

**CGNRAC Meeting Minutes – 15 August 2012**

**Location: Conference Room, Conservation Branch, Bldg 5888**

**Roll Call: Sec'y Burt Davis – Quorum declared.**

**Officers Present:**

Chairman – COL House

1<sup>st</sup> VP – Tommy Garnett

Secretary – Burt Davis

**MSU's Represented:**

11 <sup>th</sup> EN BN	AMU
194 <sup>th</sup> IN Bde	DENTAC
197 <sup>th</sup> AR BDE	HQ MCOE
198 <sup>th</sup> IN BDE	MEDDAC & MACH
316 <sup>th</sup> CAV BDE	NCOA
75 <sup>TH</sup> Ranger Regt	RTB

**MSU's Not Represented:**

14 <sup>th</sup> CSH	3 <sup>rd</sup> BDE, 3 <sup>rd</sup> ID
192 <sup>nd</sup> IN BDE	WHINSEC
199 <sup>th</sup> IN BDE	WTC

**Staff/Directorates Represented:**

Conservation Branch – Pete Swiderek

Conservation Branch – Brent Widener

DES, CLEO – Robert Boggess

DFMWR, Outdoor Rec – Cliff Hughes

DFMWR, Teltrack – Tony Kuykendall

**Visitors:**

SSG Randall Hebel Jr – Armor School

**Opening Remarks: COL House**

## General Comments

### Old Business:

#### **Open House – Cliff Hughes**

Thursday, 23 August. Program starts 1800. Benning Conference Center

Prizes are in. Doors open at 1700.

Encourages council members who have not done so already to pick up tickets for raffle to sell in unit.

Food will be served.

Need volunteers to help that day with setup and execution.

#### **Trap Skeet Range – Cliff Hughes**

Have broken ground. Equipment is on site.

Target opening date around Thanksgiving. He feels Christmas more realistic.

Will hold an Open House when ready.

#### **QDM Area Marking – Brent Widener**

Completed. Signs are up.

#### **Harvest Card**

No change.

GA backed out on separate reporting for harvest. Will continue to negotiate for future.

Harvest Card is implemented.

Post permits received prior to 12 March must pay to renew and obtain new permit.

Permits issued after 12 March will be no cost to renew.

All harvest must be recorded on Harvest Card and called in to TelTrack.

Must also comply with Mandatory Deer Check Days.

Harvest in GA must also be recorded on GA Hunting License.

Buck harvest in AL must also be recorded on AL Harvest Record.

### New Business:

#### **Mandatory Deer Check**

Dates are published in MCOE 200-3 for both AL and GA. Dates are:

GA – 20-21 October, 3-4 November, and 23-25 November

AL – 17-18 November, and 23-25 November

A report will be filed with Officer Boggess at conclusion of each deer check period which will be compared to TelTrack reporting.

Failure to comply with requirement will result in 45 day suspension.

Non-compliance in the past has resulted in 30% lost data. Can't be tolerated any more.

### **Weapons Policy Update – COL House**

Weapons policy is completed. Waiting to be signed.

Registration requirements go into effect on 1 October.

Other issue and punishments under new regulation begin immediately.

Note: Revised registration form requires 'Type/Action' information, e.g. Rifle/Semi-Auto.

Required to carry copy of registration in field. Must be in vehicle at a minimum. Not required to be on person.

AC personnel must have both the Commander's Authorization Letter and the Weapons Registration Form.

Only requires weapon to be registered one time. Only registers weapon, does not register individual, e.g. if another hunter uses your weapon it must only be registered in your name, but a copy of that registration must be in possession of person using weapon.

Registration available 24/7. Simple process. Very quick.

### **Hunting/Fishing Map – Cliff Hughes**

Map is completed and will go on sale at MWR on 16 August.

### **Dove Shoot/Schedule – Brent Widener**

Area P1 will be a managed hunt area. Will be open on opening day. Subsequent shoots will be determined by population and posted on kiosks, etc.

All other designated dove fields will be open for shooting any day the respective area is open.

Season opens at 12 noon on:

GA – 1 September

AL – 8 September

Note: AL opening day start time is CST not EST.

Persons hunting on field proper are not required to wear hunter orange. If hunting off/near the field must wear hunter orange.

### **Cantonment Archery Hunt – COL House/Brent Widener**

Flyers are posted on web site. Shows all requirements.

Must attend the briefing prior to reporting for qualification. No exceptions.

Will be briefed at Open House.

### **Garrison Issues – CSM Moore**

None

### **Range Control Issues – Mr Greenway**

None

### **MSU Comments – Open Discussion**

#### **Tommy Garnett**

Expressed need to sync MWR and EMD web site. Discussed difficulty in keeping both sites up to date. EMD web site is considered the only 'official' source of information.

#### **COL House**

Many range gates were closed last weekend. Working this issue. Report closures to COL House via email. Calling Range Control will probably not get gates open.

#### **Brent Widener**

Reminder - Archery hunters are required to wear hunter orange unless hunting in an archery only compartment.

#### **Burt Davis**

Reminder – Feral swine hunting is prohibited with center fire weapons during Muzzle loading Deer Season. Caution to archery hunters hunting open firearms areas that feral swine hunters may be in the area at same time with center fire weapons.

#### **AMU**

Hunter zero days will be 29 Sept and 6 Oct at Easley Range. AMU will have armor support on site to assist.

### **Closing Remarks – COL House**

Land availability remains #1 challenge this season. Encourage land management. Stressed to not request more land than needed for training mission and turn in unused land.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

## **COL HOUSE' NOTES FOLLOW:**

All,

Held the last meeting before bow season starts in Georgia, so I appreciate those who attended. Five units or Directorates did NOT attend which is quite disappointing to be perfectly candid. I hope to get you guys back at the next meeting, 17 Oct. If you cannot make it, please send a representative.

Notes:

1. Hunting/Fishing Reg. MCOE 200-3 has been published. One error already found. There is a new Hunting/Fishing Map dated July 2012, so disregard the ref to the June 2011 map. The regulation requires all hunters to possess the new Access Pass/Harvest Card/Permit before they deer hunt on Fort Benning this year. Anyone who purchased a permit 1 March or later can get the new version free of charge. Anyone who purchased it before 1 March MUST BUY the new permit. There is no prorated cost. Reminder- on the high end, senior officers could lose about \$11 on their existing permit. Also, remember that our permit fee equals about 22 cents per 1,000 acres. Permits are available at Outdoor Rec on main post and Uchee Creek. MCOE 200-3 has significant changes, so hunters must read it. It will be available on line on the EMD web site.

2. Weapons Policy. MCOE 190-11, Weapons Policy, has been approved and should be published by the G1 any day now. Remember that administrative requirements will be enforced beginning 1 Oct. Other weapons violations will be enforced using this new regulation now. We will publish the link to the regulation on the EMD web site. Weapons policy language has been removed from the hunting regulation, but weapons violation that occur while hunting will be punished IAW the punishment matrix in the MCOE 200-3. Start registering POWs now. Soldiers must have the 190-11-R and the Commander's Memo. Others just need the 190-11-R. Please write legibly and fill out the sheet completely. Many have done this already, and DES gets you out in less than 5 minutes. It's a 24/7/365 opportunity now.

3. Open House. Hunting and Fishing Open House is on track. Reminder that doors open 23 Aug, 1700 and the official program kicks off at 1800. Appreciate the support with the raffle tickets. Please return unsold tickets to Cliff Hughes NLT 1200 hours on 22 Aug. Strongly encourage folks to attend this event, especially new arrivals. Changes in MCOE 200-3 and MCOE 190-11 will be highlighted along with other events. Plus, there will be free chow... MWR could use some help setting up for the event, so if you can help, please contact Cliff Hughes.

4. Hunting/Fishing Map July 2012. The Hunting and Fishing July 2012 maps are available now. You can purchase them at Outdoor Rec.

5. QDM. all areas north of Buena Vista Road are now set aside for QDM, and they have been marked with signs.

6. Skeet/trap Rg. Construction has begun and the goal is to open this range around Thanksgiving. Range will include two skeet ranges, a 300 yard rifle range, a pistol range and a bag target archery range (T).

7. AMU sponsored zero days. AMU has offered to run two hunter zero days. Easley Range will be open to those who want to zero their rifles before deer season on 29 Sep and 6 Oct, 0900-1500 each day. Shooters must bring eye pro and ear pro.

8. Web site issues. Will work with Brent Widener and Brittany Beadle to consolidate hunting/fishing information on the EMD/Conservation Branch web site. If there is ever a conflict, use the EMD site or contact Brent or me.

9. Gates. We will continue to work with Range Division to ensure gates are open on Fri/Sat if the areas are open for hunting.

10. Hunting reminders:

a. Dove season in GA opens 1 Sep at 1200 EST. Dove season in AL opens 8 Sep CST...NOTE- AL requires 1200 CST regardless of what we use at Benning. This gets folks every year. Again, 8 Sep 1200 CST for opening day dove season in AL. Dove hunters MUST wear hunter orange UNLESS they are hunting on an approved dove field. Brent is working a couple of special dove hunting opportunities. Questions need to be referred to him.

b. GA bow season starts 8 Sep. Hunters must sign in using TELETRAC and MUST wear hunter orange unless they are in a "Archery Only" area. You cannot bow hunt on the AL side on 8 Sep...gets folks every year.

c. Cantonment archery hunting has been approved for 2012-13 season. Brent has issued the flyer with ALL the required information. We will do three briefings and three qualifications. First briefing is scheduled for 24 August 1800 hours in MW-Hall, Room E-101. The first qualification is scheduled for Saturday, 25 August, 1000-1200 hours at Uchee Creek Archery Rg. You must get the briefing BEFORE you are allowed to qualify, and there will be no special briefings or qualifications. Please be on time for the briefing. If you are late, you will not be given credit for the briefing.

d. Feral swine hunting CANNOT be done with rifles during the GA muzzle-loader deer season.

12. Land usage. I ask every unit to look closely at their land requirements and ONLY request the land they intend to use for a training event. Large "land blocks" in RFMSS does not help anyone...other training units or hunters. Please reserve only what you need and use what you reserve.

13. Next meeting 17 Oct, 1700 at the Conservation Branch building. Hope to see the entire crew there at that meeting.