

## **Environmental Assessment Registration Form**

Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Conservation

### **Project Title:**

Construction of Grenade Range at Cambrai (Near Makinsons, NL)

### **Proponent:**

(i) Maritime Forces Atlantic (MARLANT)

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### **The Undertaking**

(i) Nature of the Undertaking: The project is to include the construction of grenade range and supporting infrastructure (e.g. throwing bays, tower and parking lot) on property currently leased to CFS St. John's by the province of Newfoundland and

Labrador. The area required for this type of project is approximately 7500 m<sup>2</sup> in size. An existing black track (trail) will require upgrading to provide access to the grenade range. To facilitate the road upgrade minimal forestry clearing will be necessary and new road material will be brought in. Additional forestry clearing will be required at the grenade range and parking lot locations. The entire area to be cleared is less than 0.5 hectares in size.

(ii) Purpose of the Undertaking: The grenade range is required to meet operational training requirements for the Land Force Atlantic Area (LFAA)

## Description of the Undertaking

(i) Geographical Location: The project is located at the Cambrai range at Canadian Forces Station (CFS) St. John's approximately 80 km west of the City of St. John's, near the community of Makinsons, NL. Coordinates for the Grenade Range location are: UTM 22N 324619 5262577. See figure 1.

The area selected for the grenade range is located outside of the 300 metre safety template for the rifle range to ensure that both ranges could be in use simultaneously. The grenade range will be located on the eastern portion of the property on land currently leased to the Department of National Defence.

The proposed grenade range will be located in a mature forest stand west of the boundary line.



The elevations at this site are fairly level and uniform. There is a shrub wetland to the northeast of this potential site which would likely remain unaffected by the grenade range.

Access to the site could be established by upgrading an existing black track (trail). This would require minimal clearing and materials to construct the road. There is a very small wetland (< 0.1ha) that would require a culvert/ bridge to ensure that hydrology is maintained. Upgrading of this black track is not likely to cause further impacts to this small wetland.



(ii) Physical Features: See figure 2 for the location of the road in relation to the existing roads and structures. The grenade range will be located in a mature forest stand west of the boundary line. The elevations at this site are fairly level and uniform. There is a meadow wetland to the northeast of this potential site which would likely remain unaffected by the grenade range. There is a very small wetland that would require a culvert/ bridge to ensure that hydrology is maintained. Upgrading of this black track is not likely to cause further impacts to this small wetland. Clearing will be required at the grenade range location and along the existing black track. Timing of the clearing is essential to mitigate potential impacts to migratory birds under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*. The nearest surface water is Jack Reid's Pond, a 2.88 hectare lake which supports aquatic species including Brook trout, minnows and benthic invertebrates. There are several wetlands nearby including a small meadow and a bog approximately 15 hectares in size.

(iii) Construction:

The project will include the following aspects:

- Upgrading of existing black track (trail) to create a means of access to and from the grenade range. This includes minimal clearing to widen the right of way and increase visibility.

- Clearing and site preparation at the grenade range pad and parking area (0.5 hectares in size).
- Construction of throwing bays and an observation tower.

Site preparation of the grenade pad will include removal of vegetation, addition of peat / organic soil for attenuation of possible metal and energetic residuals and sand (as required). The site grenade pad will be compacted and maintained with the addition of sand as required. A throwing bay, assembly shelter and preparation bay will be built of brick or concrete according to engineered standards and will include a control tower with a view of the entire danger area template.

The proposed project construction schedule is Spring 2009 – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Operations will be on-going.

Mitigation measures to be implemented will include:

- Development and implementation of an erosion and sediment control plan as required.
- Consideration to the timing of forestry operations to adhere to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.
- Consultation with the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre for data regarding Species at Risk.
- Installation of two monitoring wells down gradient of the site. An annual monitoring program will be developed to ensure early detection of contaminants.

(iv) Operation: Generally as part of a training exercise each person throws two grenades where 30 people can run through a range in about 3 hours. Approximately 16 days of use can be expected annually (where a day would constitute 6-9 hours - they do not throw at night). Peak times would likely be weekends in the fall (mid Sept - mid Nov) with very little in the way of activity taking place in the winter and spring. Moderate activity would likely begin in May and continuing into the summer and fall.

(v) Occupations: A small construction crew and equipment would be on site during the construction phase (approximately 1-3 months). During the operations phase occupations will consist of training activities with one unit per range (approximately 30 people per unit).

(vi) Project-Related Documents: N/A

## **Approval of the Undertaking**

A Federal Environmental Assessment – Screening Level is required for this project as the Department of National Defence (MARLANT) is the proponent. The CEAR registry

number is CEAR # 08-01-44589. The project has been posted on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry (CEAR) site [http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/index_e.cfm). No other permits, licences, approvals or authorizations are expected for this project provided that forestry operations (site preparation) are conducted in accordance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.

## **Schedule**

The project will likely commence in early spring of 2009 with expected completion in the summer of 2009. The grenade range is likely to be fully operational in the summer of 2009.

## **Funding**

This project is not dependent on grants or loans of capital funds.

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Date

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Signature