
**Community Advisory Council to the
Environmental Management Commission
Building 3495
Camp Edwards, Massachusetts
May 2, 2018
5:30 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes

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Handouts Distributed at Meeting:

1. Community Advisory Council Meeting Minutes for May 25, 2017
2. Community Advisory Council Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2017
3. Environmental Management Commission Read Ahead Spring 2018
4. Environmental Officer Update Environmental Management Commission May 2018
5. Community Advisory Council Massachusetts National Guard and Environmental and Readiness Center Update; Natural Resources Update
6. Multi Purpose Machine Gun Range at Camp Edwards

Agenda Item #1. Chairperson's Comments

Community Advisory Council (CAC) Chair, Mr. Harding, welcomed everyone. He noted that there will not be a quorum at the meeting. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the members introduced themselves. BG Magurn said Brig. Gen. Chris Faux will be replacing him as Executive Director of Joint Base Cape Cod (JBCC). New member, Ms. Ann Canedy, introduced herself.

Agenda Item #2: Review of CAC Meeting Minutes

The May 25, 2017 and October 25, 2017 CAC meeting minutes review was postponed until the next meeting where there is a quorum.

Mr. Pinaud, Acting EMC Environmental Officer, gave an update on items that the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) has been involved with since the last meeting in November 2017. In November 2017, the MAARNG requested the EMC end the Pilot Period for Sierra and India Ranges. The EMC completed a number of inspections and found issues on the ranges. Those issues were repaired and are now in compliance with the Environmental Performance Standards (EPSs).

Mr. Pinaud said that in December 2017, Camp Edwards was one of seven installations that won an Army Community Partnership Award. BG Magurn stated that since the Award presentation people from the Installation Management for the Chief of Staff have returned each month for a series of working groups: environmental, Department of Public Works, training and emergency management. There were 73 participants from every community and partners across the Cape both on the installation and off. Challenging problems are being worked with the towns to economize purchases and services.

Mr. Pinaud stated that the EMC Commissioners have been very involved in the process and attended two out of the three meetings. He said that Commissioner Amidon is working on a Massachusetts Outdoor Exhibition and said JBCC could be a good venue on the South Shore. He is moving his initiative forward with his staff's assistance and Department of Fish and Game. The other issue EMC is working on is through the emergency services group of first responders, law enforcement, fire, and one of the initiatives is the trespassing in the Northern 15,000 acres. The Commissioners asked him to get local law enforcement involved with trespassing issues outside the gates. The state and environmental police respond inside the gates but there's an initiative to help outside the gate that will hopefully come to fruition.

Mr. Pinaud discussed signage planned for the Reserve funded through penalty money received from a utility company's on-base violation. The EMC has been working with the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and Commissioner of Fish and Game to come up with signage that can be posted every 100 feet around the perimeter of the Reserve. The boundaries were reviewed to make sure all postings will be on the boundary of JBCC.

Mr. Pinaud reported that he, along with Natural Resources staff and Range Control, attended a meeting of the Barnstable League of Sportsmen, some of whom hunt on JBCC, to introduce themselves. Mr. Pinaud discussed the EMC and plans on attending another meeting before hunting season.

Mr. Pinaud said that the EMC asked him to update the By Laws, which he did. He will provide the CAC members with both a clean copy and redline strikeout copy of the updated By Laws. There is a section that discusses remote participation. In order to take advantage of remote participation, it must be included in the By Laws. Mr. Pinaud noted that comments on the updated By Laws may be forwarded to him. He hopes the By Laws will be voted on in the Fall.

Mr. Pinaud stated that the CAC and Science Advisory Council (SAC) appointments consist of three recent appointees and three pending: town of Mashpee, Sandwich and a military position. He said that the Chief of Staff at the Department of Fish and Game is working with the Governor's office on appointments.

Ms. McConnell stated the appointees being considered for the CAC had to fill out lengthy applications, which may have been too difficult for some people. She feels the JBCC advisory councils should have a different criteria for appointees from other State appointed boards that may be tasked with hiring/firing people, for example. Mr. Pinaud replied the criteria is the same for all boards. Ms. McConnell said that it is an "exhausting" process that may cause appointees to lose interest. Mr. Vitacco noted that his application has been pending for 3.5 years.

Mr. Pinaud stated that he can bring the concern to the EMC Commissioners but ultimately, it is the authority within the Governor's office to make the decisions.

Mr. Pinaud stated that there were 48 inspections between November and May within the Reserve. He is splitting his time between MassDEP and EMC duties; he and Dr. Ciaranca visit the ranges two days a week or more depending on what is going on in the Reserve.

Mr. Pinaud displayed photos of the US Army Commanders Award for Civilian Service presented to Dr. Larry Cole on February 8, 2018. LTC Cody stated the Award for Civilian Service is a civilian award which is equivalent to an Army Commendation Medal and a military commander or Colonel or higher can present the Award. Dr. Cole has retired from the CAC and the award was well deserved.

Agenda Item #3: Natural Resources Update – Jake McCumber, Natural Resource Manager, MAARNG

Mr. McCumber said that the Agassi Clam Shrimp Conservation Management Plan is making progress and has been submitted to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program and will be going to the Bourne Conservation Commission. The Agassi Clam Shrimp are scattered in road puddles in the training site and will be relocated to other sites. Mr. McCumber discussed the Vegetation Management Plan. In the spring, bracken fern will be removed from the frost bottoms, and honeysuckle and rose will be removed during the summer along with other invasives and cutting. The Whip poor will migration study is ongoing; they are recapturing the birds with geolocators and will replace them with GPS transmitters and try to recapture them next year.

Mr. McCumber described habitat restoration activities including prescribed burning: only one prescribed burn was completed in the spring with 30 acres burned. Forestry management activities included clearing 80 acres at OP 9/10, 50 acres at C-14, removing pitch pine at BP-11 and plans to burn and thin BP-29/30. Southern Pine Beetles have been getting a lot more emphasis, which is the driver behind the forestry management. There is a Massachusetts Management Group which consists of Mr. McCumber and five other biologists from US Forest Service, National Seashore and others. They are working on preparedness and partnership for the Southern Pine Beetle, but a big focus is Pine Barren Restoration work which thins the forest.

Mr. McCumber stated that they are surveying road way puddles with the Bourne Conservation Commission and working through solutions. Mr. McCumber said that the attendance and harvest was lower at the 28 April youth turkey hunt; the spring turkey hunt runs from May 7 to May 11. Mr. McCumber reported that the Stafford Act agreement was signed, which included all of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island Wildland Fire Agencies with one master partnership agreement.

Agenda Item 4: Camp Edwards Update – Dr. Ciaranca, E&RC, MAARNG

Dr. Ciaranca gave an update on the pilot period for Sierra and India ranges. The MAARNG requested to end the Pilot Period; the request was denied because the India and Sierra range berms were out of compliance. Range maintenance was requested to be done. He said that record keeping documentation wasn't being managed and as a result he met with CPT McDonough and they are integrating all of the ranges Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plans (OMMPs) into one plan. Dr. Ciaranca said that the new inspection forms are more user friendly and OMMP documentation will be inspected by the E&RC quarterly.

Dr. Ciaranca displayed a photo of the India Range bullet pockets that were repaired and Sierra Range auxiliary berms repair. He said that he and Mr. Pinaud saw that the line of sight wasn't lining up and that was corrected by Range Control. Mr. Pinaud authorized a return to use at both ranges. The Pilot Period for India and Sierra Ranges was extended through December 31, 2018.

Dr. Ciaranca explained that the STAPP system was removed from Tango Range. Plans are to reconfigure the range to become an all-copper zeroing range; design work is planned to begin in 2018. All the regrind and projectile debris removed out of the STAPP system were disposed in accordance with State and Federal requirements and coordinated with the EMC EO.

Ms. Rooney asked why did the maintenance and monitoring fail at Sierra Range? CPT McDonough stated that the primary issue with Sierra and India Ranges was with the type of soils that were used to back fill the berms. He said that the biggest challenge was that the current OMMP calls for 1/8th inch minus soils to be used. The soil need to be manually sifted to that level, which was not efficient. The decision on what type soils to be used with the EMC delayed the process during the year into December. After the letter was sent, the MAARNG met with the EMC about the 1/8th inch soil, which was not feasible and actually blows away during the spring. The decision was made to use 3/8th inch soil, which is easier to acquire, and therefore, was delivered and bullet pockets maintained. That soil will be back stocked. Dr. Ciaranca said that the delays were a systemic issue that have now been corrected.

Ms. Rooney said that there are some antimony concentrations that appear to be troubling at India Range. Dr. Ciaranca said India, Juliet, and Tango Ranges have antimony detections; they are seen in pore water at an increasing level. An SAC Ad Hoc Committee was developed with three SAC members and Jay Clausen from the Cold Regions Research Engineering Lab. There is no regulatory concern or environmental threat; however, the Ad Hoc Meeting is studying how to monitor it properly. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) doesn't have a deep concern about it, he said.

Dr. Ciaranca discussed the Combined Arms Exercise planned for 2018 and 2019. The MAARNG plans a brigade force level, multi-echelon, multi-domain, combined arms exercise with joint elements. The purpose to build ready Army units/organizational readiness to conduct Unified Land Operations and demonstrate the capability to integrate National Defense Requirements. Dr. Ciaranca stated the 2018 exercise will involve combat support units from 6-11 June. Dr. Ciaranca stated that the training in 2019 will incorporate lessons learned from the 2018 training.

Dr. Ciaranca reported on the Proof of Concept III: EPS 15.3.3: Reserve Training Area Refueling. The purpose is to illustrate that field refueling can be conducted in a safe and environmentally protective manner. There's a need to refuel vehicles for remediation, range construction, and training area and habitat management in a cost effective, efficient, and environmentally protective manner. Critically, there is a need for MAARNG Soldiers to train effectively with refueling, a primary training task for many MAARNG Soldiers, he said.

Dr. Ciaranca stated that the Environmental Performance Standard (EPS 15.3.3) states: “No storage or movement of fuels for supporting field activities, other than in vehicle fuel tanks, will be permitted except in approved containers no greater than five gallons in capacity.”

Dr. Ciaranca stated that three Proof of Concepts have been conducted: Helicopter Hot fueling: 13 June 2017; Vehicle Fueling: 3 March and 5 May 2018. They were coordinated and observed by the EMC EO, Range Control, and the Environmental & Readiness Center. Dr. Ciaranca stated that the Proofs of Concept will help develop the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) best management practices. Dr. Ciaranca stated that the next steps are: finish developing the SOP and map; and develop EPS language in coordination with the EMC.

Ms. McConnell asked who watches outside contractors. Dr. Ciaranca said that project managers are on site the first time contractors refuel in the field to ensure the refueling criteria are met.

Ms. McConnell asked if the truck that overturned was an outside contractor. Dr. Ciaranca said that the contractor was hauling dirt for the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program and was going too fast. Ms. McConnell asked what happens in a similar case. LTC Cody noted the contractor is banned for life from JBCC. Dr. Ciaranca said soil and a minimal amount of hydraulic fuel spilled; the MAARNG has a compliance program in place.

Mr. Harding stated that presently refueling is allowed anywhere on the Reserve with a 5 gallon can. Dr. Ciaranca replied that is correct but with the combined exercises training and integration it is time to change the process for refueling because the present method is problematic.

Ms. McConnell asked if the process involves the EPA. Dr. Ciaranca replied that the EPA Administrative Orders do not really play a role in the process. LTC Cody concurred.

Agenda Item #5: Multipurpose Machine Gun (MPMG) – LTC Shawn Cody, MAARNG, CPT Alex McDonough, MAARNG, Jacob McCumber, Natural Resources Manager, MAARNG

CPT McDonough explained that the Multipurpose Machine Gun Range (MPMG) is similar to the Sierra Range 350 meter rifle range, and is used to qualify soldiers on weapons, primarily, the M249 and M240 (5.56 and 7.62 mm) and .50 caliber. He said for the project that has been submitted consists of eight lanes, 800 meters long for M249 and M240 Bravo.

CPT McDonough stated that currently the MAARNG doesn't have a location to meet this qualification requirement at Camp Edwards and usually will go to Vermont or Fort Drum to meet the requirement. There is a limited capability at Fort Devens, he noted.

CPT McDonough said that funding process is that Camp Edwards submits a Range Complex Masterplan developed by him with assistance from the Base Commander, G3 and CFMO taking an analysis of the training needs of the units at Camp Edwards. That plan is forwarded to National Guard Bureau for MILCON funding. The planning process for MILCON ranges is approximately eight years and very competitive, he noted.

The MAARNG is competing with the active Army and the Reserve for funding for ranges. The MPMG was selected in 2012-2013 and was put in for funding in 2020, he said. The Range construction piece is \$9.67 million for construction and \$1.8 million for targetry for eight lanes.

CPT McDonough stated that the kick off meeting for the environmental review was held the first week of May 2018. The planned construction start date is 2020 with the range completed in 2022.

The range will be similar to Sierra Range with a series of buildings, a tower and an ammo storage building, an operation storage building and classroom. There are eight firing lanes all the targets are fully

automated and programmable through the range computer. There are three main types of targets: infantry, stationary infantry, moving infantry, and stationary targets.

CPT McDonough displayed the layout of a MPMG lane and layout of a full TC 25-8 standard range. A standard range is 10 lanes with four lanes that support up to .50 cal. The 7.62 lanes go up to 800 meters and the .50 cal. lane goes up to 1500 meters. The MAARNG is presently looking at building the 7.62 lanes and the reason KD Range was selected was that it had the geography in terms of how flat the area is and the surface danger zone that falls entirely within the installation for all the weapon systems. CPT McDonough displayed a figure of the overlay of location of KD Range with the proposed range footprint of the ranges. The current range encompasses approximately 42 acres and the MPMG would encompass 120 acres. He said mitigation is being reviewed and the recent meeting discussed more clearing in order to build firing and environmental protection for infantry firing.

LTC Cody discussed the environmental review process: when siting the MPMG, there are two processes, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). He said concerns include noise issues, which there will be another study done but scoped through MEPA. The process will be approximately 12 months, he noted.

CPT McDonough said that the EPSs apply to the range and the EMC will be involved throughout the design and construction on the range, making sure it is in compliance with the EPSs. There were other applicable performance standards, for example, noise test and conducted the Army Public Health Command Noise modeling which is in line with what the requirements are for the EPSs. Dr. Ciaranca said the EMC's Environmental Officer, through the authority of the Commissioners, will approve the design and Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan of the range to ensure it is in compliance with the EPSs.

CPT McDonough discussed the work to date. A noise study was conducted in 2015, which confirmed the noise model. Sensors were placed within Camp Edwards, at the boundary and within the community to validate it. The noise EPS follows the Army guidelines. A model is provided and no public health threat must be proven. The EMC provided their own background tests, he noted.

Mr. Pinaud said that during the 2015 noise study, MassDEP and EPA took a noise meter into the neighborhoods near KD range and found that it averaged 45 decibels during firing. Spikes on the noise meter were from lawn mowers and UPS trucks, he said. He said that during firing, the sound in the neighborhood was subdued, there were no sharp noises from firing. Mr. Pinaud said that when the noise study report was available, he forwarded it to MassDEP noise experts. They said that study was well done. The expert said there is an exemption to noise requirements for military training. MassDEP would become involved if the noise became a nuisance condition. The expert suggested that after the range is built, another noise study be conducted to verify the model.

CPT McDonough stated that several other studies have been done, including an archaeological survey and endangered plant and species surveys. Mr. McCumber stated that there have been bat studies and undocumented species survey due to potentially suitable habitat, i.e., for the rusty patch bumblebee. He said the last record in the region was 2009 in Harwich but the survey was conducted to eliminate any possible concern.

CPT McDonough stated that there recently was a kick off meeting for the Environmental Assessment and met with all the contractors and interested parties doing the work to build it. The Environmental Assessment will take approximately 13 months, he noted. The design work would then start and after approval with involvement of the EMC construction would begin in 2020 and completed in 2022.

Ms. Canedy asked why it's a suggestion and not a requirement that another noise test be conducted because it is a given with the additional acres cleared and multiple users noise would increase. CPT McDonough explained that the Public Health Command noise model excludes topography. The noise model is only used in the analysis but was taken a step further using the noise study. The nuisance noise laws doesn't apply to the military activities. Mr. Pinaud stated that MassDEP regulates nuisance noises

as a specific exemption for the military activities for training. He said if it is understood that there is a nuisance condition, MassDEP will be called and approach the MAARNG to abate the condition. There will be a second MassDEP noise study after range is built and they will discuss potential mitigation.

Mr. Pinaud requested for the stationary photos of the targets displayed. There are no frontal berms or back stops at any of the other range targets. One of the requirements in the EPSs is that projectiles need to be recovered. He would like to be invited to the meetings with the contractors to discuss the EPSs involved and what kind of work will need to be done early in the process to plan together to meet the EPS requirements. There are rare species requirements, vegetation management requirements, habitat and noise management, and fire management. Mr. McCumber will speak in the future regarding his plan for the area in terms of fire management, natural resources management, and storm water and range performance standards. The EMC would like to be involved in the design planning of the range in compliance to the EPSs, he noted.

Mr. McCumber stated that from a natural resources perspective, there will be a net benefit from habitat/endangered species perspective because of the fire management. There will be mitigation for the habitat removal that occurs through forestry management surrounding the range with mechanical thinning and fire to reduce risk of pine beetles, fire hazard, and improve rare species habitat. They will manage fire hazard from the range, which will be overlapped from other ranges, he said.

Agenda Item #6: Public Comment Period – Mark Harding, CAC Chair

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #7: Computer Aided MPMG Simulation and Participatory Demonstration – Camp Edwards Staff

SGT Christopher Delano and SPC Thomas Depalo, Camp Edwards Training Simulation Center, demonstrated the computer aided MPMG simulation. SGT Depalo said that soldiers can be trained using weaponry in the Army for qualification. A unit will come in 2-3 months before using a live fire range to train in the simulation center. SGT Delano stated that before arriving for training at the MPMG Simulation Center the soldiers will go behind the weapons to learn the system and qualify with different scenarios for a few days.

CPT McDonough stated that the MPMG simulation is the first step in what we call the gateway to live fire and has to be completed before the live range training. The gunnery program is not only to successfully identify engaged targets but the communication between the team and gunner to successfully identify engaged targets and stay together through the entire process. One of the reason to have the MPMG at Camp Edwards is to the lower the distance the soldiers have to travel to maximize the time the teams are together, he said.

Agenda Item #8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.