



# TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE MODERNIZATION



## PROJECT UPDATE NOTICE – March 2018

This Project Update Notice offers a means to provide easily accessible, wide-spread distribution of new project information. This information augments the key public documents on the Townsend Bombing Range project website. Please visit [www.beaufort.marines.mil/Townsend-Bombing-Range](http://www.beaufort.marines.mil/Townsend-Bombing-Range) for more information.

### Townsend Bombing Range Modernization Status

As of December 31, 2017, the land acquisition for the expansion of Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) is complete. In total, the Department of the Navy (DON) acquired approximately 28,651 acres. Added to the original 5,183-acre range, TBR now totals approximately 33,834 acres. Individuals have a personal and legal responsibility to avoid trespassing onto TBR regardless of the presence or absence of signs. This is consistent with all federal law and is not unique to the TBR.

At the completion of the following main efforts, the modernized TBR will be “Ready for Operations.” Training operations in the expanded area are anticipated to begin by December 2019.

#### 1. Acquisition of Land. (Completed December 2017).

Congress authorized the DON to acquire land adjacent to the original range in McIntosh and Long Counties. Landowners were compensated with the fair market value for land or property interests identified for acquisition. The sufficiently sized land area at TBR will maintain public safety, enable the required training delivery of precision-guided munitions (PGMs), and allow for more realistic and effective training on a wider array of target types for greater aircrew competency. Like inert weapons currently used at TBR, PGM used at TBR will be inert, only armed with a small marking smoke charge. However, PGMs differ in that if their guidance system malfunctions, the higher altitudes and greater distance from which these weapons are employed give them a potential impact area that is much larger than those of ordnance released from lower altitudes and shorter distances. Therefore, the Weapon Danger Zones, which are also informally referred to as “safety zones,” at TBR are designed to ensure that any errant bomb will land safely within TBR.

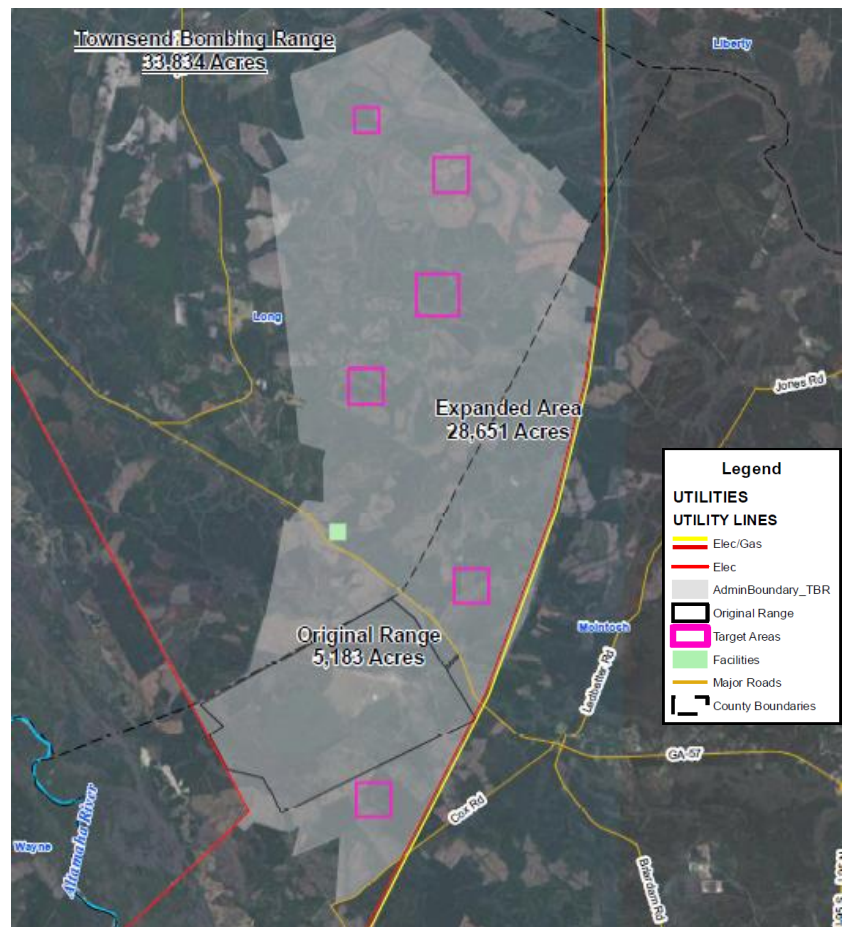
#### 2. Modification of Existing Restricted Airspace.

(Anticipated completion by December 2018).

Restricted Area R-3007 airspace will be modified by lowering the current 100-foot floor to ground level over the land that was acquired in order to allow the passage of munitions. The purpose is to unite the airspace over acquired land by matching existing restricted airspace over the current range, which will safely enable the delivery of inert ordnance and ensure non-participating aircraft do not enter into hazardous operations, as required by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations. With the land acquired, the FAA will use its established processes to modify Restricted Area R-3007.

#### 3. Construction of Infrastructure to support PGM training. (Anticipated completion by December 2019).

The modernization includes installation of target accuracy assessment equipment, construction of a communications tower, construction/improvement of roadways, and construction of six new target areas with fencing and firebreaks. This will enhance current training capabilities by accommodating full-scale inert weapons; enabling use of inert PGM; and increasing weapons delivery parameters by providing multiple run-in headings (i.e., aircraft direction during ordnance delivery). This realistic training increases proficiency, the likelihood of mission success, and improves the likelihood that Marine aviators and the ground troops they support will return home safely.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit: [www.beaufort.marines.mil/Townsend-Bombing-Range](http://www.beaufort.marines.mil/Townsend-Bombing-Range)  
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