

Range Development Process under MA EMC

EMC Process:

Proposed ranges on Camp Edwards are regulated by Chapter 47, the Acts of 2002 and its associated Environmental Performance Standards (EPS). When ranges are proposed for use they are brought before the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) for evaluation for compliance with the EPS and compatibility with the habitat and groundwater per the tenants of Chapter 47, the Acts of 2002. The EMC is made up of the commissioners from MassDEP, MA DFW and MA DCR. In general the proposal is brought to the Science and Citizens Advisory Councils for their input and recommendation to the Commissions. If the proposal is supported by the commission then the tenants of the EPSs are followed to complete the process.

The specific standards are the General Performance Standards and EPS 19. The standards are as follows:

General Performance Standards:

“Limitations on the use of small arms ammunition and live weapon fire fall into the following two categories:

Live weapon fire is prohibited outside of established small arms ranges. Live weapon fire is not allowed on established small arms ranges except in accordance with Environmental Performance Standard 19, other applicable Performance Standards, and a range-specific plan approved through the Environmental Management Commission (EMC).

Blank ammunition for small arms and simulated munitions may be used in areas outside of the small arms ranges, using only blank ammunition and simulated munitions identified on an approved list of munitions. Joint review and approval for inclusion on the list shall be through by the Environmental & Readiness Center (E&RC) and the EMC.”

“Pollution prevention and management of the Camp Edwards training ranges will focus on and include the following:

The Camp Edwards Training Area, including the Small Arms Ranges (SAR) and their associated "Surface Danger Zones," and any areas where small arms or other munitions or simulated munitions are used, shall be managed as part of a unique water supply area under an adaptive management program that integrates pollution prevention, and best management practices (BMP), including the recovery of projectiles. This will be done through individual range-specific plans that are written by the Massachusetts National Guard and approved for implementation through the EMC and any other regulatory agency having statutory and/or regulatory oversight. Adaptive, in this context, means making decisions as part of a continual process of monitoring, reviewing collected data, evaluating advances in range monitoring, design and technology, and responding with management actions as dictated by the resulting information and needs of protecting the environment while providing compatible military training within the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.

A range plan shall be designed and followed to reduce the potential for an unintended release to the environment outside of the established containment system(s) identified in the range-specific plans. All users must be aware of, and comply with, the Environmental Performance Standards that are applicable to all SAR activities. Any range specific requirements will be coordinated through the E&RC with the EMC, incorporating those specific requirements into the appropriate range-specific plans and range information packets. Camp Edwards SAR Pollution Prevention Plan shall be followed to prevent or minimize releases of metals or other

compounds related to the normal and approved operation of each SAR. The adaptive SAR management program components required in each range-specific plan shall include:

- Consultation with applicable agencies with oversight of the training area before undertaking any actions that are subject to state and/or federal regulatory requirements.
- Specific recovery plans for the removal and proper disposition of spent projectiles, residues and solid waste associated with the weapons, ammunition, target systems, and/or their operation and maintenance.
- Reduction of adverse impacts to the maximum extent feasible, including consideration for the design/redesign and/or relocation of the activity or encouraging only those activities that result in meeting the goal of overall projectile and/or projectile constituent containment.
- Internal and external coordination of documentation for the Camp Edwards range management programs and other related Camp Edwards management programs including: the Integrated Training Area Management Program, Range Regulations, Camp Edwards Environmental Management System, Civilian Use Manual, and Standard Operating Procedures.
- Long-term range maintenance, monitoring and reporting of applicable parameters and analysis.

The Massachusetts National Guard shall ensure that all training areas where munitions or simulated munitions are used or come to be located, including range areas, range surface danger zones, and any other areas within the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve that are operational ranges are maintained and monitored following approved management plans that include planning for pollution prevention, sustainable range use and where applicable, restoration.”

EPS 19. Range Performance Standards

“19.1. All operational ranges including but not limited to small arms ranges (SAR) shall be managed to minimize harmful impacts to the environment within the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. Range management at each range shall include to the maximum extent practicable metal recovery and recycling, prevention of fragmentation and ricochets, and prevention of sub-surface percolation of residue associated with the range operations. Camp Edwards shall be held responsible for the implementation of BMPs by authorized range users, including collection and removal of spent ammunition and associated debris.

19.2. Small arms ranges shall only be used in accordance with approved range plans. These plans shall be designed to minimize to the maximum extent practicable the release of metals or other contaminants to the environment outside of specifically approved containment areas/systems. Occasional ricochets that result in rounds landing outside of these containment areas is expected and every effort to minimize and correct these occurrences shall be taken. Failure to follow the approved range plans shall be considered a violation of this EPS.

19.3. All operational SARs shall be closely monitored by the Massachusetts National Guard to assess compliance of the approved range plans as well as the implementation and effectiveness of the range specific BMPs.

19.4. Camp Edwards / Massachusetts National Guard Environmental and Readiness Center shall staff and request appropriate funding to support its SAR management plans.

19.5. All users must use and follow Camp Edwards' Range Control checklists and procedures to:

- Minimize debris on the range (e.g. shell casings, used targets)
- Minimize or control residues on the ranges resulting from training (e.g., unburned constituents, metal shavings from the muzzle blast)
- Ensure the range is being used for the designated purpose in accordance with all applicable plans and approvals

19.6. Camp Edwards is responsible for following range operation procedures and maintaining range pollution prevention systems. Range BMPs shall be reviewed annually for effectiveness and potential improvements in their design, monitoring, maintenance, and operational procedures in an effort to continually improve them. Each year the annual report shall detail the range-specific activities including, but not limited to, the number of rounds fired, number of shooters and their organization, and the number of days the range was in use. The annual report will also detail active SAR groundwater well and lysimeter results, as well as any range maintenance/management activities that took place that training year and the result of such activities, i.e. lbs of brass and projectiles recovered and recycled, etc. The Massachusetts National Guard shall provide regular and unrestricted access for the EMC to all its data and information, and will provide immediate access to environmental samples from the range, including range management and monitoring systems and any other applicable activities operating on the ranges.

19.7. Range plans and BMPs for training areas shall be reviewed and/or updated at least every three years. Management plans for new and upgraded ranges shall be in place prior to construction or utilization of the range. Range plans, at a minimum, will address long-term sustainable use, hydrology and hydrogeology, physical design, operation, management procedures, record keeping, pollution prevention, maintenance, monitoring, and applicable technologies to ensure sustainable range management. Range plans shall be integrated with other training area planning processes and resources.

19.8. The Massachusetts National Guard shall establish procedures for range maintenance and where applicable, maintenance and/or clearance operations to permit the sustainable, compatible, and safe use of operational ranges for their intended purpose within the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve. In determining the frequency and degree of range maintenance and clearance operations, the Massachusetts National Guard shall consider, at a minimum, the environmental impact and safety hazards, each range's intended use, lease requirements, and the quantities and types of munitions or simulated munitions expended on that range.”