

Background

Since 2001, the Department of Defense (DoD) has been focused on training for counter-insurgency operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. However, new and growing threats have necessitated a shift in the training focus from counter-insurgency to large-scale combat with peer or near peer adversaries. The most significant change has been in asymmetric warfare and in the Electronic Warfare (EW), Cyber, and Space domains.

The DoD and the Michigan National Guard (MING) are positioning to prepare for employing a new defense strategy called Multi-Domain Operations (MDO). The MDO strategy enables the convergence of effects of U.S. weapons systems in all five warfare domains: land, air, sea, space, and cyberspace.

The current 148,000-acre Camp Grayling (CG) footprint offers the DoD a unique training space consisting of varied topographical areas and a four season environment. CG's size however still limits the ability for units to conduct immersive multi-domain training exercises at the scale required for effective MDO readiness.

Goal

- To become the premier joint training location for the National Guard
- Add usable training lands to support new and evolving training requirements in the Cyber, EW and Space Domains
- Provide testing and experimentation areas for new cyber and EW technologies, expanding the industry and economic opportunities for the State of Michigan
- To provide collaboration amongst industry, military, civilian and state agencies in regards to National Security endeavors

Benefits

- Increasing the overall footprint of CG increases leverage for funding from federal resources to maintain, improve and protect additional leased lands
- Fund (fully or partially) and facilitate the maintenance of sensitive habitats, threatened and endangered species habitats, and other pertinent areas of interest
- Increased funding could lead to resources available for prescribed burns
- Potential off-road trail and road improvement projects in the areas could be handled by DMVA funds
- Additional personnel and equipment available to assist in wildfire management
- Assist State / DNR with stewardship of new lands / areas through joint cross departmental efforts adding pooled assets and experiences
- Allows for continuous trail expansion usage in current lands

Reassurances

- Camp Grayling intends to increase public land use in owned lands when not being used for training events, additional lands will only need restrictions during training exercises, otherwise allowed for normal civilian use.
- The DNR will of course maintain its land jurisdiction and water resource management
- Use of these areas would primarily be limited to troop maneuvers and special training with the focus of limited environmental impact training within the new domains of cyber and EW, not for major maneuver operations.
- Any real property deviations from this would be done through a written agreement between Camp Grayling and the DNR
- Mirror the current long-standing land management agreements in place, initially utilize short term leases agreement reviewed annually
- Camp Grayling will maintain full transparency with the public, as well as provide timely announcements and updates
- Large portion of the proposed lands would be utilized as a buffer space for the community and in some cases to provide Geo Fencing for EW effects

Conclusion

As warfare and threats to the nation have morphed over the decades, it is critical we evolve to meet those challenges. Camp Grayling and the Michigan National Guard are preparing units to train against new threats, which demand greater spaces and unique locations. Very few places within the United States offer the diversity of training opportunities like Northern Michigan and Camp Grayling.

Ask/ Proposal by Priority

Area 1: Low Impact

- Potential site for Electronic Warfare Range due to minimal privately owned lands
- Area identified for additional mounted and dismounted maneuver areas for smaller sized elements with distance from other activities
- Expanding operations south allows for simultaneous operations within the 30-complex; ranges would no longer be limited by current Surface Danger Zones thereby separating training activities

52,000 acres

Area 2: Low Impact

- Satellite identification, RF Signature and EW training opportunity
- Supports potential of long range precision fires

31,000 acres

Area 3: Medium Impact

- This area is already within the current restricted airspace allows more flexibility with missions and scheduling
- Facilitates firefighter aircraft training at nearby proposed austere runway
- Assault strip/austere runway is near for expeditionary airfield operations for dismounted troops
- Additional mid-range firing points within current restricted airspace
- Un-manned aerial systems within restricted airspace

11,000 acres

Area 4: Low Impact

- Lands are contiguous with current Camp Grayling boundary and support maneuvers, much of this area is sensitive habitat area, maneuver area would be restricted.
- This area allows for additional movement between Camp Grayling training areas west of I-75

11,000 acres

Area 5: Low Impact

- Additional dismounted training areas among contiguous lands
- Supports Long Range Precision Fires Extended Range Cannon / future weapon systems being developed. No new or additional impact areas required, this land tract allows for current impact locations with minimal firing point footprints

31,000 acres

Area 6: Medium Impact

- Allows for decongested operations to the east, between the 30 and 40 Complex
- Supports restricted High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) firing points for mid-range solutions into existing impact areas
- Supports additional EW and Space emitter training near impact areas
- Supports Cyber activity near existing Air Force training locations

32,000 acres

168,000 additional acres

148,000 current acres

316,000 total future acreage

Current Environmental Resources

- CG manages its natural resources in accordance with the CG Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP), which has been developed by CG ENV pursuant to the Sikes Act.
- The Sikes Act mandates that every military installation that impacts natural resources needs to develop and implement an INRMP that is approved by military and non-military stakeholders – in the case of CG, the non-military stakeholders are the MDNR and the USFWS.

CG ITAM and Conservation Projects

- The CG INRMP describes 53 conservation initiatives. Each initiative is managed by a series of projects. Each project is driven by a Congressional Act, such as the Threatened and Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Act, etc.
- Here is a list of currently active ITAM and CONSERVATION projects:

Blandings & Wood Turtle Population Survey
Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Population Survey
Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Mngt (Portage Creek Watershed Mngt)
Au Sable River Mngt
Wetlands and Road Stream Crossings Inventory and Mngt
Operational Range Sustainability Monitoring and Mngt
South Camp Surface Water Monitoring
Pollinator Mngt
Invasive Species and Vegetation Mngt.
Pine Barrens Sensitive Area Mngt
South Camp Ecological Survey
Wildfire Mngt
Noise Mngt
Fire Break Restoration (ITAM)
Firing Point and Landing Zones (Openings) Mngt (ITAM)
Maneuver Trail Restoration (ITAM)