	Joan B. Bernstein	Citizen	N/A	Cape COD's fragile environment and single source aquifer can't take any more.	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, and #153.
	803	Joan B. Bernstein	Citizen	N/A	Nor should we lose 1700 acres of precious woodlands.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #187, and #566.
327	804	Heather Blume	Citizen	N/A	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. It will severely distress civilians, wildlife,the land, and deplete air quality.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	805	Heather Blume	Citizen	N/A	The reasons for my objection are substantial, noise pollution, habitat destruction, ground water impact, property devaluation.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #28.

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	806	Heather Blume	Citizen	N/A	The reasons for my objection are substantial, noise pollution, habitat destruction, ground water impact, property devaluation.	Water Resources	Groundwater	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #417.
	807	Heather Blume	Citizen	N/A	The reasons for my objection are substantial, noise pollution, habitat destruction, ground water impact, property devaluation.	Socioeconomics	Property Values	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #368.
	808	Heather Blume	Citizen	N/A	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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	809	Heather Blume	Citizen	N/A	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.	Cumulative Effects	General	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #61.
	810	Heather Blume	Citizen	N/A	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.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #4.

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328	811	Joan C. Dubis	Citizen	N/A	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. 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.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #28, #35, #64, #187, and #566.
	812	Joan C. Dubis	Citizen	N/A	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.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #44, and #593.



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	813	Joan C. Dubis	Citizen	N/A	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.	Soils	Soil Degradation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #26 and #64.
	814	Joan C. Dubis	Citizen	N/A	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.	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #14, #27, #37, #153, and #417.
	815	Joan C. Dubis	Citizen	N/A	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.	Socioeconomics	Property Values	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17, #78, and #368.
329	816	Robert M George	Citizen	N/A	As both a home owner in Pocasset and a veteran who was stationed at Otis AFB from 1969- 1971, I am opposed to the "machine gun firing range" based on inadequate research. We all know how 'approved practices' in the 1960's and 1970's had a subsequent and significant impact on the water aquifer under and around the base. Let's not do it, again.	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #27, #37, #153, and #417.
	817	Robert M George	Citizen	N/A	Also, I am concerned by potential noise impact.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.
	818	Robert M George	Citizen	N/A	I am in full support of APCC's request for the execution of an environmental impact statement "to carefully study the impact this project would create, propose appropriate mitigation and re-examine the potential viability of the rejected project alternatives." Please do what is right for both the surrounding communities and Joint Base Cape Cod.	Request for Additional Analysis	EIS	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #39, #97, and #145.
330	819	Stephen G. Tom and Anne Elizabeth Tom	Citizen	N/A	As residents of Falmouth, and Cape Cod as a whole, we object to the proposed plan to develop a multipurpose machine gun training range at Camp Edwards on Joint Base Cape Cod based on the following: 1. Potential for negative environmental impacts, including:	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.

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	820	Stephen G. Tom and Anne Elizabeth Tom	Citizen	N/A	a. Contamination of our sole source aquifer	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, and #417.
	821	Stephen G. Tom and Anne Elizabeth Tom	Citizen	N/A	b. The clearing of large sections of trees; estimated around 170 acres	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	822	Stephen G. Tom and Anne Elizabeth Tom	Citizen	N/A	c. Increased transportation of personnel to the Cape from the mainland	Infrastructure	Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #7, #18 and #60.
	823	Stephen G. Tom and Anne Elizabeth Tom	Citizen	N/A	d. Some amount of noise pollution, over and above the current firing range and aircraft noise	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	824	Stephen G. Tom and Anne Elizabeth Tom	Citizen	N/A	2. Negligible economic benefit to the Cape Cod economy	Socioeconomics	Socioeconomic Conditions	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #6, #14, and #161.
	825	Stephen G. Tom and Anne Elizabeth Tom	Citizen	N/A	3. Questionable levels of mitigation of travel for Massachusetts National Guard personnel that we're told must travel over 200 miles to access appropriate training facilities. How many of the total number of the affected trainees will have their travel cut by at least 50%? Logistically, how central to the target population is an island training location on the southeastern shoreline of MA and, in numbers, how does this improve efficiency and manage cost?	Infrastructure	Traffic	Approximately 3,155 (including support staff) out of 6,000 soldiers or 52.6% must travel out of state to qualify their weapons systems at another Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range. Once the MPMG is completed, those soldiers will then use Camp Edwards. All Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) unit locations that assemble to convoy to an out of state MPMG training site are closer in miles to Camp Edwards than the closest out of state MPMG training site (Camp Ethan Allen). The shortest distance to Camp Ethan Allen from a unit assembly convoy site is the Springfield Armory (206 miles to Camp Ethan Allen vs 147 miles to Camp Edwards). All units that travel to out of state training sites in addition to the soldiers that require small arms training must incorporate additional support staff (food services, maintenance, command and control) to support the mission. Training at Camp Edwards improves efficiency because of existing support for these units including vehicle maintenance shops, existing food service contracts, and no additional cost for billeting. Additionally units remain longer on Camp Edwards which increases training time to meet full training requirements. Please see comment #259.

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	826	Stephen G. Tom and Anne Elizabeth Tom	Citizen	N/A	We understand, from reading the supplied literature, that Massachusetts National Guard has a management and mitigation strategy for all of the above (and more). However, much of this project is supported and impacted by commitments from a multitude of US federal agencies. Therefore, we are skeptical and view much of the current federal government's policy positions and actions as questionable in terms of accuracy, sound environmental policy making, proper planning, believability, honesty, and trustworthiness. Although we are activists with regard to environmental issues, we also believe in the importance of a strong military and domestic security infrastructure. We support strong systems and sane policies to keep Americans safe. However, we have spent too many decades ignoring and maneuvering around the need to protect of our environment. Instead, we have blindly continued to develop our public and private lands for short term benefits while ignoring the science of climate change and threats to the well-being, and even survival of future generations. Therefore, we absolutely do not support the development of the proposed machine gun training range on Camp Edwards.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
331	827	Stuart Warner	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to express my opposition to building a machine gun range at Fort Edwards. The forest on the base is a valuable, irreplaceable asset for wildlife and aquifer vitality. In addition, the noise produced by a machine gun range will be enormous and disturbing for miles. Please consider all other options.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, #28, #35, and #566.
	828	Stuart Warner	Citizen	N/A	The forest on the base is a valuable, irreplaceable asset for wildlife and aquifer vitality	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, and #417.
	829	Stuart Warner	Citizen	N/A	In addition, the noise produced by a machine gun range will be enormous and disturbing for miles. Please consider all other options.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #10 and #593.
332	830	Lauren Wolk	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to request that the Army National Guard extend its date of Sept. 8 for public comment on the plan to install a machine gun range at Joint Base Cape Cod. The issue deserves at least an additional 30 days for public comment. You've had years to form a plan, which you then dropped on us without warning.	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.

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333	831	Carole W. Bell	Citizen	N/A	<p>Well said!</p> <p>Carole W. Bell On Wed, Sep 2, 2020 at 12:18 PM Bonnie Hempel &lt;bhempel@comcast.net &lt; Cautionmailto: bhempel@comcast.net &gt; &gt; wrote:</p> <p>The eight-lane machine gun range, the first in the state,being planned for Camp Edwards is a catastrophe. Itwill require clear cutting 170.5 acres of trees, and would require 5,000 plus acresfor the venture. This Cape Cod, a slip of land that is slowly being eroded by Mother Nature and rapidlybeing devoured by greedy developers getting rich by gobbling up our preciousland. It'searly in this calamity and there hasn't been much feedback from our electedofficials. It's difficult to imagine that Representative Peake, Senator Cyr,Representative Whelan and all the other Cape officials are in support of thisdebacle. Surely, there is a more suitable area for this in the whole state ofMassachusetts, gives one pause, one wonders what incentive is driving this project. Please,I'm reduced to begging, please Cape Cod Commission, Conservation Trusts,Environmental Groups, County Government, any public servant, agency,organization who care very much for our beautiful Cape Cod, don't let thishappen. Those of us who have absolutely no control over anything it seems, arelooking to you for support and clear-headedness, DO NOT LET US DOWN! Bonnie Hempel Dennis, MA</p>	General Comment	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #14.
334	832	Christine Cusson	Citizen	N/A	Please count me as A cape cod resident for 40 years who is opposed to this project.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
335	833	Eve Zuckoff	Public/Private Entity	AI NPR (Me	Thank you for getting back to me. Looking forward to talking with Don and hopefully making my way back to you.	Media	NA	Comment noted.

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336	834	Pat Obrien	Citizen	N/A	on the planned machine gun range Camp Edward: [Copy of Twitter thread] <a href="https://twitter.com/joelsanford_&gt; Joel Sanford @joelsanford_&lt; Caution-https://twitter.com/joelsanford_&gt; 41m &lt; Cautionhttps://twitter.com/joelsanford_/status/129868687">https://twitter.com/joelsanford_&gt; Joel Sanford @joelsanford_&lt; Caution-https://twitter.com/joelsanford_&gt; 41m &lt; Cautionhttps://twitter.com/joelsanford_/status/129868687</a> Replying to @capecodtimes < Cautionhttps://twitter.com/capecodtimes > and @ChrisLegereCCT < Cautionhttps://twitter.com/ChrisLegereCCT > Great, that's exactly what the Cape needs. Perfect timing too. Forget the pandemic and all the mental cases. What we need is more people shooting bigger guns. In close proximity to neighborhoods and Elementary Schools as a bonus. What a waste of space Betsy Fitzmaurice @BetsyFitz63 < Caution-https://twitter.com/BetsyFitz63 > · 5m < Cautionhttps://twitter.com/BetsyFitz63/status/129869671 Replying to @capecodtimes < Cautionhttps://twitter.com/capecodtimes > and @ChrisLegereCCT < Cautionhttps://twitter.com/ChrisLegereCCT > Um - Why????	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
337	835	ura and Eric H	Citizen	N/A	Any statement that the environmental impact of this would be "insignificant" is simply wrong. Anyone with eyes , ears, and even minimal intelligence can see that the devastation of natural resources, the pollution ( already inflicted by the army base on this tiny spit of land , Cape Cod ) via chemical waste and noise, will be devastating.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #27, #97, #145, and #593.
	836	ura and Eric H	Citizen	N/A	If you must engage in this training, go somewhere less close to already endangered water and land and animals and humans. NO. NO. NO. to this proposal. I pay taxes so that my fellow citizens and I can have a decent quality of life, not so that the Army can devastate my surroundings unnecessarily because it's convenient for them, and leave the people who live here to deal with the mess you leave.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, and #14.
338	837	John Tudor	Citizen	N/A	No new pollution	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see responses to Comments #1, #27, and #37.
339	838	Robin Lord	Citizen	N/A	Susan this is excellent! [In response to Comment 136-Susan Patterson comment on 31 August 2020].	General Comment	N/A	Comment noted.
340	839	"Off Base"	Citizen	N/A	See "Keith Driscoll Machine Gun Range Issue.docx" attachment [Note: The attachent is included in Comment 272]	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #272.
341	840	Julie Early	Public/Private Entity	Executive Director, Dennis Conservation Land Trust	Please see the attached letter ["DCLT Resposne to Camp Edwards Machine Gun Range 7Sept2020.pdf"] in response to the Plan for the Proposed Multi-Purpose Gun Range at Camp Edwards in Bourne, MA. Thank you in advance for considering the views of the Dennis Conservation Land Trust. [Note: The attachment is included in Comment 301].	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #301.



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342	841	Marcy Klatenberg	Citizen	N/A	After reading the recent Cape Cod Times article about the Joint Base Proposal to construct a machine gun range at Camp Edwards, I would like to add additional comments to my email of 18 August 2020. I find the proposed use of copper artillery shells highly concerning. Decades of use of lead ammunition at the Base have led to the degradation of ground and surface water both on Base property and in the surrounding watershed. Copper based antifouling paint on boats is well known for its toxicity to marine life and has been banned in several sensitive areas. Adding a new potentially harmful pollutant to the long list of what the public and environment is already dealing with, is not acceptable and switching to copper ammunition should not be a viable alternative.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. No artillery would be used at the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range. Please see the responses to Comments #37 and #49.
	842	Marcy Klatenberg	Citizen	N/A	The EA of the MAARNG Proposal listed three evaluated alternatives. I believe that there should be a fourth alternative under consideration: The construction and installation of a virtual state-of-the art machine gun firing range. Pilots, both commercial and military routinely train on simulators as do NASA crews, Law enforcement and many others. Eleven million dollars, put toward a virtual machine gun firing range, will address all of the potential harmful impacts of building a new range on the sensitive environment of Camp Edwards. I look forward to reading public reaction and seeing how your plans evolve.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) currently conducts virtual training; however this does not meet the Army's live fire requirement, which includes firing a record qualification course on an Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #14, and #751.
343	843	Richard Conron	Citizen	N/A	<Email from MAARNG Public Affairs Office> We just received a call in the Public Affairs Office regarding the proposed machine gun range on Camp Edwards. Mr. Richard Conron, a Bourne Resident, was asking about public hearings regarding the proposed range. Below is his information. Would you be able to help him with this question? Thank you in advance for your help.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
344	844	James and Sally Cohill (sp?)	Citizen	N/A	My husband and I are extremely upset about a proposed machine gun range to be installed at Edwards Air Force Base. We are opposed because the Cape has a sole source aquifer which has been contaminated at the Base at 42 sites. This cleanup at the Superfund Sites has been going on for 20 years. The machine gun range is a potential threat to the water supply on Cape Cod. I sincerely hope this issue will be considered now that this proposal has been brought ot the attention of the people who live on Cape Cod.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, and #417.

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345	845	Carol Cafachione (sp)	Citizen	N/A	Regards proposed grenade launcher pistols and machine gun areas for our Cape Cod Base in Bourne, Mass. Due to the fragile environment presently being tested to the extreme now on Cape Cod (water, air, etc.).	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #9.
	846	Carol Cafachione (sp)	Citizen	N/A	Also due to the overwhelming price of military upkeep we all have to bear.	Purpose and Need	Financial Need	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #6.
	847	Carol Cafachione (sp)	Citizen	N/A	Not to mention the noise level. I strongly am against your enlarging (for these purposes) the Cape Cod area for machine gunnery and grenade launches, etc. Outside of your present usage no one really wants the environment and quiet made worse than it already is.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
346	848	Judith A. Currier	Citizen	N/A	I walk up in the Frances A. Crane Wildlife Preserve all the time. It's adjacent to the Base. If you are planning to clear 199 plus acres of similar landscape this is so wrong, for wildlife, Cape Codders. This is not appropriate for Cape Cod which is losing acres to development every year. High tech training is more appropriate. If the military really needs this put it somewhere else.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #14, #35, and #566.
	849	Judith A. Currier	Citizen	N/A	Noise pollution will disturb people and animals. Our wildlife already face shrinking of their natural habitat. The base over decades has already degraded Cape Cod. We don't need this. I am opposed to this addition.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #44, and #593.
	850	Judith A. Currier	Citizen	N/A	Noise pollution will disturb people and animals. Our wildlife already face shrinking of their natural habitat. The base over decades has already degraded Cape Cod. We don't need this. I am opposed to this addition.	Biological Resources	Wildlife (Habitat)	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #28.
347	851	Tom and Merry Dahm	Citizen	N/A	We are opposed to establishing this type of gun range that would cause such excessive noise that it would have a negative impact on local residents.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10, #28, and #593.
	852	Tom and Merry Dahm	Citizen	N/A	Additionally, cutting soooo many trees is definitely against all of our concerns about the environment. With climate change causing so many problems, we need every tree! This is certainly NOT appropriate for this location on Cape Cod!	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #18, #35, #64, and #566.
348	853	Maria A. Damon	Citizen	N/A	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. Although it's vital to have a strong military for national security and nobody wants such a facility of this extent in their backyard, I can't help but think there are more remote places to have this instead of clearing 170 acres of forest and 199 acres of land to be disturbed. This absolutely has an impact on the environment! This proposed machine gun range is totally preposterous, unnecessary, disheartening, and a disaster to our Cape COd environment. Please do not allow this to happen!	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, #35, and #566.

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349	854	Carol DeYoung	Citizen	N/A	Please do not put a gun range at Joint Base Cape Cod. The Cape has suffered enough because of gun range garbage left on the base. You have contaminated the earth and the ground water.	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #27, #37, #153, and #417.
	855	Carol DeYoung	Citizen	N/A	Use the training range in NY & Vermont if necessary. I feel a gun range would be in direct violation of the current regulations regarding the National and Massachusetts Environmental Laws and Policy Act. Stop - the Cape has suffered enough.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, #23, #97, and #145.
350	856	Mark Gabriele	Citizen	N/A	Looks like updating the Patti Page song about Cape Cod will be in order. How's this? Old Cape Cod - Patti Page If you're fond of sand dunes and gun smoke air, The rattle of machine guns here and there, You're sure to fall in love with old Cape Cod. If care for blasts of gunshot residue, Blown into a window with an ocean view, You're sure to fall in love with old Cape Cod. Crossing the bridge alongside new recruits, Riding tanks in their army boots, LMGs and MMGs firing on a Sunday mom, Starting in the wee hours before dawn. If you spend an evening you'll want to stay, Watching machine gun flashes on Cape Cod Bay, You're sure to fall in love with old Cape Cod.  As a full time Cape Cod resident, I wholeheartedly OBJECT to this proposal.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
351	857	Karen Goggins	Citizen	N/A	I was stunned to learn this morning of a proposed plan by the National Guard for a machine gun range at Camp Edwards! The Cape is such a fragile environment which is being assaulted by development on all sides. The idea of clearing cutting almost 200 acres of woodland borders on the unthinkable. We've been trying for years to save the little woodland that is left here.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	858	Karen Goggins	Citizen	N/A	To me, travel distance to another range pales in comparison to the need to protect what open land we have left here on Cape Cod. The guard has the Vermont alternative. It is not worth sacrificing this land.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #23.

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352	859	Susanne Goodman Hallstein	Citizen	N/A	Imagine a 75 year old, resident of Cape Cod, on her hands and knees begging you not to turn Otis, Camp Edwards, a national cemetery into a huge firing range. I came to Cape Cod with my Coast Guard pilot husband forty years ago. In those 40 years the base poisoned our water, jarred our very core with bombing noises that rocked my north Falmouth home. I am not kidding. I visit the beautiful national cemetery to put flowers and flags at my late husbands grave. With tears in my eyes, I plead with you, do not but a ballistics range there. For me the base represents the end of war and a transformation to natural beauty and peace. Please let our veterans rest in peace.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors (National Cemetery)	Comment noted. No artillery would be used at the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, #10, and #593.
353	860	Debra Hennessey	Citizen	N/A	This is a request under the Massachusetts Public Records Law (M. G. L. Chapter 66, Section 10). I am requesting that I be provided a copy of the following records: I am interested in receiving paperwork and information collected as to the cost (estimate) for removal of trees, vegetation for the proposed machine gun firing range on Joint Base Cape Cod. It is my understanding that cost data was received from local arborist(s) Hamilton Tree. I recognize that you may charge reasonable costs for copies, as well as for personnel time needed to comply with this request. The Public Records Law requires you to provide me with a written response within 10 business days. If you cannot comply with my request, you are statutorily required to provide an explanation in writing.	Information Request	N/A	The MAARNG responded directly to the commenter to address her request under the Massachusetts Public Records Law.
354	861	Jessie Hallind	Citizen	N/A	I'm a resident of Forestdale, MA. I've lived here for 48 years. I'm 88 years old, with every thing that's going on now, there's something else for me to be concerned about. Please rethink this project, the additional noise, activity plus ammunition will affect our area in the worst way.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, #27, #37, #49, and #593.
	862	Jessie Hallind	Citizen	N/A	The National Guard claims that this will have no environmental impact, makes no sense. Don't forget in the 1980's when 42 places on the base were declared superfund sites of critical concern. I believe that clean-up is still on-going from that. There has to be a better solution for this project, a place where it will have less environmental impact on its region and its citizens.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #23, and #61.
	863	Jessie Hallind	Citizen	N/A	Looking at the outline, the designated surface danger zone where projectiles could land is right in Forestdale's neighborhood.	Public Health and Safety	Munitions	Comment noted. The proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range and associated Surface Danger Zone (SDZ) would be entirely contained within Camp Edwards. Please see the responses to Comments #84 and #187.
355	864	[Illegible]	Citizen	N/A	I am writing to express my displeasure at the idea of clearing away a forest of trees and impact on the wildlife!	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing, Wildlife	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #566, #28, #35, and #44.



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356	865	Frances M. Johnson	Citizen	N/A	We ask you to give further consideration to the negative ramifications from a machine gun range at Camp Edwards. The citizens on Cape Cod continue to suffer with clean water supply from contamination from a previous gun range at Otis AFB. Noise was also an issue. Our fragile water plume is our connection to clean water	HTMW	Contamination	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, #27, #37, #153, #417, and #593.
	866	Frances M. Johnson	Citizen	N/A	... of course the environment and air quality is also of concern.	Air Quality	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #64, and #130.
	867	Frances M. Johnson	Citizen	N/A	The clearing of trees and acres of foliage will greatly effect the environment and prove to be detrimental.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	868	Frances M. Johnson	Citizen	N/A	We have two aged bridges connecting us to the mainland. Traffic is an issue presently. The range would add to the congestion and traffic. We are in a wholesome family community and have become neighbors with the bases. Please respect us as your neighbors as well. We hope to keep the Cape and our town a safe home for future generations. The Cape with its many quaint towns is not the correct real estate for such a range.	Infrastructure	Bridges, Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #7 and #60.
	869	Frances M. Johnson	Citizen	N/A	We live in Sandwich the oldest town on Cape Cod -- certainly other locations are available and more suitable for the range that is being proposed for Cape Cod.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #4.
357	870	N/A	Citizen	N/A	Machine guns, shotguns, grenade launchers, and pistols. NO WAY	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #1.
358	871	J. A. Pierce	Citizen	N/A	The proposal to install a military machine gun range at Camp Edwards, the Massachusetts Army National Guard area at Joint Base Cape Cod is extremely inappropriate. There are elder citizens living in very close proximity to the area, as well as young elementary school children within a very short distance who would be subjected to this machine gun barrage. Our family has been here long enough to remember the range shooting at the base when our homes were shaken with the explosives, children and pets frightened and cracks appeared in our home walls.	Socioeconomics	Surrounding Communities/Busin esses	Comment noted. No artillery would be used at the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) range. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #19.
	872	J. A. Pierce	Citizen	N/A	Your proposal would bring back the same horrors. To state that the "noise in surrounding neighborhoods would be varied" is preposterous. The intense noise, peaking at 130 decibels, would not be contained within the base as you state. How ridiculous and untrue that statement is.	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10 and #593.
	873	J. A. Pierce	Citizen	N/A	As you know, our two antiquated Cape Cod bridges (not including the railroad bridge) are presently over burdened. The three-season tourists are backed up for miles. Presently, we are planning two replacement bridges in the next decade. How are our merchants, restaurants and small business people to tolerate more traffic from your proposed installation?	Infrastructure	Bridges, Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #7 and #60.



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	874	J. A. Pierce	Citizen	N/A	The machine gun range should be installed at Camp Ethan Allen in Vermont or in upstate New York, in less populated areas than Cape Cod.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #14, and #23.
359	875	Diane L. Richardson	Citizen	N/A	I am very dismayed by the proposal to establish a machine gun range at Joint Base Cape Cod. Not only is it out of character for a place that is visited by vacationers and has substantial water contamination issues, it is also a sacred place where our truly courageous men and women that have served our Country in wars have been laid to rest at the National Cemetery - which is across from the proposed machine gun site. I recently laid my husband to rest at the National Cemetery in Bourne, just across from where the machine gun range has been proposed, and where I visit several times a week to sit in quiet with my thoughts and prayers. My husband, David E. Richardson was a Major in the Army. He served two tours in Korea and one in Vietnam during military conflicts in both regions. He served for 22 years putting his life at risk to protect our Country and its values. To disrupt and disturbed such a sacred place as The National Cemetery with the noise of war is of utmost concern to me and , I feel, disrespectful to the lives lost in war and those that passed after such dedicated service to our country. In addition, as a frequent visitor to this sacred place the disturbance of the noise of war can only serve to even further upset (and remind) those left behind after the loss of a loved one.	Noise	Sensitive Receptors (National Cemetery)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #10, and #593.
	876	Diane L. Richardson	Citizen	N/A	I understand the need for weapons practice by our military and our Countries need to have a well trained and ready force, however I have to believe that within the Unites States we have a better place to establish this training.	Alternatives Considered	Use of Other Installation	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4 and #23.
	877	Diane L. Richardson	Citizen	N/A	One that is not as close to neighborhoods, one that is not a place that is a rest bit for vacationers, one that does not operate on an acquirer that provides clean water throughout Cape Cod and surly one that does not disrespect our deceased members of the military and the many family and friends that come to visit with them.	Socioeconomics	Surrounding Communities/Busin esses	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #19.
	878	Diane L. Richardson	Citizen	N/A	One that is not as close to neighborhoods, one that is not a place that is a rest bit for vacationers, one that does not operate on an acquirer that provides clean water throughout Cape Cod and surly one that does not disrespect our deceased members of the military and the many family and friends that come to visit with them.	Socioeconomics	Tourism	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comment #76.

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	879	Diane L. Richardson	Citizen	N/A	One that is not as close to neighborhoods, one that is not a place that is a rest bit for vacationers, one that does not operate on an acquirer that provides clean water throughout Cape Cod and surly one that does not disrespect our deceased members of the military and the many family and friends that come to visit with them. Quite provides healing for those left behind, a time to ponder on memories and "speak" with their loved ones. Out of respect and dignity I beg you to reconsider this decision. Please consider the many reasons that this proposed place is not the right place for this kind of activity.	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, and #417.
360	880	Florence Seldin	Citizen	N/A	I am a resident of the Town of Chatham and am writing to express my opposition to the proposed construction and operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range (MPMG) on Camp Edwards. There are many reasons for MAARNG to reconsider its decision to develop a MPMG Range on Cape Cod. Certainly, paramount among them is that Cape has suffered enough from pollution caused by past practices on the base. Until all pollution has been contained and cleaned up no further construction should take place at Camp Edwards. We still have water plumes in the groundwater which are a serious threat. Plumes of groundwater still flow from under the Central Impact Area into the vicinities of public water supplies, residential wells and surface waters.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #18, and #61.
	881	Florence Seldin	Citizen	N/A	The Cape, as I am sure you know, is a single source aquifer. Therefore, the degradation at the top of the aquifer migrates and causes degradation to all. The MPMG Range has the potential for adding toxic chemicals to the air and groundwater so definitely should not be allowed in the middle of a regional watershed.	Water Resources	Sole Source Aquifer	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #37, #153, and #417.
	882	Florence Seldin	Citizen	N/A	To be built and serviced, the proposed Range calls for the clear cutting of over 170 acres of forest, the development of new roads and the extension of utility lines. This type of destruction on top of decades of previous harm caused by military weapons practice and live artillery fire is simply unnecessary. We have documented incidents of soil and groundwater contamination with toxic substances which contaminated millions of gallons of the Upper Cape's drinking water.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #35, #61, and #566.

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	883	Florence Seldin	Citizen	N/A	According to MAARNG's own report, situating a MPMG Range on Cape Edwards will increase traffic by 18.6% or up to 17,650 man-days. Cape Cod is currently suffering from traffic problems on our roads and bridges and this increased traffic will cause further air and water pollution. It is costing local communities millions of dollars to clean up contaminated groundwater and this won't help.	Infrastructure	Bridges, Traffic	Comment noted. Usage of Camp Edwards would increase by up to 18.6%. This increase pertains to man-days, not traffic. See <b>Section 2.2.2.4</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA). Please see the responses to Comments #1, #7, #18, #37, #60, and #64.
	884	Florence Seldin	Citizen	N/A	The environmental impact report concludes that there will be "less than significant impacts." However, there has been no investigation or even consideration of the cumulative impacts of decades of pollution and degradation in this area. Why should we trust the report when residents had to fight for years to get the government to take seriously their complaints and begin a major clean-up at the base and in areas around it. Training facilities must exist elsewhere. Why should Cape Cod residents once again have to pay the price of additional damage to our drinking water, our soil, our ponds and our health?	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #4, #37 and #61.
361	885	John Sullivan	Citizen	N/A	As a former Army National Guard, I'm all for this gun range. This [illegible] is at least 20-25 miles from Camp Edwards. Nobody wants to go to Vermont or Upstate New York for 2 weeks on back of deuce and a half to shoot guns.	General Support	N/A	Comment noted.
362	886	Mary Hunter Utt	Citizen	N/A	I am writing as a Cape Cod resident in strong opposition to the Construction and Operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards, Joint Base, Cape Cod. The Association to Preserve Cape Cod has called for a thorough Environmental Impact Study "to carefully study the impacts this project would create, propose appropriate mitigation and reexamine the potential viability of the rejected project alternatives."	Request for Additional Analysis	EIS	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.
	887	Mary Hunter Utt	Citizen	N/A	Clear-cutting 1700 acres will surely impact the environment. Cape Cod Commission Executive Director Kristy Senatori cautions that "clearing or development activities of the scale proposed by this project in a water supply area could negatively impact underlying water and natural resources."	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #27, #35, #153, #417, and #566.
	888	Mary Hunter Utt	Citizen	N/A	Your own Environmental Assessment notes that noise from the range will affect "multiple residential neighborhoods as well as an elementary school."	Noise	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #10 and #593.

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	889	Mary Hunter Utt	Citizen	N/A	In addition the base is still cleaning up 42 Superfund Sites of Critical Concern. It's hard to imagine how more runoff from more spent ammunition -- also a fire hazard - will aid the clean-up. In short, this project requires more assessment and, importantly, more communication with the Cape Cod towns and residents who will have to live with the noise, pollution, and other hazards this project will bring.	Cumulative Effects	HTMW	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17, #27,#37, #61, #78, and #251.
363	890	Luecile White	Citizen	N/A	I am against the military gun range.	General Opposition	N/A	Comment noted.
364	891	Mary Ann Jones	Citizen	N/A	My View Questioning the Militarizing of Cape Cod: The Construction and Operation of a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards, Cape Cod (Aug. 8, 2020 Cape Cod Times, back page notification, C-5.) Does a multi-purpose machine gun range at Camp Edwards fit into my future image of Cape Cod? The proposed MPMG range would comprise 199 acres, plus the 5,197 acres required to accommodate the Surface Danger Zone, whatever that entails. Does the idea of 170+ acres of forested land cleared for said range footprint, the small arms range operations and control area facilities with the addition of lighting, utility extensions, access and maintenance road development and firebreaks jibe with the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) claimed by the Massachusetts Army National Guard? Acres of forest cleared away and replaced by machine gun practice and no significant environmental, cultural, or socioeconomic effects on us, to say nothing of our wild life? Far-fetched claim.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #35, #97, #187, and #566.
	892	Mary Ann Jones	Citizen	N/A	Does the fact that there is no other Army standard MPMG Range in Massachusetts cause you to want this designation for Cape Cod, to become the ONE, the only multi-purpose machine gun range in Massachusetts, hosting any and all trainees in all of Massachusetts, and, as stated, "other military users' assigned training missions"1? Such as the "Homeland Security" in Portland recently?	Purpose and Need	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1 and #14
	893	Mary Ann Jones	Citizen	N/A	Instead of the refuge it has become in a pandemic, is our fragile peninsula to play host to all military who will presumably travel over our two aged and structurally compromised bridges? Is this why the Army Corp of Engineers finally agreed that replacement was due?	Infrastructure	Bridge Structure	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #7 and #60.

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	894	Mary Ann Jones	Citizen	N/A	We are in the grip of uncertain times, politically sensitive times, the money spent on this venture is better used for environmental, cultural and socioeconomic survival. War games are past. What is needed in the current battle for technology and information is not more machine gun training, but more comprehensive training in technology and communications.	Purpose and Need	Financial Need	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #6, and #14.
	895	Mary Ann Jones	Citizen	N/A	To give us less than a month to submit comments on this proposal is a strategy I object to, as much as I object to the proposal itself with its hidden agenda.	Public and Agency Involvement	Public Review Period	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
365	896	Kathleen O'Brian	Citizen	N/A	This is to respond to the proposed MPMG Range at Camp Edwards in which 170.5 acres of forested land is to be cleared and converted to grassland in the control area on the Joint Force Military Base. Cape Cod, on which the military base is located, is a fragile ecological piece of land, that is, essentially an island because of the canal. To site such a shooting range within these confines seems unreasonable. The justification being that such an Army standard MPMG Range does not exist within Massachusetts seems absurd when one considers that Massachusetts is the 8th most forested land in the United States with 60.4 percent of our state forested. We here in Massachusetts have 3.1 million acres of such land (though 79% are in private ownership). Surely it is possible to site a multipurpose machinegun range in a more sparsely populated, less vulnerable place than Cape Cod where accommodation could be made to achieve the desired Surface Danger Zone.	Alternatives Considered	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #4, #35, #187, and #566.
	897	Kathleen O'Brian	Citizen	N/A	This is a tourist centered area which is reached by two bridges spanning The Cape Cod Canal that are famously overcrowded with traffic backlog. Our existing joint military base need not be added to with those units coming here for deemed necessary practice. Plenty of forested land exists elsewhere in Massachusetts.	Infrastructure	Bridges, Traffic	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #7 and #60.



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	898	Kathleen O'Brian	Citizen	N/A	Additionally I have issue with the use designation of other military users' assigned training missions. In the light of our most recent controversial use of quasi military and Para-military personnel, I am concerned with the usurpation of local military guard and local police under the control of our state governor to that of the national guard being activated under the federal government and the President. Futhermore, I would discourage any enlistment of local people to those uses of MPMG Range. I caution the possibility of such use in the conversion of locals by the federal government in the intervntional use of "other military users" of such forces within our state boundaries. Hence I ask that the use of such a machine gun range, if and when it is established, be strictly limited to those clearly and specifically designated traditional military forces.	General Comment	N/A	Comment noted. While the primary purpose of the proposed MPMG Range would be to support MAARNG training, the range may provide training space for other military and law enforcement users.
366	899	Timothy Timmermann	Federal Agency	Director, Office of Environmental Review, EPA New England, Region 1	We recommend that additional information be provided in the EA/FONSI to more fully describe the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action and to support any conclusion reached regarding the magnitude of the expected impacts.	General Comment	N/A	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.
	900	Timothy Timmermann	Federal Agency	Director, Office of Environmental Review, EPA New England, Region 2	The Proposed Action is for the Massachusetts National Guard (MAARNG) to be able to train with the M249 and M240 (5.56 mm and 7.62 mm) weapons systems; however, Table 2-2 indicates that additional weapons systems and ammunition are proposed to be used on the proposed range. Recommendation: We recommend that the EA/FONSI list the constituents of the propellants, primers, bullets, and cartridge cases for all weapons systems and bullets (including grenade launcher MK19) proposed for use on the range and why adverse environmental impacts from the use of these weapon systems and ammunition are considered less than significant. List the constituents of tracers, flares, and simulators that are proposed for use on the proposed range and why adverse environmental impacts from these training activities are considered less than significant.	HTMW	Munitions	<p>The list of weapons systems and ammunition identified in Table 2-2, excluding the .50 caliber ball, consists of the weapons and ammunition currently being utilized at existing Camp Edwards small arms ranges. The 5.56 mm, 7.62 mm, 40 mm, and .45 caliber ball are currently included in the Camp Edwards Approved Munitions List dated January 2, 2020. At this time, there is no expectation for use of 12 gauge shotgun ammunition at the proposed range. In the future, should any new munition be proposed on the MPMG or any Camp Edwards small arms range, including the .50 caliber ball and MK19 44 mm practice grenade, the proposed munition, along with its chemistry, would be subject to review and approval prior to use by the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), Science Advisory Council (SAC), and Community Advisory Council. Constituent data and analysis is available and has been coordinated and approved by the EMC. EPA has recognized the EMC as the oversight authority for all small arms range development and pyrotechnic use on Camp Edwards (EPA Letter 15 May 2017).</p> <p>The Impact Area Groundwater Study Program of the MAARNG and NGB in coordination with the USEPA and MassDEP has conducted small arms range investigations (see Footnote 1) (2014), and has completed a small arms range decision document (see Footnote 2) (2015) that documented no significant impact to groundwater and soil for land used as small arms ranges. Impacts to soil and groundwater are not expected based on data from the Small Arms Range Investigation Report (2014) and data collected and analyzed through the Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring Plans (OMMP) for the Small Arms Ranges from 2014-2018. Data collected under the OMMP shows no significant impact to soil or groundwater with most constituents of concern at background levels for Camp Edwards. <i>(comment response continued below)</i></p>

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								<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> The Impact Area Groundwater Study Program of the MAARNG and NGB in coordination with the USEPA and MassDEP has conducted training area investigations (including training aids / pyrotechnics) as part of the 2019 decision document (see Footnote 3) for the training areas operable unit at Camp Edwards. No significant impact to groundwater and soil for areas investigated for past training aids / pyrotechnics use was found. Impacts to soil and groundwater are not expected for current training aids / pyrotechnics use because they have been reformulated to be more environmentally friendly and on data collected through the efforts of the MAARNG and the EMC. The MAARNG on the advice of the EMC SAC Ad Hoc Committee conducted field tests for training aids to determine the amount of deposition for constituents of concern used in these devices. The results were non-detectable for the constituents of concern. A Standard Operating Procedure for the use of these devices has been developed in coordination with the EMC to further ensure environmental best practices (e.g., trash pick-up) when using training aids / pyrotechnic devices.</p> <p>Footnotes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 .A Impact Area Groundwater Study Program, Final Small Arms Ranges Investigation Report, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts Military Reservation Cape Cod, Massachusetts, January 2014, Prepared for: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District Concord, Massachusetts for Army National Guard Impact Area Groundwater Study Program Camp Edwards, Massachusetts</li> <li>2. United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 Decision Document Small Arms Ranges Operable Unit Camp Edwards Joint Base Cape Cod Cape Cod, Massachusetts September 2015</li> <li>3. United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1, Decision Document, Training Areas Operable Unit, Camp Edwards, Joint Base Cape Cod, Cape Cod, Massachusetts. February 2019</li> </ol>
	901	Timothy Timmermann	Federal Agency	Director, Office of Environmental Review, EPA New England, Region 3	The EA/FONSI would benefit from a more complete description of the baseline and expected contaminant loading of project area soils due to the firing of ammunition on the proposed range. Recommendation: We recommend that the EA/FONSI describe the baseline and expected contaminant loading of project area soils due to the firing of ammunition on the proposed range. It may be appropriate to summarize and reference the findings from the KD Range Post-DD Confirmatory Geophysical and Soil Investigation performed by IAGWSP in accordance with AO3 and the Training Ranges and Small Arms Ranges Decision Documents.	HTMW	Contamination (soils)	The Army National Guard Impact Area Groundwater Study Program has completed all the response actions for the Known Distance (KD) Range required by the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Training Ranges and Small Arms Ranges Decision Documents. This includes the eastern portion of the range which was historically used for small arms training (Small Arms Ranges Decision Document) and the western portion of the range that was historically used for small arms firing and training with Dragon and TOW missiles and the 90mm Recoilless Rifle. Confirmatory soil sampling at the eastern part of the KD Range identified no contaminants of concern and no further actions were required. Geophysical surveys and anomaly investigations of the western part of the KD range were conducted in 2015. No unexploded ordinance (UXO) or munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) were identified during these surveys. The 2019 Decision Document required that the targets remaining on the KD Range (an armored personnel carrier and a fork lift) be removed from the range and that munitions debris surrounding the targets be removed. This work has been completed. Confirmatory soil sampling beneath the primary target identified explosives contamination (RDX and HMX). This contaminated soil was excavated and removed from the site. Confirmatory soil sampling indicated that the cleanup goals had been achieved. No further soil remediation is required at the KD Range. Please also see the responses to Comments #97, and #145.

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	902	Timothy Timmermann	Federal Agency	Director, Office of Environmental Review, EPA New England, Region 4	The June 2020 SEIR explains that the range has been designed and will be designated as a copper ammunition only range. This design parameter was not highlighted in the EA/FONSI. Recommendation: We recommend that the copper only ammunition designation be highlighted in the EA/FONSI as it bears directly on the potential for environmental impacts from the proposed range. We recommend that the EA/FONSI specifically explain whether this measure will apply to all training devices to be used at the facility. Please note that in a letter dated 8 January 2012 concerning the MAARNG's proposed use of M855A1, 5.56mm, copper ball ammunition (Enhanced Performance Round (EPR)) at Sierra and Tango Ranges, EPA stated that the use of the proposed EPR did not appear to violate the terms of EPA's Administrative Order No. 2. EPA urged MAARNG to complete a full review of all the environmental effects of the bullets, and urged MAARNG to coordinate closely with the EMC on the development and implementation of any further studies and the establishment and implementation of appropriate Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring requirements for range use. It is EPA's understanding that MAARNG has consulted closely with the EMC during the range design process and we recommend that coordination be referenced in the EA/FONSI.	HTMW	Munitions	The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) must comply with the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report certificate of the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (July 17, 2020) that identifies the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range as a copper-only range. Any non-standard use (i.e. alternative ammunition) of the range must be approved by the Environmental Management Commission (EMC). All ammunition used on ranges at Camp Edwards must be approved in coordination with the EMC and comply with the Environmental Performance Standards (EPS). The MAARNG would update the Operational Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (OMMP) in coordination with the EMC and as more efficient processes for range management are identified, as any contaminant of concern is identified, or if improved monitoring protocols are available. To date the OMMP has been revised approximately once a year. As discussed in <b>Section 1.5.2</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), the MAARNG is consulting with the EMC who oversees compliance with and enforcement of the EPS. The EMC Environmental Officer has been afforded the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed MPMG design at each of the 30%, 60%, and 90% design stages to ensure compliance with the EPS. Please refer to Appendix A of the EA for a record of Agency Coordination. Please also see the responses to Comments #97, #136, and #145.
	903	Timothy Timmermann	Federal Agency	Director, Office of Environmental Review, EPA New England, Region 5	The EA does not include a discussion of hazardous and toxic materials and waste. Recommendation: We recommend that the EA and FONSI list all hazardous and toxic materials and waste proposed to be used or generated during construction activities, and during training operations and site maintenance.	HTMW	N/A	<b>Section 3.10</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA) provides a brief discussion of hazardous and toxic materials and waste (HTMW) identified at the proposed site that are associated with past military practices and remediation at this location. As stated in this section, no stationary sources of HTMW exist at the site. <b>Section 4.10</b> of the EA identifies that automotive and equipment fluids can reasonably be expected to be present at the site during construction, use, and maintenance of the facility has also been provided in this section. Potential releases of these hazardous materials to the environment may result in the generation of hazardous wastes. Local spill response protocol would be implemented in the event of any release to the environment. If applicable, the requirements set forth in the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (310 CMR 40.00) would be carried out. Waste handling and disposal of any potential clean up material would be completed in accordance with Massachusetts hazardous waste regulations (310 CMR 30.00). In addition to the regulations identified above, the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) and its users shall comply with the strict standards set forth in the Environmental Performance Standards (EPS) for Hazardous Materials (EPS 15) and Hazardous Waste (EPS 16). Potential exception requests to the EPS require prior consultation and approval of the Environmental Management Commission's Environmental Officer. Please also see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.

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	904	Timothy Timmermann	Federal Agency	Director, Office of Environmental Review, EPA New England, Region 6	Line 562 – Please explain how projectiles would be captured, how these projectiles would be collected and recycled/disposed, and how potential impacts to the environment would be measured and at what frequency.	HTMW	Munitions	All operational ranges on Camp Edwards are designed and managed to minimize harmful impacts to the environment within the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. The Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range is designed to comply with the Environmental Performance Standards (EPS) as established under Massachusetts General Statutes Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002. As discussed in <b>Section 1.5.2</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) is consulting with the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), who oversees compliance with and enforcement of the EPS. The EMC Environmental Officer has been afforded the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed MPMG design at each of the 30%, 60%, and 90% design stages to ensure compliance with the EPS. The MPMG would be designed with individual earthen impact berms behind each target. These impact berms are designed to capture the expended ammunition to the maximum extent practicable. These berms would also assist in the recovery of copper for recycling, prevention of fragmentation and ricochets, and prevention of subsurface percolation of residue associated with range operations. The MPMG would also have an Operational Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (OMMP) that would require the MAARNG to conduct regular groundwater and soil sampling to determine if range operations are protective of the environment. This OMMP requires approval through the EMC. As discussed in <b>Section 4.10</b> of the EA, all hazardous and toxic materials and waste that would be used or generated would be handled and disposed of in compliance with Federal and State requirements, as well as the EPS to minimize potential impacts to the maximum extent feasible. The MAARNG maintains a Hazardous Waste Management Plan, as well as an installation-specific Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCCP), which identifies potential sources of pollution, Best Management Practices (BMPs) to limit this potential, procedures to respond to pollution events, and procedures to handle hazardous materials. The MAARNG would implement BMPs and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) to proactively minimize potential adverse impacts related to projectiles and munitions ( <b>Section 4.11</b> of the EA). Please also see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.
	905	Timothy Timmermann	Federal Agency	Director, Office of Environmental Review, EPA New England, Region 7	Line 592 – Please describe the specific components of the antiterrorism and force protection (AT/FP) measures for the proposed range and whether they would result in environmental impacts.	Proposed Action	Range Components	The Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range was designed in accordance with established Department of Defense (DoD) policy, Department of the Army regulations, Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) and current National Guard Bureau (NGB) requirements. Security engineering design review consisted of ensuring compliance with the DoD Minimum Standards, <u>AR 190-11 Arms, Ammunition &amp; Explosive (AA&amp;E) Construction Requirements</u> , and the Army National Guard standards/criteria for Anti-terrorism and Force Protection (ATFP) and Electronic Security Systems (ESS). The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) and National Guard Bureau G9 (Installations Services Directorate) determined that this project did not require additional ATFP/ESS design elements be added and therefore no additional environmental impacts are anticipated. In addition, a new access control point is currently being constructed. Please see <b>Section 2.2.1.1</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA). Please also see responses to Comments #97 and #145.



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	906	Timothy Timmermann	Federal Agency	Director, Office of Environmental Review, EPA New England, Region 8	Line 1445 – “Past operations and waste disposal practices have resulted in subsurface contamination in areas near the Impact Area, where the existing KD Range is located. Contaminants include fly ash, bottom ash, waste solvents, waste fuels, herbicides, and transformer oil.” Please explain where these contaminants were detected. “Additionally, seven ground water plumes in the Impact Area are undergoing extraction and treatment. The nearest plume, located on L Range, is approximately 0.5 mile to the east of the KD Range. The plume is being remediated and is unlikely to affect conditions at the KD Range.” EPA notes that the L range plume does not travel in the direction of the KD Range. Please describe the current (baseline) and expected future ground water quality beneath and in the vicinity of the proposed range.	HTMW	Contamination (groundwater)	Further soil and groundwater investigations conducted at the Impact Area and the Known Distance (KD) Range under the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrative Orders have concluded that the contaminants mentioned (fly ash, bottom ash, waste solvents, waste fuels, herbicides, and transformer oil) are not contaminants of concern at or near the KD Range project area. As mentioned in the comment, the L Range plume is located approximately 0.5 miles to the east of the KD Range. The L Range plume contains RDX and perchlorate and is migrating in a southerly direction, away from the KD Range. The KD Range is located near the top of the groundwater mound. Given this location, groundwater contamination identified at Demolition Area 1, the Central Impact Area, J-1 Range, J-2 Range, L Range, J-3 Range, and CS-10 is migrating away from the KD Range. These plumes will not migrate below the range in the future. No groundwater contamination has been identified beneath or in the vicinity of KD Range and none is expected to be found in the future. Please see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.
	907	Timothy Timmermann	Federal Agency	Director, Office of Environmental Review, EPA New England, Region 9	Line 1741 – “Construction of the Preferred Alternative would result in short-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts on groundwater. During land conversion activities, the use of construction equipment and materials could inadvertently release contaminants or toxic materials (e.g., fuel and other petroleum products) into groundwater. Similarly, site maintenance and training operations could lead to the inadvertent release of contaminants, creating a long-term, less-than-significant adverse impact on groundwater. Section 4.12 discusses potential pollution (i.e., from chemicals, fuels, etc.) impacts attributable to the Preferred Alternative and identifies BMPs that would minimize impacts to the extent practicable.” Section 4.12 does not identify the BMPs that would minimize impacts. Please describe the pollution prevention and mitigation measures related to hazardous and toxic materials and waste (HTMW).	HTMW	N/A	Comment noted. Please refer to <b>Sections 4.10 and 4.11</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for a discussion on Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) would implement to proactively minimize potential adverse impacts related to hazardous and toxic materials and waste. Please see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.



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	908	Timothy Timmermann	Federal Agency	Director, Office of Environmen tal Review, EPA New England, Region 10	Line 1974 – “Under the Preferred Alternative, short- and long-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts associated with HTMW would be anticipated due to minor land conversion activities, as well as maintenance and training operations. The Preferred Alternative would produce minor increases in handling, storage, use, transportation, and disposal of HTMW, resulting from vehicle and equipment during vegetation removal activities and site maintenance. These proposed activities would have potential contamination sources (e.g., diesel fuel, oil, antifreeze, and lubricants). Even without major release events, multiple minor releases could have potential effects to the environment at the proposed firing point locations. Releases over a long period of time could potentially lead to soil and/or groundwater contamination, and thus could require some form of remediation.” Please describe the pollution prevention and mitigation measures for HTMW.	HTMW	N/A	In accordance with the Operational Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (OMMP), all ranges including the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range are required to be inspected on a regular basis to ensure that pollution prevention measures, mitigation measures, and environmental protection measures on the ranges remain operational. There are three types of inspections: Pre and Post Firing Inspections, Detailed Range Inspections, and Unannounced Inspections. The pre-inspection will acquaint the range users with the facilities and the expectations associated with range use, while the post-inspection will ensure any change in range condition during unit use is documented for Range Controls awareness. This inspection will examine the firing line, range floor, target line, and other important features of the range. The target frames/holders/lifters, firing positions, shed, and range tower must be in adequate condition to support unit training requirements. The Detailed Range Inspection will be conducted by the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) or Range Control and ensure all range structures, functional components, pollution prevention measures, and surrounding conditions are in acceptable condition for live fire. Range Control and range users will note the condition of each of these features and any specific deficiencies in need of repair. This inspection will aid in determining if pollution prevention measures remain in place and are in good working order and to ensure that environmental conditions on the ranges are not degrading. This inspection will occur as dictated by range conditions as reported on Live Fire Range Inspection Forms, after significant weather events, or as requested by the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), but at least once a quarter through the Training Year. <i>(comment response continued below)</i>
								<i>(continuation of above comment)</i> The EMC may also conduct unannounced independent inspections of a range. In addition, the OMMP requires the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) to conduct regular groundwater and soil sampling to determine if range operations are protective of the environment. The MAARNG would conduct two seasonal baseline samplings at the Small Arms Ranges to include the MPMG before and after the training season. In addition to metals, the baseline sampling would include those constituents that may make metals mobile in soil. Once these baselines are established, range monitoring would occur every three years. All users of the training area, including Soldiers, contractors and the Camp Edwards roads and grounds maintenance department receive required briefings that instruct users to report releases of any quantity immediately to ensure responsive clean-up of spilled materials. Releases are reported to Camp Edwards Range Control and/or the MAARNG Environmental Affairs Office. All releases are subject to the response procedures set forth under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (310 CMR 40.00).  All hazardous and toxic materials and waste that would be used or generated would be handled and disposed of in compliance with Federal and State requirements, as well as the Environmental Performance Standards to minimize potential impacts to the maximum extent feasible. The MAARNG maintains a Hazardous Waste Management Plan, as well as an installation-specific Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCCP), which identifies potential sources of pollution, Best Management Practices (BMPs) to limit this potential, procedures to respond to pollution events, and procedures to handle hazardous materials. Please also see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.

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	909	Timothy Timmermann	Federal Agency	Director, Office of Environmen tal Review, EPA New England, Region 11	Line 1991 – “In addition, in the event that unexploded ordnance (UXO) or MEC are encountered during construction, an on-call UXO/MEC expert would be contacted immediately for safe handling and removal. This expert would handle all aspects of the removal process to include regulator notification, implementation of safety measures, and removal of such items. The MAARNG would contract an on-call UXO/MEC expert for the duration of the construction phase.” EPA recommends that MAARNG follow IAGWSP protocols established pursuant to the SDWA Orders for the removal of soils under identified UXO/MEC.	HTMW	Munitions	Comment noted. In responding to US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrative Orders issued under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the Army National Guard Impact Area Groundwater Study program (IAGWSP) has developed specific protocols for dealing with soils during unexploded ordnance (UXO) removal. If a UXO needs to be blown in place, a 5 foot by 5 foot by 1 foot volume of soil would be excavated from the base of the crater after the UXO is destroyed. Similarly, if a cracked open UXO is discovered, the munition pieces and any visible explosive filler is removed and a 5 foot by 5 foot by 1 foot volume of soil would be excavated from beneath the munition. After excavation, the soil is handled according to typical procedures including stockpiling on poly sheeting, sampling for disposal parameters, covering with poly sheeting and disposal at an approved facility off-site. This approach has been demonstrated to effectively remove contaminated soil associated with UXO. No additional in-situ post-excavation soil sampling is required. In the event that unexploded ordnance or munition and explosive of concern (MEC) is encountered during construction the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) will follow the IAGWSP protocols established pursuant to the SDWA Orders identified above. Please also see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.

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	910	Timothy Timmermann	Federal Agency	Director, Office of Environmental Review, EPA New England, Region 12	Line 2014 – “Under the Preferred and Reduced-Scale Alternatives, no significant impacts would be anticipated; therefore, no mitigation measures are required to reduce potentially significant adverse impacts.” This statement appears to conflict with information provided in Appendix B -A that a significant mitigation plan has been developed to achieve overall net benefit for all potentially impacted state-listed species for this proposed action and other upcoming major construction activities at Joint Base Cape Cod. See also Appendix E.	Best Management Practices and Regulatory Compliance Measures	Biological Resources	Comment noted. The Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) would incorporate Regulatory Compliance Measures (RCMs) and Best Management Practices (BMPs) into the Proposed Action to proactively minimize potential adverse environmental impacts. Regulatory compliance measures are those that the MAARNG is required to conduct in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and permit conditions (e.g., Massachusetts Endangered Species Act [MESA] requirements), and BMPs are environmentally sensitive construction practices the MAARNG would conduct in order to minimize or avoid potential adverse environmental impacts (e.g., implementing dust control measures). MAARNG correspondence to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) dated 14 April 2020 states that “A significant mitigation plan has been developed to achieve overall net benefit for all potentially impacted state-listed species for this proposed action and other upcoming major construction activities at Joint Base Cape Cod.” The plan described in this statement is not National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) “Mitigation” as defined at 40 CFR §1508.20. The mitigation plan for state-listed species is intended to reduce adverse impacts to state-listed species; however, those potential impacts are not deemed significant under the Federal NEPA, and thus do not require specific NEPA mitigation measures to reduce adverse impacts to below significant levels. The term as used in the plan refers to mitigation in general, and under the MESA, not as a term of art under NEPA. Thus, as discussed in <b>Section 4.11</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), no significant adverse impacts would be anticipated from the Proposed Action; therefore, no mitigation measures are required to reduce potentially significant adverse impacts. While impacts on biological resources would remain at less-than-significant levels, implementation of project-specific mitigation measures is required in compliance with MESA, a state law, to achieve net beneficial effects on State-listed species. Please also see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.
	911	Timothy Timmermann	Federal Agency	Director, Office of Environmental Review, EPA New England, Region 12	Lines 2047 and 2057 – No mention is made of the Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (OMMP) which would be a requirement of the EMC. We recommend incorporating the OMMP in the discussion.	Proposed Action	Operations	Camp Edwards sits on top of the Sagamore lens, a sole-source drinking water aquifer for Cape Cod. The northern 15,000 acres of Camp Edwards and the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve/Training Area are located within the recharge area of the aquifer. The Reserve/Training Area is protected and managed through a series of programs and guiding documents required by the Department of Defense (DoD). The wildlife habitat and the groundwater of the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve are specifically protected through Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002 and its associated 19 Environmental Performance Standards (EPS). As described in <b>Section 3.2</b> of the Environmental Assessment (EA), all active small arms ranges at Camp Edwards operate under an Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (OMMP) to ensure oversight and monitoring of the environment to protect groundwater resources. The Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range OMMP will be approved before operations start on the MPMG Range. <i>(comment continued below)</i>

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								<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> The scope of the OMMP includes a description of the range, all applicable environmental drivers, specific range training and operations, all required inspections, required inspections and maintenance, metals recovery and all environmental monitoring plans and reporting requirements.</p> <p>The purpose of the OMMP is to identify the operations and management practices that the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MAARNG) will implement at all of its small arms ranges. The OMMP identifies Best Management Practices (BMPs) that allow the employment of small arms in a manner that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meets current and future training requirements;</li> <li>• Employs maximum feasible use of pollution prevention (P2) strategies to protect the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve, which is managed as a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Zone II for public water supplies; and</li> <li>• Complies with Environmental Performance Standards set forth in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 47 of the Acts of 2002, which provide for the protection of the wildlife habitat and groundwater.</li> </ul> <p>The draft MPMG OMMP plan is currently with the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) for review and approval. Please also see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.</p>
367	912	Dylan Fernandes	State/Local Representative	State Representative Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket	I write to you today in response to the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards and the EA's findings of "no significant impact." These findings are concerning given the scope of the project and more analysis is needed to understand the potentially harmful impacts of creating this range. I urge you to complete a more comprehensive study through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to examine the loss of carbon sequestration and other climate impacts, create an extensive mitigation assessment, include broader public feedback, and outline alternatives to the project. The initial Environmental Assessment is an insufficient examination into the short- and long-term impacts of the Machine Gun Range. A more thorough review is needed in order to properly understand the impact of this large-scale project. <i>(comment continued below)</i>	Request for Additional Analysis	EIS	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #97 and #145.

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					<p><i>(continuation of above comment)</i> An Environmental Impact Statement would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A purpose and need statement for the project</li> <li>• A discussion of reasonable alternatives</li> <li>• A description of the environment that will be affected</li> <li>• A broad overview of environmental consequences</li> <li>• A summary of major conclusions, issues, and areas of controversy</li> </ul> <p>The required report structure of an EIS would allow for a broader analysis of the proposed project and fill in the glaring gaps left by the initial Environmental Assessment.</p> <p>The proposed range at Camp Edwards could have devastating environmental consequences and a full Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared before the project advances any further.</p>			
	913	Dylan Fernandes	State/Local Representative	State Representative Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket	To say there is no significant impact from clear-cutting 170 acres of forest, the largest deforestation on Cape Cod in recent memory, is incorrect.	Biological Resources	Tree Clearing	Comment noted. Please see the response to Comments #35 and #566.
	914	Dylan Fernandes	State/Local Representative	State Representative Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket	Climate change is the greatest threat facing our planet and the Cape and Islands are particularly vulnerable to its effects. I am deeply concerned by the EA's disregard for the detrimental impacts of clear-cutting forests. Forests have the potential to sequester over 1 metric ton of carbon per acre per year. Removing 170 acres of forest to create this range would greatly impact the carbon sequestration capabilities of the area. At the very least, if the project moves forward, the National Guard should offset the sequestration losses.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #18, #64, and #130.
	915	Dylan Fernandes	State/Local Representative	State Representative Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket	Public hearings should also be conducted to gather feedback from the greater Cape community.	Public and Agency Involvement	Outreach	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #17 and #78.
	916	Dylan Fernandes	State/Local Representative	State Representative Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket	We cannot afford to lose 170 acres of forest on the Cape. Now is the time to take action to prevent climate change, not exacerbate the problem. Instead of the planned 4:1 mitigation ratio, the National Guard should move instead to preserve as much forest as possible, including the 170 acres in question.	Air Quality	Climate Change (Carbon Sequestration)	Comment noted. Please see the responses to Comments #1, #14, #18, #64, and #130.



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