

Appendix B

Public Comment Summary Report

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Public Comment Summary Report
for the
**Environmental Impact Statement for the
Proposed Modernization and Expansion of
Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia**

January 2013



**United States Marine Corps
Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort
Beaufort, South Carolina**

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Executive Summary

This Executive Summary presents an overview of the public comment process conducted for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) in McIntosh and Long Counties, Georgia.

ES.1 Description of the Proposed Project

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) prepared a DEIS that evaluated potential environmental impacts of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of precision-guided munitions (PGMs) at TBR, Georgia. Through the use of PGMs at TBR, the USMC can more efficiently meet current training requirements for pilots by significantly increasing air-to-ground training capabilities at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, South Carolina. The DEIS examined four action alternatives and the No Action Alternative. All four action alternatives would involve the acquisition and management of land and a timber easement, the modification of existing airspace, and the infrastructure to support PGM training, and would result in the improvement of training capabilities.

ES.2 DEIS Comment Period

Notification

The USMC initiated a 45-day public comment period from July 13 to August 27, 2012, through the publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the *Federal Register*. During the initial 45-day period, the USMC extended the public comment period for an additional 30 days through September 27, 2012. The USMC mailed letters to various government agencies, representatives, organizations, landowners, tribal nations, and members of the public to inform them of the availability of the DEIS, the opening of the public comment period, the methods for providing comments, and the public meeting dates, times, and locations, as announced in the NOA published in the *Federal Register*.

Public Meetings

Two open-house public meetings were held to provide the opportunity for local communities, government agencies, special interest groups, and the general public to learn about the USMC's Proposed Action and to express their thoughts regarding the DEIS. The first meeting was held in Darien, Georgia, on August 7, 2012, and the second in Ludowici, Georgia, on August 9, 2012. The goals of these meetings were to provide project information and findings of the DEIS, answer questions from community members, and solicit public input on important issues and concerns.

Additional Public Outreach

In addition to the public meetings, the USMC reached out to various regional and local stakeholders. As a result, the USMC attended various regional and local interest group meetings and accepted invitations for briefings to various groups, associations, and councils. These include but are not limited to the Long County Board of Commissioners, Altamaha Riverkeepers, Georgia Power, Fort Stewart, Federal Aviation Administration, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and representatives from offices of elected officials. During the comment period the USMC distributed two press releases to representatives from approximately 25 media outlets.

Other Media

To provide the public with current project information, resources, and updates, the USMC maintains a project Web site (<http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>) that has been and will continue to be maintained and updated throughout the EIS process. In addition to the advertisements in local newspapers, the USMC conducted interviews with a regional television station and a regional radio station. On August 16, 2012, LtCol Oscar Alvarez (Operations Officer at MCAS Beaufort) and Captain Jordan Cochran (Public Affairs Officer at MCAS Beaufort) were interviewed by WTOG News (Savannah, Georgia), which aired a story on the proposed expansion. Similarly, on August 16, 2012, LtCol Alvarez, Captain Cochran, and William Drawdy (Natural Resources and Environmental Resources Office at MCAS Beaufort) participated in an interview with Clear Channel Radio News/1290 WTKS (Savannah, Georgia). The USMC also ran a notification of the DEIS and public meetings on a local public access television channel in Darien, Georgia, from July 13 through September 27, 2012.

ES.3 Comments on the DEIS

Comment Methods

The public was offered the opportunity to provide comments during the public comment period via a number of methods, including submitting a comment form at one of the public meetings, email, mail, and the public Web site (<http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>). The USMC advertised these methods in the NOA and the DEIS notification letters, on the public Web site, in press releases to the local media, in display advertisements in local newspapers, and on the public meeting comment sheets and display boards. A total of 100 comments were received during the public comment period (Table ES-1).

Comment Method		Number of Comments Received	Totals
Public Meetings	Written ^(a)	14	24
	Oral ^(b)	10	
Mail		21	21
Email		13	13
Web Site		42	42
Totals		100	100

Notes:

- (a) Six written comments were provided at the Darien, Georgia, meeting, and eight were provided at the Ludowici, Georgia, meeting.
- (b) No oral comments were provided at the Darien, Georgia, meeting, and 10 oral comments were provided at the Ludowici, Georgia, meeting.

Stakeholder Groups

During the public comment period for the proposed TBR Modernization and Expansion DEIS, comments were received from a variety of stakeholder and interest groups including local residents and landowners, local governments, and environmental groups, among others.

DEIS notification letters were sent to 20 tribal organizations. To date, three tribes have responded and/or provided comments on the DEIS. Currently, the United Keetowah Band of Cherokee Indians has no environmental concerns with the project, but reserves the right to comment at a later date. The Tuscacora Nation responded with interest in the project, as it pertains to the discovery of human remains, funerary and sacred objects, and old village sites during construction activities. Lastly, the Chickasaw

Nation responded with no objection to the proposed project and concurred with the findings of the DEIS, as they are not aware of any specific historic properties or properties of significant religious or sacred value within the project area.

Public Comments

Public comments on the DEIS received during the public comment summary identified various resources of concern, as well as both support and opposition to the project. Similar comments were voiced to Project Team members during the public meetings.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DON	(United States) Department of the Navy; <i>also</i> Navy
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FR	<i>Federal Register</i>
MCAS	Marine Corps Air Station
Navy	(United States) Department of the Navy; <i>also</i> DON
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOA	Notice of Availability
PGMs	precision-guided munitions
ROD	Record of Decision
TBR	Townsend Bombing Range
U.S.C.	United States Code
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USMC	United States Marine Corps

1 Introduction

This Public Comment Summary Report presents a summary and overview of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) review process conducted as part of the EIS for the proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) in McIntosh and Long Counties, Georgia, pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.); Executive Orders 11514 and 11991; Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508); the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970, as amended (42 U.S.C 4371 et seq.); Department of the Navy (DON) NEPA regulations (32 CFR Part 775); and United States Marine Corps (USMC) NEPA directives (Marine Corps Order P5090.2A, change 2).

Following this introduction, the report is organized as follows: Section 2 discusses the DEIS review process, including notification methods used by the USMC to inform the public of opportunities for involvement during the public comment period; Section 3 summarizes the public meetings, including preparation, locations, attendance, and format; and Section 4 summarizes additional public outreach efforts conducted by the USMC. Section 5 describes the methods by which comments were received, the number of comments received, and the stakeholders who provided them.

1.1 Purpose of the DEIS Review Process

When the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) publishes the Notice of Availability (NOA) for a DEIS, the public is invited to participate in the NEPA process by reviewing the DEIS and providing comments on its findings. Similar to the Public Scoping period, the lead federal agency responsible for the DEIS holds public meetings that further allow the public to participate in the NEPA process. NEPA requires that the DEIS Review Period last a minimum of 45 days; however, federal agencies may extend this comment period as necessary to thoroughly solicit public input on the project, including the Proposed Action, Alternatives and Preferred Alternative, Environmental Impacts, and Cumulative Effects.

This Public Comment Summary Report discusses the materials prepared for, as well as comments on the DEIS obtained during, the public comment period. Although this report identifies and addresses the comments obtained during this period, it does not make decisions regarding the Proposed Action, nor does it set forth policies.

1.2 Description of the Proposed Project

The USMC prepared a DEIS that evaluated potential environmental impacts of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of precision-guided munitions (PGMs) at TBR, Georgia. Through the use of PGMs at TBR, the USMC can more efficiently meet current training requirements for pilots by significantly increasing air-to-ground training capabilities at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, South Carolina. The DEIS examined four action alternatives and the No Action Alternative. All four action alternatives would involve the acquisition and management of land and a timber easement, the modification of existing airspace, the infrastructure to support PGM training, and would result in the improvement of training capabilities.

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2 DEIS Review Process

2.1 Public Comment Period

The USMC initiated a 45-day public comment period from July 13 to August 27, 2012, through the publication of the NOA in the *Federal Register* as detailed in Section 2.2.1. During the initial 45-day period, the USMC extended the public comment period through September 27, 2012, to allow more time for citizens to provide comments.

2.2 DEIS Notification

The USMC utilized several methods to notify the public of opportunities for involvement and comment during the public review period. These methods included:

- An NOA in the *Federal Register* to announce the DEIS was available for review;
- A mailing of notification letters to government agencies, special interest groups, and local landowners/residents;
- A public Web site;
- Press releases;
- Newspaper advertisements; and
- Public-access television advertisement on Darien TV from July 13 through September 27, 2012.

Details of these notification methods are outlined below and copies of these materials are provided in Appendix A.

2.2.1 *Federal Register* Notice of Availability

As required by NEPA, an NOA for the DEIS was published in the *Federal Register* (77 FR 41385) on Friday, July 13, 2012 (Appendix A). This notice set forth the availability of the DEIS for public review. The NOA announced the Proposed Action, proposed alternatives, and the purpose and need for the Proposed Action. The NOA also provided the public meeting times and locations, the project Web site location, contact information for questions about the proposal, and the closing date of the public comment period.

2.2.2 DEIS Availability Letters

The USMC mailed letters to various government agencies; federal, state, and local elected officials; organizations; landowners; tribal nations; and members of the public to inform them of the availability of the DEIS, the opening of the public comment period, the methods for providing comments, and the public meeting dates, times, and locations, as announced in the NOA published in the *Federal Register*. When the public comment period was extended, letters were again mailed to the same aforementioned stakeholders, in addition to public meeting attendees.

The mailing list in Appendix A has been used throughout the NEPA process to ensure that all interested parties are kept informed. The mailing list has been continually updated over the course of the EIS process and will continually be modified through the mailing of the Record of Decision (ROD).

2.2.3 Press Releases and Newspaper Advertisements

In addition to publication of the NOA, the USMC issued a press release on July 13, 2012, announcing the availability of the DEIS, as well as the dates, times, locations, and purpose of the public meetings. An additional press release was issued on August 15, 2012, to announce the extension of the public comment period.

The press releases were distributed to approximately 25 media representatives. Furthermore, advertisements announcing the public comment period were placed in four local newspapers as detailed in Table 2-1. The press releases and publication affidavits are provided in Appendix A.

In addition to the DEIS advertisements, various local and regional newspapers printed articles on the proposed changes at TBR and the scoping process. Table 2-2 lists these publications and the dates the articles appeared. All newspaper articles are provided in Appendix A.

Newspaper	Publication Dates
<i>Press-Sentinel</i> (Jesup, GA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 18, 2012; July 21, 2012; July 25, 2012 (Notice of Availability [NOA]/Notice of Public Meetings) • August 22, 2012; August 25, 2012 (Notice of Comment Period Extension)
<i>Darien News</i> (Darien, GA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 19, 2012; July 26, 2012 (NOA/Notice of Public Meetings) • August 23, 2012 (Notice of Comment Period Extension)
<i>Savannah Morning News</i> (Savannah, GA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 15, 2012; July 16, 2012, July 17, 2012 (NOA/Notice of Public Meetings) • August 21, 2012; August 22, 2012; August 23, 2012 (Notice of Comment Period Extension)
<i>Brunswick News</i> (Brunswick, GA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 16, 2012; July 18, 2012; July 20, 2012 (NOA/Notice of Public Meetings) • August 21, 2012; August 22, 2012 (Notice of Comment Period Extension)

Notes:

Press-Sentinel is a bi-weekly distribution newspaper.

Darien News is a weekly distribution newspaper.

Savannah Morning News is a daily distribution newspaper.

Brunswick News is a daily distribution newspaper with the exception of Sunday.

Newspaper	Publication Dates
<i>Darien News</i> (Darien, GA)	July 19, 2012, August 2, 2012, August 16, 2012, and August 30, 2012
<i>Coastal Courier</i> (Hinesville, GA)	August 12, 2012
<i>Beaufort Gazette</i> (Beaufort, SC)	August 15, 2012
<i>Brunswick News</i> (Brunswick, GA)	August 28, 2012
<i>Florida Times-Union</i> (Jacksonville, FL)	September 11, 2012
<i>Atlanta Constitution-Journal</i> (Atlanta, GA)	September 12, 2012

2.2.4 Public Web Site

To provide the public with project information, resources, and updates, the USMC developed a project Web site (<http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>) that has been and will continue to be maintained and updated throughout the EIS process. In addition to a downloadable copy of the DEIS (both volumes), the Web site provides relevant studies, press releases, and other public notification information, scoping and public meeting displays and handouts, and an online comment form that was available for use during the public scoping and public comment periods. Furthermore, the Web site provides a link to a “Frequently Asked Questions” downloadable handout that has been updated throughout the NEPA process. Other information, such as the project description, anticipated project schedule, and associated maps/figures, is also available on the Web site.

2.2.5 Other Media

In addition to the advertisements in local newspapers, the USMC conducted interviews with a regional television station and a regional radio station. On August 16, 2012, LtCol Oscar Alvarez (Operations Officer at MCAS Beaufort) and Captain Jordan Cochran (Public Affairs Officer at MCAS Beaufort) were interviewed by WTOC News (Savannah, Georgia), which aired a story on the proposed expansion. Similarly, on August 16, 2012, LtCol Alvarez, Captain Cochran, and William Drawdy (Natural Resources and Environmental Resources Office at MCAS Beaufort) participated in an interview with Clear Channel Radio News/1290 WTKS (Savannah, Georgia). The USMC also ran a notification of the DEIS and public meetings on a local public access television channel in Darien, Georgia, from July 13 through September 27, 2012.

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3 Public Meetings

Two open-house public meetings were held to provide the opportunity for local citizens, government agencies, special interest groups, and the general public to learn about the USMC’s Proposed Action and to express their thoughts regarding the DEIS. The first meeting was held in Darien, Georgia, on August 7, 2012, and the second in Ludowici, Georgia, on August 9, 2012.

3.1 Public Meeting Attendance

Table 3-1 summarizes the public meeting times, locations, and the number of attendees. The meetings were held in communities that are centrally located and that serve those areas anticipated to be most affected by the Proposed Action.

Meeting Date	Location	Time	Attendance
August 7, 2012	McIntosh County Middle School Gymnasium 500 Greene Street, Darien, GA 31305	4:00 – 7:00 pm	41
August 9, 2012	City of Ludowici City Hall Meeting Room 469 N. Macon Street, Ludowici, GA	4:00 -- 7:00 pm	75
TOTAL			116

3.2 Public Meeting Format

The public meetings were presented as an “open house,” a format that was specifically designed to create a personable and informative atmosphere. Using this format, public participants could speak individually with USMC and Navy personnel and other members of the Project Team. The goals of these meetings were to provide project information and findings of the DEIS, answer questions from community members, and solicit public input on important issues and concerns.

The meeting format (see Figure 3-1) consisted of a sign-in table at the meeting room entrance and six information stations, each staffed by knowledgeable USMC and Navy personnel to provide technical expertise in their subject matter area. Information station topics included Public Involvement, History and Mission, Proposed Action and Alternatives, Resource Analysis (1), Resource Analysis (2), and Real Estate Acquisition. Similarly, a multi-page fact sheet/newsletter provided supplementary information for each information station. The USMC provided a computer station that used digital overlays of the alternative boundaries and aerial photographs to allow concerned stakeholders to determine the proximity of their own real property in relation to the lands proposed for acquisition under the various scenarios.

Materials presented and available at the public comment meetings continue to be available at the project Web site and are contained in Appendix B.

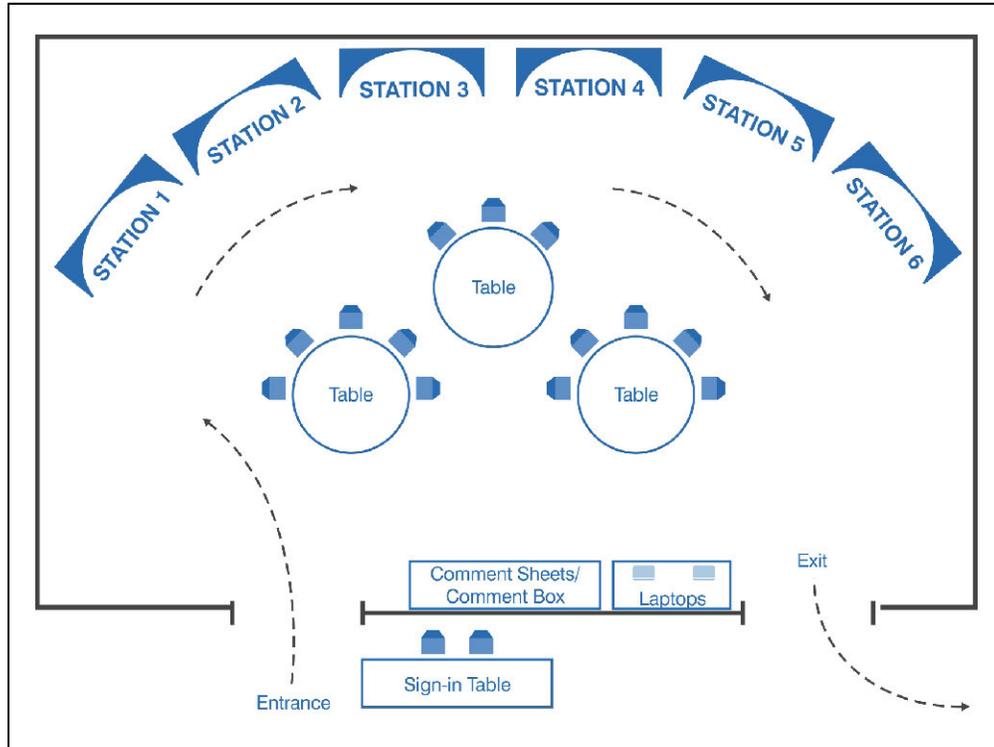


Figure 3-1: Public Meeting Room Layout

4 Additional Public Outreach

As listed in Table 4-1, the USMC has attended various regional and local interest group meetings and accepted invitations for briefings to various groups, associations, and councils. These include, but are not limited to Long County Board of Commissioners, Altamaha Riverkeepers, Georgia Power, Fort Stewart, Federal Aviation Administration, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and representatives from offices of elected officials.

Table 4-1 Public Outreach Meetings and Briefings	
Date	Meeting/Interested Entity/Individual
July 11, 2012	Long County Board of Commissioners: Bobby Walker, Chairman
July 17, 2012	Beaufort Chamber of Commerce Military Enhancement Committee
July 23, 2012	Coastal Regional Commission in Brunswick, Georgia (covers McIntosh and Long Counties): Lupita McClenning, Planning Director and Allen Burns, Executive Director
August 1, 2012	Association of County Commissioners of Georgia: Dave Willis; Representative from Senator Saxby Chambliss' office: Kathryn Murph; Representative from Senator Johnny Isaakson's office: Jered Downs; Representative from Congressman Jack Kingston's office: Charles Wilson; and Coastal Regional Commission in Brunswick, Georgia (covers McIntosh and Long Counties): Lupita McClenning, Planning Director and Allen Burns, Executive Director
August 23, 2012	Long County Board of Commissioners; Long County Sheriff Craig Nobles; and Association of County Commissioners of Georgia: Dave Willis organized by Congressman Jack Kingston's district staff
August 27, 2012	Altamaha Riverkeepers
September 6, 2012	Georgia Power
September 6, 2012	Representatives from Fort Stewart's environmental, forestry, and airfield operations programs.
September xx, 2012	South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
September 19, 2012	Federal Aviation Administration, Eastern Service Center: Kristi Ashley
September 19, 2012	United States Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District: Mark Padgett
September 21, 2012	Long County Board of Commissioners: Bobby Walker, Chairman
September 21, 2012	Representatives from Congressman Jack Kingston's office: Brooke Childers, Merritt Myers, Michael Lake, and Charles Wilson
September 21, 2012	Representatives from Senator Saxby Chambliss' office: Kathryn Murph and Todd Harmer
October 1, 2012	Long County resident: Nell Fischette

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5 DEIS Comment Summary

5.1 Comment Methods

The public was offered the opportunity to provide comments during the public comment period via a number of methods, including submitting a comment form at one of the public meetings, email, mail, and the public Web site (<http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>). The USMC advertised these methods in the NOA and the DEIS notification letters, on the public Web site, in press releases to the local media, in display advertisements in local newspapers, and on the public meeting comment sheets and display boards. A total of 100 comments were received during the public comment period (see Table 5-1 and Appendix C).

Comment Method		Number of Comments Received	Totals
Public Meetings	Written ^(a)	14	24
	Oral ^(b)	10	
Mail		21	21
Email		13	13
Web Site		42	42
Totals		100	100

Notes:

- (a) Six written comments were provided at the Darien, Georgia, meeting, and eight were provided at the Ludowici, Georgia, meeting.
- (b) No oral comments were provided at the Darien, Georgia, meeting, and 10 oral comments were provided at the Ludowici, Georgia, meeting.

5.2 Stakeholder Groups

During the public comment period for the DEIS, comments were received from a variety of stakeholder and interest groups including local residents and landowners, local governments, environmental groups, and local hunt club representatives, among others. Table 5-2 illustrates the various stakeholder groups that submitted comments during the public comment period.

The majority of comments (72 comments; 72% of the total received) came from local residents/citizens. Some commenting stakeholders, particularly local landowners, used multiple commenting mechanisms to voice their opinions. It is important to note that the numbers discussed in this section represent all the comments that were received. However, duplicate comments from the same commenting party that were submitted through different media were not counted more than once. All comments are provided in Appendix C.

DEIS notification letters were sent to 20 tribal organizations. To date, three tribes have responded and/or provided comments on the DEIS. Currently, the United Keetowah Band of Cherokee Indians has no environmental concerns with the project, but reserves the right to comment at a later date. The Tuscacora Nation responded with interest in the project, as it pertains to the discovery of human remains, funerary and sacred objects, and old village sites during construction activities. Lastly, the Chickasaw Nation responded with no objection to the proposed project and concurred with the findings of the DEIS, as they are not aware of any specific historic properties or properties of significant religious or sacred value within the project area.

Stakeholder	Comment Method			Totals
	Meeting	Mailed	Web Site	
Federal Government	0	3	2	5
State Government	0	5	0	5
Local Government	4	1	3	8
Tribal Nations	0	2	1	3
Citizens and Organizations	20	10	7	79
Totals	24	21	13	100

5.3 Public Comments

A previously stated, the majority of comments (72 comments; 72% of total received) came from local residents/citizens. A total of 20 comments were received in support of the Proposed Action. Based on comments heard and received in writing, the most pressing concerns include:

- Socioeconomics;
- Safety;
- Training Concerns;
- Cultural Resources;
- Noise;
- Natural Resources; and
- Road Closures/Access.

5.4 Other Concerns

Various other concerns were identified by stakeholders, but in fewer or individual comments. These include, but are not limited to:

- Water quality/control;
- Lack of trust/overall discontent with the military and/or federal government;
- Airspace;
- Newspaper advertisement/comment period;
- Air quality;
- Mineral rights; and
- Electric transmission lines.

Appendix A

Public Notification Documentation

A.1 Notices

Notices of Availability and Public Meeting
Notices of Public Comment Period Extension

A.2 Mailing List

A.3 DEIS Notification Letters

Notices of Availability and Public Meeting
Notices of Public Comment Period Extension

A.4 Newspaper Affidavits

Notices of Availability and Public Meeting
Notices of Public Comment Period Extension

A.5 Press Releases

A.6 Newspaper Articles

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Appendix A
Public Notification Documentation

Appendix A.1
Notices

Notices of Availability and Public Meeting

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission**

[Docket Nos. ER11-4580-000; ER12-50-000]

**California Independent System
Operator Corporation; Notice of FERC
Staff Attendance**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) hereby gives notice that on the following date members of its staff will participate in teleconferences and meetings to be conducted by the California Independent System Operator (CAISO).

The agenda and other documents for the teleconferences and meetings are available on the CAISO's Web site, www.aiso.com.

July 12, 2012 Board of Governors and Audit Committee Market Update

Sponsored by the CAISO, the teleconferences and meetings are open to all market participants and staff's attendance is part of the Commission's ongoing outreach efforts. The teleconferences and meetings may discuss matters at issue in the above captioned dockets.

For further information, contact Saeed Farrokhpay at saeed.farrokhpay@ferc.gov (916) 294-

0322 or Maury Kruth at maury.kruth@ferc.gov, (916) 294-0275.

Dated: July 6, 2012.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-17045 Filed 7-12-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission**

[AD12-17-000, et al.]

**Supplemental Notice of Technical
Conference**

Review of Small Generator Interconnection Agreements and Procedures	Docket Nos. AD12-17-000.
Solar Energy Industries Association	Docket Nos. RM12-10-000.
California Independent System Operator Corporation	Docket Nos. ER12-502-001, ER12-502-002.
PJM Interconnection, LLC	Docket Nos. ER12-1177-001.
California Independent System Operator Corporation	Docket Nos. ER12-1855-000.

On June 13, 2012, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) announced that a Technical Conference on issues related to a petition for rulemaking recently submitted by the Solar Energy Industries Association (Docket No. RM12-10-000) will be held on Tuesday, July 17, 2012. Please note that the time for the conference has been changed; the conference will be convened from 9 a.m. to approximately 4 p.m. (EDT). The staff-led conference will be held in the Commission Meeting Room at the Commission's headquarters at 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. Members of the Commission may attend the conference, which will also be open for the public to attend. Advance registration is not required, but is encouraged. We will provide nametags for those who register on or before July 10, 2012. Participants may register at the following Web page: <https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/small-generator-7-17-12-form.asp>.

Attached to this supplemental notice is an agenda for the conference. If any changes are made, the revised agenda will be posted prior to the event on the Calendar of Events on the Commission's Web site, www.ferc.gov.

Notice is also hereby given that discussions at the conference may address matters at issue in the above-referenced individual proceedings that are either pending or within their rehearing period.

A free webcast of the technical conference will be available. Anyone with Internet access who desires to

listen to this event can do so by navigating to the Calendar of Events on the Commission's Web site and locating this event in the Calendar. The event will contain a link to its webcast. The Capitol Connection provides technical support for webcasts and will offer the option of listening to the conference via phone-bridge for a fee. If you have any questions about the webcast, visit www.CapitolConnection.org or call (703) 993-3100.

This conference will also be transcribed. Transcripts will be available from Ace Reporting Company (202-347-3700 or 800-336-6646).

FERC conferences are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For accessibility accommodations please send an email to accessibility@ferc.gov or call toll free (866) 208-3372 (voice) or (202) 502-8659 (TTY), or send a fax to (202) 208-2106 with the requested accommodations.

Anyone wishing to comment on issues raised at the technical conference should submit written comments to the Commission no later than August 16, 2012.

For information related to the agenda, please contact Leslie Kerr at leslie.kerr@ferc.gov or (202) 502-8540. For information related to logistics, please contact Sarah McKinley at sarah.mckinley@ferc.gov or (202) 502-8368.

Dated: July 3, 2012.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-16883 Filed 7-12-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY**

[ER-FRL-9003-9]

**Environmental Impacts Statements;
Notice of Availability**

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7146 or <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/>.

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements
Filed 07/02/2012 Through 07/06/2012
Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

Notice

Section 309(a) of the Clean Air Act requires that EPA make public its comments on EISs issued by other Federal agencies. EPA's comment letters on EISs are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/eisdata.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA is seeking agencies to participate in its e-NEPA electronic EIS submission pilot. Participating agencies can fulfill all requirements for EIS filing, eliminating the need to submit paper copies to EPA Headquarters, by filing documents online and providing feedback on the process. To participate in the pilot, register at: <https://cdx.epa.gov>.

EIS No. 20120223, Draft EIS, USFWS, TX, Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program Habitat Conservation Plan, Application for an Incidental Take Permit of 11 Federally Listed or Petitioned Species, Several Counties, Texas, Comment Period Ends: 10/10/2012, Contact: Adam Zerrenner 512-490-0057.

EIS No. 20120224, Draft EIS, FHWA, IL, Illiana Corridor Project Tier One Transportation System Improvements, Will and Kankakee Counties, IL and Lake County, IN, Comment Period Ends: 08/29/2012, Contact: Norman Stoner 217-492-4600.

EIS No. 20120225, Draft EIS, USFS, AZ, Bill Williams Mountain Restoration Project, Kaibab National Forest, Coconino County, AZ, Comment Period Ends: 08/27/2012, Contact: Martie Schramm 928-635-5630.

EIS No. 20120226, Final EIS, USFS, CA, Creeks II Forest Restoration Project, Proposal to Protect Rural Communities from Hazards by Constructing Fuel Breaks known as Defensible Fuel Profile Zones (DFPZs), Lassen National Forest, Almanor Ranger District, Plumas County, CA, Review Period Ends: 08/13/2012, Contact: Al Vazquez 530-258-2141.

EIS No. 20120227, Draft EIS, USMC, GA, Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, Acquiring Additional Property and Constructing Infrastructure to Allow the Use of Precision-Guided Munitions, McIntosh and Long Counties, GA, Comment Period Ends: 08/27/2012, Contact: Veronda Johnson 571-256-2783.

EIS No. 20120228, Final EIS, NHTSA, 00, Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards Passenger Cars and Light Truck, Model Years 2017-2025, To Reduce National Energy Consumption by Increasing the Fuel Economy of Passenger Cars and Light Trucks sold in the U.S., Review Period Ends: 08/13/2012, Contact: James MacIsaac 202-366-9108.

This document is available on the Internet at: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/fuel-economy>.

EIS No. 20120229, Draft EIS, FHWA, CA, I-710 Corridor Project, Improvements, from Ocean Boulevard in the City of Long Beach to State Route 60 in East Los Angeles, Funding, Los Angeles County, CA, Comment Period Ends: 08/27/2012, Contact: Cesar E. Perez 916-498-5065.

Amended Notices

EIS No. 20120161, Draft EIS, USFS, NM, North Fork Eagle Creek Wells, Special

Use Authorization Project, Operation of Four Municipal Supply Water Wells, Lincoln National Forest, Lincoln County, NM, Comment Period Ends: 09/07/2012, Contact: Dave Warnack 575-257-4095
Revision to FR Notice Published 5/25/2012; Extending Comment Period to 09/07/2012.

EIS No. 20120196, Draft EIS, NPS, OH, Cuyahoga Valley National Park Comprehensive Trail Management Plan, Cuyahoga and Summit Counties, OH, Comment Period Ends: 08/20/2012, Contact: Stan Austin 330-657-2752
Revision to FR Notice Published 06/22/2012; Change Comment Period from 08/06/201 to 8/20/2012.

Dated: July 10, 2012.

Cliff Rader,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 2012-17188 Filed 7-12-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-9700-3]

Meetings of the Local Government Advisory Committee and the Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS) will meet via teleconference on Tuesday, July 24, 2012, 2:30 p.m.-4 p.m. (ET). The Subcommittee will discuss sustainable communities, decentralized wastewater treatment, and other issues and recommendations regarding environmental issues affecting small communities. The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) will meet via teleconference on Tuesday, July 31, 2012, 1 p.m.-2 p.m. (EDT). The Committee will discuss air quality issues, water quality issues, environmental justice and/or Title VI, and other environmental issues of importance to local governments.

ADDRESSES: EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee meetings will be held via teleconference. Meeting summaries will be available after the meeting online at www.epa.gov/ocir/scas_lgac/igac_index.htm and can be obtained by written request to the DFO.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) contact Frances Eargle at (202)

564-3115 or email at eargle.frances@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS) will meet via teleconference on Tuesday, July 24, 2012, 2:30 p.m.-4 p.m. (ET). The Subcommittee will discuss sustainable communities, decentralized wastewater treatment, and other issues and recommendations regarding environmental issues affecting small communities. This is an open meeting and all interested persons are invited to participate. The Subcommittee will hear comments from the public between 2:35 p.m.-2:45 p.m. on Tuesday, July 24, 2012. Individuals or organizations wishing to address the Committee will be allowed a maximum of five minutes to present their point of view. Also, written comments should be submitted electronically to davis.catherinem@epa.gov. Please contact the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) at the number listed below to schedule a time on the agenda. Time will be allotted on a first-come first-serve basis, and the total period for comments may be extended if the number of requests for appearances requires it. The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) will meet via teleconference on Tuesday, July 31, 2012, 1 p.m.-2 p.m. (EDT). The Committee will discuss air quality issues, water quality issues, environmental justice and/or Title VI, and other environmental issues of importance to local governments. This is an open meeting and all interested persons are invited to participate. The Committee will hear comments from the public between 1:15 p.m.-1:25 p.m. (EDT) on Tuesday, July 31, 2012. Individuals or organizations wishing to address the Committee will be allowed a maximum of five minutes to present their point of view. Also, written comments should be submitted electronically to eargle.frances@epa.gov. Please contact the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) at the number listed below to schedule a time on the agenda. Time will be allotted on a first-come first-serve basis, and the total period for comments may be extended if the number of requests for appearances requires it.

Information Services for Those with Disabilities: For information on access or services for individuals with disabilities, please contact Frances Eargle at (202) 564-3115 or eargle.frances@epa.gov. To request accommodation of a disability, please request it 10 days prior to the meeting,

awarding of master's and doctoral degrees in the biomedical sciences and public health. The President, USU will present a report and Regents will also receive information from both academic and administrative University officials. These actions are necessary for the University to pursue its mission, which is to provide outstanding health care practitioners and scientists to the uniformed services.

Meeting Accessibility: Pursuant to Federal statute and regulations (5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended, and 41 CFR 102–3.140 through 102–3.165) and the availability of space, most of the meeting is open to the public. Seating is on a first-come basis. Members of the public wishing to attend the meeting should contact Janet S. Taylor at the address and phone number in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. The closed portion of this meeting is authorized by 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) as the subject matter involves personal and private observations.

Written Statements: Interested persons may submit a written statement for consideration by the Board of Regents. Individuals submitting a written statement must submit their statement to the Designated Federal Officer at the address in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. If such statement is not received at least 10 calendar days prior to the meeting, it may not be provided to or considered by the Board of Regents until its next open meeting. The Designated Federal Officer will review all timely submissions with the Board of Regents Chairman and ensure such submissions are provided to Board of Regents Members before the meeting. After reviewing the written comments, submitters may be invited to orally present their issues during the August 2012 meeting or at a future meeting.

Dated: July 10, 2012.

Aaron Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2012–17111 Filed 7–12–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Public Meetings for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, GA

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section (102)(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] Sections 4321–4370h); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500–1508); Department of the Navy Procedures for Implementing NEPA (32 CFR part 775); and Marine Corps NEPA directives (Marine Corps Order P5090.2A), the U. S. Marine Corps (USMC) as prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that evaluates potential environmental impacts of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of inert precision-guided munitions (PGMs) at Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia. Through the use of PGMs at TBR, the USMC can more efficiently meet current training requirements for pilots by significantly increasing air-to-ground training capabilities for Marine Air Group (MAG) 31 stationed at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, South Carolina.

With the filing of the Draft EIS, the USMC is initiating a 45-day public comment period and has scheduled two public open house meetings to receive oral and written comments on the Draft EIS. Federal, state and local agencies and interested parties are encouraged to provide comments in person at the public meetings, or in writing anytime during the public comment period. This notice announces the dates and locations of the public meetings and provides supplementary information about the environmental planning effort.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: The Draft EIS public review period will begin July 13, 2012 and end August 27, 2012. The two public meetings will inform the public about the proposed action and the alternatives under consideration, and provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the Draft EIS. USMC representatives will be on hand to discuss the NEPA process, findings, and the Proposed Action presented in the Draft EIS. The public meetings will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations in Georgia:

- (1) Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at McIntosh County Middle School Gymnasium 500 Green Street Darien, GA 31305.
- (2) Thursday, August 9, 2012 at City Hall of Ludowici Meeting Room 469 North Macon Street Ludowici, GA 31316.

Copies of the Draft EIS are available for public review at the following public libraries:

Ida Hilton Public Library, 1105 North Way, Darien, GA, 31305;
Long County Public Library, 28 S. Main Street, Ludowici, GA, 31316; and Hog Hammock Public Library, 1023 Hillery Lane, Sapelo Island, GA, 31327.

The Draft EIS was distributed to Federal, State, and local agencies, elected officials, and other interested parties and individuals on July 13, 2012. The document can be viewed online and downloaded from <http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>.

A copy of the Draft EIS will also be made available upon written request to Townsend Bombing Range EIS Project Manager, Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, Florida, 32318.

Comments: Attendees will be able to submit written comments at the public meeting; a stenographer will also be present to transcribe oral comments. Equal weight will be given to oral and written statements. Comments on the Draft EIS can be submitted via the project email address (townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com), project Web site or submitted in writing to: Townsend Bombing Range EIS Project Manager, Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, Florida, 32318. All comments must be postmarked or electronically dated on or before August 27, 2012 to be sure they become part of the public record. All statements, oral transcription and written, submitted during the public review period will become part of the public record on the Draft EIS and will be responded to in the Final EIS.

FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE: Contact Capt. Cochran, 596 Geiger Blvd. MCAS Beaufort, SC 29904 at 843–228–6123. Please submit requests for special assistance, sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired, or other auxiliary aids at the public meeting to Capt. Cochran.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A Notice of Intent to prepare this EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on August 6, 2010 (Vol. 75, No. 151, pp. 47564–47565).

Purpose and Need: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide an air-to-ground training range capable of providing a wider variety of air-to-ground operations, including the use of PGMs, to meet current training requirements. The Proposed Action is needed to more efficiently meet current training requirements for USMC aviation assets by significantly increasing air-to-ground training

capabilities in the Beaufort, South Carolina Region.

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action evaluated in the Draft EIS is to modernize and expand TBR to accommodate the MAG-31 requirement to train with inert PGMs and the larger Weapons Danger Zones (WDZs) their use requires. To accomplish this, the USMC proposes to acquire lands in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater variety of training activities. The Proposed Action includes five interrelated components:

(1) Acquisition of land adjacent to TBR to accommodate the larger WDZs required for PGM training. To effectively deliver PGMs at TBR, the land area must be increased to ensure the containment of the WDZs, allow for their realistic combat employment, and ensure the safety of military personnel and civilians present at and around TBR.

(2) Acquisition of a timber easement within the current TBR boundary to ensure public safety. It is necessary for the USMC to own all the timberland and to manage it in support of mission requirements.

(3) Modification of existing airspace Restricted Area R-3007C by extending the current restricted area laterally to the proposed acquisition area boundary. The purpose of this additional airspace is to exclude non-participating aircraft from intruding into hazardous operations, as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. The proposed modification would eliminate the current gap from 100 feet Above Ground Level down to the surface of the ground over the areas proposed for acquisition.

(4) Construction of Infrastructure to support PGM training. This includes the placement and/or construction of new targets, a new observation tower, and support facilities, as well as additional utilities, roads, and fencing.

(5) Improvement of training capabilities of the individual aircrew air-to-ground ordnance delivery training syllabus for the F/A-18. Currently, MAG 31 pilots can accomplish less than half of their air-to-ground training requirements at TBR. The expansion of TBR and the creation of new target areas would increase capabilities from 47 percent to 85 percent of the individual air-to-ground ordnance delivery training syllabus for the F/A-18 at TBR.

Alternatives Considered in the Draft EIS: The Draft EIS examines four action alternatives and a No Action Alternative. All four action alternatives would involve the acquisition and management of land and a timber

easement, the modification of existing airspace, the infrastructure to support PGM training, and would result in the improvement of training capabilities. The land acquired under each action alternative would involve different strategic combinations of three possible land acquisition areas (referred to in the Draft EIS as "Acquisition Area 1A," "Acquisition Area 1B," and "Acquisition Area 3"). Similarly under all four action alternatives, the USMC proposes to modify the existing airspace based on the amount of land acquired. Any combination of the land proposed to be acquired would be under the current Restricted Area R-3007.

Alternative 1 includes Acquisition Area 1A and Acquisition Area 1B, totaling an acquisition of 11,187 acres. Alternative 1 also includes the acquisition of a 3,007-acre timber easement. Restricted Area R-3007A would be modified by extending the current restricted area laterally to the proposed acquisition area boundary. The proposed modification would eliminate the current gap from 100 feet above ground level down to the surface of the ground over the areas that are proposed for acquisition. Alternative 1 includes the construction of three new target areas: Target Area 6 (Airfield Site with Simulated Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants [POL] Site/Fuel Farm); Target Area 7 (Urban Target Area [UTA]); and Target Area 8 (Fuel Farm/POL Site). Under Alternative 1, air-to-ground training capabilities would increase from 47 percent up to 72 percent.

Alternative 2 includes Acquisition Area 3, totaling an acquisition of 23,480 acres. Like Alternative 1, Alternative 2 also includes the acquisition of the timber easement and the same modification to existing airspace. Alternative 2 includes the construction of five new target areas: Target Area 1 (UTA); Target Area 2 (Terrorist Training Camp); Target Area 3 (Conventional Bull's Eye); Target Area 4 (Convoy Site); and Target Area 5 (Train Depot). Under Alternative 2, air-to-ground training capabilities would increase from 47 percent up to 85 percent.

Alternative 3 includes Acquisition Area 1A, Acquisition Area 1B, and Acquisition Area 3, totaling an acquisition of 34,667 acres. Like Alternatives 1 and 2, Alternative 3 includes the acquisition of the timber easement and the same modification to existing airspace. Alternative 3 includes the construction of eight new target areas (Target Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8), and training capabilities would increase from 47 percent up to 85 percent.

Alternative 4 (Preferred Alternative) includes Acquisition Area 1B and Acquisition Area 3, totaling an acquisition of 28,436 acres. Like Alternatives 1, 2, and 3, Alternative 4 includes the acquisition of the timber easement and the same modification to existing airspace. Alternative 4 includes the construction of six new target areas (Target Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8), and training capabilities would increase from 47 percent up to 85 percent.

No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not take place and the status quo would continue, the USMC would not acquire any land for training purposes, and training operations at TBR would not change. The No Action Alternative would not provide a local East Coast range capable of supporting the use of PGMs by MAG-31. Aviation units stationed at MCAS Beaufort would continue to deploy to the southwestern United States to undergo PGM training and meet individual aircrew training requirements. TBR would continue to support current training operations, but would be unable to accommodate PGM training.

Environmental Issues: The Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental effects associated with each of the alternatives. Issues addressed include: Land use; socioeconomic; recreation; wetlands; water resources; airspace; noise; biological resources; cultural resources; air quality; transportation; noise; biological resources; cultural resources; topography, geology, and soils; utilities and infrastructure; and hazardous materials and waste. The Draft EIS also analyzes cumulative impacts from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions occurring near the project area. Environmental consequences of the Proposed Action would principally arise from tax revenue and timber sales tax revenue lost in both McIntosh and Long Counties, Georgia. Relevant and reasonable measures that could alleviate environmental effects have been considered.

Schedule: A 45-day public comment period will start upon publication of the EPA Notice of Availability (NOA) in the **Federal Register**. Comments on the Draft EIS must be received by August 27, 2012. The Department of the Navy (DoN) will consider and respond to all comments received on the Draft EIS when preparing the Final EIS. The DoN expects to issue the Final EIS in spring 2013, at which time a NOA will be published in the **Federal Register** and

local print media. A Record of Decision is expected in summer 2013.

J.M. Beal,

Lieutenant Commander, Office of the Judge Advocate General, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-17098 Filed 7-12-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Applications for New Awards; Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Vocational Rehabilitation and Developing Strategies To Meet Employer Needs in Changing Economic Environments

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.

Overview Information:

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)—Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program—Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTCs) on Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and Developing Strategies to Meet Employer Needs in Changing Economic Environments.

Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2012.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.133B-1.

Dates:

Applications Available: July 13, 2012.

Date of Pre-Application Meeting:

August 3, 2012.

Deadline for Transmittal of

Applications: August 27, 2012.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, including international activities; to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities; and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act).

Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTCs)

The purpose of the RRTCs, which are funded through the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act, through advanced research, training, technical assistance, and dissemination activities in general problem areas, as specified by NIDRR. Such activities are designed to benefit rehabilitation service providers, individuals with disabilities, and the family members or other authorized representatives of individuals with disabilities. Additional information on the RRTC program can be found at: www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/res-program.html#RRTC.

Priorities: This competition includes two absolute priorities. The *General RRTC Requirements* priority is from the notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, published in the **Federal Register** on February 1, 2008 (73 FR 6132) and the *RRTC on Vocational Rehabilitation and Developing Strategies to Meet Employer Needs in Changing Economic Environments* priority is from the notice of final priority for this program, published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

Absolute Priorities: For FY 2012 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applicants from this competition, these priorities are absolute priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) we consider only applications that meet these priorities.

These priorities are:

(1) *General RRTC Requirements.*

(2) *RRTC on Vocational*

Rehabilitation and Developing Strategies to Meet Employer Needs in Changing Economic Environments.

Note: The full text of these priorities is included in the pertinent notice of final priority or priorities published in the **Federal Register** and in the application package for this competition.

Program Authority: 29 U.S.C. 762(g) and 764(b)(2).

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, and 97. (b) The Education Department suspension and debarment regulations in 2 CFR part 3485. (c) The regulations for this program in 34 CFR part 350. (d) The notice of final priorities for the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers program, published in the **Federal Register** on February 1, 2008 (73 FR 6132). (e) The notice of final priority for this program, published

elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education (IHEs) only.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

Estimated Available Funds: \$650,000.

Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications, we may make additional awards in FY 2013 from the list of approved but unfunded applicants from this competition.

Maximum Award: We will reject any application that proposes a budget exceeding \$650,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. The Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services may change the maximum amount through a notice published in the **Federal Register**.

Estimated Number of Awards: 1.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 60 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. *Eligible Applicants:* States; public or private agencies, including for-profit agencies; public or private organizations, including for-profit organizations; IHEs; and Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

2. *Cost Sharing or Matching:* This competition does not require cost sharing or matching.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. *Address to Request Application Package:* You can obtain an application package via the Internet or from the Education Publications Center (ED Pubs). To obtain a copy via the Internet, use the following address: www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/grantapps/index.html. To obtain a copy from ED Pubs, write, fax, or call the following: ED Pubs, U.S. Department of Education, P.O. Box 22207, Alexandria, VA 22304. Telephone, toll free: 1-877-433-7827. Fax: (703) 605-6794. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call, toll free: 1-877-576-7734.

You can contact ED Pubs at its Web site, also: www.EDPubs.gov or at its email address: edpubs@inet.ed.gov.

If you request an application package from ED Pubs, be sure to identify this competition as follows: CFDA number 84.133B-1.

Individuals with disabilities can obtain a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotope, or compact disc)

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC MEETINGS ON
THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR
THE PROPOSED MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF
TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE, GEORGIA**

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the United States Marine Corps (USMC) has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the above-referenced project. The Draft EIS has been prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of inert (with spotting charges) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) at Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia.

The Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed modernization and expansion of TBR in McIntosh and Long Counties, Georgia, that would provide a modern and realistic training environment for the F/A-18 pilots of Marine Air Group 31 (MAG-31), stationed at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, South Carolina. To implement the Proposed Action, the USMC would acquire lands and a timber easement in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater variety of training activities, modify existing airspace, construct the required infrastructure to support PGM training, and improve training capabilities. The Draft EIS also evaluates past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions from a cumulative impacts perspective.

The Draft EIS has been distributed to various federal, state, and local agencies, elected officials, and interested parties, and is available for public review at:

Ida Hilton Public Library: 1105 North Way, Darien, GA, 31305

Long County Public Library: 28 S. Main Street, Ludowici, GA, 31316

Hog Hammock Public Library: 1023 Hillery Lane, Sapelo Island, GA, 31327

Electronic copies of the Draft EIS are available upon request by contacting the Townsend Draft EIS Project Manager at (843) 228-7370. Comments on the Draft EIS should be mailed to:

Townsend EIS Project Manager
Post Office Box 180458
Tallahassee, Florida 32318



Comments may also be emailed to townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com or posted to our Web site at www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com. All comments must be received by August 27, 2012.

Two public meetings, using an informal open house format, will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations:

August 7, 2012

McIntosh County
Middle School Gymnasium
500 Green Street
Darien, GA 31305

August 9, 2012

City of Ludowici
City Hall Meeting Room
469 North Macon Street
Ludowici, GA 31316

All written comments postmarked by August 27, 2012, will become part of the official public record and will be responded to in the Final EIS.

Appendix A
Public Notification Documentation

Appendix A.1
Notices

Notices of Public Comment Period Extension

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policy.” A lead agency request to EPA to reduce time periods or another Federal agency (not the lead agency) request to formally extend a time period should be submitted in writing to the Director, Office of Federal Activities, and outline the reasons for the request. These requests can be submitted by email to: EISfiling@epa.gov. EPA will accept telephone requests; however, agencies should follow up such requests in writing so that the documentation supporting the decision is complete. A meeting to discuss the consequences for the project and any decision to change time periods may be necessary. For this reason, EPA asks that it be made aware of any intent to submit requests of this type as early as possible in the NEPA process. This is to prevent the possibility of the time frame for the decision on the time period modification from interfering with the lead agency’s schedule for the EIS. EPA will notify CEQ of any reduction or extension granted.

6. Retention

Filed EISs are retained in the *e-NEPA* Filing system for two years. After two years the EISs are sent to the National Records Center. After a total of twenty (20) years the EISs are transferred to the National Archives Records Administration (NARA).

Please note that EPA maintains a Web site that will make available copies of the filed EISs to the public. The retention schedule does not affect the availability of these electronic copies.

Dated: August 21, 2012.

Cliff Rader,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 2012-20914 Filed 8-23-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-9004-6]

Environmental Impacts Statements; Notice of Availability

AGENCY: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7146 or <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/> Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements Filed 08/13/2012 Through 08/17/2012 Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

Notice

Section 309(a) of the Clean Air Act requires that EPA make public its comments on EISs issued by other Federal agencies. EPA’s comment letters

on EISs are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/eisdata.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Starting October 1, 2012, EPA will not accept paper copies or CDs of EISs for filing purposes; all submissions on or after October 1, 2012 must be made through e-NEPA. While this system eliminates the need to submit paper or CD copies to EPA to meet filing requirements, electronic submission does not change requirements for distribution of EISs for public review and comment. To begin using e-NEPA, you must first register with EPA’s electronic reporting site—https://cdx.epa.gov/epa_home.asp.

EIS No. 20120268, Draft EIS, USFWS, WV, Proposed Issuance of an Incidental Take Permit for the Beech Ridge Energy Wind Project Habitat Conservation Plan, Implementation, Greenbrier and Nicholas Counties, WV, Comment Period Ends: 10/23/2012, Contact: Laura Hill 304-636-6586, ext 18.

EIS No. 20120269, Final EIS, FHWA, CA, State Route 91 Corridor Improvement Project, Widening SR 91 from SR 91/State Route 241 Interchange in Orange County to Pierce Street in Riverside County, Orange and Riverside Counties, CA, Review Period Ends: 09/24/2012, Contact: Aaron Burton 909-388-2841.

EIS No. 20120270, Final Supplement, FHWA, MN, Trunk Highway 60 between Windom and St. James, Implementation of Transportation System Improvements, Funding, USACE Section 404 Permit, Cottonwood and Watonwan Counties, MN, Review Period Ends: 09/24/2012, Contact: Philip Forst 651-291-6110.

EIS No. 20120271, Final EIS, USFWS, NV, Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge Project, Draft Resource Conservation Plan, Implementation, Humboldt and Washoe Counties, NV and Lake County, OR, Review Period Ends: 09/24/2012, Contact: Aaron Collins 541-947-3315, ext. 223.

EIS No. 20120272, Final EIS, USN, CA, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Project, Base wide Water Infrastructure, Construction and Operation, San Diego County, CA, Review Period Ends: 09/24/2012, Contact: Jesse Martinez 619-532-3844.

EIS No. 20120273, Final EIS, FHWA, CO, Breckenridge Ski Resort Peak 6 Project, Implementation, White River National Forest, Summit County, CO, Review Period Ends: 09/24/2012, Contact: Joe Foreman 970-262-3443.

EIS No. 20120274, Draft EIS, USFS, AZ, Prescott National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Implementation, Yavapai and Coconino Counties, AZ, Comment Period Ends: 10/08/2012, Contact: Mary C. Rasmussen 928-443-8265.

EIS No. 20120275, Draft EIS, USFS, MT, Wild Cramer Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project, Swan Lake Ranger District, Flathead National Forest, Flathead County, MT, Comment Period Ends: 10/08/2012, Contact: Richard Kehr 406-837-7500.

Amended Notices

EIS No. 20120201, Draft Supplement, USACE, IN, Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction, Modifications to Project Features and Realignment of the South Warfleigh Section, Marion County, IN, Comment Period Ends: 08/31/2012, Contact: Michael Turner 502-315-6900.

Revision to FR Notice Published 07/20/2012; Extending Comment Period from 08/31/2012 to 09/28/2012.

EIS No. 20120227, Draft EIS, USMC, GA, Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, Acquiring Additional Property and Constructing Infrastructure to Allow the Use of Precision-Guided Munitions, McIntosh and Long Counties, GA, Comment Period Ends: 09/27/2012, Contact: Veronda Johnson 571-256-2783.

Revision to FR Notice Published 7/13/2012; Extending Review Period from 8/27/12 to 09/27/2012.

EIS No. 20120247, Final EIS, USACE, 00, Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Ecosystem Restoration, To Develop a Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration Plan To Restore the Lake Borgne Ecosystems, LA and MS, Review Period Ends: 09/06/2012, Contact: Tammy Gilmore 504-862-1002.

Revision to FR Notice Published 7/27/2012; Extending Review Period from 08/27/2012 to 09/06/2012.

Dated: August 21, 2012.

Cliff Rader,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 2012-20913 Filed 8-23-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

Chairperson and ensure they are provided to members of the United States Air Force Scientific Advisory Board before the meeting that is the subject of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The United States Air Force Scientific Advisory Board Executive Director and Designated Federal Officer, Lt. Col. Matthew E. Zuber, 240-612-5503, United States Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, 1500 West Perimeter Road, Ste. #3300, Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762, matthew.zuber@pentagon.af.mil.

Henry Williams Jr.,
Acting Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-20841 Filed 8-23-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-10-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Notice of Availability for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Widening of the Pascagoula Lower Sound/Bayou Casotte Channel, Jackson County, MS

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD
ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: On April 6, 2011, the Jackson County Port Authority (JCPA) submitted a joint application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Mobile District, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) for authorization to impact wetlands and other waters of the United States associated with the proposed widening of the Pascagoula Lower Sound/Bayou Casotte Channel (the proposed project). The proposed project is located in the Pascagoula Lower Sound/Bayou Casotte, Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi (Latitude 30.365° North, Longitude 88.556° West). The Corps prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project and to promote informed decision-making by appropriate agencies; the DEIS was released April 13, 2012. The Corps is now publishing a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. The proposed project is the dredging of approximately 38,200 feet (7.2 miles) of the existing Pascagoula Lower Sound/

Bayou Casotte Channel segment to widen the channel from the Federally authorized width of 350 feet and depth of - 42 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) (with 2 feet of allowable over-depth and 2 feet of advanced maintenance) to a width of 450 feet, parallel to the existing channel centerline and to the existing Federally authorized depth of - 42 feet MLLW. The proposed project would include the placement of approximately 3.4 million cubic yards of dredged material resulting from the channel modification.

DATES: The Corps invites the public to comment on the Final EIS during the public comment period, which ends September 25, 2012. The Corps will consider all comments postmarked or received during the public comment period in preparing the Record of Decision and will consider late comments to the extent practicable.

Additional information on how to submit comments is included below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Written and emailed comments to the Corps will be received until September 25, 2012. Correspondence concerning this Notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2011-00389-PAH and should be directed to the U.S. Army Engineer District, RD-C-M Attention: Mr. Philip Hegji, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, via email at philip.a.hegji@usace.army.mil or by phone at (251) 690-3222. We encourage any additional comments from interested public, agencies and local officials. For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our Web site at www.sam.usace.army.mil/rd/reg/.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The JCPA requested a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, including a Section 404(b)(1) analysis to help ensure compliance. The Corps is the lead Federal agency for the preparation of this FEIS in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA. The National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Coast Guard are cooperating agencies for the preparation of the EIS.

Dated: August 15, 2012.

Craig J. Litteken,
Chief, Regulatory Division.

[FR Doc. 2012-20942 Filed 8-23-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3720-58-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Extension of Public Comment Period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy (DoN) is extending the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia (GA) until September 27, 2012. A Notice of Availability (NOA) and a Notice of Public Meetings (NOPMs) for the Draft EIS were published in the **Federal Register** on Friday, July 13, 2012 (**Federal Register**/Vol. 77, No. 135, Pages 41385-41387 (NOPMs) and Page 41403 (NOA)). Those notices announced the initial public comment period, including public meetings that took place on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 and Thursday, August 9, 2012, and provided additional information on the background and scope of the Draft EIS. The initial public comment period requested the submission of all comments on the Draft EIS to the DoN by August 27, 2012. The DoN is extending the public comment period until September 27, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Capt. Cochran, 596 Geiger Blvd. MCAS Beaufort, SC 29904 at 843-228-6123.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DoN, as lead agency, has prepared and filed the Draft EIS for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of TBR, GA in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 United States Code 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 Code of Regulations parts 1500-1508). The Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of inert precision-guided munitions (PGMs) at TBR, GA.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide an air-to-ground training range capable of providing a wider variety of air-to-ground operations, including the use of PGMs, to meet current training requirements. The Proposed Action is needed to more efficiently meet current training requirements for the United States

Marine Corps aviation assets by significantly increasing air-to-ground training capabilities in the Beaufort, South Carolina Region. The Draft EIS has identified and considered four action alternatives and a No Action alternative.

More information of the Draft EIS can be found in the previously published NOA and NOPM (see **Federal Register** on Friday, July 13, 2012 (**Federal Register**/Vol. 77, No. 135, Pages 41385–41387 (NOPMs) and Page 41403 (NOA)), Federal, State, and local agencies, elected officials, and other interested parties and individuals, are invited and encouraged to review and comment on the Draft EIS. Comments on the Draft EIS can be submitted via the project email address (townsendbombingrangeise@ene.com), project Web site or submitted in writing to: Townsend Bombing Range EIS Project Manager, Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, Florida, 32318. All comments must be postmarked or electronically dated on or before September 27, 2012 to be sure they become part of the public record.

The Draft EIS has been distributed to various Federal, State, local agencies, and Native American Tribes, as well as other interested parties and individuals. In addition, copies of the Draft EIS are available for public review at the following public libraries: Ida Hilton Public Library, 1105 North Way, Darien, GA, 31305; Long County Public Library, 28 S. Main Street, Ludowici, GA, 31316; and Hog Hammock Public Library, 1023 Hillery Lane, Sapelo Island, GA, 31327.

An electronic copy of the Draft EIS is also available for public viewing at <http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>.

To be considered, all comments on the Draft EIS must be received by September 27, 2012. The DoN will consider and respond to all comments received on the Draft EIS when preparing the Final EIS. The DoN expects to issue the Final EIS in spring 2013, at which time a NOA will be published in the **Federal Register** and local print media. A Record of Decision is expected in summer 2013.

Dated: August 17, 2012.

C.K. Chiappetta,

Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Navy, Office of the Judge Advocate General, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012–20872 Filed 8–23–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810–FF–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Public Hearings for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Outdoor Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Activities, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division, Dahlgren, VA

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section (102)(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500–1508), the Department of the Navy (DoN) has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of expanding Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division's (NSWCDD) research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) activities within the Potomac River Test Range (PRTR) complex, Explosives Experimental Area (EEA) Range complex, the Mission Area, and Special-Use Airspace (SUA) located at Naval Support Facility (NSF) Dahlgren, Dahlgren, VA.

The DoN will conduct three public hearings to receive oral and written comments on the Draft EIS. Federal, state, and local agencies, elected officials, and other interested individuals and organizations are invited to be present or represented at the public hearings. This notice announces the dates and locations of the public hearings for this Draft EIS.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: Public hearings will be held on the following dates and locations:

1. September 11, 2012 at the Newburg Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department, 12245 Rock Point Road, Newburg, MD 20664;
2. September 12, 2012 at the A.T. Johnson Alumni Museum, 18849 Kings Highway, Montross, VA 22520; and
3. September 13, 2012 at the Mary Washington University-Dahlgren Campus, 4224 University Drive, King George, VA 22485.

All meetings will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and will begin with a presentation followed by a public comment period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Commander, Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division, 6149 Welsh Road, Suite 203, Dahlgren, VA 22448–

5130, Attn: Code C6 (NSWCDD PAO), Fax: 1–540–653–4679, Email: DLGR_NSWC_EIS@NAVY.MIL, Phone: 1–540–653–8154, or Web site: <http://www.navsea.navy.mil/nswc/dahlgren/EIS/index.aspx>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A Notice of Intent to prepare the NSWCDD Outdoor RDT&E Activities Draft EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on June 18, 2007 (72 FR 33456–33457). Five public scoping meetings were held on the following dates and locations:

1. July 23, 2007, Shiloh Baptist Church, 13457 Kings Highway, King George, VA 22485;
2. July 24, 2007, Christ Episcopal Church, 37497 Zach Fowler Road, Chaptico, MD 20621;
3. July 25, 2007, La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, 911 Washington Avenue, La Plata, MD 20646;
4. July 30, 2007, Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, 203 Dennison Street, Colonial Beach, VA 22443; and
5. July 31, 2007, Callao Rescue Squad Hall, 1348 Northumberland Highway, Callao, VA 22435.

The proposed action is to expand NSWCDD's RDT&E capabilities within the PRTR Complex, the EEA Range Complex, Mission Area, and SUA. These RDT&E activities include outdoor operations that require the use of ordnance, high-power electromagnetic (EM) energy, high-energy (HE) lasers, and chemical and biological simulants (non-toxic substances used to mimic dangerous agents). Under the proposed action, the average number of events that could take place annually (with the exception of large-caliber gun firing events) would increase above current baseline levels. To ensure that equipment and materials work effectively, even in less-than-ideal conditions, some activities would take place under conditions in which activities are now rarely/never conducted, such as at dusk, dawn, and night and in adverse weather.

The purpose of the proposed action is to enable NSWCDD to meet current and future mission-related warfare and force-protection requirements by providing RDT&E of surface ship combat systems, ordnance, HE lasers and directed-energy systems, force-level warfare, and homeland and force protection.

The need for the proposed action is to enable the DoN and other stakeholders to successfully meet current and future national and global defense challenges required under 10 U.S.C. 5062 (2006) by developing a robust capability to carry out assigned RDT&E activities within the PRTR and EEA Range Complexes,

**Notice to Extend Public Comment Period for the
Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the
Proposed Modernization and Expansion of
Townsend Bombing Range, McIntosh County, Georgia**

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the United States Marine Corps (USMC) has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the above-referenced project. The Draft EIS has been prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of inert (with spotting charges) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) at Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia.

The USMC initiated a 45-day Draft EIS Comment Period that was scheduled to end on August 27, 2012. The USMC has decided to extend the Draft EIS Comment Period to September 27, 2012. The public may submit comments during the extended comment period via the project Web site (www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com) and project email address (townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com).

All written comments must be postmarked by September 27, 2012. Written comments may be sent to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
Post Office Box 180458
Tallahassee, Florida 32318



All written comments postmarked by September 27, 2012 will become part of the official public record and will be responded to in the Final EIS.

Appendix A
Public Notification Documentation

Appendix A.2
Mailing List

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Draft Environmental Impact Statement Mailing List

Federal Government	
Federal Elected Officials	
Senator Saxby Chambliss 100 Galleria Parkway Suite 1340 Atlanta GA 30339	Senator Saxby Chambliss ATTN: Ms. Kathryn Murphy P.O. Box 13832 Savannah, GA 31416
Senator Johnny Isakson One Overton Park, Suite 970 3625 Cumberland Blvd Atlanta, GA, 30339	Senator Johnny Isakson ATTN: Mr. Jared Downs P.O. Box 10688 Savannah, GA 31412
Senator Lindsey Graham 508 Hampton Street, Suite 202 Columbia, SC 29201	Senator Jim DeMint 39 Broad Street Suite 300 Charleston, SC 29401
Representative Jack Kingston ATTN: Ms. Merritt Myers 1510 Newcastle Street Suite 200 Brunswick, GA 31520	Representative Joe Wilson 903 Port Republic Street Beaufort, SC 29901
Representative Tim Scott 2000 Sam Rittenberg Blvd, Suite 3007 Charleston, SC 29407	
Federal Agencies	
Mr. Douglas Murphy Regional Administrator Federal Aviation Administration Southern Region FAA Southern Regional Office PO Box 20636 1701 Columbia Ave. College Park, GA 30337 Atlanta, GA 30320	Major Phillip May Regional Administrator Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 4 3003 Chamblee Tucker Road Atlanta, GA 30341
Dr. Roy Crabtree Regional Administrator National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association Southeastern Region Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office 263 13th Ave S St. Petersburg, FL 33701	Colonel Eric Conrad Commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Atlantic Division 60 Forsyth St. SW Atlanta, GA 30345
Rodney Barry Division Administrator U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration Georgia Division 61 Forsyth, SW Suite 17T100 Atlanta, GA 30303	Ms. Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming Regional Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303
Cynthia Dohner Regional Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Region 1875 Century Boulevard, NE Suite 400 Atlanta, GA 30345	Elizabeth Agpaa Regional Forester U.S. Forest Service Region 8, Southern Region 1720 Peachtree Rd, N.W. Atlanta, GA 30309
Gregory Hogue Regional Environmental Officer U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance Atlanta Region 75 Spring Street SW Suite 1144 Atlanta, GA 30303	Dr. Willie R. Taylor Director U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance 1849 C. Street NW Washington, DC 20240

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Mailing List

Federal Agencies (continued)	
Leonard Jordan Regional Conservationist, East U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service 14th and Independence Ave, SW Room 6101-A Washington, DC 20250	Mr. Mark D. Ward Group Manager Federal Aviation Administration Operations Support Group, Eastern Service Center Air Traffic Organization 1701 Columbia Drive Mail Code: AJV-E2 College Park, GA 30337
Mr. Don Musser Military and Special Operations, Jacksonville ARTCC (ZJX) Federal Aviation Administration Airspace and Procedures Office 37075 Aviation Lane Hillard, FL 32046	Mr. Heinz Mueller Chief, NEPA Program Office U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 61 Forsyth Street, SWMail Code: 9T25 Atlanta, GA 30303
James E. Tillman, Sr. State Conservationist Natural Resources Conservation Service Georgia USDA Office 355 East Hancock Ave Stop Number 200 Athens, GA 30601	Mr. Dave Purser NEPA Coordinator U.S. Forest Service Region 8, Southern Region 1720 Peachtree Rd, N.W. Atlanta, GA 30309
Mr. Strant Colwell Field Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Brunswick Ecological Services Field Office/Coastal Sub-Office 4980 Wildlife Drive N. E. Townsend, GA 31331	Colonel Jeffrey M. Hall Commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District PO Box 889 ATTN: Mark Padgett Savannah, GA 31402
State Government	
State Elected Officials	
Nathan Deal Governor Governor of Georgia 203 State Capitol Atlanta, GA 30334	Nikki Haley Governor Governor of South Carolina 1205 Pendleton Street Columbia, SC 29201
Tommie Williams Senator Georgia State Senate District 19; Senator from Long County; President Pro Tempore 148 Williams Avenue Lyons, GA 30436	William T. Ligon, Jr. Deputy Whip Georgia State Senate District 3; Senator from McIntosh County 158 Scranton Connector Brunswick, GA 31525
Earl "Buddy" Carter Senator Georgia State Senate District 1; Senator for Bryan County and portions of Chatham and Liberty Counties 406 Purple Finch Drive Pooler, GA 31322	Roger Lane Representative Georgia State House of Representatives District 167; Representative for Long and McIntosh Counties P.O. Box 899-D Darien, GA 31305
Al Williams Representative Georgia State House of Representatives District 165; Represents portions of Liberty county including Hinesville. 9041 East Oglethorpe Highway Midway, GA 31320	Chad Nimmer Representative Georgia State House of Representatives District 178; Represents portions of Wayne County including Jesup 3401 Twin Lake Road Blackshear, GA 31516

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Mailing List

State Elected Officials (continued)	
Shannon Erickson Representative South Carolina State House of Representatives District 124 129 S. Hermitage Road Beaufort, SC 29902	Kenneth Hodges Representative South Carolina State House of Representatives District 121 P.O. Drawer 355 Green Pond, SC 29446
Tom Davis Senator South Carolina State Senate District 46; Senator from Beaufort County P.O. Drawer 1107 Beaufort, SC 29901-1107	
State Agencies	
Maj Gen Jim Butterworth Adjutant General of Georgia Georgia Department of Defense P.O. Box 1970 Marietta, GA 30061	Maj Gen Thomas R. Moore Assistant Adjutant General and Commander of the Georgia Air National Guard Georgia Department of Defense HQ GA ANG/CC, 1388 First Street, Building 840 Dobbins ARB, GA 30069
Colonel Todd A. Freeseaman Commander Georgia Air National Guard Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center ATTN: Maj. Brian Ellis 1401 Robert B. Miller Jr. Drive Garden City, GA 31408-9001	Ms. Katrina Morris Environmental Review Coordinator Georgia Department of Natural Resources Non-Game Conservation Section 2065 U.S. Highway 278 SE Social Circle, GA 30025
Mike Beatty Commissioner Georgia Department of Community Affairs 60 Executive Park South Atlanta, GA 30329	Mr. Keith Golden Commissioner Georgia Department of Transportation 600 W. Peachtree St., NW Atlanta, GA 30308
Mr. Rahn Milligan Regional Representative Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Region 6 151 Langston Chapel Road Suite 700 Statesboro, GA 30459	Mr. Brent L. Dykes Executive Director Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Headquarters 4310 Lexington Road Athens, GA 30603
Mr. Robert Farris Director Georgia Forestry Commission Districts 8 and 10 5645 Riggins Mill Road Dry Branch, GA 31020	Chris Cumiskey Commissioner Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) 75 Fifth Street, N.W. Suite 1200 Atlanta, GA 30308
Colonel Mark McDonough Commissioner Georgia Department of Public Safety P.O. Box 1456 Atlanta, GA 30371	Mr. Gary W. Black Commissioner Georgia Department of Agriculture 204 Agricultural Building 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr., SW Atlanta, GA 30334
Mr. Judson Turner Director Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Suite 1152 East Tower Atlanta, GA 30334	Mr. Daniel Forster Director Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division 2070 U.S. Hwy. 278, SE Social Circle, GA 30025

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Mailing List

State Agencies (continued)	
Mr. Michael Harris Chief Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division, Nongame Conservation Section 2070 U.S. Hwy. 278, SE Social Circle, GA 30025-4711	Chris Clark President and CEO Georgia Chamber of Commerce 233 Peachtree Street, NE Atlanta, GA 30303-1564
Ms. Betsy Shirk Georgia Historic Protection Division 254 Washington Street, SW Ground Level Atlanta, GA 30334	Ms. Leigh Cureton Georgia Wildlife Resources Division 2070 US Highway 278, SE Social Circle, GA 30025
Ms. Doralyn Kirkland Georgia Environmental Protection Division 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Suite 1152 Atlanta, GA 30334	Mr. Brad Gane Ecological Services Section Chief Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division One Conservation Way Brunswick, GA 31520
Mr. A.G. Woodward Director Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division One Conservation Way Brunswick, GA 31520-8686	
Local Government	
Ms. Kelly Spratt Chairperson McIntosh County Board of Commissioners Commissioner at Large PO Box 662 Darien, GA 31305	Mr. Stephen Jessup Sheriff McIntosh County Sheriff's Office 12317 Georgia Hwy 251 Darien, GA 31305
Mr. Brett Cook County Manager McIntosh County P.O. Box 452 Darien, GA 31305	Dr. Tina Kirby Interim Superintendent McIntosh County Schools 200 Pine Street Darien, GA 31305
Mr. Paul Griffin Chair McIntosh County Board of Tax Assessors P.O. Box 801 Darien, GA 31305	Mr. Charles Jordan Commissioner McIntosh County Board of Commissioners P.O. Box 584 Darien, GA 31305
Mr. David Stevens Vice-Chairman McIntosh County Board of Commissioners P.O. Box 584 Darien, GA 31305	Mr. Mark Douglas Commissioner McIntosh County Board of Commissioners P.O. Box 584 Darien, GA 31305
Mr. Clifton DeLoach Commissioner Long County Board of Commissioners P.O. Box 453 Ludowici, GA 31316	Mr. David Richardson Vice-Chairman Long County Board of Commissioners Rt. 2 Box 109 Ludowici, GA 31316
Mr. Patrick Zoucks County Clerk McIntosh County P.O. Box 584 Darien, GA 31305	Mr. J. Andy Fuller Commissioner Long County Board of Commissioners P.O. Box 905 Ludowici, GA 31316

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Mailing List

Local Government (continued)	
Mr. Joel Williams Commissioner McIntosh County Board of Commissioners P.O. Box 584 Darien, GA 31305	Mr. Wallace Shaw Commissioner Long County Board of Commissioners Rt. 3 Box 31-2 Ludowici, GA 31316
Hugh "Bubba" Hodge Mayor City of Darien City Council c/o City of Darien PO Box 452 Darien, GA 31305	Brett Cook City Manager Office of Mayor, City of Darien c/o City of Darien PO Box 452 Darien, GA 31305
Mr. Robert C. Walker Chairman Long County Board of Commissioners District 5 P. O. Box 476 PO Box 223 Ludowici, GA 31316	Craig Nobles Sheriff Long County Sheriff's Office PO Box 368 Ludowici, GA 31316
Becky Fowler Tax Commissioner Long County Tax Commissioner P.O. Box 628 479 South McDonald, Suite A Ludowici, GA 31316	Beverly Johnson Chief Appraiser Long County Tax Assessor's Office P.O. Box 642 Ludowici, GA 31316
Mr. Mark Hall Long County Development Authority 479 Millpond Road, SE Ludowici, GA 31316	Mr. Frank Middleton Clerk Long County P.O. Box 458 Ludowici, GA 31316
Dr. Robert Waters Superintendent Long County School System P.O. Box 428 Ludowici, GA 31316	James Fuller Mayor City of Ludowici City Council PO Box 396 Ludowici, GA 31316
Billy Keyserling Mayor City of Beaufort City Council Administration Building Room 150 100 Ribaut Road Beaufort Beaufort, SC 22902	Weston Newton Chairman Beaufort County County Council, District 4 P.O. Box 1938 Bluffton, SC 29910
Paul Sommerville Councilman Beaufort County County Council, District 7 1509 Pigeon Point Road Beaufort, SC 29902	Samuel Murray Mayor Town of Port Royal City Council 612 16th Street Port Royal, SC 29935
Jerry "Shag" Wright Chaiman Wayne County Commission District 2 P.O. Box 270 Jesup, GA 31598	Herb Shaw Mayor City of Jesup 162 East Cherry Street Jesup, GA 31546

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Mailing List

Local Government (continued)	
Mr. Mike Deal City Manager City of Jesup 162 East Cherry Street Jesup, GA 31546	John D. McIver Chairman Liberty County Board of Commissioners P. O. Box 829 Hinesville, GA 31313
Jim Thomas, Jr. Mayor City of Hinesville 115 East M.L. King, Jr. Drive Hinesville, GA 31313	William Austin Mayor City of Riceboro 4614 S. Coastal Highway Riceboro, GA 31313
Tribal Nations	
George Blanchard Governor Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma 2025 Gordon Cooper Drive Shawnee, OK 74801	Tarpie Yargee Chief Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town P.O. Box 187 Wetumka, OK 74883
Bill Harris Chief Catawba Indian Nation 996 Avenue of the Nations Rock Hill, SC 29730	Chadwick Smith Principle Chief Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma P.O. Box 948 Tahlequa, OK 74465
Bill Anoatubby, Governor Chickasaw Nation P.O. Box 1548 Ada, OK 74821	Gregory Pyle Chief Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma P.O. Box 1210 ATTN: Dr. Ian Thompson, Director Historic Preservation Department Durant, OK 74702
Kevin Sickey Chairman Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana P.O. Box 455 Elton, LA 70532	Michell Hicks Principal Chief Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina P.O. Box 455 Cherokee, NC 28719
Glenna J. Wallace Chief Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma P.O. Box 350 Seneca, MO 64865	Mekko Tiger Hobia Town King/Mekko Kialegee Tribal Town P.O. Box 332 Wetumka, OK 74883
Phyllis Anderson Tribal Chief Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians 101 Industrial Road Choctaw, MS 39350	Steven Terry Land Resource Manager Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Mile Marker 70 US Hwy 41 Miami, FL 33194
A.D. Ellis Principal Chief Muscogee (Creek) Nation P.O. Box 580 Okmulgee, OK 74447	Buford Rolin Chairman Poarch Band of Creek Indians 5811 Jack Springs Road Atmore, AL 36502
Leonard Harjo Principal Chief Seminole Nation of Oklahoma P.O. Box 1498 Wewoka, OK 74868	Ron Sparkman Chairman Shawnee Tribe P.O. Box 189 Miami, OK 74355

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Mailing List

Tribal Nations (continued)	
Mitchell Cypress Chairman Seminole Tribe of Florida 6300 Stirling Road Hollywood, FL 33204	Leo Henry Chief Tuscarora Nation 2235 Mount Hope Road Sanborn, NY 14123
George Scott Town King Thlopthlocco Tribal Town P.O. Box 188 Okemah, OK 74859	George Wickliffe Chief United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee P.O. Box 746 Tahlequa, OK 74465
Other Organizations and Groups	
Allen Burns Executive Director Coastal Regional Commission 127 F Street Brunswick, GA 31520	Mr. Craig Russell Account Manager Forest Resource Consultants 1233 Tram Road, NW Townsend, GA 31331
Jeff Ricketson Director Fort Stewart Growth Management Partnership 306 North Main Street Suite 1C Hinesville, GA 31313	Dave Willis Government Relations Manager Association of County Commission Governments of Georgia 50 Hurt Plaza Suite 1000 Atlanta, GA 30303
David Bockel Executive Director, Major General (Ret) Georgia Military Affairs Coordinating Committee 270 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 2200 Atlanta, GA 30303	Jan Chamberlain Chair Darien-McIntosh Chamber of Commerce 105 Fort King George Road Darien, GA 31305
Wally Orrel Executive Director McIntosh County Industrial Development Authority P.O. Box 896 Darien, GA, 31305	Mr. Gerald Cail President Portal Hunting Club 1909 Stuckey Lane Statesboro, GA 30461
Tom Kramer Manager, Air Traffic Services Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Government Affairs 421 Aviation Way Frederick, MD 21701	Hope Macaluso President Georgia Airports Association Atlanta Regional Airport, Falcon Field Peachtree City, GA 30269
Mr. Danny Lindsey Vice President, Transmission Georgia Power ATTN: Mr. Terry Hodges BIN 10180, 241 Ralph McGill Blvd, NE Atlanta, GA 30308	Mr. D.L. Seals Cleary Davis Hunting Club PO Box 1534 Ponte Vedra, FL 32004
Michael Smith President and CEO Georgia Transmission 2100 E. Exchange Place Tucker, GA 30084	Thomas Wright Navy League/Savannah Maritime Association/Propellor Club 710 Bradley Point Road Savannah, GA 31410
Col. (Ret.) Bill Cain Deputy Executive Director, Georgia Military Affairs Coordinating Committee 233 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 2000 Atlanta, GA 30303	Verizon Wireless of the East LP 180 Washington Valley Road Bedminster, NJ 07921

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Other Organizations and Groups (continued)

Ms. Hope Macaluso President, Georgia Airports Association Atlanta Regional Airport – Falcon Field Peachtree City, GA 30269	Mr. Rob Teilhet Executive Director, Georgia Conservation Voters 175 Trinity Avenue, SW, Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30303
Mr. Mark Woodall Chapter Chair, The Sierra Club, Georgia Chapter 743 E. College Ave, Suite B Decatur, GA 30030	Mr. John W. Somerhalder II President, Atlanta Gas Light P.O. Box 4569 Atlanta, GA 30302

Conservation Organizations

Ms. Deborah Sheppard Riverkeeper Altamaha Riverkeeper P.O. Box 2642 Darien, GA 31305	Thomas Farmer Director, Government Relations The Nature Conservancy, Georgia Chapter 1330 West Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 410 Atlanta, GA 30309
Howard Pierre President Georgia Conservancy 817 W. Peachtree Street, Suite 200 Atlanta, GA 30308	Mark Woodall Chapter Chair The Sierra Club Georgia Chapter 743 E. College Ave., Suite B Decatur, GA 30030
Jason Goldstein Southern Natural Gas 569 Brookwood Village, #501 Birmingham, AL 35209-4525	Mickey Desai President The Georgia Lakes Society P.O. Box 440994 Kennesaw, GA 30160
Jamie Hawk Executive Director Atlanta Audubon Society 4055 Roswell Road Atlanta, GA 30342	Jacqueline McRae President Georgia Native Plant Society P.O. Box 422085 Atlanta, GA 30342
Nathaniel Hunt Associate Attorney Southern Environmental Law Center The Candler Building 127 Peachtree St. Atlanta, GA 30303	April Ingle Executive Director Georgia River Network 126 South Milledge Avenue Suite E3 Athens, GA 30605
Mary Topa Executive Director Georgia Forest Watch 15 Tower Road Elijay, GA 30540	Hazel Langrall Executive Director Central Savannah, River Land Trust P.O. Box 148 Augusta, GA 30903
Jerry McCollum President and CEO Georgia Wildlife Federation 11600 Hazelbrand Road Covington, GA 30014	Altamaha River Partnership 239 NE Park Avenue Suite E Baxley, GA 31513
Anne Spengler Southeast Land Preservation Trust 11 Wildwood Valley Atlanta, GA 30350	Stutts Steve President Georgia Land Trust 428 Bull Street, Suite 210 Savannah, GA 31401
Rob Teilhet Executive Director Georgia Conservation Voters 175 Trinity Avenue SW Atlanta, GA 30303	

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Media	
Mr. Andrew Burt (a) Inside the Navy 1919 S. Eads Street, Suite 201 Arlington, VA 22202	Mr. Joe Parker, Jr. (a) 259 Old Gun Road Midway, GA 31320
Ms. Kathleen Russell The Darien News P.O. Box 4910 Darien, GA 31305	Ms. Maggie Toussaint The Darien News PO Box 4910 Darien, GA 31305
The Florida Times-Union P.O. Box 1949 Jacksonville, FL 32231	Ms. Erika Capek The Brunswick News P.O. Box 1557 Brunswick, GA 31521
Mr. Frank Tilton 1281 Gillican Avenue, NE Townsend, GA 31331	The Beaufort Gazette P.O. 5727 Hilton Head Island, SC 29938
Mr. Mark Riddle Coastal Courier 125 S. Main Street Hinesville, GA 31310	
Landowners	
Mr. Lee Thomas President and CEO Rayonier Forest Resources LP ATTN: Mr. Curtis Hensyl 1901 Island Walkway Fernandina Beach, FL 32034	Mr. L. Michael Kelly President FIATP SSF Timber, LLC 3575 Piedmont Road NE Atlanta, GA 30305
Mr. L. Michael Kelly President Goodwood Georgia, LLC Forest Investment Associates LP 15, Piedmont Center Suite 1250 Atlanta, GA 30305	Mr. William Tan Chief Executive Officer RTOC Limited Partnership P.O. Box 728 Fernandina Beach, FL 32035
Mr. R. Lee Smith Mid-Ohio Securities Corp 1888 River Road Jacksonville, FL 32207	Cory Collins Molpus Woodlands Group 654 N. State Street Jackson, MS 39202
Mr. Frank Williams P.O. Box 62 Meridian, GA 31319	Mr. Billy Smith 67 Low Country Lane SW Ludowici, GA 31316
Ellis Rozier 1038 Moore Road Columbus, GA 31904	Lewis Weiner Counsel to Rayonier Forest Resources, L.P. Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP 1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20004-2415
Citizens and Organizations that Attended Scoping/Public Meetings or Commented During Public Scoping/Comment Period	
Bobby Dennison 3590 Waycross Highway Jesup, GA 31545	Robert Cook 4016 Tibet Highway, SE Ludowici, GA 31316
Edward Stelle 4097 Julienton Dr., NE Townsend, GA 31331	Linda Lamb P.O. Box 1106 Darien, GA 31305
Sandra Cauley P.O. Box 142 Townsend, GA 31331	Clay Davis P.O. Box 2580 Darien, GA 31305

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Mailing List	
Citizens and Organizations that Attended Scoping/Public Meetings or Commented During Public Scoping/Comment Period (continued)	
Don Melton P.O. Box 646 Allenhurst, GA 31301	Gilbert R. Smith 1299 Black Road Extension, SE Darien, GA 31305
Linda Hall 144 Christian Lane, NE Ludowici, GA 31316	Ivy Rozier 1875 Old Townsend Road, NW Townsend, GA 31331
James W. Phillips P.O. Box 309 Darien, GA 31305	Paul Griffin 1088 Mission Dr., SE Darien, GA 31305
Marshall Gaddis PO Box 2094 Darien, GA 31305-2094	Mike and Terri McGowan 91 Mike Herbert Place Ludowici, GA 31316
Thomas V. Maulden 317 Old Macon Darien Rd., SE Ludowici, GA 31316	Kerry Hunt 113 Wilson Street, SW Ludowici, GA 31316
David Repass 501 Riverside Ave., Suite 901 Jacksonville, FL 32202	Jasper L. Colson 413 Colson Lane, SE Ludowici, GA 31316
John Baker 4169 Julienton Drive, NE Townsend, GA 31331	Mark and Kathy Davidson 1814 Bond Road, SE Darien, GA 31305
Robert and Glenda Emerson 1001 River Plantation Place Townsend, GA 31331	Thomas Gore P.O. Box 70 Meridian, GA 31319
Deonne Rozier Cave 801 Stonewall Jackson Place Waycross, GA 31503	Janet Yeager 1175 Julienton Road, NE Townsend, GA 31331
Joel Feldman 9785 Laview Circle Roswell, GA 30075	Richard Marsh 2441 Coopers Point Drive Townsend, GA 31331
Thomas McCay 207 Atkinson Ave. Savannah, GA 31404	Ava Reddish 1006 Reddish Road, NE Ludowici, GA 31316
Bill and Barbara Weaver 205 W. Common Dr. St. Simmons Island, GA 31522	William T. Austin P.O. Box 269 Riceboro, GA 31323
Rosalaine D. Chambers 1609 Eagle Neck Dr. NE Townsend GA, 31331	Michelle Poppell Long County Code Enforcement 49 McDonald Street Ludowici, GA 31316
Sunny Emmert Georgia Department of Natural Resources One Conservation Way Brunswick, GA 31520-8687	Johnny L. Gordon 9895 W. Old Barrington Rd. P.O. Box 203 Ludowici, GA 31316
George W. Guyett P.O. Box 2217 Hinesville, GA 31310	Kate Henry CDM Smith Northcreek Office Park 3715 Northside Parkway, NW Building 300, Suite 400 Atlanta, GA 30327
Sean Martin Fort Stewart Growth Management Partnership 306 N. Main St. #1C Hinesville, GA 31313	Dewitt Middleton 2928 Tibet Hwy SE Ludowici, GA 31316

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Mailing List	
Citizens and Organizations that Attended Scoping/Public Meetings or Commented During Public Scoping/Comment Period (continued)	
David Mixon Georgia Department of Natural Resources One Conservation Way Brunswick, GA 31520-8687	Gary Swindell Sr. 281 Gary Swindell Ln. Ludowici, GA 31316
Phil Swindell 5370 Rye Patch Rd. Ludowici, GA 31316	Christy Walker PO Box 458 Ludowici, GA 31316
Hilton H. Wiggins Jr. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Game Management 221 Fantasia Drive, NE Ludowici, GA 31316	Sam Brown 401 W St. Darien, GA 31305
Teresa Couranna Department of Community Affairs P.O. Box 2045 Statesboro, GA 30459	Edwin and Tanis Cross 1154 River Dr. SW Darien, GA 31331
Archie Davis 205 W. Fourth St. Darien, GA 31305	Boyd L. Gault P.O. Box 985 Darien, GA 31305
Paul Glenn P.O. Box 899 Darien, GA 31305	Dorset Hurley 4703 Cox Rd. Townsend, GA 31331
John and Gertie Lewis 1501 Lewis Lane SW Townsend, GA 31331	Bob and Cherry Monroe P.O. Box 2298 Darien, GA 31305
Sheila Noble Blood of Judah Ministry P.O. Box 1009 Darien, GA 31305	Kevin Ryals 3750 GA Hwy 57 Townsend, GA 31331
Alvin Selle 256 Pleasant Hill Rd. Blountville, TN 37617	Juliette Sowell 1044 Mission Dr. SE Darien, GA 31305
Donald Waddell Eagle Neck Airpark 1034 Hammerhead Way NE Townsend, GA 31331	Martha B. Williams P.O. Box 62 Meridian, GA 31319
Frank B. Williams Jr. P.O. Box 99 Meridian, GA 31319	Roger Houston 1547 Elim Church Road Ludowici, GA 31316
Charlie Hinson 4200 S. US Highway 341 Jesup, GA 31546	Marilou Moore 106 Wesley Oak Drive Saint Simons Island, GA 31522
Emily B. Davis P.O. Box 442 Darien, GA 31305	Daniel A. Tucker Portal Hunting Club 330 Gleason Ave. Pooler, GA 31322
Sheryl Schooley 91 Screven Street Darien, GA 31305	Cary A. Wicker 1481 Parnell Road Townsend, GA 31331
Mark A. Werner 1819 Ocean Dr. South Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250	Billy Wilkinson 2231 Steve Nelson Road, NE Townsend, GA 31331
James Holland 232 Buck Swamp Road Brunswick, GA 31523	Janisse Ray 895 Catherine T. Sanders Road Reidsville, GA 30453

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Mailing List	
Citizens and Organizations that Attended Scoping/Public Meetings or Commented During Public Scoping/Comment Period (continued)	
Peyton Lingle 2317 Julienton Dr., NE Townsend, GA 31331-5021	Ron and Cheryl Popiel 5690 Cox Road, SW Townsend, GA. 31331
Frank E. Field Community Development Director, City of Darien 106 Washington St. Darien, GA 31305	Colette W. Edmisten Operations Manager, Glynn County Airport Commission 400 Airways Ave. Savannah, GA 31408
Jim Morrison 1995 Seabreeze Drive, SE Darien, GA 31305	Thomas D. Houston 1702 Elim Church Road, NE Ludowici, GA 31316
Jim Ussery Assistant Director, GA DNR 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 1252 East Tower Atlanta, GA 30334	Diane Cronin 4703 Cox Road, SW Townsend, GA 31331
Captain Arthur Morgan 6455 Saddlebridge Court Cumming, GA 30040	Julius Rozier 1364 Church of God Road Townsend, GA 31331
Ray and Penny Salter 1185 Stewart Hodges Loop, NE Ludowici, GA 31316	The Reddish's 337 Sands Lane, NE Ludowici, GA 31316
Chris and Erin Crouse P.O. Box 477 Darien, GA 31305	James Williams 141 Sunset Blvd. Beaufort, SC 29907
Jeffrey Spratt P.O. Box 662 Darien, GA 31305	Kevin Kiernan 1316 Oak Street Saint Simons Island, GA 31522
Kenny Nobles 9512 Cecil Nobles Highway Ludowici, GA 31316	Wayne Owens 1078 Live Oak Cove, NE Townsend, GA 31331
Bruce Rozier 148 Java Lane Hortense, GA 31543	Mr. Patrick S. Graham Savannah Airport Commission 400 Airways Ave. Savannah, GA 31408
Jeff Bewsher Legacy Wildlife 4818 U.S. Hwy 90, Suite 100 Lake City, FL 32055	Billy and Jane Clark 3582 Tibet Hwy SE Ludowici, GA 31316
Larry Golden PO Box 705 Hinesville, GA 31313	Charles and Linda Gordon 189 Pearl Davis Rd. SE Ludowici, GA 31316
George Hamby 417 Newcastle St. Brunswick, GA 31520	Jim McGowan 91 Mike Herbert Place NE Ludowici, GA 31316
Harry Middleton 3672 Tibet Hwy Ludowici, GA 31316	Kenneth E. Moody P.O. Box 200 Allenhurst, GA 31301
Emma Strickland 66 Hope Cemetery Rd. Ludowici, GA 31316	Mike Swindell 409 Darwel Long Rd. NE Ludowici, GA 31316
Ruben R. Walling Sr. 8690 Hwy 57 Ludowici, GA 31316	Will Berson Georgia Conservancy 428 Bull St. Savannah, GA 31401

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Mailing List

Citizens and Organizations that Attended Scoping/Public Meetings or Commented During Public Scoping/Comment Period (continued)

Tom Carr Georgia Department of Transportation 4005 Fulton Industrial Blvd. Atlanta, GA 30036	Luke Cousins Campbell and Paris Engineering 365 Hickory Bluff Dr. Waverly, GA 31565
Calvin Johnson 1341 Mentionville Rd. SW Darien, GA 31305	Edgar Davis Jr. 10517 SW Cox Townsend, GA 31331
Lloyd Flanders Lower Altamaha Historical Society P.O. Box 542 Darien, GA 31305	Hunter Glenn 1344 Manchester Rd. SE Townsend, GA 31331
Danny Grissette Altamaha Coastal Tours 229 Fort King George Dr. Darien, GA 31305	Mike Harris Georgia Department of Natural Resources 2070 U.S. Hwy 278 SE Social Circle, GA 30025-4711
David C. Idleman 104 21 st St. W. Darien, GA 31305	Christi Lambert P.O. Box 59 Darien, GA 31305
Larry Lyons Rayonier Forest Resources LP 1901 Island Walkway Fernandina Beach, FL 32034	Stephen Mooney CAP Brunswick 118 Rivera Dr. St. Simons Island, GA 31522
Steve Raper Georgia Department of Natural Resources 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. SE, Suite 1252, East Tower Atlanta, GA 30334	Frank Scott 16 Fariway Drive St. Simons Island, GA 31522
Luther Smart 103 Sapelo Street Saint Simons Island GA 31322	Will White P.O. Box 259 Crescent, GA 31304
Rebecca Williams P.O. Box 62 Meridian, GA 31319	Joel Williams P.O. Box 294 Darien, GA 31305
Johnny Zoucks Darien Telephone 1011 North Way Darien, GA 31305	Mr. and Mrs. Herman Wells 149 Game Warden Rd. SE Ludowici, GA 31316
Concerned Citizen 2206 Old Barrington Road Ludowici, GA 31316	Concerned Citizen 2202 Old Barrington Road Ludowici, GA 31316
Mr. Gary Gordon 994 Old Barrington Road SW Ludowici, GA 31316	Mr. Robert Long 140 Moody Bridge Road NE Ludowici, GA 31316
Concerned Citizen P.O. Box 818 Ludowici, GA 31316	Mr. Thomas Wright 710 Bradley Point Road Savannah, GA 31410
Concerned Citizen 2553 Cecil Nobles Highway Ludowici, GA 31316	Mr. Robert Berry 412 Lamar Berry Lane Glenville, GA 30427
Mr. Randy Simmons Long County Rec. Department 374 Arnold Drive SE Ludowici, GA 31316	Mr. John Jones Long County Zoning Board 49 Jones Dr. SE Ludowici, GA 31316

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Mailing List	
Citizens and Organizations that Attended Scoping/Public Meetings or Commented During Public Scoping/Comment Period (continued)	
Ms. Alison McGee The Nature Conservancy PO Box 484 Darien, GA 31405	Mr. Mark I. Hall Long County Development Authority 479 Millpond Rd. SE Ludowici, GA 31316
Mr. Larry Middleton 2447 Old Barrington Rd SW Ludowici, GA 31316	Mr. and Mrs. Johny Reddish 337 Sando Lane Ludowici, GA 31316
Mr. Craig Stafford PO Box 339 Hinesville, GA 31310	Mr. Darrell Ballancie PO Box 770 Ludowici, GA 31316
Mr. Grant Dean PO Box 1535 Darien, GA 31305	Ms. Nell Fischette PO Box 1831 Darien, GA 31305
Concerned Citizen 5552 Highway 196 West Hinesville, GA 31313	Mr. Harold Long 1401 Darwell Long Rd. Ludowici, GA 31316
Ms. Lillian Banks 614 Deloach Road NE Ludowici, GA 31316	Mr. Dempsy Golden Long County Board of Education 1293 Jones Creek Loop NW Ludowici, GA 31316
Mr. Larry Anderson <i>Correspondence was returned and no replacement address could be located.</i>	Concerned Citizen 10330 Tibet Highway SE Allenhurst, GA 31301
Mr. Danny Norman 99 Griffin Road SE Allenhurst, GA 31301	Mr. Andy Mock PO Box 325 Ludowici, GA 31316
Ms. Brooke Chiders One Diamond Causeway #7 Savannah, GA 31406	Concerned Citizen 1843 Pearl Davis Rd. SE Ludowici, GA 31316
Concerned Citizen 159 Martha Eason Rd. NE Ludowici, GA 31316	Concerned Citizen 227 Wingate Rd SW Ludowici, GA 31316
Mr. Charlie Strickland 66 Hope Cemetery Rd. Ludowici, GA 31316	Ms. Beth Reddish 556 Dukes Field Rd. NE Ludowici, GA 31316
Mr. Mark Long <i>Correspondence was returned and no replacement address could be located.</i>	Mr. Shad Dasher PO Box 691 Ludowici, GA 31316
Concerned Citizen 2849 Marcus Nobles Rd. NE Glennville, GA 30427	Ms. Sharon Kitchen Save the Sacred Sites Alliance PO Box 324 Townsend, GA 31331
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hay PO Box 63 Sapelo Island, GA 31327	Mr. Jayson Gardner Beaufort Regional Chamber PO Box 910 Beaufort, SC 29901
Mr. Brian Ellis 1401 Robert B. Miller Road Garden City, GA 31408	Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Braxton PO Box 206 Townsend, GA 31331
Ms. Brenda Rist Davis Timber 10511 Cox Road Townsend, GA 31331	Mr. Edgar Davis Davis Timber 10517 Cox Road Townsend, GA 31331

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Mailing List	
Citizens and Organizations that Attended Scoping/Public Meetings or Commented During Public Scoping/Comment Period (continued)	
Concerned Citizen Davis Timber 1481 Parnell Road Townsend, GA 31331	Mr. Adam Poppell 111 Broad Street Townsend, GA 31305
Ms. Kara Nitschke Georgia DNR One Conservation Way Brunswick, GA 31520	Ms. Marja Ramage 6104 Cox Road SW Townsend, GA 31331
Mr. Adam Williamson 1196 Magnolia St. NE Townsend, GA 31331	Mr. David Widincamp 1229 Goulds Landing Rd. NE Townsend, GA 31331
Mr. Jim McGhee 5155 Highway 17 N. Brunswick, GA 31525	Mr. and Mrs. Dan Tray <i>Correspondence was returned and no replacement address could be located.</i>
Ms. Patricia Alisau 8501 Georgia Highway 57 Ludowici, GA 31316	Mr. William Amerson 1262 SW Big Oak Road Townsend, GA 31331
Mr. Anthony Baker 7 Cedar Marsh Retreat Savannah, GA 31411	Mr. Max Baldwin 2 River Otter Lane Savannah, GA 31411
Ms. Marjorie Sweerus Bell 2002 Gillian Street Placentia, CA 92870	Ms. Gina Boltz 4848 North Crestridge Toledo, OH 43623
Mr. Thomas Brown 664 Pelzer Drive Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464	Mr. Robert Gephart 207 Hampshire Road Savannah, GA 31410
Mr. Freddie Goode PO Box 451 Ludowici, GA 31316	Ms. Alice Hartley 121 J. Barrett Lane NE Ludowici, GA 31316
Ms. Martha Hatfield 15 Hilda Ave. Beaufort, SC 29907	Mr. Lawrence Hooten 1375 Ann Ct. Perris, CA 92570
Mr. Harley Jones 6490 Deep Valley Court Flowery Branch, GA 30542	Ms. Marcia Lane 2105 Willow Oak Road Mulberry, FL 33860
Mr. Don Lewis 166 Merion St. Simons Island, GA 31522	Mr. Ralph Maggioni 4 Dinghy Place Savannah, GA 31410
Mr. Saunders McMullian 8 Stuyvesant Oval Apt. 11-E New York, NY 10009	Mr. Tony Middleton 4334 Fern Creek Jacksonville, FL 32277
Mr. Jim Morgan 95100 Willett Way Amelia Island, FL 32034	Ms. Rita Oglesby 3904 Georgia Highway 57 Ludowici, GA 31316
Mr. David Reilly 1062 Greenwillow Drive St. Marys, GA 31558	Mr. Jon Rembold 37 East River Drive Beaufort, SC 29907
Mr. McLeod Rominger 112 Harlan Drive Savannah, GA 31406	Mr. Richard Ryals 20 Eagle Court Ormand Beach, FL 32174
Mr. Robert Ryals 4130 Buttercup Way Tallahassee, FL 32311	Ms. Linda Smith 159 Roy Smith Road, SE Ludowici, GA 31316

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Mailing List	
Citizens and Organizations that Attended Scoping/Public Meetings or Commented During Public Scoping/Comment Period <i>(continued)</i>	
Ms. Patricia Smith 159 Roy Smith Road, SE Ludowici, GA 31316	Mr. Buddy Sullivan 179 Sandhurst Drive Richmond Hill, GA 31324
Pat Tatum 11378 Georgia Highway 23 Glennville, GA 30427	Mr. Wendell Theus 2553 Cecil Nobles Ludowici, GA 31316
Ms. Bonnie Tomassetti 4985 S. Honeytown Road Wooster, OH 44691	Mr. Robb Wells 105 Byan Drive Beaufort, SC 29902
Ms. Linda Williams 1017 Williams Street Miamisburg, OH 45342	Mr. Alan Yovich 19 Lake Heron Court West Pooler, GA 31322
Mrs. Charles Houston <i>Mailing address was not provided and one could not be located.</i>	Mr. Norman Mock <i>Mailing address was not provided and one could not be located.</i>
Jalen Reddish <i>Mailing address was not provided and one could not be located.</i>	Mr. Mike Riddle <i>Mailing address was not provided and one could not be located.</i>

Appendix A
Public Notification Documentation

Appendix A.3
DEIS Notification Letters

Notices of Availability and Public Meeting

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST-MARINE CORPS BASE
PSC BOX 20005
CAMP LEJEUNE NC 28542-0005

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5090.12
GF
JUL 13 2012

Colonel Eric Conrad
United States Army Corps of Engineers, South Atlantic Division
60 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Col. Conrad:

This letter is to inform you of the completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed land acquisition to expand and modernize Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia. This proposed action is necessary to support Marine Corps aviation training and readiness proficiency in the use of precision-guided munitions (PGM).

Modernizing TBR to accommodate inert PGM training would significantly enhance east coast aviation unit training efficiency. Presently, TBR can accommodate only 47% of the required F/A-18 Hornet individual fixed-wing air crew training syllabus. The proposed action would allow air crews to meet up to 85% of their proficiency requirements at TBR.

The EIS process began in the summer of 2010 with the publication of a public notice in the Federal Register on August 6, 2010 announcing the study. The Marine Corps held Public Scoping meetings and received comments during the Fall of 2010. In August of 2011, the Marine Corps informed the public of their decision to remove land acquisition Area 2 from further study in the EIS after studying Area 2's military utility, other factors and in light of public comments received during the Scoping period.

The comment period for the Draft EIS will begin Friday, July 13, 2012 with the publication of a public notice in the Federal Register. The 45-day public comment period will end Monday, August 27, 2012. The Marine Corps will also hold two open house style, public meetings to inform the public about the proposed action and the alternatives that are under consideration. These meetings are also an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed action, the alternatives, and the adequacy and accuracy of the Draft EIS. Although the public meetings will not have formal presentations, Marine Corps and

Georgia Air National Guard representatives will be present to discuss and answer questions on the proposed action, the National Environmental Policy Act process, and the findings in the Draft EIS.

The public meetings will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. at the following locations:

Date: Tuesday, August 7, 2012

Location: McIntosh County Middle School Gymnasium
500 Green Street
Darien, GA 31305

Date: Thursday, August 9, 2012

Location: City of Ludowici Meeting Room
City Hall, 469 North Macon Street
Ludowici, GA 31316

I have enclosed a short summary page for your reference that outlines the current status of the project. The Marine Corps requests and welcomes your comments on the Draft EIS. Comments may be submitted at the public meetings or in writing to Townsend EIS Project Manager, Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, FL 32318.

Please be assured the Marine Corps remains committed to working with neighbors and stakeholders during this process. For more information, please visit the project website at www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com. Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort's Public Affairs Office at (843) 228-6123.

Sincerely,



D. L. THACKER, JR.
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Deputy Commander

Enclosure: 1. Project Update Notice, "Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement"



TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE MODERNIZATION



PROJECT UPDATE — July 2012

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

This Project Update Notice offers a means to provide easily accessible, wide-spread distribution of new project information. This information augments the regular update of project documents that can be found on the Townsend Bombing Range Environmental Impact Statement website. Please visit the website (www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com) to view these project documents for an overview and key background information on the project.

BACKGROUND:

On August 6, 2010, the United States Marine Corps (Marine Corps) published a Notice of Intent to produce an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to study alternatives to modernize Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), located in McIntosh County, Georgia, to better meet Marine Corps aviation training requirements. This publication of the Notice of Intent officially identified the 30-day Public Scoping Period, which was held August 6 through September 7, 2010. Due to a problem with the post office box, the Public Scoping Period was reopened from October 10 through November 8, 2010. During the Public Scoping Period, two public meetings were held (Ludowici on August 24 and Darien on August 26, 2010). The Marine Corps received 110 comments during the Public Scoping Periods. These comments helped to identify the issues and alternatives that were studied during the preparation of the Draft EIS.

TRAINING REQUIREMENT AND PROPOSED ACTION:

The Marine Corps continues to successfully deter threats, prevent conflict and provide humanitarian effort because it conducts realistic training exercises. These exercises allow the Marines to acquire and maintain critical combat skills at the level necessary to meet real-world events. In addition, Marine Corps aviators must train and be highly skilled in multiple mission areas, which include the delivery of precision-guided munitions and use of air-to-ground weapons against a range of target types. Precision-guided munitions are a modern class of weapons that permit Marine aviators to attack specific threats and isolate targets.

TBR is the primary air-to-ground training range for the aviation units stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, which is the home of Marine Aircraft Group 31. The Marine Corps proposes to modernize and expand TBR to provide a modern and realistic training environment for the Fighter/Attack 18 (F/A-18) Hornet aircrew by accommodating the use of inert (with spotting-charges) precision-guided munitions and the larger weapon danger zones their use requires. Weapon Danger Zones are sometimes informally known as “safety zones.”

CHANGES SINCE THE PUBLIC SCOPING PERIOD:

- In August 2011 the Marine Corps announced its decision to remove Study Area 2, from further consideration in the EIS. Study Area 2 was located southeast of the current boundary of TBR between the Altamaha River and the power line. This decision eliminated the original Alternatives 4 and 5 and reduced the project’s study area for potential land acquisition by 14,752 acres from up to 51,580 acres to a maximum of 34,667 acres.
- During the preparation of the Draft EIS, the Marine Corps split Study Area 1 into two subareas, which are Study Areas 1A and 1B. The Marine Corps then developed a new fourth alternative, Alternative 4, which is Area 1B and Area 3 (28,436 acres). The Marine Corps identified Alternative 4 as the Preferred Alternative since it offers the best balance between operational capability and environmental impact.

TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT EIS:

Mail: Townsend EIS Project Manager,
Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, Florida 32318
E-mail: townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit: www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com
Contact: Public Affairs Office 843-228-6123



TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE MODERNIZATION



PROJECT UPDATE — July 2012

PROJECT UPDATE:

On July 13, 2012, the Marine Corps published the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the Federal Register. The Notice of Availability officially announced the publication of the Draft EIS and beginning of the 45-day public comment period for the Draft EIS. The comment period for the Draft EIS is being held from July 13 through August 27, 2012.

Public meetings will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 in Darien, Georgia, and Thursday, August 9, 2012 in Ludowici, Georgia. A Final EIS will be published in Spring 2013. The Final EIS will directly address the comments from the public that were received on the Draft EIS.

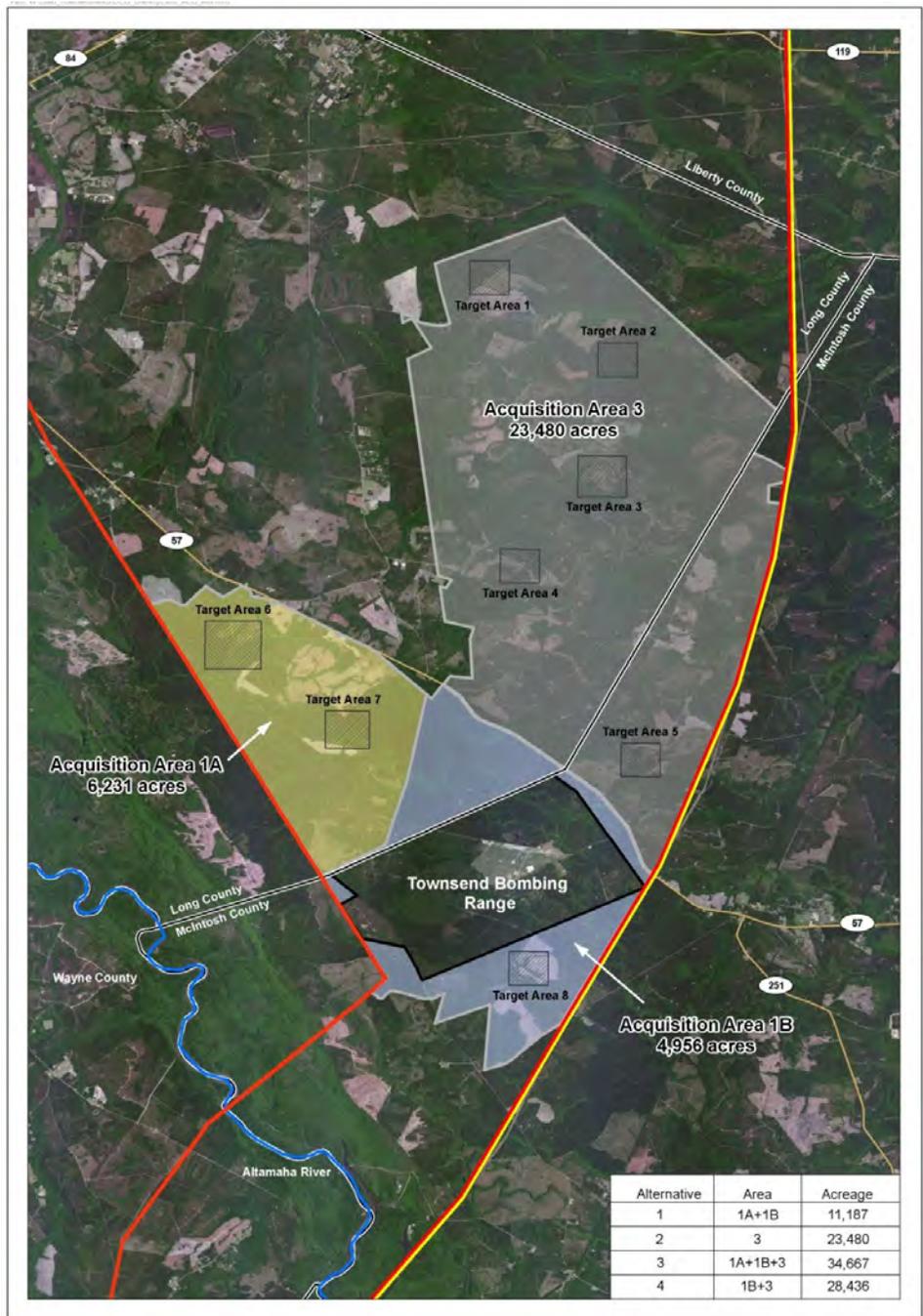
A Record of Decision on the project will be published by the Department of the Navy Summer 2013.

If the Record of Decision recommends land acquisition, Congress would have to review and approve funds for the purchase of lands at fair market value.

NEXT STEPS:

The Marine Corps welcomes comments from the public on the Draft EIS. Comments can be submitted during the 45-day comment period (July 13 through August 27, 2012). Please see the information in the tan box below to submit your comment or for more information please visit:

www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com.



TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT EIS:

Mail: Townsend EIS Project Manager,
Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, Florida 32318
E-mail: townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit: www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com
Contact: Public Affairs Office 843-228-6123



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29904-5001

11000
NREAO
July 2, 2012

Mr. Robert C. Walker, Chairman
Long County Board of Commissioners
District 5
P. O. Box 476
PO Box 223
Ludowici, GA 31316

Dear Mr. Walker:

SUBJECT: TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This letter is to inform you of the completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed land acquisition to expand and modernize Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia. This proposed action is necessary to support Marine Corps aviation training and readiness proficiency in the use of precision-guided munitions (PGM).

Modernizing TBR to accommodate inert PGM training would significantly enhance east coast aviation unit training efficiency. Presently, TBR can accommodate only 47% of the required F/A-18 Hornet individual fixed-wing air crew training syllabus. The proposed action would allow air crews to meet up to 85% of their proficiency requirements at TBR.

The EIS process began in the summer of 2010 with the publication of a public notice in the Federal Register on August 6, 2010 announcing the study. The USMC held Public Scoping meetings and received comments during the Fall of 2010. In August of 2011, the Marine Corps informed the public of the Marine Corps' decision to remove land acquisition Area 2 from further study in the EIS after studying Area 2's military utility, other factors and in light of public comments received during the Scoping period.

The comment period for the Draft EIS will begin Friday, July 13, 2012 with the publication of a public notice in the Federal Register. The 45-day public comment period will end Monday, August 27, 2012. The Marine Corps will also hold two open house style, public meetings to inform the public about the proposed action and the alternatives that are under consideration. These meetings are also an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed action, the alternatives, and the adequacy and accuracy of the Draft EIS. Although the public meetings will not have formal presentations, Marine Corps and Georgia Air National Guard representatives will be present to discuss and answer questions on the proposed action, the National Environmental Policy Act process, and the findings in the Draft EIS.

11000
NREAO
July 2, 2012

The public meetings will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. at the following locations:

Date: Tuesday, August 7, 2012
Location: McIntosh County Middle School Gymnasium
500 Green Street
Darien, GA 31305

Date: Thursday, August 9, 2012
Location: City of Ludowici Meeting Room
City Hall, 469 North Macon Street
Ludowici, GA 31316

I have enclosed a short summary page for your ready reference that outlines the current status of the project. The Marine Corps requests and welcomes your comments on the Draft EIS. Comments may be submitted at the public meetings or in writing to Townsend EIS Project Manager, Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, FL 32318.

Please be assured that the Marine Corps remains committed to working with neighbors and stakeholders during this process. For more information, please visit the project website at www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com. Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact my Public Affairs Office at (843) 228-6123.

Very Respectfully,



B. C. MURTHA
Colonel, U.S Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort

Enclosure: 1. Project Update Notice, "Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement"



TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE MODERNIZATION



PROJECT UPDATE — July 2012

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

This Project Update Notice offers a means to provide easily accessible, wide-spread distribution of new project information. This information augments the regular update of project documents that can be found on the Townsend Bombing Range Environmental Impact Statement website. Please visit the website (www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com) to view these project documents for an overview and key background information on the project.

BACKGROUND:

On August 6, 2010, the United States Marine Corps (Marine Corps) published a Notice of Intent to produce an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to study alternatives to modernize Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), located in McIntosh County, Georgia, to better meet Marine Corps aviation training requirements. This publication of the Notice of Intent officially identified the 30-day Public Scoping Period, which was held August 6 through September 7, 2010. Due to a problem with the post office box, the Public Scoping Period was reopened from October 10 through November 8, 2010. During the Public Scoping Period, two public meetings were held (Ludowici on August 24 and Darien on August 26, 2010). The Marine Corps received 110 comments during the Public Scoping Periods. These comments helped to identify the issues and alternatives that were studied during the preparation of the Draft EIS.

TRAINING REQUIREMENT AND PROPOSED ACTION:

The Marine Corps continues to successfully deter threats, prevent conflict and provide humanitarian effort because it conducts realistic training exercises. These exercises allow the Marines to acquire and maintain critical combat skills at the level necessary to meet real-world events. In addition, Marine Corps aviators must train and be highly skilled in multiple mission areas, which include the delivery of precision-guided munitions and use of air-to-ground weapons against a range of target types. Precision-guided munitions are a modern class of weapons that permit Marine aviators to attack specific threats and isolate targets.

TBR is the primary air-to-ground training range for the aviation units stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, which is the home of Marine Aircraft Group 31. The Marine Corps proposes to modernize and expand TBR to provide a modern and realistic training environment for the Fighter/Attack 18 (F/A-18) Hornet aircrew by accommodating the use of inert (with spotting-charges) precision-guided munitions and the larger weapon danger zones their use requires. Weapon Danger Zones are sometimes informally known as “safety zones.”

CHANGES SINCE THE PUBLIC SCOPING PERIOD:

- In August 2011 the Marine Corps announced its decision to remove Study Area 2, from further consideration in the EIS. Study Area 2 was located southeast of the current boundary of TBR between the Altamaha River and the power line. This decision eliminated the original Alternatives 4 and 5 and reduced the project’s study area for potential land acquisition by 14,752 acres from up to 51,580 acres to a maximum of 34,667 acres.
- During the preparation of the Draft EIS, the Marine Corps split Study Area 1 into two subareas, which are Study Areas 1A and 1B. The Marine Corps then developed a new fourth alternative, Alternative 4, which is Area 1B and Area 3 (28,436 acres). The Marine Corps identified Alternative 4 as the Preferred Alternative since it offers the best balance between operational capability and environmental impact.

TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT EIS:

Mail: Townsend EIS Project Manager,
Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, Florida 32318
E-mail: townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit: www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com
Contact: Public Affairs Office 843-228-6123



TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE MODERNIZATION



PROJECT UPDATE — July 2012

PROJECT UPDATE:

On July 13, 2012, the Marine Corps published the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the Federal Register. The Notice of Availability officially announced the publication of the Draft EIS and beginning of the 45-day public comment period for the Draft EIS. The comment period for the Draft EIS is being held from July 13 through August 27, 2012.

Public meetings will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 in Darien, Georgia, and Thursday, August 9, 2012 in Ludowici, Georgia. A Final EIS will be published in Spring 2013. The Final EIS will directly address the comments from the public that were received on the Draft EIS.

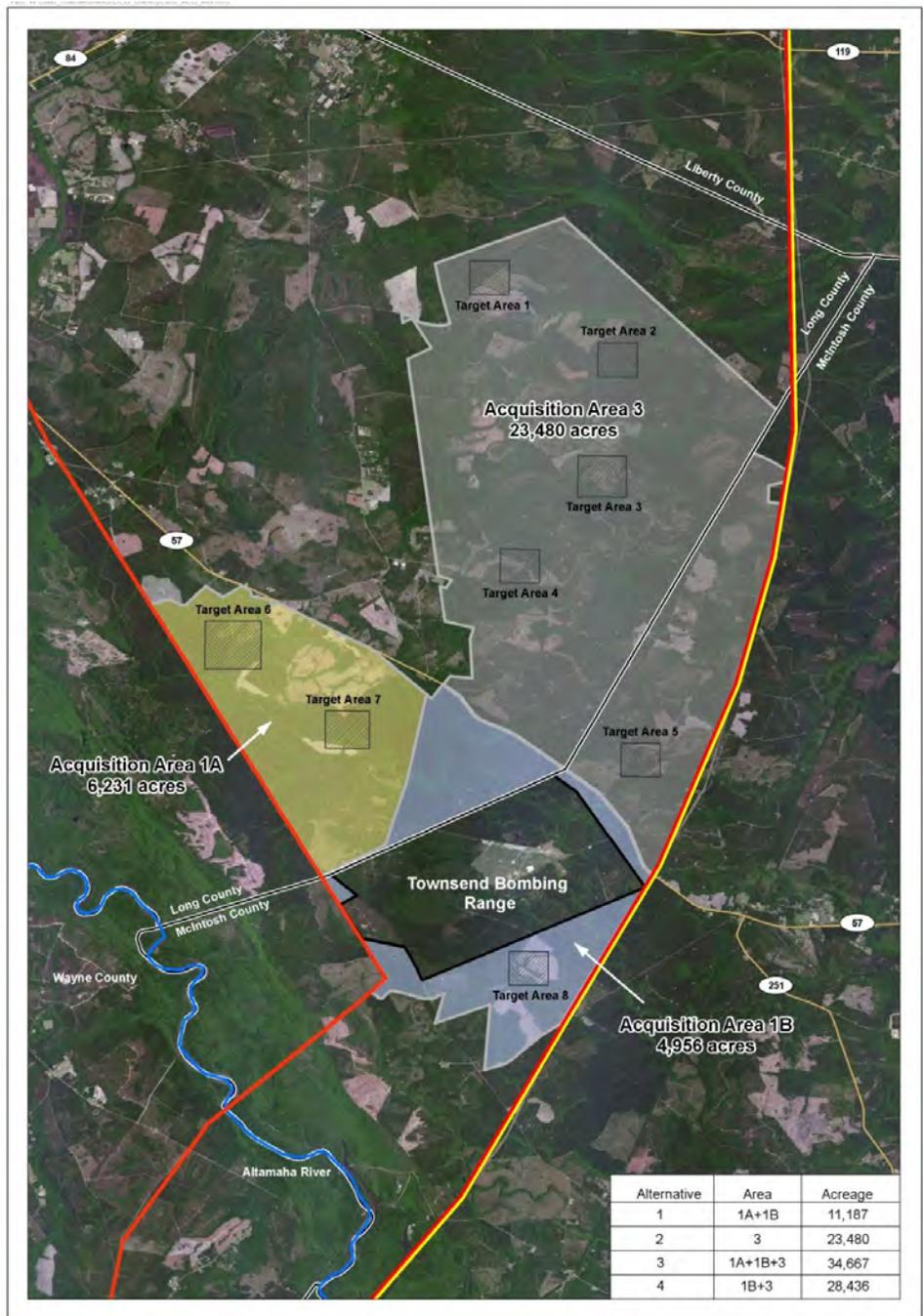
A Record of Decision on the project will be published by the Department of the Navy Summer 2013.

If the Record of Decision recommends land acquisition, Congress would have to review and approve funds for the purchase of lands at fair market value.

NEXT STEPS:

The Marine Corps welcomes comments from the public on the Draft EIS. Comments can be submitted during the 45-day comment period (July 13 through August 27, 2012). Please see the information in the tan box below to submit your comment or for more information please visit:

www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com.



TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT EIS:

Mail: Townsend EIS Project Manager,
Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, Florida 32318
E-mail: townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit: www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com
Contact: Public Affairs Office 843-228-6123



ecology and environment, inc.

Global Environmental Specialists

325 John Knox Road, Building F, Suite 140
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Tel: (850) 523-0954, Fax: (850) 201-6947

July 11, 2012

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you for your interest in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia. The Draft EIS has been distributed to various federal, state, and local agencies, elected officials, and interested parties, and is available for public review at:

- **Ida Hilton Public Library:** 1105 North Way, Darien, GA, 31305
- **Long County Public Library:** 28 S. Main Street, Ludowici, GA, 31316
- **Hog Hammock Public Library:** 1023 Hillery Lane, Sapelo Island, GA, 31327

Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS is being published in the *Federal Register* on July 13, 2012, and is succeeded by a 45-day comment period that will end on August 27, 2012.

Additionally, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) will host two open-house public meetings. During these meetings, the public will be provided an opportunity to view project-related displays, speak with USMC and Georgia Air National Guard representatives, and submit comments on the Draft EIS and its findings. The public comment meetings will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations in Georgia:

- Tuesday, August 7, 2012, McIntosh County Middle School Gymnasium, 500 Green Street, Darien, GA 31305; and
- Thursday, August 9, 2012, City of Ludowici City Hall Meeting Room, 469 North Macon Street, Ludowici, GA 31316.

Notices for the public meetings will be published in the following local newspapers: *The Darien News*, *The Press-Sentinel*, *The Brunswick News*, and the *Savannah Morning News*.

Additional information concerning the Draft EIS and public meetings is available on the EIS Web site at: <http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>. Comments or questions should be directed to Townsend EIS Project Manager, Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, FL 32318; email: townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com. All written comments must be received or postmarked no later than August 27, 2012.

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ecology and environment, inc.

Global Environmental Specialists

325 John Knox Road, Building F, Suite 140
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Tel: (850) 523-0954, Fax: (850) 201-6947

July 10, 2012

Ms. Lisa Wolfe
Library Manager, Long County Public Library
28 S. Main Street
Ludowici, GA 31316

Dear Ms. Wolfe:

Please find enclosed a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia. The Draft EIS has been prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of precision-guided munitions (PGMs) at Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia.

The Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed modernization and expansion of TBR in McIntosh and Long Counties, Georgia, that would provide a modern and realistic training environment for the F/A-18 pilots of Marine Air Group 31 (MAG-31), stationed at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, South Carolina. To implement the Proposed Action, the USMC would acquire lands and a timber easement in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater variety of training activities, modify existing airspace, construct the required infrastructure to support PGM training, and improve training capabilities. The Draft EIS also evaluates past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions from a cumulative impacts perspective.

Copies of the Draft EIS are being distributed to local libraries in the vicinity of the project site so that the document is readily available for the public to review and comment. We request that your staff make this document available upon request to members of the public.

Additional information concerning the Draft EIS is available on the EIS Web site at: <http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>. Notices for the public meetings will be published in the following local newspapers: *The Darien News*, *The Press-Sentinel*, *The Brunswick News*, and the *Savannah Morning News*. Comments or questions should be directed to the Townsend EIS Project Manager, Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, FL 32318; email: townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com.

We request that you retain copies of the Draft EIS for public review and comment through August 27, 2012. If you have any comments or questions, please contact me at (850) 523-0954.

Sincerely,

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ryan P. Long', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Ryan P. Long
Project Manager

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Appendix A
Public Notification Documentation

Appendix A.3
DEIS Notification Letters

Notices of Public Comment Period Extension

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29904-5001

11000
NREAO
August 15, 2012

Representative Jack Kingston
ATTN: Ms. Merritt Myers
1510 Newcastle Street
Suite 200
Brunswick, GA 31520

Dear Representative Kingston:

SUBJECT: TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENSION

This letter is to inform you of the Marine Corps' decision to extend the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia. This Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed land acquisition to expand and modernize Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia. This proposed action is necessary to support Marine Corps aviation training and readiness proficiency in the use of precision-guided munitions.

The initial public comment period for the Draft EIS began on Friday, July 13, 2012 with the publication of a notice in the Federal Register. This notice announced a 45-day public comment period and requested the submission of all comments on the Draft EIS by Monday, August 27, 2012. With this extension the public comment period will now close on September 27, 2012.

During the initial public comment period the Marine Corps also held two open house public meetings to inform the public about the proposed action and the alternatives that are under consideration and to accept public comments. These meetings took place on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 in Darien, Georgia, and Thursday, August 9, 2012 in Ludowici, Georgia. Notices announcing the extension of the public comment period will be published in the following local newspapers: *The Darien News*, *The Press-Sentinel*, and the *Savannah Morning News*.

The Marine Corps requests and welcomes your comments on the Draft EIS. All written comments must be postmarked no later than September 27, 2012. Comments may be submitted via the following methods:

- (1) The project Web site (www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com);
- (2) E-mail to townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com; or
- (3) Letter addressed to Townsend EIS, Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, FL 32318.

11000
NREAO
August 15, 2012

Please be assured that the Marine Corps remains committed to working with neighbors and stakeholders during this process. For more information, please visit the project website at www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com. Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Public Affairs Office at (843) 228-6123.

Very Respectfully,



B. R. CLATTERBUCK
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Acting
Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort



ecology and environment, inc.

Global Environmental Specialists

325 John Knox Road, Building F, Suite 140

Tallahassee, FL 32303

Tel: (850) 523-0954, Fax: (850) 201-6947

August 20, 2012

Ms. Michele Johnson
Library Manager
Hog Hammock Public Library
1023 Hillery Lane
Sapelo Island, GA 31327

Dear Ms. Johnson:

On July 10, 2012, you were sent a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia. Copies of this Draft EIS were distributed to local libraries in the vicinity of the project site so that the document would be available for the public to review and comment.

We had originally requested that your staff make this document available upon request to members of the public through August 27, 2012. However, the public comment period has now been extended through September 27, 2012.

Additional information concerning the Draft EIS is available on the EIS Web site at: <http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>. Notices for the extension of the public comment period will be published in the following local newspapers: *The Darien News*, *The Press-Sentinel*, *The Brunswick News*, and the *Savannah Morning News*. Comments or questions should be directed to the Townsend EIS Project Manager, Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, FL 32318; [email: townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com).

We request that you retain the copy Draft EIS for public review and comment through September 27, 2012. If you have any comments or questions, please contact me at (850) 523-0954.

Sincerely,

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT, INC.

Ryan P. Long
Project Manager

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Appendix A
Public Notification Documentation

Appendix A.4
Newspaper Affidavits

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Appendix A
Public Notification Documentation

Appendix A.4
Newspaper Affidavits

Notices of Availability and Public Meeting

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**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC MEETINGS ON
THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR
THE PROPOSED MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF
TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE, GEORGIA**

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the United States Marine Corps (USMC) has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the above-referenced project. The Draft EIS has been prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of inert (with spotting charges) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) at Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia.

The Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed modernization and expansion of TBR in McIntosh and Long Counties, Georgia, that would provide a modern and realistic training environment for the F/A-18 pilots of Marine Air Group 31 (MAG-31), stationed at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, South Carolina. To implement the Proposed Action, the USMC would acquire lands and a timber easement in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater variety of training activities, modify existing airspace, construct the required infrastructure to support PGM training, and improve training capabilities. The Draft EIS also evaluates past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions from a cumulative impacts perspective.

The Draft EIS has been distributed to various federal, state, and local agencies, elected officials, and interested parties, and is available for public review at:

Ida Hilton Public Library: 1105 North Way, Darien, GA, 31305

Long County Public Library: 28 S. Main Street, Ludowici, GA, 31316

Hog Hammock Public Library: 1023 Hillery Lane, Sapelo Island, GA, 31327

Electronic copies of the Draft EIS are available upon request by contacting the Townsend Draft EIS Project Manager at (843) 228-7370. Comments on the Draft EIS should be mailed to:

Townsend EIS Project Manager
Post Office Box 180458
Tallahassee, Florida 32318



Comments may also be emailed to townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com or posted to our Web site at www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com. All comments must be received by August 27, 2012.

Two public meetings, using an informal open house format, will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations:

August 7, 2012

McIntosh County
Middle School Gymnasium
500 Green Street
Darien, GA 31305

August 9, 2012

City of Ludowici
City Hall Meeting Room
469 North Macon Street
Ludowici, GA 31316

All written comments postmarked by August 27, 2012, will become part of the official public record and will be responded to in the Final EIS.

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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM

Personally appeared before me, Alaina Fincher, to me known, who being sworn, deposes and says:

That she is the Obituary/Legal Clerk for Southeastern Newspaper Corporation, a Georgia corporation, doing business in Chatham County, GA, under the trade name of Savannah Morning News, a daily newspaper published in said county;

That he is authorized to make affidavits of publication on behalf of said published corporation;

That said newspaper is of general circulation in said county and in the area adjacent thereto;

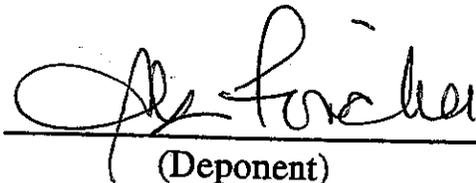
That he has reviewed the regular editions of the Savannah Morning News, published on:

July 15, 2012, July 16, 2012,
July 17, 2012, _____, 2012,

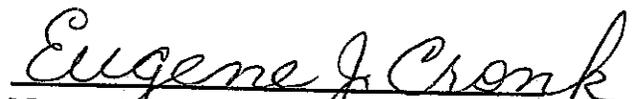
and finds that the following advertisement, to-wit:

Appeared in each of said editions.
Sworn to and subscribed before me

This 1 day of August 2012



(Deponent)



Notary Public, Chatham County, Ga.

EUGENE J. CRONK
Notary Public, Chatham County, GA
My Commission Expire January 25, 2014

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC MEETINGS ON
THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR
THE PROPOSED MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF
TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE, GEORGIA**

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the United States Marine Corps (USMC) has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the above-referenced project. The Draft EIS has been prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of inert (with spotting charges) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) at Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia.

The Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed modernization and expansion of TBR in McIntosh and Long Counties, Georgia, that would provide a modern and realistic training environment for the F/A-18 pilots of Marine Air Group 31 (MAG-31), stationed at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, South Carolina. To implement the Proposed Action, the USMC would acquire lands and a timber easement in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater variety of training activities; modify existing airspace; construct the required infrastructure to support PGM training; and improve training capabilities. The Draft EIS also evaluates past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions from a cumulative impacts perspective.

The Draft EIS has been distributed to various federal, state, and local agencies, elected officials, and interested parties, and is available for public review at:

Ida Hilton Public Library: 1105 North Way, Darien, GA, 31305

Long County Public Library: 28 S. Main Street, Ludowici, GA, 31316

Hog Hammock Public Library: 1023 Hillery Lane, Sapelo Island, GA, 31327

Electronic copies of the Draft EIS are available upon request by contacting the Townsend Draft EIS Project Manager at (843) 228-7370.

Comments on the Draft EIS should be mailed to:

Townsend EIS Project Manager

Post Office Box 180458

Tallahassee, Florida 32318



Comments may also be emailed to townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com or posted to our Web site at www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com. All comments must be received by August 27, 2012.

Two public meetings, using an informal open house format, will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations:

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Middle School Gymnasium

500 Green Street

Darien, GA 31305

August 9, 2012

City of Ludowici

City Hall Meeting Room

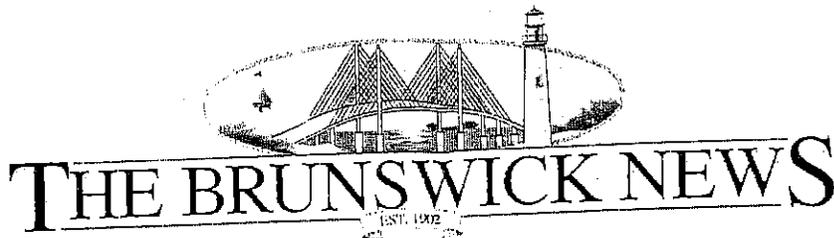
469 North Macon Street

Ludowici, GA 31316

All written comments, postmarked by August 27, 2012, will become part of the official public record and will be responded to in the Final EIS.

C.H. LEAVY IV
President and Editor

W.R. MAULDEN
Vice President/
General Manager



3011 Altama Avenue
P.O. Box 1557
Brunswick, GA 31521

(912) 265-8320
Fax: (912) 264-4973

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

Georgia, Glynn County

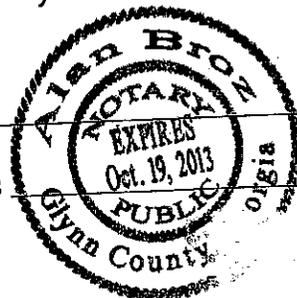
Personally appeared before the undersigned attesting authority, W.R. Maulden, Vice-President, General Manager of The Brunswick News, a daily newspaper published in aforesaid county, who on oath says that the attached legal notice was published in said newspaper on July 16, 18, 20, 2012.

WRMaulden
W.R. Maulden

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This 20 day of July, 2012.

Alan Bron
Notary Public
My commission expires



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF THE TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE, G

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LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION!

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC MEETINGS ON
THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR
THE PROPOSED MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF
TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE, GEORGIA**

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the United States Marine Corps (USMC) has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the above-referenced project. The Draft EIS has been prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of inert (with spotting charges) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) at Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia.

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Hog Hammock Public Library: 1023 Hillery Lane, Sapelo Island, GA, 31327

Electronic copies of the Draft EIS are available upon request by contacting the Townsend Draft EIS Project Manager at (643) 228-7370. Comments on the Draft EIS should be mailed to:

Townsend EIS Project Manager
Post Office Box 180458
Tallahassee, Florida 32318



Comments may also be emailed to townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com or posted to our Web site at www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com. All comments must be received by August 27, 2012.

Two public meetings, using an informal open house format, will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations:

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McIntosh County
Middle School Gymnasium
500 Green Street
Darien, GA 31305

August 9, 2012

City of Ludowici
City Hall Meeting Room
469 North Macon Street
Ludowici, GA 31316

All written comments postmarked by August 27, 2012, will become part of the official public record and will be responded to in the Final EIS.



Post Office Box 496 • Darien, Georgia 31305 • (912) 437-4251 • FAX # (912) 437-2299
website: www.thedarienneews.net

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
THE DARIEN NEWS

STATE OF GEORGIA
McINTOSH COUNTY

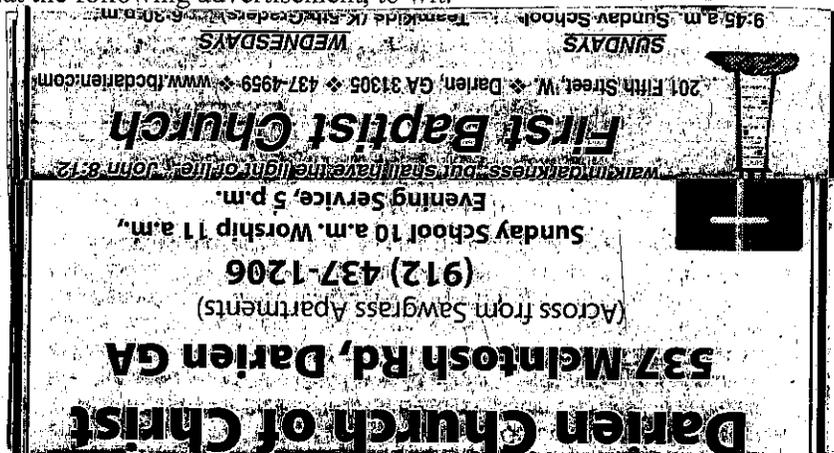
Personally appeared before me Kathleen W. Russell to me known, who being by me sworn, deposited and said:

That she is the executive editor of THE DARIEN NEWS which is the official legal advertising organ of McIntosh County, Georgia; and

That she is authorized to make affidavits of publication on behalf of THE DARIEN NEWS;

That said newspaper is of general circulation in McIntosh County and in the area adjacent thereto and is the newspaper designed and customarily used by the Sheriff of McIntosh County for the publication of advertisements and by the other official bodies of and in said county for the publication of notices required by law;

That she has reviewed the regular edition of THE DARIEN NEWS published July 19, and 26, 2012 that the following advertisement, to-wit:

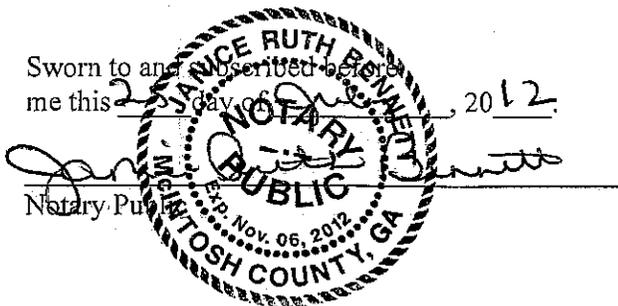


appeared in said editions.

Kathleen W. Russell

Kathleen W. Russell
Editor & Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25 day of July, 2012.



That said newspaper is of general circulation in McIntosh County and in the area adjacent thereto and is the newspaper designed and customarily used by the Sheriff of McIntosh County for the publication of advertisements and by the other official bodies of and in said county for the publication of notices required by law;

That she has reviewed the regular edition of THE DARIEN NEWS published July 19, and 26, 2012 that the following advertisement, to-wit:

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC MEETINGS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE, GEORGIA

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the United States Marine Corps (USMC) has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the above-referenced project. The Draft EIS has been prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of inert (with spotting charges) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) at Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia.

The Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed modernization and expansion of TBR in McIntosh and Long Counties, Georgia, that would provide a modern and realistic training environment for the F/A pilots of Marine Air Group 51 (MAG-51) stationed at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, South Carolina, to implement the Proposed Action, the USMC would acquire lands and a timber easement in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater variety of training activities, modify existing airspace, construct the required infrastructure to support PGM training, and improve training capabilities. The Draft EIS also evaluates past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions from a cumulative impacts perspective.

The Draft EIS has been distributed to various federal, state, and local agencies, elected officials, and interested parties, and is available for public review at:

- Wanda Hilton Public Library, 1706 North Way, Danes, GA 31305
- Long County Public Library, 128 S. Main Street, Ludowici, GA 31316
- Wright Hammock Public Library, 1023 Miller Lane, Sapelo Island, GA 31322

Electronic copies of the Draft EIS are available upon request by contacting the Townsend Draft EIS Project Manager at (893) 228-7570. Comments on the Draft EIS should be mailed to:

Townsend EIS Project Manager
Post Office Box 180458
Tallahassee, Florida 32318



Comments may also be emailed to townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com or posted to our Web site at www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com. All comments must be received by August 27, 2012.

Two public meetings, using an informal open house format, will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations:

- | | |
|---|---|
| August 7, 2012 | August 9, 2012 |
| McIntosh County
Middle School Gymnasium
500 Green Street
Danes, GA 31305 | City of Ludowici
City Hall Meeting Room
469 North Macdon Street
Ludowici, GA 31316 |

All written comments postmarked by August 27, 2012, will become part of the official public record and will be responded to in the Final EIS.

appeared in

Sworn to and me this

[Signature]
Notary Public

[Signature]
Ben W. Russell
Editor & Publisher

Date: 7-31-12 Time: _____

We are transmitting a total of (2) pages including this cover sheet.
Please call us at once if you do not receive the number of pages indicated above.

TO: _____

Sarah Ramberg

FAX: *1-850-201-6947*

FROM: _____



The Press-Sentinel

Deloris L. Browning

Account Executive

1-866-427-3757

E-mail: thepsadvertising@bellsouth.net

TRANSMITTED BY: _____

P.S

The Press-Sentinel Newspapers, Incorporated

W. H. (Dink) NeSmith, Jr., Chairman
Post Office Box 607, Jesup, Georgia 31545
Telephone (912) 427-3757
FAX (912) 427-4092

REMARKS: _____

Sarah,

*Following is the Affidavit of Publication -
If you need anything else, let me know!
Thank you Deloris*

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF Wayne

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Before the undersigned, a Notary Public of said County and State, duly commissioned, qualified, and authorized by law to administer oaths, personally appeared Deloris Browning account executive, who, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: that he (she) is

(Owner, partner, publisher, or other office or employee authorized to make this affidavit)

of The Press-Sentinel Newspaper a newspaper published, issued, and entered as second class mail in the

City of JESUP in said County and State; that he (she) is authorized to make this affidavit and sworn statement; that the notice or other legal advertisement, a true copy of which is attached

hereto, was published in The Press-Sentinel

on the following dates: 7/18, 7/21, 7/28/2012

and that the said newspaper in which such notice, paper, document, or legal advertisement was published, was at the time of each and every such publication, a newspaper of General Circulation in

Wayne County

This 31st day of July, 2012

Deloris Browning

(Signature of person making affidavit)

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 31st day of

July, 2012

[Signature]

Notary Public

My Commission expires: My Commission Expires September 8, 2015

CLIPPING OF LEGAL
ADVERTISEMENT
ATTACHED HERE

Appendix A
Public Notification Documentation

Appendix A.4
Newspaper Affidavits

Notices of Public Comment Period Extension

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**Notice to Extend Public Comment Period for the
Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the
Proposed Modernization and Expansion of
Townsend Bombing Range, McIntosh County, Georgia**

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the United States Marine Corps (USMC) has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the above-referenced project. The Draft EIS has been prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of inert (with spotting charges) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) at Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia.

The USMC initiated a 45-day Draft EIS Comment Period that was scheduled to end on August 27, 2012. The USMC has decided to extend the Draft EIS Comment Period to September 27, 2012. The public may submit comments during the extended comment period via the project Web site (www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com) and project email address (townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com).

All written comments must be postmarked by September 27, 2012. Written comments may be sent to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
Post Office Box 180458
Tallahassee, Florida 32318



All written comments postmarked by September 27, 2012 will become part of the official public record and will be responded to in the Final EIS.

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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM

Personally appeared before me, Alaina Fincher, to me known, who being sworn, deposes and says:

That she is the Obituary/Legal Clerk for Southeastern Newspaper Corporation, a Georgia corporation, doing business in Chatham County, GA, under the trade name of Savannah Morning News, a daily newspaper published in said county;

That he is authorized to make affidavits of publication on behalf of said published corporation;

That said newspaper is of general circulation in said county and in the area adjacent thereto;

That he has reviewed the regular editions of the Savannah Morning News, published on:

August 23, 2012 August 24, 2012,

August 25, 2012, _____, 2012,
and finds that the following advertisement, to-wit:

Appeared in each of said editions.
Sworn to and subscribed before me

This 27 day of Aug, 2012

Al Fincher
(Deponent)

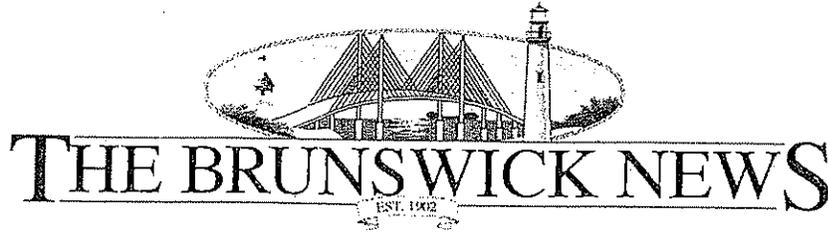
Eugene J. Cronk
Notary Public, Chatham County, Ga.

EUGENE J. CRONK
Notary Public, Chatham County, GA
My Commission Expire January 25, 2014

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C.H. LEAVY IV
President and Editor

W.R. MAULDEN
Vice President/
General Manager



3011 Altama Avenue
P.O. Box 1557
Brunswick, GA 31521

(912) 265-8320
Fax:(912) 264-4973

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

Georgia, Glynn County

Personally appeared before the undersigned attesting authority, W.R. Maulden,
Vice-President, General Manager of The Brunswick News, a daily newspaper published
in aforesaid county, who on oath says that the attached legal notice was published in said
newspaper on August 21, 22, 2012.

W.R. Maulden
W.R. Maulden

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This 22 day of August, 2012.

Alan Bron
Notary Public

My commission expires _____



**Notice to Extend
Draft Environment
Proposed Mode
Townsend Bombing F**

In compliance with the National
United States Marine Corps (U.S.
Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for
EIS has been prepared to evaluate
acquiring additional property ar
to allow the use of inert (with sp
(PGMs) at Townsend Bombing F

The USMC initiated a 45-day Dra
scheduled to end on August 27,
the Draft EIS Comment Period to
submit comments during the exte
Web site (www.townsendbombing
(townsendbombingrangeeis@en

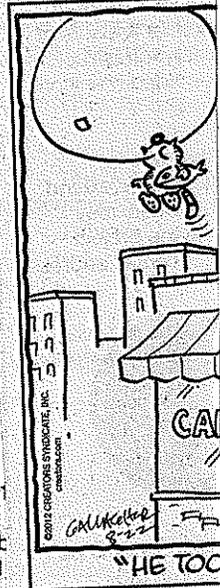
All written comments must be pos
September 27, 2012. Written com
be sent to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
Post Office Box 180458
Tallahassee, Florida 3231

All written comments postmarked b
of the official public record and will

Philadelphia.
Thought for Today
to the very edge of
as outrageously as
Logan Pearsall Smi
(1865-1946).

HEATHCLIFF



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website: www.thedarienneews.net

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
THE DARIEN NEWS

STATE OF GEORGIA
McINTOSH COUNTY

Personally appeared before me Kathleen W. Russell to me known, who being by me sworn, deposed and said:

That she is the executive editor of THE DARIEN NEWS which is the official legal advertising organ of McIntosh County, Georgia; and

That she is authorized to make affidavits of publication on behalf of THE DARIEN NEWS;

That said newspaper is of general circulation in McIntosh County and in the area adjacent thereto and is the newspaper designed and customarily used by the Sheriff of McIntosh County for the publication of advertisements and by the other official bodies of and in said county for the publication of notices required by law;

That she has reviewed the regular edition of THE DARIEN NEWS published August 23, 2012 that the following advertisement, to-wit:

Notice to Extend Public Comment Period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, McIntosh County, Georgia

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the United States Marine Corps (USMC) has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the above-referenced project. The Draft EIS has been prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of inert (with spotting charges) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) at Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia.

The USMC initiated a 45-day Draft EIS Comment Period that was scheduled to end on August 27, 2012. The USMC has decided to extend (townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com).

All written comments must be postmarked by September 27, 2012. Written comments may be sent to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
Post Office Box 180458
Tallahassee, Florida 32312



appeared in said

Kathleen W. Russell
Kathleen W. Russell
Executive Editor & Publisher

Sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 2012.

[Signature]
Notary Public
McIntosh County, Georgia
Exp. Nov. 06, 2012

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STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF Wayne

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Before the undersigned, a Notary Public of said County and State, duly commissioned, qualified, and authorized by law to administer oaths, personally appeared Deloris Browning account executive, who, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: that he (she) is

(Owner, partner, publisher, or other office or employee authorized to make this affidavit)

of The Press-Sentinel Newspaper a newspaper published, issued, and entered as second class mail in the

City of Jesup, Ga. in said County and State; that he (she) is authorized to make this affidavit and sworn statement; that the notice or other legal advertisement, a true copy of which is attached

hereto, was published in The Press-Sentinel

on the following dates: 8/22/2012 & 8/25/2012

and that the said newspaper in which such notice, paper, document, or legal advertisement was published, was at the time of each and every such publication, a newspaper of General Circulation in

Wayne County

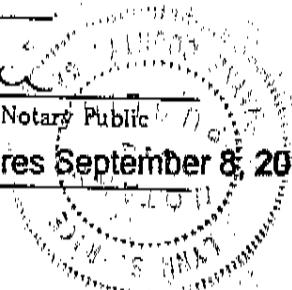
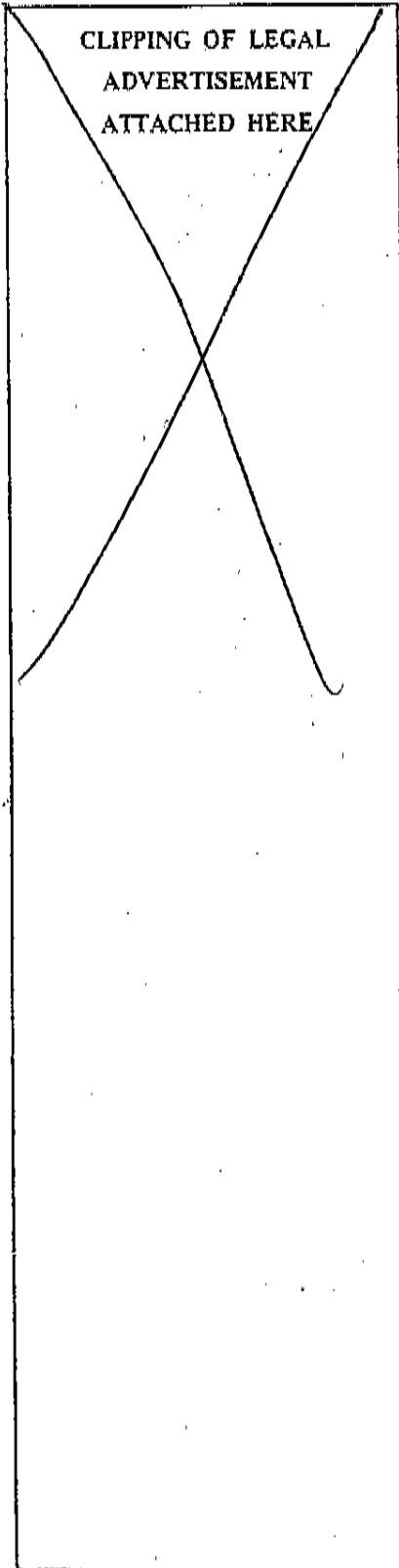
This 17th day of OCTOBER, 20 12

Deloris Browning
(Signature of person making affidavit)

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 18th day of October, 20 12

[Signature]
Notary Public

My Commission expires: My Commission Expires September 8, 2015



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Appendix A
Public Notification Documentation

Appendix A.5
Press Releases

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Media Release

Release 11-12

“The Noise you Hear is the Sound of Freedom”

Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort
Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 55001
Beaufort, SC 29904-5001
Ph: (843) 228-7201
Fax: (843) 228-6005

Public availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range

BEAUFORT, S.C. (JULY 13, 2012) – Publication and public availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range in McIntosh County, Ga. were announced in the Federal Register released today. A copy of the Federal Register notice and the Draft EIS can be found at: www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com.

The 45-day public comment period on the Draft EIS begins today, Friday, July 13 and will end on Monday, August 27. Public involvement is a critical component of the EIS process. Public comments will be considered during the preparation of the Final EIS and will be included in the public record for this project.

The Marine Corps will hold two open house style public meetings to inform the public about the proposed action and the alternatives that are under consideration.

Marine Corps and Georgia Air National Guard representatives will be present at these meetings to discuss and answer questions about the proposed action, the Nation Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process and the findings in the Draft EIS.

The public meetings will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. at the following locations:

Date: Tuesday, August 7

Location: McIntosh County Middle School Gymnasium (500 Green Street, Darien, GA
31305)

Date: Thursday, August 9

Location: City of Ludowici Meeting Room (City Hall, 469 North Macon Street, Ludowici,
GA, 31316)

Please contact the project managers at townsendbombingrangeis@ene.com with any questions or concerns no later than August 27.



Media Release

Release 13-12

Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort
Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 55001
Beaufort, SC 29904-5001
Ph: (843) 228-7201
Fax: (843) 228-6005

Public availability extension of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range

BEAUFORT, S.C. (Aug. 14) – Public availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range in McIntosh County, Ga. was announced in the Federal Register released July 13 and is now extended until September 27. A copy of the Federal Register notice and the Draft EIS can be found at: www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com.

The public comment period on the Draft EIS began Friday, July 13 and will end on Thursday, September 27. Public involvement is a critical component of the EIS process. Public comments will be considered during the preparation of the Final EIS and will be included in the public record for this project.

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Appendix A
Public Notification Documentation

Appendix A.6
Newspaper Articles

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Navy recommends acquisition of 28,436 acres in plan to expand Townsend Bombing Range

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range has been distributed to federal, state and local officials, as well as interested parties, and is available for public review.

Copies are available at the Ida Hilton Public Library, the Hog Hammock Public Library and the Long County Public Library.

Additionally, two open-house public meetings will be held locally, the first on Tuesday, Aug. 7, at the McIntosh County Middle School gymnasium and the second on Thursday, Aug. 9, in the Ludowici City Hall public meeting room.

More information is available online at <http://www.townsend-bombingrangeeis.com>.

All written comments must be received no later than Aug. 27, 2012.

The executive summary states: "The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed modernization and expansion of Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) in McIntosh County, Georgia, that would provide a modern and realistic training environment for the F/A-18 pilots of Marine Air Group 31 (MAG-31), stationed at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, South Carolina, by accommodating the use of inert (with spotting charges) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) and the larger safety zones their use requires. To implement the Proposed Action, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) would acquire lands in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater variety of training activities, modify existing airspace, con-

See Bombing Range, page 14



Figure 1
Land Acquisition Alternatives
 Townsend Bombing Range
 McIntosh and Long Counties, Georgia
 Source: USMC, 2011. Modified by USMC.

The preferred alternative for land acquisition to expand the Townsend Bombing Range is Alternative 4, which consists of Acquisition Area 1B and Acquisition Area 3, totaling 28,436 acres. The report identifies a significant impact of tax revenue loss of \$35,469 a year in McIntosh County and \$131,318 in Long County.

Bombing Range

Continued from Page 1

struct the required infrastructure, and improve training capabilities.”

In the proposed action, the USMC seeks to acquire approximately 34,667 acres adjacent to the TBR. This boundary must contain “all projectiles, hazardous fragments, laser beams, and both vertical and horizontal ricochets.”

The USMC seeks to modify existing restricted airspace to exclude non-participating aircraft from intruding into hazardous operations. “The current restriction extends from the surface to 25,000 feet MSL and airspace that extends from 100 feet above ground level (AGL) to 25,000 MSL.”

Four action alternatives and one no action alternative are proposed.

Alternative 1, which includes areas 1A, 6,231 acres located to the west of the bombing range in Long County and Area 1B, which includes 4,956 acres, an area immediately surrounding the current range, with lands to the southeast in McIntosh County, a small amount of acreage to the north and acreage on the northwest in Long County.

Alternative 2 encompasses Area 3, which is 23,480 acres to the north, northwest of the range, with the majority of that acreage in Long County.

Alternative 3 includes all three areas of 1A, 1B and 3, which has a total of 34,667 acres.

Alternative 4 is the combination of Areas 1B and 3, which includes a total acreage of 28,436.

The executive summary of the draft states that Alternative 4 is the “Preferred Alternative.”

“Alternative 4 represents the most favorable balance of operational utility and acceptable environmental impacts.”

The report explained why

The report explained why Alternative 4 was the preferred.

“From an operational perspective, Alternative 3 is the best action alternative followed in decreasing order of operational utility by Alternative 4, Alternative 2 and Alternative 1. Alternative 3 is, therefore, the operationally preferred alternative. On the other hand, from an environmental perspective, Alternative 2 would have the least environmental impact and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The best balance between operational utility and acceptable environmental impacts is represented by Alternative 4; therefore, the USMC has selected Alternative 4 as the Preferred Alternative.”

The report explains that the forest management would change from the “primary objective of wood production based on short-rotation pine plantations to broader objectives using an ecosystem approach to management.”

Planned clearing of the target areas would require approximately 257 acres, and may require more during the configuration of the Weapon-Impact Scoring System.

Economic, Employment and Income Impacts

The report identifies a significant impact of tax revenue loss of \$35,469 a year in McIntosh County and \$131,318 a year in Long County.

There would be 105 temporary

jobs during construction and 23 permanent jobs during operations of the facility.

Timber sales tax revenue loss over time in McIntosh County would be \$151,987 and Long County, \$458,076.

Concerning wetlands, 12.6 acres would have direct impacts and 288.4 acres would have indirect impacts.

Open house public meetings on expansion of Townsend Bombing Range is Aug. 7

An open house for the proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 7, in Darien at the McIntosh County Middle School gym from 4 to 7 p.m.

Precision-guided munitions, or "smart bombs" are the advanced weapons that F/A-18 pilots stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., must be trained to use to respond to international disruptions and conflicts. There are six operational F/A-18 Hornet Squadrons at Beaufort.

But, utilizing these weapons that are designed to precisely hit a specific target, require the modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR).

Bottom line impact for the people of McIntosh County: There will be a significant impact of a tax revenue loss of \$35,469 per year and a loss of timber sales tax revenue over time of \$151,987.

During the past year, the Department of the Navy has been at work to produce a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the expansion of the TBR. That statement became available on July 13 and now has a 45-day comment period that will end on Aug. 27.

A second open house will be

held on Thursday, Aug. 9, at the Ludowici City Hall, 469 North Macon Street, Ludowici from 4 to 7 p.m.

Marine Corps and Georgia Air National Guard representatives will be present to discuss and answer questions about the proposed action, the National Environmental Policy Act Process and the findings in the Draft EIS.

The study reviews potential impacts from the "no action alternative" and four action alternatives, which includes acquisition of lands in the vicinity of the TBR on which to create new target areas. This expansion will allow for a greater variety of training activities, modify existing airspace, construct the required infrastructure and improve training capabilities.

These precision-guided munitions (PGMs) are made with laser or global positioning guidance systems that have openable fins that can correct the munitions' trajectory. The report stated that these PGMs are released from higher altitudes and at greater distance from the target than the unguided weapons or "dumb bombs." These dumb bombs are free-falling and can be released at lower altitudes and at a closer distance to the target, and lack the ability to stray too far

from their initial trajectory.

The report states, "By comparison, a PGMs guidance system ensures a high level of accuracy; however, if the guidance system malfunctions, the high altitudes and greater distance from which these weapons are employed give them the potential to stray further from the intended target than their unguided counterparts."

It also states, "Although PGMs have lower failure rates and are more accurate than non-guided weapons, the weapon danger zone (WDZ) requirements are much larger because the zone must contain the area within which the weapon could impact the ground if the guidance system failed."

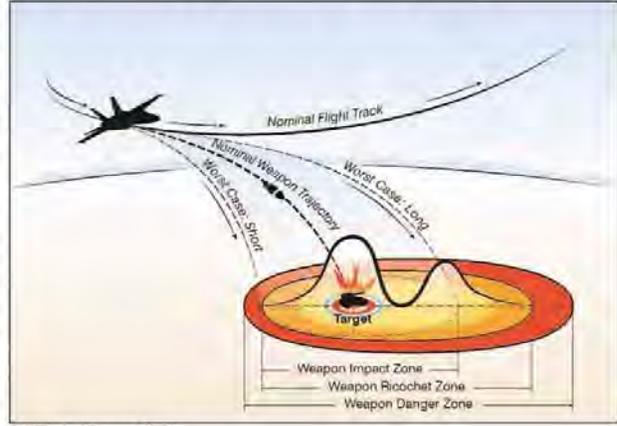
The expansion plan has proposed acquisition of Area 1A containing 6,231 acres; Area 1B, containing 4,956 acres; and Area 3, with 23,480 acres.

Four action alternatives and one no action alternative are proposed.

Alternative 1, which includes areas 1A, 6,231 acres located to the west of the bombing range in Long County and Area 1B, which includes 4,956 acres, an area immediately surrounding the current range, with lands to the southeast in McIntosh County, a small amount of acreage to the north and acreage on the northwest in Long County.

Alternative 2 encompasses Area 3, which is 23,480 acres to the north, northwest of the range, with the majority of that acreage in Long County.

Alternative 3 includes all three areas of 1A, 1B and 3, which has



a total of 34,667 acres.

Alternative 4 is the combination of Areas 1B and 3, which include a total acreage of 28,436.

The executive summary of the draft states that Alternative 4 is the "Preferred Alternative."

"Alternative 4 represents the most favorable balance of operational utility and acceptable environmental impacts."

The McIntosh County land involved in Alternative 4 in Area 1B would include the acquisition of commercial timber properties owned, according to the tax map, by Greenwood Georgia LLC, with its office in Atlanta. This land includes more than 3,000 acres. Adjacent property is owned by Edgar Davis Jr.

McIntosh County land includ-

ed in Area 3 includes, according to the tax map timber properties owned by RTOC Limited Partnership and FIATP Timber LLP, both with the same Atlanta address. This includes more than 7,000 acres.

The report explained why Alternative 4 was preferred.

"From an operational perspective, Alternative 3 is the best action alternative, followed in decreasing order of operational utility by Alternative 4, Alternative 2 and Alternative 1. Alternative 4 is, therefore, the operationally preferred alternative. On the other hand, from an environmental perspective, Alternative 2 would have the least environmental impact and is the environmentally preferred

alternative. The best balance between operational utility and acceptable environmental impacts is represented by Alternative 4; therefore, the USMC has selected Alternative 4 as the Preferred Alternative."

The proposed action states that the U.S. Marine Corp will have to own all the timberland and manage it to ensure the safety of TBR personnel and the public.

There will be a modification of airspace which will eliminate the current gap from 100 feet above ground level down to the surface of the ground.

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City proposes to keep millage rate the same, but value of tax digest has increased

The City Manager has announced that the City's Preliminary 2012 Millage Rate, or tax rate applied to all taxable properties in the city, will remain unchanged from the previous year.

This preliminary statement is a formality in the statutory process of officially setting the millage rate, or tax rate, and should not be considered as the final rate, which is subject to City Council approval after the requisite public hearings.

The applicable statutes require publication of the proposed rate as a "tax increase" because the value of the real property digest has increased over the previous year, and will result in increased funding to the city. For instance, the real

property digest increased in value by \$12,192,182.00 as the result of a reappraisal of real properties in the city by the McIntosh County Board of Tax Assessors.

The City will hold public hearings on the matter as indicated in the required public

notice. All interested persons are urged to attend and provide input.

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SPECIALISTS SPEEDS UP
DISCHARGE PROCESS

SEE PAGE 5A



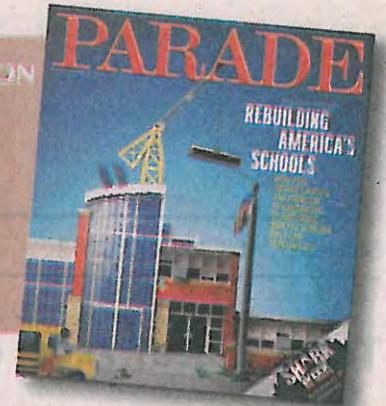
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75 CENTS

Public eager to sound off on bombing-range plan



Marine Corps realty specialist Amy Kock fields questions about the Townsend Bombing Range expansion proposal Thursday night at a Marine Corps public meeting in Ludowici City Hall.

Mike Riddle

Many want remediation funds guaranteed

By MIKE RIDDLE
Coastal Courier correspondent

Seventy-five Long County residents attended a Marine Corps public meeting Thursday in Ludowici City Hall to discuss the proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range.

Information on the possible plan was disseminated, and comments on the draft environmental

impact statement were accepted.

Five stations were set up to provide information on public involvement, the range's history and mission, the purpose of the proposed expansion, a resource analysis on the proposed expansion and real-estate-acquisition possibilities. In addition to the information posts, a station for recording comments

RANGE continues on 3A

RANGE

Continued from page 1A

and submitting written opinions was available.

Most attendees' comments indicated a general perception that the land acquisition for the project will have a negative financial impact on Long County and, as a result, the county should be compensated.

"Unfortunately, I think that this plan is going to go through," meeting attendee Robert Long said. "But if it

does, there has to be a way that this lost revenue is provided back to the county."

According to Marine Corps realty specialist Amy Kock, Long County stands to lose anywhere from \$53,572 to \$172,007 annually. However, if the preferred option is approved, the impact would be \$131,318 per year. Long County Tax Assessor Beverly Johnson said the figure is pretty close to her estimate.

One possible way to continue providing revenue to Long County, Kock said, is for the Marine Corps to manage and harvest the timber land

that would be acquired if the plan is passed. That way, 40 percent of the timber-management profits would go to the state and the money could be rerouted back to Long and McIntosh counties — if the Legislature designates it for that purpose.

However, Johnson pointed out, much of the land under consideration already is being harvested.

Base forester Tim Money said there's no way to know how much timber will be left on the land by the time it is acquired, but whatever is there will be harvested and managed.

Rep. Jack Kingston, R-Ga., was unable to attend the meeting but did make a comment.

"I urge the military to work closely with elected officials and listen to the citizens' concerns. It shouldn't come down to the public choosing between supporting the military and potentially risking their future prosperity," Kingston said.

Regarding the possibility of earmarking the timber-management funds for Long County, Kingston representative Brooke Childress said the congressman is looking into the option.

Navy extends public-comment period on bombing range report

By **PATRICK DONOHUE**
pdonohue@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8152
Published Wednesday, August 15, 2012
0 Comments

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Patrick Donohue
Breaking News Reporter

pdonohue@beaufortgazette.com
843.706.8152

[Read more from Patrick.](#)

Navy officials have extended the period during which the public can comment on the proposed expansion of the range.

Residents living near the facility will have until Sept. 27 to submit comments about plans to enlarge the range by 11,000 to 35,000 acres, according to an air station spokesman. The public-comment period was originally set to end Aug. 27.

The Navy's announcement comes about a week after air station officials hosted a pair of public

meetings in Ludowici and Darien, Ga., to gather public comments. More than 115 residents attended the two meetings, 24 of whom submitted verbal and written comments about the Navy's environmental report, according to Capt. Jordan Cochran, air station spokesman.

The report was released last month and examined the Navy's plans to expand the range, which covers 5,183 acres in McIntosh County, Ga. It is maintained by the Georgia Air National Guard.

The Navy could purchase as many as three parcels near the range identified as possible expansion sites.

The Navy also could opt not to expand the range, which opened in 1981 and will continue to be used by air station pilots once the base receives its allotment of Joint Strike Fighters in 2013 or 2014.

The report recommended the acquisition of two parcels that would add more than 28,000 acres.

The report did not specify the price of the land but said acquiring it would result in the loss of about \$35,000 a year in property tax revenue in McIntosh County and about \$131,000 a year in nearby Long County.

Related content

1. [Air station to hold public meetings on bombing range expansion, July 31, 2012](#)
2. To read the report, go to, www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com

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Open House meeting on the Townsend Bombing Range

By Margaret Toussaint
As part of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, open house meetings were held August 7 in Darien and August 9 in Ludowici to facilitate public input into the decision-making process.

The August 7 meeting in the McIntosh Middle School gymnasium had six information kiosks and topic experts from Naval Facilities (NAVFAC) Southeast at each station to disseminate information. The point of the meeting was to explain the studies and impact assessments in relation to expansion and modernization of the Townsend Bombing Range.

The 5,183-acre range is primarily used as a training facility for Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, SC, but it also serves to train 19 users from five states.

MSGT David Callaway, who works at the range, said, "We have one of the biggest air-spaces on the east coast, as of 2006."

Dummy ordinances are dropped by jets onto various target sites at the range. No live ordinances are dropped now, nor will they be in the future. Six times a year, a specialized unit from Beaufort sweeps the range to remove the ordinances.

When booms are heard, they're not from the range, Callaway stated. They're from Fort Stewart.

The expansion is needed to accommodate training with precision-guided munitions. This training currently happens on the west coast. By increasing the size of the Townsend range, the safety zones will maximize public safety from this new usage. These weapons will also be dummy ordinances.

Jered Jackson was the biologist on hand to explain about the biological survey for federal and state protected species that might be impacted. Of the 14 species studied, three species were identified as possibly being affected: the eastern Indigo snake, the gopher tortoise and the wood stork. The consensus for the EIS was that any impact was unlikely to be



An Open House meeting was held at the McIntosh Middle School gymnasium on August 7 to facilitate public access to information about the proposal to expand and modernize the Townsend Bombing Range. The comment period ends August 27, 2012.

Darrell Gundam, an archeologist, was part of a team of 20-30 archeologists who surveyed nine sites in the 1,729 acres encompassed by the Proposed Alternatives. The findings at five of the sites included Native American artifacts from small campsites and early settler artifacts from the late 1800s to early 1900s. If the land acquired contains one of these artifact sites, it will be evaluated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Six built resources were identified: two buildings, Snuff Box Canal, Old Barrington Road, Georgia Coast and Piedmont Railroad and Rozier Cemetery. A single grave marker of a Civil War era soldier is in the cemetery, and the cemetery itself is in the "weapons danger zone." (The WDZ is the buffer around the impact zone and ricochet zone needed to ensure public

safety.)

Amy Koch, a NAVFAC socioeconomic expert, stated that no people were being moved in any of the Proposed Alternatives. One residence, a hunting lodge and a business may be impacted by one alternative. Most of the acreage is currently owned by timber companies.

Each of the proposed action alternatives will remove land from the McIntosh County tax base. The annual loss of taxes are \$12,708, \$22,761, \$35,469 and \$35,469 for alternatives 1, 2, 3 and 4, respectively.

The EIS team is working with

the Regional Coastal Commission to offer training classes on government contract acquisition. For the preferred alternative, Alternative 4, \$12.7 million in construction will be spent in one year, with an annual operating expenditure of \$142,769. Locals who take this training will be better prepared to vie for the upcoming construction contracts.

Additionally, there are now four annual hunts at the Townsend Bombing Range. The current hunts would be expanded to include the additional acreage.

Mike Salik, real estate project management for NAVFAC Southeast, stated that the purchase of property would follow the federal acquisition process. NAVFAC would contract with surveyors and appraisers who have expertise in evaluating timberlands. The acquisition process is expected to last about two to four years.

"We want it to be a fair process. We're willing to work with the landowners and their counsels," Salik said.

According to one of the experts, the expansion of the bombing range air space would have no impact on the proposed airport for Darien.

A question about noise levels yielded this answer from Koch. "The ordinances are not noisy, but there is a possibility of noise from planes. On average,

the noise is not much more than background."

Currently, F-18 fighters are using the range, but the plan is to transition to F-35 planes, joint strike fighters, which fly at high altitude and would be less noisy.

Ron Popiel, a resident on Cox Road, lives seven miles from the bombing range, and with the expansion, will live five miles away. He says there is heartstopping noise now from jets flying at treetop level, but he wants people to know that he is pro-military and he's glad they are well-trained.

Popiel's main concern is for county economies. Besides taking tax dollars off the rolls of one of the poorer counties in the state, the expanded range will serve as a detractor for further residential growth in that sector

of the county. He's also worried that his property value may be affected.

Another Townsend resident noted that the ground shakes and the windows of her home rattle when there is activity at the Townsend Bombing Range.

If you missed the open house meetings, there is still time to register your comments and concerns. Go online to www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com; write a letter to Townsend EIS Project Manager, P.O. Box 180458, Tallahassee, FL 32318; or send an email to townsendbombingrangeeis@enc.com. The comment period ends on August 27, 2012.

The final Environmental Impact Statement is due Spring 2013 and the record of decision is set for Summer 2013.

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Kathleen Russell
Publisher and Editor
kathleen@thedariennews.net
Janice R. Bennett, Composing Director
janice@thedariennews.net
Lucy Les Sellers, Advertising Manager
lucy@thedariennews.net
Ginger Gordon, Office Manager
ginger@thedariennews.net

FOR ADVERTISING: sub@thedariennews.net
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Local News

8/28/2012

Comments for bomb range extended

By GORDON JACKSON The Brunswick News

The public comment period for the proposed modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range has been extended one month.

The Navy wants to more than double the size of the 5,183-acre range in the northwest corner of McIntosh County because it's too small to conduct training for combat pilots.

"This proposed action is necessary to support Marine Corps aviation training and readiness proficiency in the use of precision-guided munitions," according to the notification extending the comment period.

Timber companies own most of the land adjacent to the range, and there are few houses in the area, said Wally Orrel, executive director of the McIntosh County Industrial Development Authority.

If the range is expanded, residents living nearby will notice an increase in air traffic during training exercises. But they won't hear explosions because the bombs used for training are inert.

Still, those who own homes nearby probably aren't excited about the proposed expansion, Orrel said.

"I don't think you want a range near your backyard," he said.

While the development authority doesn't have a position supporting or opposing the range, Orrel said there are concerns.

"We certainly support the military, but we're concerned about the loss of taxes for the county," he said.

"Over 30 percent of property in McIntosh County is owned by the government."

Any property acquired for expanding the range, if that's what the federal government decides to do, will be permanently removed from the tax rolls, Orrel said.

"The compensation is a major issue because McIntosh is a poor county," he said. "The jobs created is virtually none."

During the initial public comment periods that began July 13, the Marine Corps held open house meetings to inform the public about its plans.

The deadline to comment is Sept. 27.

Submit comments

Comments can be submitted by going to the project website, www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com; via email at townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com; or through a letter addressed to Townsend EIS, P.O. Box 180458, Tallahassee, Fla. 32318.

City sets millage

Continued from Page 1

may go up when the millage rate is applied to your valuation."

In answering the question as to why the city did not roll back the millage rate, Cook said, "The millage rate was not rolled back specific to the City of Darien's budget that was adopted July 1. That budget called for that certain amount of revenue to be levied via property taxes."

The public hearing was closed. When the vote came to establish the 2012 millage rate at 3.80, a motion was made by Malbasa and seconded by Lotson to set the millage rate at 3.80. The vote was unanimous.

JoAnn Vieira, owner of the Darien Waterfront Inn located at 201 Broad Street, and Richard Padgett, owner of that property, appeared before the council stating that the south side of Broad Street is being ignored concerning the sidewalk improvements being made on that street.

Vieira noted that the sidewalk in front of the inn was in dangerous need of repairs. She noted that during the two years she has operated the inn, she has had 2,500 guests who are spending money in town.

"We have a huge concern of the improvement that has been done on Broad Street and on the south side (our property) seems to be ignored...Is there any money anywhere that can (be used to) continue the same improvement?"

She showed the council photos of what visitors see in front of the inn. "We really need parking improvement and sidewalk improvement like the rest of the street. It is a shame to see that three-quarters of the street is going to be beautiful and it is going to make our side looking worse than it already is."

Mayor Hodge said, "Unfortunately, we don't have the money or the grant money to do the city at the whole time so we are doing it in blocks."

Cook noted that the project that is being accomplished now was funded in 2003 and no one on today's council was involved with that decision. He said there are SPLOST funds allocated for the sidewalk projects and indicated that he would check to see if there were any available funds.

On the subject of establishing the salary for the mayor and council and a reimbursement for cell phone expense, Cook noted there had been no ordinance on the books. The proposed ordinance set the salary for mayor at \$7,200 a year. The current salary is \$4,200. The proposed salary for council members is \$4,800 a year, instead of the current \$2,400.

Councilman Lotson said he was hoping the ordinance would

blaze the trail to attract a higher caliber of individuals who would offer to serve. On a weekly basis, the council's salary is \$46.15 a week for some ungodly hours and travel, he said.

Lotson made the motion to establish the increase in salary, with Councilwoman Shaw seconding the motion. Malbasa and Clark voted no. Mayor Hodge broke the tie by voting yes.

The salary increase will not take effect until end of the term of office for the mayor and each council member.

The council voted to abandon an alley bisecting a parcel of property, 908 Fort King George Drive, which is owned by the mayor's wife, Marcia Hodge. The mayor withdrew himself from any involvement in the matter. The vote passed unanimously.

The council also adopted a Workplace Wellness Policy.

The city had to vote on approving the proposed distribution of Local Option Sales Tax proceeds between the county and city. This must be done following each 10-year census. The city voted to keep the same distribution by which the city receives 25 percent and the county receives 75 percent of sales tax proceeds in the entire county.

A new neighborhood in Darien is on the horizon after the council adopted the policies and procedures of a Community Development Block Disaster Program. Cook explained that in 2009 the city applied in a second round of the supplement for a CDBG and was approved. The CDBG program awarded funds to purchase property in the City of Darien, pave a road into the area, extend the water and sewer into that area and construct three homes. Two of the homes will be sold to individuals who qualify with a low to moderate income and the third home would be a rental unit.

Cook said, "We have exhausted all special conditions and the Department of Community Affairs asked that we behave as good bureaucrats and approve this document that sets forth policies and procedures that this grant will be administered under."

He said, if approved, the document would be faxed to DCA and they would wire the money to allow closing on the property by the end of the month. The door would be open to begin work on engineering and field work to make improvements to the property so that construction could begin on what will be a new neighborhood.

The proceeds from the home sales go into a revolving fund that the City will operate and

control. The theory, Cook explained, as money is built up and the city builds homes so it goes into a revolving loan fund. "The hope is the money can turn over and multiply as we move forward," Cook said.

The council unanimously voted to approve the document.

Also on the agenda was the consideration of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that would create special use permits, and an amendment to the ordinance to allow offices of any business or service other than medical or dental clinics as a special use in the city's R-1 zone.

The permit for a special use in an R-1 zone would provide for a specific use at a residence and if and when that use ceased, it would revert back to the regular R-1 zoning regulations. The adoption would give the city more tools to use to make decisions on uses and would give the city more control.

This is the first reading for the two amendments.

During the council reports at the conclusion of the meeting, Malbasa gave his resignation as councilman. (See story on page 1.) Other council members expressed their well wishes to Malbasa. They also praised the New Harmonies events and encouraged everyone to participate in the activities.

Comment period extended on Townsend Bombing Range Environmental Impact Statement

Another month has been given by the Marine Corps for the public to comment for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range.

This draft evaluated the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed land acquisition to expand and modernize the bombing range.

The proposed action is necessary, the Marine Corps states, to support Marine Corps aviation training and readiness proficiency in the use of precision-guided munitions.

The initial 45-day comment period concerning the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is extended until Sept. 27.

All written comments must be

postmarked no later than Sept. 27.

Comments may be submitted: on the project Website: www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com; via email to townsendbombingrangeeis@den.e.com; or by letter addressed to Townsend EIS, Project Manager, P.O. Box 180458, Tallahassee, FL 32318

A busy weekend of activities in store for McIntosh Countians

With the Labor Day weekend upon us, McIntosh Countians have an exciting plethora of activities and events from which to choose throughout the holiday weekend.

Saturday, Sept. 1, will find the monthly First Saturday events on Broad Street in full swing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Additionally, Saturday is the final day for the *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music* exhibit in Darien. (See *New Harmonies*, page 10)

Historic Fort King George will host a Labor Day Commemoration on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the fort

site.

The fort will come to life as reenactors fire the fort's cannon and muskets. Children of all ages will enjoy hands-on activities such as rolling hoops, nine-pins, tug-o-war, and more.

On this special day, the regular entry fee is waived for teachers and other educators with school ID.

Admission rates are: \$6.50 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$3.75 for youth. Call 912-437-4770 for more information.

On Sunday, Sept. 2, Ashantilly Center will host the annual Chum-Off event at the center from 4 to 6 p.m. Homemade ice cream aficionados are encour-

aged to bring their own chum and come out and compete against their neighbors to see just who has the best ice cream recipe in McIntosh County.

Ashantilly will provide the ice and salt, and entrants are asked to use recipes that do not contain raw eggs.

The public is invited to come and enjoy the activities and the day by bringing a lawn chair to enjoy some homemade ice cream and "cool music" by Michael Hulet.

So, make your plans to enjoy the events throughout McIntosh County this holiday weekend.

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McIntosh County repays last \$500,000 to its SPLOST fund

Posted: September 11, 2012 - 10:14pm | Updated: September 12, 2012 - 8:39am

By [Mike Morrison](#)

DARIEN — The McIntosh County Commission put the lid on a four-year-old political controversy when it voted Tuesday to put \$530,000 back into its special purpose local option sales tax fund.

Commission Chairman Kelly Spratt said most of the money was the last of \$1.5 million that a previous commission shifted into the general fund for political gain.

"It was put in the general fund at that time so they wouldn't have to raise taxes in an election year," she said.

Money in the general fund is used to pay the county's operating expenses, while SPLOST funds must be spent on capital improvement and infrastructure projects previously approved by voters.

To repay the SPLOST fund, the county will draw from a newly established reserve fund, County Manager Brett Cook said. The exact amount to be repaid is \$530,010.25, which includes approximately \$100,000 from another transfer of funds, which Cook described as inadvertent.

The rest goes to repay the \$1.5 million that was shifted in 2008 when Boyd Gault served as commission chairman and Luther Smart was county manager.

Some \$670,000 was repaid in 2010, Cook said, with other smaller payments made since then.

The transfer didn't come to light until more than a year after it was made, Spratt said.

"Nobody ever said anything about it until it was discovered in an audit," she said.

Smart, who was fired in January 2011 by the incoming commissioners, said in June 2010 that the SPLOST funds were inadvertently deposited in an interest-earning account that also included general fund money. Gault said the mistake actually benefitted the county by bringing in sorely needed revenue, but he said a mistake occurred when the SPLOST funds were withdrawn and spent on operating expenses.

Spratt ran against and defeated Gault in the 2010 election.

Mary Lee Brown, who was the county's finance director in 2008, disputed Smart's and Gault's explanation, saying she had deposited the SPLOST funds in a money market account that was not being utilized. Smart insisted, however, that Brown had deposited the funds into an account that also contained general fund money.

Feeling she was being made the scapegoat, Brown resigned in June 2010.

The county's auditor, Craig Moye of Mauldin and Jenkins, commended the commission Tuesday for correcting the mistake.

"This is necessary to satisfy the state Department of Revenue," he said.

Reporting on an audit of fiscal year 2011, Moye said that the county is on sound financial footing, thanks in no small part to a recent timber sale that netted \$2.3 million in revenue and allowed the county to set up its reserve fund. The county had projected \$11.4 million in revenue for fiscal year 2011. That amount did not include the timber sale, which was negotiated after the budget process was concluded.

The county maintains a timber easement on portions of the U.S. Marine Corps' Townsend Bombing Range and cut and sold a large tract this year, Cook said.

After paying off the SPLOST debt, the county will still have \$1.5 million in reserve, Cook said.

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Posted: 10:39 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2012

Luowici no stranger to notoriety

By Katie Leslie

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

LUDOWICI — For most towns of 1,700 souls, a murder case featuring soldiers accused of planning to overthrow the government would be the biggest thing ever. For Ludowici, a town known statewide and even nationally as a highly efficient speed-trap, it's the latest in a string of sensational crimes, oddities and really big small-town worries.

At the top of the worry list: how Long County will pay for not one but three trials for the accused anarchist soldiers, whose alleged crimes were committed in Long County even though the defendants were stationed in neighboring Liberty County, at Fort Stewart.

Add to that the cost of a completely unrelated murder trial involving a body that turned up in Long County but a defendant who lives in Liberty County.

"Why does everybody come to Long County to kill [someone]?" said Karin "Kadee" Dasher, a German woman who has lived in Ludowici since the mid-1980s.

To compound the budget crunch, the Marine Corps has proposed an expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range. If the corps succeeds in taking the more than 25,000 acres it wants, Long County will say goodbye to a considerable portion of its tax base.

Beyond that, there's the hassle over the county's most recent election, which is in danger of being invalidated because the U. S. Justice Department rejected the county's redistricting plan.

Finally, of course, there's the widely rumored "terror training camp" just a few miles down the road in Jesup.

No wonder country residents sometimes feel at the mercy of outside forces, whether criminal or federal.

Subscribers can read our full report on Ludowici's trials and tribulations in Sunday's AJC or on our subscription tablet app.

Appendix B

Public Meeting Materials

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WELCOME

TO THE MARINE CORPS PUBLIC MEETING

Fact Sheet Index

- 2** National Environmental Policy Act and Public Involvement

- 3** Comments, Meeting Dates, and Locations

- 4** History and Mission

- 5** Proposed Action

- 6** Comparison of Candidate Ranges

- 7-8** Details of Proposed Action

- 9** Alternatives

- 10-11** Resource Analysis

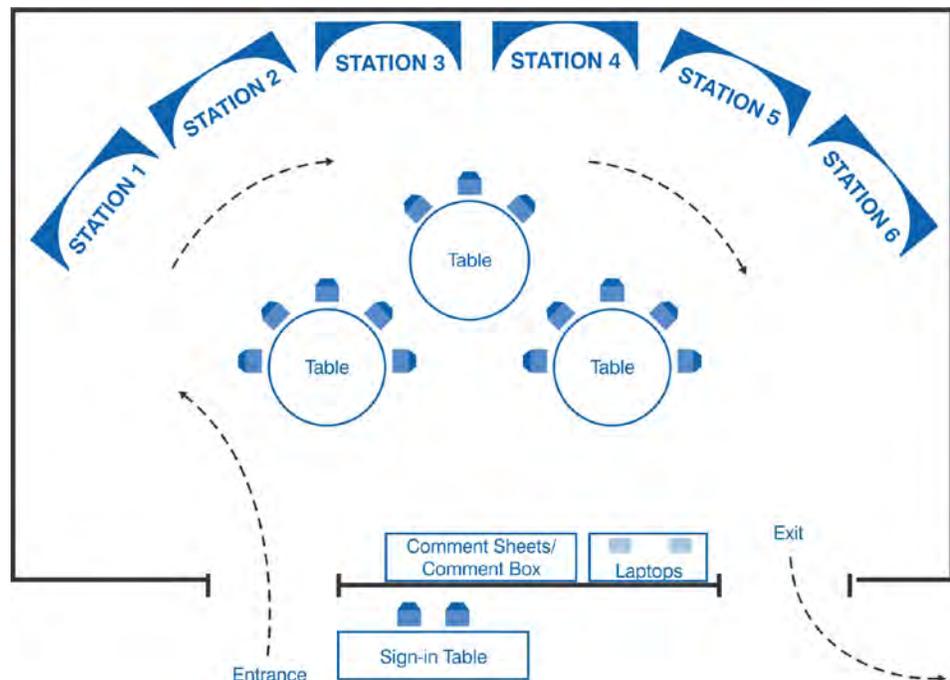
- 12** Real Estate Acquisition

Today's open information session is for the United States Marine Corps (USMC) to solicit comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) at Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) in McIntosh County, Georgia. The Draft EIS evaluates the potential environmental effects of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of inert (non-explosive munitions with a spotting charge) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) at TBR. Through the use of PGMs at TBR, the USMC can more efficiently meet current training requirements for pilots by significantly increasing air-to-ground training capabilities at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, South Carolina.

USMC representatives are available to explain the Proposed Action, project alternatives and schedule, and the environmental analysis and findings in the Draft EIS. Areas in the meeting room have been designated to allow you the opportunity to submit your comments today or refer to page 3 for additional ways to provide comments. The public comment period ends on August 27, 2012. Please submit your comments by that date to ensure they are considered in the EIS.

The purpose of this public comment meeting is to solicit your comments on the Draft EIS.

For future updates, please visit the project Web site at:
www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com



FACT SHEET

FOR THE PROPOSED MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE

The National Environmental Policy Act and Public Involvement

The National Environmental Policy Act is the federal law that requires all federal agencies to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of any major actions they propose and to inform and involve the public in the decision-making process.

Environmental Impact Statement

An EIS is a detailed study that analyzes the potential effects, both positive and negative, that the Proposed Action and the associated alternatives may have on the environment and the local community.

The Marine Corps' Draft EIS for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of TBR includes the following:

- Purpose of and need for the expansion and modernization of TBR;
- Description of the Proposed Action and alternatives;
- Presentation of existing/baseline conditions and evaluation of any potential impacts to the environment and the local community; and
- Assessment of potential cumulative impacts when the proposal is considered along with other past, present, and future actions that have occurred or are occurring in the region.

Your involvement and feedback are essential to helping the Marine Corps make an informed decision on the Proposed Action.



Submit Your Comments

Your involvement and feedback are essential to helping the Marine Corps make an informed decision on the Proposed Action. There are four ways to provide your comments:

1. At today's public meeting
2. Online at: www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com
3. By mail to:

**Townsend EIS Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318**

4. By email to: townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com



The public comment period ends on August 27, 2012.

Public Meeting Dates and Locations

Open House Meetings will be from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Date	Location Address
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday August 7, 2012</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">McIntosh County Middle School Gymnasium 500 Green Street Darien, GA 31305</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday August 9, 2012</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">City of Ludowici City Hall Meeting Room 469 North Macon Street Ludowici, GA 31316</p>



History and Mission

History

TBR is a 5,183-acre facility located in McIntosh County, Georgia. TBR is owned by the Marine Corps and is part of the Georgia Air National Guard's Combat Readiness Training Center in Savannah, Georgia. The primary user of TBR is Marine Aircraft Group 31 (MAG-31), based at MCAS Beaufort. TBR serves as an important training facility for 19 users from five states.

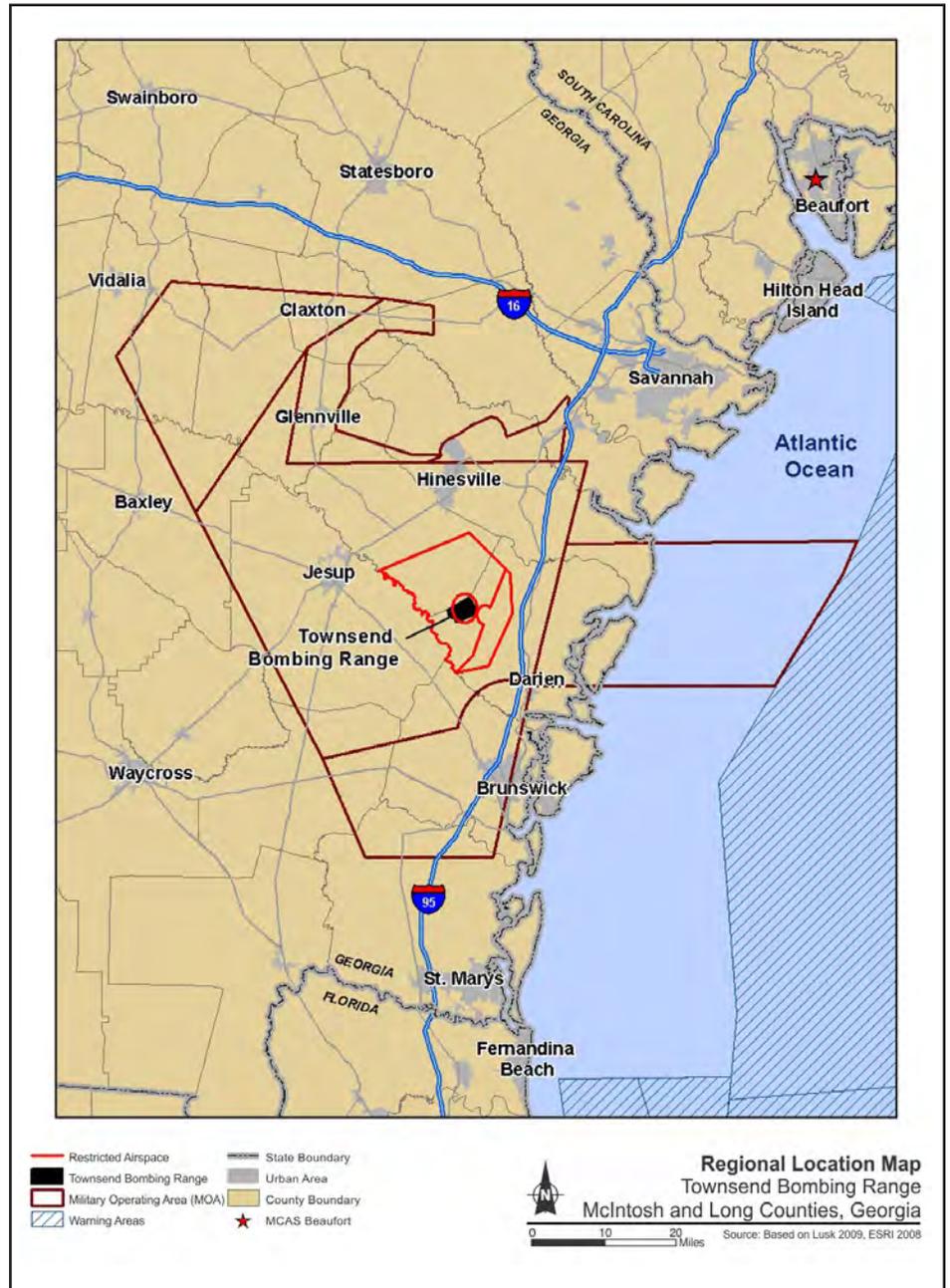
TBR, formerly known as "Glynco Bombing Range," was first opened as an aerial gunnery range by the U.S. Navy in the early 1940s. The Range was closed in 1972 in conjunction with the closure of nearby Naval Air Station Glynco. The Marine Corps reopened the Range in 1981 as Townsend Bombing Range, a training facility for MCAS Beaufort, SC.

Mission

TBR's mission is to provide realistic combat training for pilots from all military services. It supports training at all levels - from basic skills to advanced training.

Types of Training Conducted at TBR:

- Air-to-Ground Training;
- Low-Angle Strafing Training;
- Close Air Support Training; and
- Electronic Warfare.



Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action that is evaluated in the Draft EIS is to modernize and expand TBR to accommodate MAG-31's requirement to train with inert PGMs and the larger Weapon Danger Zones (WDZs; also referred to as safety zones) their use requires. To accomplish this, the USMC proposes to acquire lands in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater variety of training activities. The Proposed Action includes five interrelated components:

- Acquisition of land;
- Acquisition of a timber easement;
- Modification of existing airspace;
- Construction of infrastructure to support PGM training; and
- Improvement of training capabilities.

Purpose

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide an air-to-ground training range capable of providing a wider variety of air-to-ground operations, including the use of PGMs, to meet current training requirements.

Inert precision-guided weapons training capability at TBR would enhance mission effectiveness for MAG-31 and other TBR users. Under the Proposed Action, any increase in TBR's boundaries would insure the safety of adjacent communities.

Need

The Proposed Action is needed to more efficiently meet current training requirements for USMC aviation assets by significantly increasing air-to-ground training capabilities in the Beaufort, South Carolina Region.

Presently, squadrons from MCAS Beaufort must use West Coast training ranges to satisfy precision-guided munitions training requirements. Having a nearby range available for this training would result in greater training efficiency.



Comparison of Candidate Ranges

Before selecting TBR, the Marine Corps considered several possible locations based on the following criteria:

- Must be within 165 nautical miles of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, SC.
- Must be under or adjacent to enough restricted airspace to support the current training as well as the required precision-guided munition training.
- Must not currently host conflicting military operations.

TBR is the only location able to meet all of these criteria.

Comparison of Ranges Based on Range Evaluation Criteria

Range	1. Proximity	2. Adequate Airspace	3. Does Not Host Conflicting Military Operations
Fort Stewart (Georgia)	45 NM	Yes	No
Townsend Bombing Range (Georgia)	70 NM	Yes	Yes
Poinsett Range (South Carolina)	75 NM	No	Yes
Fort Jackson (South Carolina)	90 NM	No	No
Fort Gordon (Georgia)	96 NM	No	Yes ^(a)
Grand Bay Range (Georgia)	146 NM	No	No
Camp Blanding (Florida)	160 NM	No	No

Note: ^(a) Impact Area restrictions exist.

Key: NM = nautical miles



MCAS Beaufort 165-Nautical Mile Radius

AFB = Air Force Base
MCAS = Marine Corps Air Station



0 50 100 Miles

Candidate Ranges
Townsend Bombing Range
McIntosh and Long Counties, Georgia

Source: Esri 2008

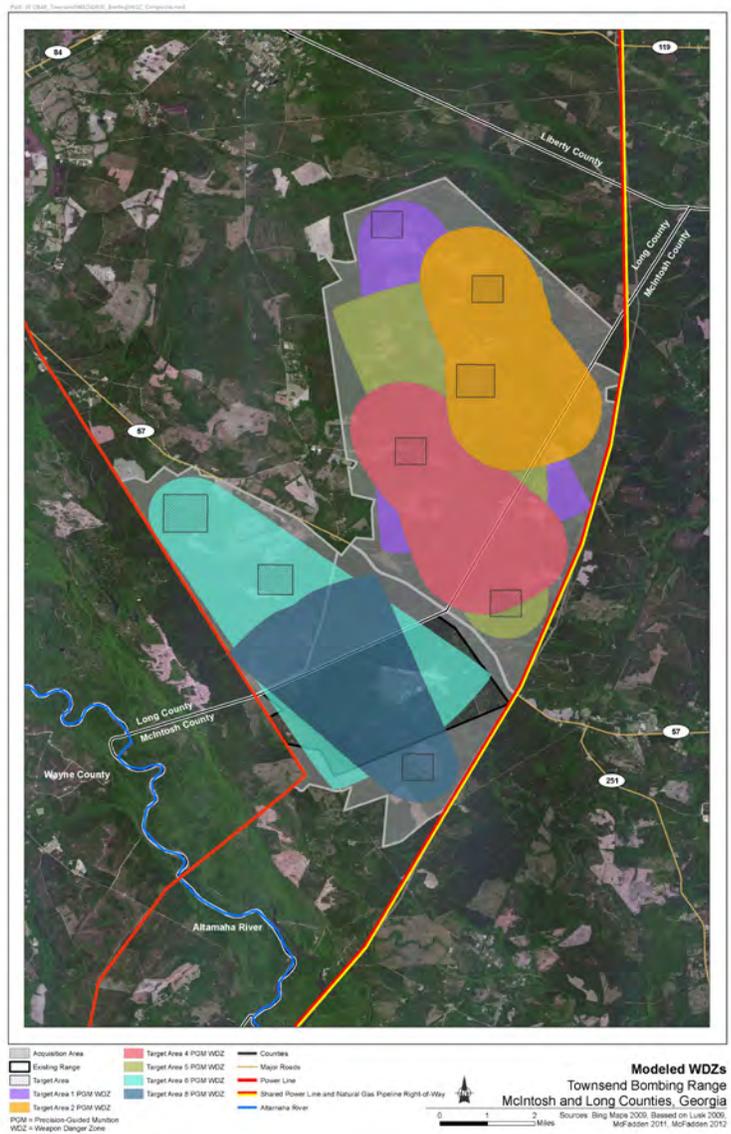
Details of the Proposed Action

Acquisition of Land

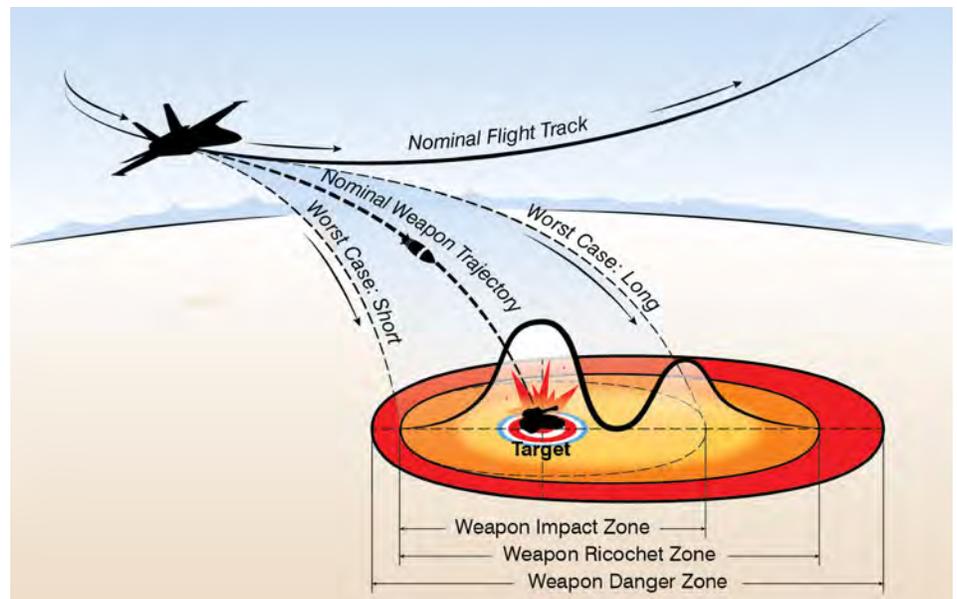
The Marine Corps used modeling software to develop weapon danger zones, which in turn were used to identify potential land acquisition scenarios necessary to accommodate the use of non-explosive precision-guided munitions at TBR.

Precision-guided munitions (PGMs) are guided, advanced weapons that are designed to precisely hit a specific target. They are made with a laser or global positioning system (GPS) guidance systems with operable fins that correct the munitions' trajectory. Because of its ability to correct itself in-flight to the target, PGMs are often referred to as "smart bombs." PGMs are released from higher altitudes and at greater distance from the target than unguided weapons. Unguided munitions are free-falling when released from the aircraft and they descend towards the target with no ability to change their trajectory. Therefore, unguided weapons are often referred to as "dumb bombs."

Though PGMs are more accurate, the weapon danger zone requirements are much larger because it must contain the area in which the weapon may impact the ground should the guidance system fail.



A Weapon Danger Zone is a three-dimensional zone that encompasses the ground and airspace for lateral and vertical containment of projectiles, fragments, debris, and components resulting from the firing, launching, and/or detonation of air-to-ground ordnance. To effectively deliver PGMs at TBR, the land area must be increased to ensure the containment of the WDZs, allow for their realistic combat employment, and ensure the safety of military personnel and civilians present at and around TBR.



Details of the Proposed Action (Cont.)

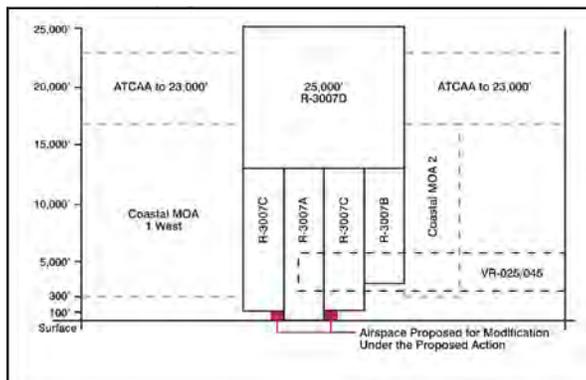
Acquisition of a Timber Easement

The USMC proposes to purchase a timber easement from McIntosh County, Georgia, on approximately 3,007 acres of land within the current TBR boundary.



Modification of Existing Airspace

The USMC proposed to modify Restricted Area R-3007A by extending the current restricted area laterally to the proposed acquisition area boundary. The proposed modification would eliminate the current gap from 100 feet above ground level down to the surface of the ground over the areas proposed for acquisition.



Construction of Infrastructure to Support PGM Training

- New target areas.
- Support buildings and observation tower.
- Roads and fencing.



Improvement of Training Capabilities

- Currently, Marine Corps aircrew can accomplish 47% of their air-to-ground training requirements at TBR.
- The Proposed Action would allow Marine Corps aircrew to complete up to 85% of their air-to-ground training requirements.

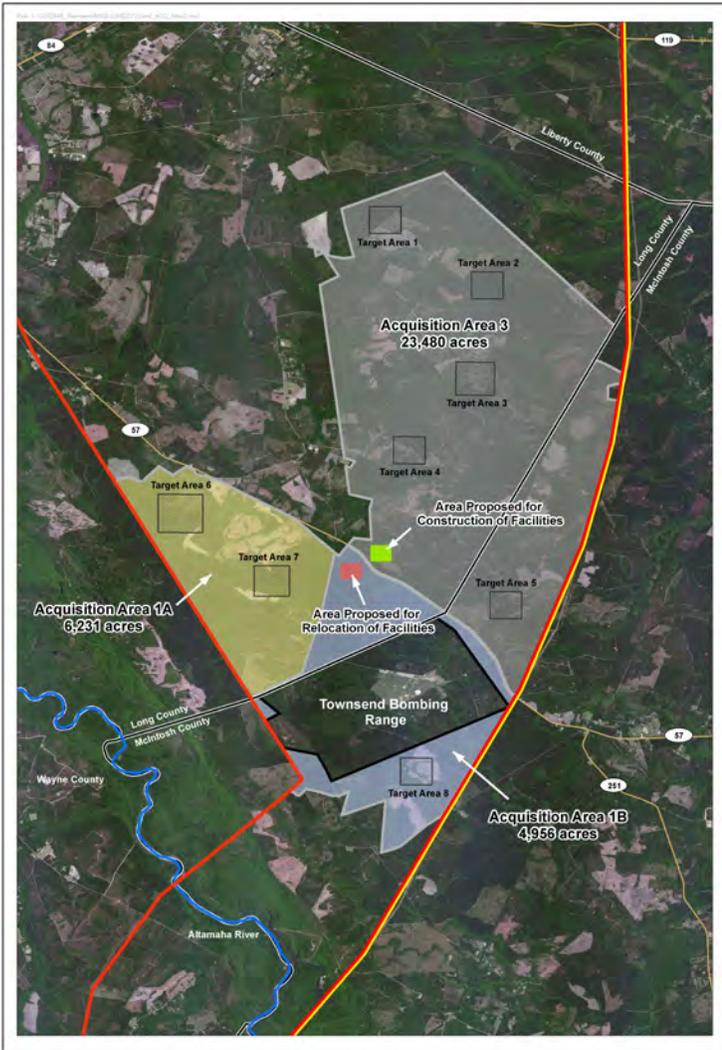
Infrastructure Construction

- Up to 8 new target areas total. Target locations have been preliminary proposed to avoid and minimize potential impacts to natural resources, including wetlands.
- Additional facilities (e.g., Weapon Impact Scoring System [WISS] and observation tower).
- Roads, fencing, and access points to target areas.

Training Improvements

- Marines must train as they fight. Realistic training prepares Marines to succeed in their mission and helps bring them home safely from combat.
- The Proposed Action would allow Marine Corps pilots to complete nearly all of their air-to-ground training requirements at TBR.
- Currently, Marine Corps pilots can accomplish less than half of the air-to-ground training requirements at TBR.

Alternatives



The alternatives for modernizing and expanding TBR, as well as the No Action Alternative, are outlined in the table below and illustrated on the map.

Alternative 1 would involve the relocation of the existing range compound facilities and observation tower to the northern corner of Acquisition Area 1B. The existing facilities would not be relocated under Alternatives 2, 3, or 4; however, a new observation tower would need to be constructed in the southwestern corner of Acquisition Area 3.



Land Acquisition Alternatives
Townsend Bombing Range
McIntosh and Long Counties, Georgia

Legend:
 Acquisition Area 1A (Yellow)
 Acquisition Area 1B (Blue)
 Acquisition Area 3 (Grey)
 Existing Range (Black)
 Target Area (White)
 Counties (Black line)
 Major Roads (Yellow line)
 Power Line (Red line)
 Shared Power Line and Natural Gas Pipeline Right-of-Way (Orange line)
 Altamaha River (Blue line)

Scale: 0 1 2 Miles
 Sources: Bing Maps 2009, Based on Luik 2009, McFadden 2011

Alternative	1	2	3	4*	No Action
Acquisition Area	1A + 1B	3	1A + 1B + 3	1B + 3	N/A
Acreage	11,187	23,480	34,667	28,436	N/A
Target Areas	6, 7, 8	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	N/A
Facilities	All Facilities	Observation Tower	Observation Tower	Observation Tower	N/A
Sorties	3,583	4,243	4,243	4,243	2,358
Training and Readiness Percentage Met	72%	85%	85%	85%	47%
Availability of Targets During Range Maintenance Periods	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Minimize Relocation of Private Citizens	No	Yes	No	Yes	N/A

* Preferred Alternative

Resource Analysis

The following 14 resources were analyzed in the Draft EIS:

- Land Use - Socioeconomics - Recreation - Wetlands - Water Resources
- Airspace - Noise - Biological Resources - Cultural Resources - Air Quality
- Transportation - Topography, - Utilities and - Hazardous Materials and Waste
 Geology, and Soils Infrastructure

Wetlands

- Approximately 28% of the 34,667 acres within the proposed acquisition areas is classified as wetlands.
- Target areas have been sited to avoid and minimize potential impacts to wetlands.

Biological Resources

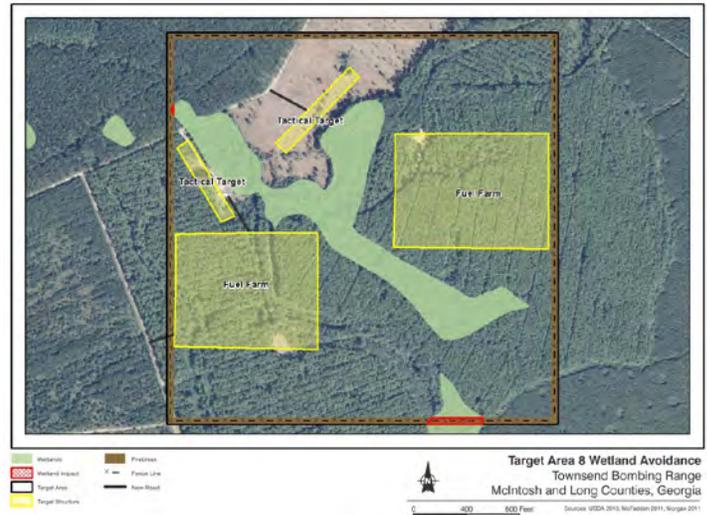
- Fourteen federally and state-protected species have the potential to occur within the proposed acquisition areas.
- Potential habitat within each proposed target area was surveyed to verify the presence of habitat and species to determine potential impacts.
- The Proposed Action was determined to have no effect on 11 species. Of the 14 species, three species (Eastern Indigo Snake, Wood Stork, and Gopher Tortoise) may be affected, but not likely adversely affected by the Proposed Action.

Timber Management

- Industrial forestland compromises approximately 98% of the potential acquisition areas.
- The Marine Corps manages timberlands in support of ordnance use by frequently employing prescribed fires.
- Marine Corps management would increase harvest cycles from approximately 30 years to approximately 80 years.

Cultural Resources

- Of the 1,950 acres proposed for use as target areas, the Marine Corps surveyed approximately 1,729 acres for archeological resources. Nine new archeological sites were recorded during the survey. Five of the sites are recommended for further archaeological testing to determine whether they qualify for the National Register of Historic Places.
- Of the 34,667 acres proposed for potential acquisition, the Marine Corps conducted a reconnaissance survey of approximately 24,031 acres for historic built resources. Six built resources were identified within the proposed acquisition area.



Resource Analysis (Cont.)

Recreation

- Access to lands proposed for acquisition would be limited.
- Existing hunting leases on lands proposed for acquisition would be cancelled.
- Townsend Bombing Range's existing hunting program would be applied to any acquired lands which would allow all persons in the community access to more hunting lands.
- Wildlife management areas and other protected lands outside of the proposed acquisition areas would not be impacted.



Socioeconomics

- Only six parcels within the proposed acquisition areas are owned by private citizens. Three are currently undeveloped. The remaining three parcels contain:
 - One residence
 - One hunting lodge
 - One business
- All remaining parcels within the proposed acquisition areas are owned by commercial timber companies.

Alternative	1 (11,187 acres)	2 (23,480 acres)	3 (34,667 acres)	4* (28,436 acres)	No Action
McIntosh County (367,680 acres)					
Acres Acquired	2,983	5,343	8,326	8,326	N/A
Annual Property Tax Loss	\$12,708	\$22,761	\$35,469	\$35,469	N/A
Percent of Total Property Taxes	0.22%	0.39%	0.60%	0.60%	N/A
Long County (258,240 acres)					
Acres Acquired	8,204	18,137	26,341	20,110	N/A
Annual Property Tax Loss	\$53,572	\$118,435	\$172,007	\$131,318	N/A
Percent of Total Property Taxes	1.39%	3.08%	4.48%	3.42%	N/A
Economic Impact					
Construction Expenditures (One Year)	\$14.8 Million	\$10.8 Million	\$16.6 Million	\$12.7 Million	N/A
Additional Operational Expenditures (Annual)	\$73,901	\$142,769	\$216,669	\$142,769	N/A

* Preferred Alternative

Real Estate Acquisition

If the Record of Decision were to call for the acquisition of land, the following process would occur:

- Identify required properties
- Notify the owners of interest in property
- Hire a surveyor to identify legal property boundaries
- Hire an independent appraiser to determine fair market value
- Make an offer to the owner at fair market value
- Negotiate terms of agreement and enter into a purchase agreement
- The government may use condemnation proceedings if required



Thank you for your participation in today's public meeting. The public comment period ends on August 27, 2012. Please submit your comments by that date to ensure they are considered in the EIS.



Townsend Bombing Range

Public Involvement

National Environmental Policy Act

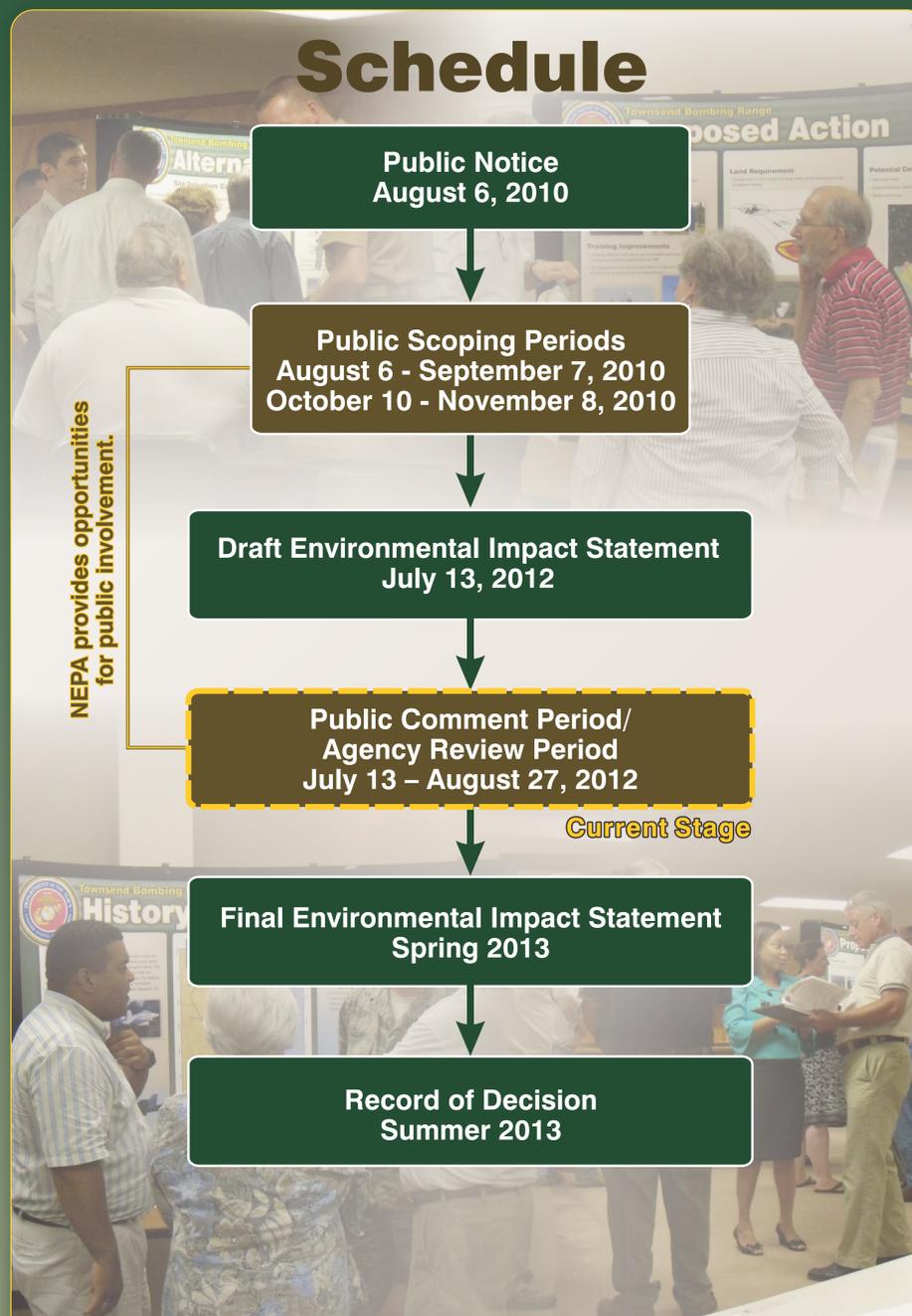
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires all federal agencies to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of any major actions they propose and to inform and involve the public in the decision-making process.

Environmental Impact Statement

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a detailed study that analyzes the potential effects, both positive and negative, that the Proposed Action and the associated alternatives may have on the environment and local community. NEPA requires the federal agency to provide opportunities for public involvement in this process.



Schedule



Submit Your Comments

Your involvement and input are essential to helping the Marine Corps make an informed decision on the Proposed Action.

There are four ways to provide your comments:

1. At today's public comment meeting
2. Online at www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com
3. By mail to:

**Townsend EIS
Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318**

4. By email to townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com

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Townsend Bombing Range

History and Mission

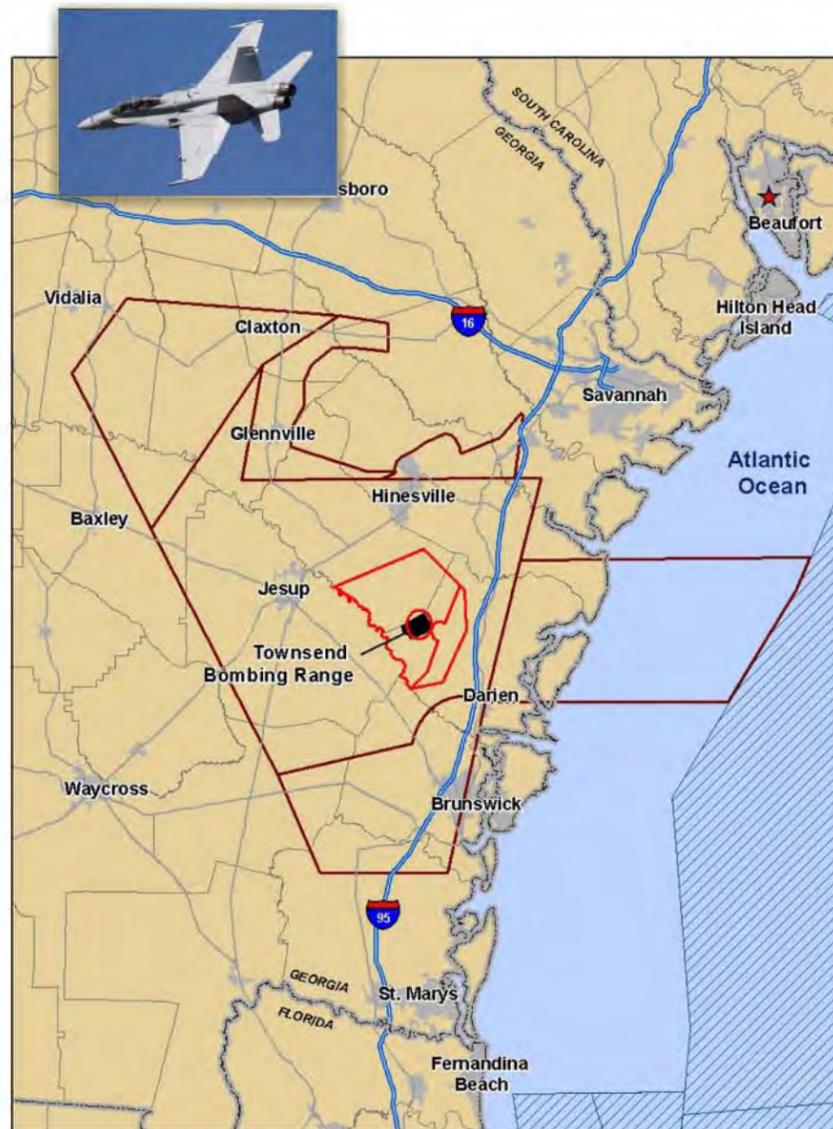
History

Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), formerly known as Glynco Bombing Range, was first opened as an aerial gunnery range by the U.S. Navy in the early 1940s. The range was closed in 1972 in conjunction with the closure of nearby Naval Air Station Glynco. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) reopened the range in 1981 as Townsend Bombing Range, a training facility for Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, SC.



Townsend is a premiere training range managed jointly by the USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard.

- Large Volume of Airspace
- Realistic Targets
- Realistic Threats
- Joint Use by All Services
- Proximity to Offshore Airspace
- Proximity to Air Bases



- Restricted Airspace
 - Townsend Bombing Range
 - Military Operating Area (MOA)
 - Warning Areas
 - State Boundary
 - Urban Area
 - County Boundary
 - MCAS Beaufort

Regional Location Map
 Townsend Bombing Range
 McIntosh and Long Counties, Georgia
 Source: Based on Lusk 2009, ESRI 2008

Mission

TBR's mission is to provide realistic combat training for pilots from all military services. It supports training at all levels - from basic skills to advanced training.



Types of Training Conducted at TBR:

- Air-to-Ground Training
- Low-Angle Strafing Training
- Close Air Support Training
- Electronic Warfare



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Townsend Bombing Range

Proposed Action and Alternatives

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action evaluated in the Environmental Impact Statement is to modernize and expand Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) to accommodate Marine Aircraft Group 31's requirement to train with inert (non-explosive) precision-guided munitions (PGM) and the larger weapon danger zones their use requires.

The Proposed Action includes the following interrelated components:

- Acquisition of land;
- Acquisition of a timber easement;
- Modification of existing airspace;
- Construction of infrastructure to support PGM training; and
- Improvement of training capabilities.



Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide an air-to-ground training range capable of providing a wider variety of air-to-ground operations, including the use of PGMs, to meet current training requirements.

The Proposed Action is needed to more efficiently meet current training requirements for Marine Corps aviation assets by significantly increasing air-to-ground training capabilities in the Beaufort, SC region.

Acquisition of Land

- Acquire land to fully contain the weapon danger zones resulting from the proposed training.



Construction of Infrastructure to Support PGM Training

- New target areas.
- Support buildings and observation tower.
- Roads and fencing.



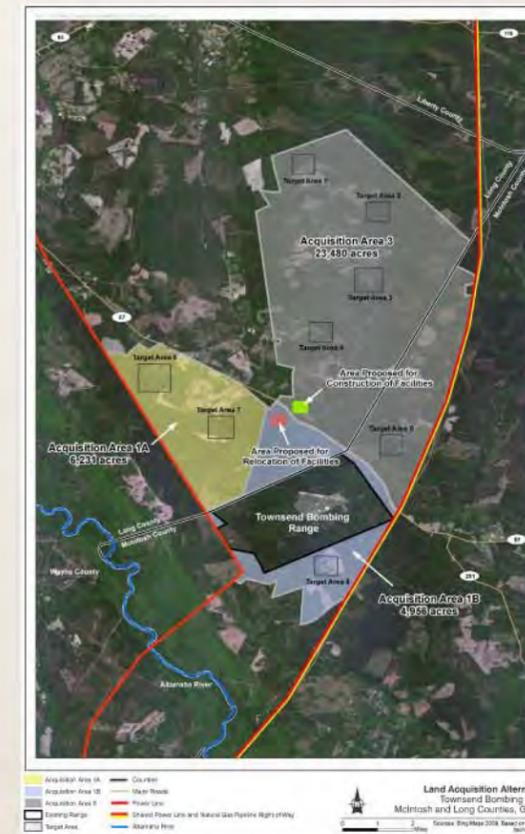
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Alternatives

Alternative	1	2	3	4*	No Action
Acquisition Area	1A + 1B	3	1A + 1B + 3	1B + 3	N/A
Acreage	11,187	23,480	34,667	28,436	N/A
Target Areas	6, 7, 8	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	N/A
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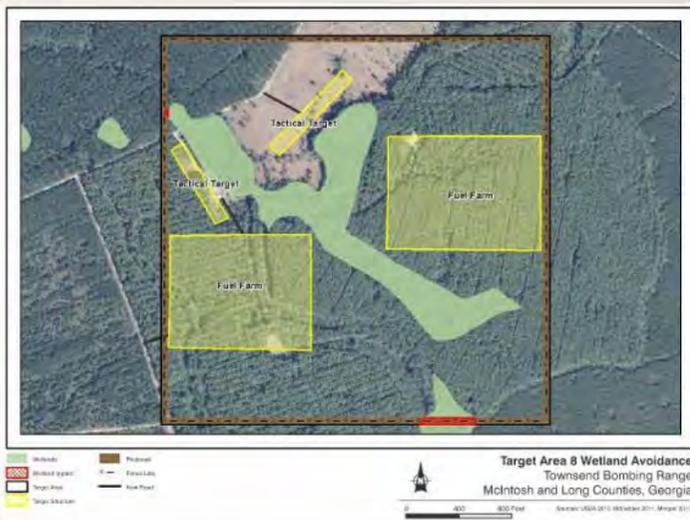
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Townsend Bombing Range

Resource Analysis

Wetlands



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Biological Resources

- Fourteen federally and state-protected species have the potential to occur within the proposed acquisition areas.
- Potential habitat within each proposed target area was surveyed to verify the presence of habitat and species to determine potential impacts.

Federal	
Eastern Indigo Snake	May affect, not likely to adversely affect
Gopher Tortoise	May affect, not likely to adversely affect
Wood Stork	May affect, not likely to adversely affect
Frosted Flatwoods Salamander	No effect
Striped Newt	No effect
Kirtland's Warbler	No effect
Bachman's Warbler	No effect
Bald Eagle	No effect
Hairy Rattleweed	No effect
State	
Corkwood	No effect
Dwarf Witch-alder	No effect
Giant Orchid	No effect
Tiny-leaf Buckthorn	No effect



Timber Management

- Industrial forestland comprises approximately 98% of the proposed acquisition areas.
- The Marine Corps manages timberlands in support of ordnance use by frequently employing prescribed fires.
- Marine Corps management would increase harvest cycles from approximately 30 years to approximately 80 years.



Cultural Resources

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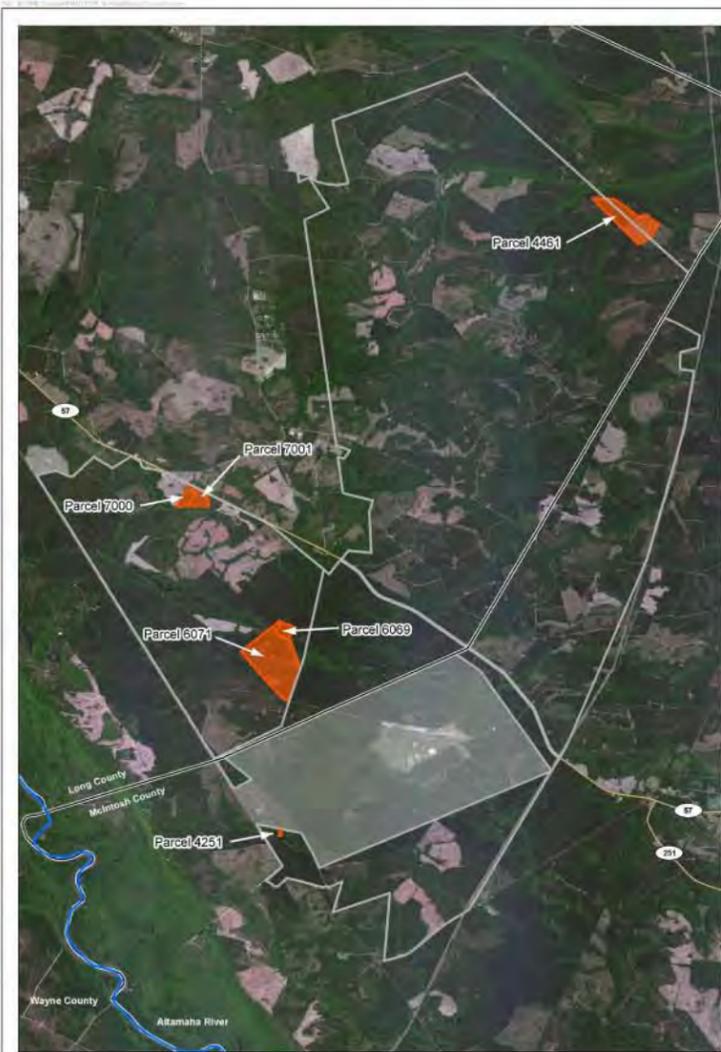
- Of the 34,667 acres proposed for potential acquisition, the Marine Corps conducted a reconnaissance survey of approximately 24,031 acres for historic built resources.
- Six built resources were identified within the proposed acquisition area:
 - Two buildings
 - Georgia Coast and Piedmont Railroad
 - Snuff Box Canal
 - Rozier Cemetery
 - Old Barrington Road
- The Marine Corps will avoid, minimize, and mitigate effects to significant resources.

Your involvement assists the Marine Corps in making an informed decision. Thank you for your participation.
For more information, please visit the project Web site at: www.townsendbombingrangeis.com



Townsend Bombing Range

Resource Analysis



■ Acquisition Areas — Altamaha River
■ Private Properties — Counties
— Major Roads

Potentially Impacted Private Properties
 Townsend Bombing Range
 McIntosh and Long Counties, Georgia

Scale: 0 to 1.5 Miles
 Source: Bing Maps 2010; Based on Lant 2009

Socioeconomics

- Only six parcels within the proposed acquisition areas are owned by private citizens. Three are currently undeveloped. The remaining three parcels contain:
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- All remaining parcels within the proposed acquisition areas are owned by commercial timber companies.

Alternative	1 (11,187 acres)	2 (23,480 acres)	3 (34,667 acres)	4* (28,436 acres)	No Action
McIntosh County (367,680 acres)					
Acres Acquired	2,983	5,343	8,326	8,326	N/A
Annual Property Tax Loss	\$12,708	\$22,761	\$35,469	\$35,469	N/A
Percent of Total Property Taxes	0.22%	0.39%	0.60%	0.60%	N/A
Long County (258,240 acres)					
Acres Acquired	8,204	18,137	26,341	20,110	N/A
Annual Property Tax Loss	\$53,572	\$118,435	\$172,007	\$131,318	N/A
Percent of Total Property Taxes	1.39%	3.08%	4.48%	3.42%	N/A
Economic Impact					
Construction Expenditures (One Year)	\$14.8 Million	\$10.8 Million	\$16.6 Million	\$12.7 Million	N/A
Additional Operational Expenditures (Annual)	\$73,901	\$142,769	\$216,669	\$142,769	N/A

* Preferred Alternative



Recreation

- Access to lands proposed for acquisition would be limited.
- Existing hunting leases on lands proposed for acquisition would be cancelled.
- Townsend Bombing Range's existing hunting program would be applied to any acquired lands which would allow all persons in the community access to more hunting lands.
- Wildlife management areas and other protected lands outside of the proposed acquisition areas would not be impacted.

Your involvement assists the Marine Corps in making an informed decision. Thank you for your participation.
For more information, please visit the project Web site at: www.townsendbombingrangeis.com



Townsend Bombing Range

Real Estate Acquisition

Federal Acquisition Process

- Identify required properties
- Notify the owners of interest in property
- Hire a surveyor to identify legal property boundaries
- Hire an independent appraiser to determine fair market value
- Make an offer to the owner at fair market value
- Negotiate terms of agreement and enter into a purchase agreement
- The government may use condemnation proceedings if required



Environmental
Impact Statement
Record of
Decision

Intermediate
Title Work

Congress
Appropriates
Funds

Final Title
Work

Condemnation
(if required)



NOW

Preliminary
Title Work

Appraisal
Review and
Certification

Closing

Survey
Review and
Certification

Offer
Package

Follow on Appropriations
Will Be the Same

Your involvement assists the Marine Corps in making an informed decision. Thank you for your participation.

For more information, please visit the project Web site at:

www.townsendbombingrangeis.com

Appendix C

Comments Received During the DEIS Review Period with Responses

- C.1 Federal Government**
- C.2 State Government**
- C.3 Local Government**
- C.4 Tribal Government**
- C.5 Citizens and Organizations**

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Appendix C
Comments Received During the DEIS Review Period with Responses

Appendix C.1
Federal Government

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01

From: Kristi.Ashley@faa.gov [mailto:Kristi.Ashley@faa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2012 8:59
To: Drawdy CIV William A
Cc: Barrett CTR Colleen E; William.Burris@faa.gov
Subject: Townsend Bombing Range EIS Comments

Thank you for the extra time to review the document. We may need to schedule a call to discuss the Section 106 issues at some point.

General: Even though Section 4F is exempt from DOD actions, it still should be mentioned since FAA will adopt this document. Just a brief section stating the Section 4F regulations and that USMC is exempt from it.

General: Even though your airspace proposal and environmental are in line now, OSG has not received a final official copy of the document. Until then, the document may change which could trigger changes in your EIS.

3-202: when will the Section 106 process be complete? Will it be before the end of the EIS?
What is the status of the 5 remaining undetermined sites? FAA would like to be kept aware of the status of the project since it affects the EIS that we will ultimately have to adopt.

Treat the Earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children. - Kenyan Proverb

Kristi Ashley
Environmental Specialist
Operations Support Group
Eastern Service Center
p-404.305.5607
f-404.305.5572

Response to Comment 01:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. Additional text has been added to the Regulatory Framework sections of the Airspace and Cultural Resources analyses (please refer to Sections 3.6.2 and 3.9.2.1, respectively). As set forth in Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation (DOT) Act of 1966 (49 United States Code [U.S.C.] Section 303(c)), the Federal Aviation Administration and other DOT agencies cannot approve the use of land from publicly owned parks, recreational areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or public and private historical sites unless the following conditions apply:

- 1) There is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of land, and
- 2) The action includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the property resulting from use.

However, pursuant to Section 1079 of Public Law 105-85, military flight operations or designations of airspace for military flight operations may not be treated as a transportation program or project for the purposes of 49 U.S.C. 303(c); therefore, 49 U.S.C. 303(c) is not being considered as part of this analysis.

The Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) will provide a final copy of the airspace modification proposal to the Federal Aviation Administration and anticipates providing this document by mid-January 2013.

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) developed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer (GA SHPO) for this undertaking in accordance with 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800.14 (B) (1) (ii). The PA, which was also signed by the GA ANG, has been filed with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). The filing of the PA and the execution of its terms complete the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and ACHP regulations. The USMC consulted a wide array of federally recognized Native American Tribes and other stakeholders about the undertaking and the development of the PA. No traditional cultural properties or sacred sites have been identified within the project Area of Potential Effects.

Response to Comment 01 continued on next page.

Public Comment Summary Report

Continuation of response to Comment 01

The USMC conducted an archaeological survey of approximately 1,732 acres within proposed target areas. Nine archaeological sites were identified during the survey, four were recommended as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and additional work at five sites was recommended to determine whether they qualify for the NRHP. If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of land, the NRHP eligibility of these sites would be determined after acquisition. Based on these determinations, the USMC would determine how best to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any potential adverse effects on historic properties in accordance with the PA executed with the GA SHPO for this undertaking.

02



United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service
105 West Park Drive, Suite D
Athens, Georgia 30606
Phone: (706) 613-9493
Fax: (706) 613-6059

West Georgia Sub-Office
Post Office Box 52560
Fort Benning, Georgia 31995-2560
Phone: (706) 544-6428
Fax: (706) 544-6419

Coastal Sub-Office
4980 Wildlife Drive
Townsend, Georgia 31331
Phone: (912) 832-8739
Fax: (912) 832-8744

August 13, 2012

Townsend EIS Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Re: FWS Log # 2012-CPA-0851

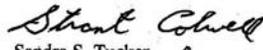
Dear Sir:

Thank you for letting us review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia. We have reviewed the Draft EIS and submit the following comments under provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*).

After reviewing this information, we believe that the selection of the preferred alternative (#4) is the best alternative to provide the U.S. Marine Corps with their needs for training and provide a necessary balance with wildlife and the environment. We believe that Townsend Bombing Range will manage this land to have a benefit to federal trust resources, such as wetlands and rare species, as it does with its current land holdings. We have previously consulted on this proposed land acquisition which is included in the draft EIS Appendix E.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this draft EIS and if you have any questions, please write or call staff biologist Robert Brooks of our Coastal Georgia suboffice at (912) 832-8739, extension 107.

Sincerely,


Sandra S. Tucker
Field Supervisor

Response to Comment 02:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

JACK KINGSTON 03
1st District, Georgia

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5931
(202) 225-2269 FAX

BRUNSWICK OFFICE
Federal Building, Room 304
805 Gloucester Street
Brunswick, GA 31520
(912) 265-6010
(912) 265-9013 FAX



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Committee On Appropriations
Ranking Member, Agriculture Subcommittee
Defense Subcommittee

SAVANNAH OFFICE
One Diamond Causeway
Suite 7
Savannah, GA 31406
(912) 352-0101
(912) 352-0105 FAX

BAXLEY OFFICE
(912) 367-7403
(912) 367-7404 FAX

VALDOSTA OFFICE
Federal Building, Room 215
P.O. Box 5264
Valdosta, GA 31603
(229) 247-9188
(229) 247-9189 FAX

August 10, 2012

Townsend EIS Project Manager
PO BOX 180458
Tallahassee, Florida 32318

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request an extension of the comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range in Georgia.

I am concerned that the local communities impacted by the proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range have not been afforded an adequate amount of time to review the complete Draft EIS. Long and McIntosh Counties have contacted and met with myself and my staff to discuss their concerns.

I am asking that you extend the comment period by one month by moving the close of the comment period from August 27th to September 27th or later. If you need additional information please contact my District Director, Merritt Myers at 202.821.2923.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

Response to Comment 03



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29904-5001

IN REPLY REFER TO
5090
NREAO/105
13 AUG 2012

The Honorable Jack Kingston
House of Representatives
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Mr. Kingston:

SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Thank you for your letter of August 10, 2012. In that letter, and on behalf of Long and McIntosh Counties, you requested the time for public comments be extended to September 27, 2012.

The United States Marine Corps is interested in receiving input from citizens and governmental agencies and by this letter you are advised the United States Marine Corps will extend the public comment period to September 27, 2012. A notice of this extension will also be published in the Federal Register.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at commercial (843) 228-7370 or email william.drawdy@usmc.mil.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM A. DRAWDY
Natural Resources and
Environmental Affairs Officer

Copy to:
Mr. John Conway, NAVFAC SE (EV21)
Mr. Jim Omans, HQMC Real Estate
Ms. Colleen Barrett, NEPA Support

04



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960
August 27, 2012

Townsend EIS Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, Florida 32318

SUBJECT: EIS for Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia.

Pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 has reviewed the U. S. Marine Corps Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia. Under Section 309 of the CAA, EPA is responsible for reviewing and commenting on major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Background:

MCAS Beaufort, South Carolina, is home to Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-31, which has six operational F/A-18 Hornet Squadrons. The F/A-18 is a fighter and attack jet aircraft that carries out air-to-air and air-to-ground missions from land bases and aircraft carriers. MAG-31 conducts anti-air warfare and offensive air support operations in support of Fleet Marine Forces from advanced bases, expeditionary airfields, or aircraft carriers and conducts other air operations as directed.

Through the preparation of a Universal Need Statement (UNS; May 1, 2003), MAG-31 identified its requirement for an air-to-ground training range that allows aircrews to utilize PGMs in a realistic training environment. Following the preparation of the UNS, the USMC began the process to certify the requirement to establish an air-to-ground training range to support MAG-31's aviation training needs and develop the approach to accommodate this requirement. In 2009, the Marine Requirements Oversight Council (MROC) concurred with the concept to expand TBR. Thus, the MROC approved the requirement to establish an East Coast range capable of supporting PGM training and determined that modernization of TBR was critical to ensuring the effective training of East Coast-based USMC aviation units. The MROC's concurrence with MAG-31's need for an air-to-ground range that can accommodate realistic PGM training allowed the USMC and the DON to request the Department of Defense's (DOD's) approval to study the land acquisition alternatives that could support the creation of a modernized air-to-ground training range. The Office of the Secretary of Defense approved the request in December 2009. Based on these developments, the USMC initiated the preparation of the EIS to examine the potential impacts of the proposed land acquisition and airspace modification alternatives that could meet the training requirement.

To fulfill MAG-31's aviation training requirement to train with Precision Guided Missiles (PGM)s in a realistic training environment and achieve readiness proficiency for air-to-ground operations for MAG-31 F/A-18 pilots, the USMC proposes to modernize and expand TBR. This modernization and expansion of TBR would provide an enhanced, air-to-ground training range for MAG-31 F/A-18s that would safely accommodate the use of inert PGMs as well as the suite of inert

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Response to Comment 04

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The peak noise discussion from the noise analysis (Appendix F) has been incorporated into Section 3.7 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the United States Marine Corps would continue to consult throughout the Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting process with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, who is a cooperating agency on this FEIS, and with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in an effort to reduce potential impacts to jurisdictional waters.

Comment 04 continues on the following pages.

Public Comment Summary Report

weapons that are currently used at TBR and thus achieve greater readiness proficiency for air-to-ground operations. Inert weapons contain no explosives, but may contain a small smoke charge (spotting charge) to assist in scoring the event and providing feedback to the pilot.

It is critical that TBR, as the primary air-to-ground range for MAG-31, has the capability to accommodate MAG-31's operational requirements, including training in the employment of PGMs, and the adaptability to accommodate evolving training needs and areas of emphasis. TBR is one of four air-to-ground ranges within the USMC's inventory on the East Coast and one of seven USMC ranges in the United States that support air combat/air-to-ground operations. TBR is centrally located between the Gulf Coast and the Eastern Seaboard and because of its strategic location is an ideal venue in support of military training requirements.

Munitions that are currently utilized for training at TBR are non-guided, inert weapons. Under TBR's present configuration, it is unable to meet all the requirements of the current F/A-18 air-to-ground training syllabus, including the delivery of PGMs; furthermore, no range within the local flying area is capable of supporting MAG-31's required level of PGM training.

Alternatives:

EPA understands that this DEIS examined four action alternatives and the No Action Alternative. All four action alternatives would involve the acquisition and management of land and a timber easement, the modification of existing airspace, and the infrastructure to support PGM training, and would result in the improvement of training. During this process, the USMC developed four possible land acquisition areas. Acquisition Area 2, which was presented during the public scoping period, is not being carried forward for further analysis. Also, during preparation of this DEIS, Area 1, as it was presented during the public scoping period, was divided into two sections and renamed Areas 1A and 1B. The four alternatives with their respective acquisition areas are:

- Alternative 1: Acquisition Area 1A and Area 1B
- Alternative 2: Acquisition Area 3 (not analyzed)
- Alternative 3: Acquisition Area 1A, Area 1B, and Area 3
- Alternative 4: Acquisition Area 1B and Area 3

Based on the analysis presented in the DEIS, the USMC has selected Alternative 4 as the Preferred Alternative. Alternative 4 represents the most favorable balance of operational utility and acceptable environmental impacts. Both operational and environmental criteria were compared in order to identify Alternative 4 as the Preferred Alternative.

The Proposed Action includes acquisition of up to 36,828 acres within two areas (e.g., Acquisition Areas 1 and 3. A third Acquisition Area, Area 2, was originally considered as part of the Proposed Action, but was subsequently dropped from consideration due to, environmental sensitivity in Long and McIntosh Counties, Georgia, for the modernization and expansion of TBR. As part of the Proposed Action, up to eight Impact Areas, (IAs) would be placed within the two Acquisition Areas according to the DEIS, Attachment B, Figure 1-1. Within the eight IAs, target infrastructure and new roads would be constructed, and upgrades to existing roads would occur. Areas outside the IAs would serve as safety buffers.

EPA's Concerns:

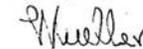
Noise- EPA is concerned about the noise level generated by strafing operation conducted at the scored strafing pits and by high angle strafing at the Targets Areas. Based upon the information developed by the US Army, a basic range of peak overpressure levels may generate complaints from people in the surrounding areas. For peak levels below 115 dBPK, no complaints are expected. For levels between 115 and 130 dBPK, some complaints may occur. For levels above 130 dBPK, complaints should be expected. Recommend further discussion in the Final EIS, on potential impacts to populations in Preferred Alternative, Figure 4-15 page 23 (Scoping Summary Report). Specifically discuss the population demographics and how notification will be handled to occasional sudden noise levels and ways to mitigate, thus minimizing noise exposure and complaints.

Wetlands- The wetland issue is appropriately addressed in this DEIS. However the Preferred Alternative, as well as the other alternatives would require the installation of target scoring equipment, facility and/or tower construction, and roadway construction/improvement that will have various impacts on area wetlands. The wetland Section 404 permitting process is the responsibility of the US Corps of Engineers with EPA's review. This project requires an Approved Jurisdictional Determination (JD) before the permitting process can begin. During that process the U. S. Marine Corps should continue to seek ways to reduce the impacts to wetland systems and any unavoidable impacts should be mitigated as a condition of issuing the permit for the project. Mitigation banks should be used to compensate for the loss of wetlands. EPA understands that two mitigation banks of 7,700 acres will be used to compensate for the loss of wetland functional values to both low and high quality wetlands.

In summary, EPA has environmental concerns regarding this project as stated above, and rates this draft EIS as "EC-2" (i.e. environmental concerns with additional information requested in the final EIS). Our primary concern relates to the Preferred Alternative 4 and populations within and above the 130 dBPK noise level. We recommend continuing to seek ways to minimize the impacts to wetlands within the proposed project area. Please coordinate the permitting process with Region 4's Wetlands Regulatory Section.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provided comments. If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Larry O. Gissentanna (404-562-8248 or Gissentanna.larry@epa.gov) of my staff.

Sincerely,



Heinz J. Mueller, Chief
NEPA Program Office
Office of Policy and Management

Enclosures: Summary of Rating Definitions

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) RATING SYSTEM CRITERIA**

EPA has developed a set of criteria for rating Draft EISs. The rating system provides a basis upon which EPA makes recommendations to the lead agency for improving the draft.

RATING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE ACTION

- LO (Lack of Objections): The review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the preferred alternative. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposed action.
- EC (Environmental Concerns): The review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce the environmental impact.
- EO (Environmental Objections): The review has identified significant environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to adequately protect the environment. Corrective measures may require substantial changes to the preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no action alternative or a new alternative). The basis for environmental objections can include situations:
 1. Where an action might violate or be inconsistent with achievement or maintenance of a national environmental standard;
 2. Where the Federal agency violates its own substantive environmental requirements that relate to EPA's areas of jurisdiction or expertise;
 3. Where there is a violation of an EPA policy declaration;
 4. Where there are no applicable standards or where applicable standards will not be violated but there is potential for significant environmental degradation that could be corrected by project modification or other feasible alternatives; or
 5. Where proceeding with the proposed action would set a precedent for future actions that collectively could result in significant environmental impacts.
- EU (Environmentally Unsatisfactory): The review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that EPA believes the proposed action must not proceed as proposed. The basis for an environmentally unsatisfactory determination consists of identification of environmentally objectionable impacts as defined above and one or more of the following conditions:
 1. The potential violation of or inconsistency with a national environmental standard is substantive and/or will occur on a long-term basis;
 2. There are no applicable standards but the severity, duration, or geographical scope of the impacts associated with the proposed action warrant special attention; or
 3. The potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed action are of national importance because of the threat to national environmental resources or to environmental policies.

RATING THE ADEQUACY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

- 1 (Adequate): The Draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis or data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.
- 2 (Insufficient Information): The Draft EIS does not contain sufficient information to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the reviewer has identified new reasonably available alternatives that are within the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the Draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the proposal. The identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussion should be included in the Final EIS.
- 3 (Inadequate): The Draft EIS does not adequately assess the potentially significant environmental impacts of the proposal, or the reviewer has identified new, reasonably available, alternatives, that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the Draft EIS, which should be analyzed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. The identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. This rating indicates EPA's belief that the Draft EIS does not meet the purposes of NEPA and/or the Section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised Draft EIS.

05



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



ER 12/510
9043.1

August 22, 2012

Mr. William Drawdy
Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Officer
Building 601
Floor 2, Room 216
Beaufort, SC 29904

Re: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed
Modernization and Expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range

Dear Mr. Drawdy:

The United States Department of the Interior have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range. We submit the following comments under provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*) and under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act) as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

According to the information you provided, the federally threatened eastern indigo snake, the federally endangered wood stork, and the gopher tortoise, a federal candidate species, have the potential to occur within the proposed expansion area, but were not found on the proposed impact areas. Therefore, we agree with your determination that this proposed project is not likely to adversely affect any federally listed endangered or threatened species. Also, we believe that the requirements of section 7 of the Endangered Species Act have been satisfied and no further consultation is required. However, obligations under section 7 of the Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered; (2) this action is subsequently modified in a manner which was not considered in this assessment; or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the identified action.

In addition, we believe that the selection of the preferred alternative (#4) is the best alternative to provide the U.S. Marine Corps with their needs for training and provide a necessary balance with wildlife and the environment. We believe that Townsend Bombing Range will manage this land to have a benefit to federal trust resources, such as wetlands and rare species, as it does with its current land holdings. We have previously consulted on this proposed land acquisition which is included in the draft EIS Appendix E.

Response to Comment 05:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process and for the additional information regarding birds in the area. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) has reviewed the suggested Web sites and confirmed that the regulatory framework described in Section 3.8.2 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) provides the necessary protections for all bird species in the area. Potential impacts to birds in the area are analyzed in Section 3.8.4.2 of the FEIS, as are potential impacts to birds that are federally listed as threatened or endangered. The suggestions included in your letter also will be considered during preparation of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) if the Proposed Action described in the FEIS is carried forward. The USMC values its ongoing partnership with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to successfully manage birds in the area.

Comment 05 continues on the next page.

Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range – ER 12-510

Additional information on local bird species that may be impacted by the expansion of the bombing range can be found on the USGS Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) site. We suggest that the Final EIS include additional information on the potential impact to area birds. The USGS BBS can be accessed through the internet.

The bird route location maps can be accessed at:
<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/rcsults/routemaps/routeMapStatic.html>

The bird route availability map can be accessed at:
<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/results/routemaps/routeAssignMap.cfm>

The bird-data links can be accessed at:
<https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/PublicDataInterface/index.cfm>

Because the degree to which a bird population may be impacted depends on the status of the species, we suggest that the Final EIS include a list of birds in the area, and an analysis of likely impacts relative to the trends in their status. The information needed for this analysis is available at : <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/bbs.htm> and in the publication: Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, J. E. Fallon, K. L. Pardieck, D. J. Ziolkowski, Jr., and W. A. Link. 2011. *The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2010. Version 12.07.2011 USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD available online at the same site.*

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the DEIS. If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Robert Brooks at (912) 832-8739, extension 107 or Gary LeCain, at (303) 236-1475 or via email at gdlecain@usgs.gov. I can be reached on (404) 331-4524 or via email at joyce_stanley@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,



Joyce Stanley, MPA
Regional Environmental Protection Assistant

cc: Jerry Ziewitz – FWS – Region 4
Brenda Johnson - USGS
Steven Wright – NPS
OEPC – WASH

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Appendix C
Comments Received During the DEIS Review Period with Responses

Appendix C.2
State Government

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06



WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DAN FORSTER
DIRECTOR

July 31, 2012

Mr. William A. Drawdy
United States Marine Corps
Marine Corps Air Station
Beaufort, South Carolina 29904-5001

5090 NREAO/074 - Proposed modernization and expansion of Townsend Bombing Range:

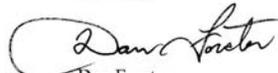
Dear Mr. Drawdy:

The Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division has reviewed the proposed expansion plans for the Townsend Bombing Range and we understand the importance of Townsend as a training facility. Over the past seven years, we have worked very closely with the Navy and USMC to buffer this range from incompatible development. The partnership we have forged has been very productive for all of us.

We have no objections to the plan to acquire Areas 1B and 3 as well as the existing timber easement. Regarding the proposed locations for the Target Areas, the Department is willing to work with you on surveying these areas for biological diversity to assure they will not impact any sensitive habitat. Last, as you know, the Department operates numerous Wildlife Management Areas adjacent to the Range that besides providing protective buffers also allow the public to hunt and recreate on. If this expansion moves forward we would be interested in talking with you about ways to make these new lands available to the public for compatible recreation purposes.

Once again, we value this partnership and understand the importance of Townsend for training purposes. Any questions you have of the Department can be addressed to Steve Friedman, our Chief of Real Estate, at 404-656-9173.

Sincerely,



Dan Forster

DF:lc

cc: Commissioner Mark Williams
Steve Friedman

Response to Comment 06:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

07



OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET

Nathan Deal
Governor

Debbie Dlugolenski Alford
Director

GEORGIA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE MEMORANDUM
EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 REVIEW PROCESS

TO: Townsend EIS Project Manager
P. O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

FROM: Barbara Jackson *BJ*
Georgia State Clearinghouse

DATE: 7/13/2012

APPLICANT: U.S. Marine Corps

PROJECT: Draft EIS: Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range,
GA

STATE ID: GA120713002

The applicant/sponsor has either sent a copy of this project or a notice of availability of the project to Georgia State Clearinghouse's various reviewing agencies.

Provided that continued coordination on this project and any future issues and/or concerns are addressed satisfactorily, the State level review of the above-referenced proposal will have been completed, and the proposal found to be consistent with those state or regional goals, policies, plans, fiscal resources, criteria for Developments of Regional Impact (DRI), environmental impacts, federal executive orders, acts and/or rules and regulations with which the state is concerned.

/bj

Form NCC
Oct. 2008

Response to Comment 07:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

08



OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET

Nathan Deal
Governor

Debbie Dlugolenski Alford
Director

July 31, 2012

TO: Applicants and Sponsors

FROM: Barbara Jackson, Grants Management Specialist
Georgia State Clearinghouse
404-656-3855

SUBJECT: **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**
Suspension of the Georgia State Clearinghouse's SPOC Office

bj

I am retiring as of September 1, 2012, but will be available until August 30th to answer any concerns. It has been such a pleasure assisting you in whatever capacity I could – whether it was answering inquiries/questions or coordinating the review of your applications/projects.

As well, the Clearinghouse office is being suspended and will no longer provide intergovernmental review of applications. We have requested the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) in Washington, DC to remove us from the SPOC list (single-point-of-contact).

More details are available on our website at:

<http://www.opb.georgia.gov/state-clearinghouse>

Also, please forward this information on to other staff members of your agency/company who may be involved in your grant/project processing.

/bj

Response to Comment 08:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

09

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E., Suite 1154, Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Mark Williams, Commissioner
Environmental Protection Division
Judson H. Turner, Director
404/656-2833

September 17, 2012

Townsend EIS Project Manager
Post Office Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

RE: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the
Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Modernization of Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia*. During our review, the following comments were generated:

Comments Concerning Impacts to Wetlands

1. Any subsequent permitting by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Savannah District pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) may also require the issuance of a water quality certification by Georgia EPD pursuant to CWA Section 401. The Georgia EPD Section 401 contact for the project area (Long and McIntosh Counties) is Mr. Dale Caldwell, 400 Commerce Center Drive, Brunswick, GA 31523-8251. Mr. Caldwell may be reached by e-mail at Dale.Caldwell@dnr.state.ga.us, or by phone at (912) 261-3924.
2. Based on the graphical depiction of the impacts to surface waters from Target Area 8 (Figure 3-21), it appears that the US Marine Corps (USMC) may be able to further avoid and minimize impacts to jurisdictional waters in the area of the westernmost fuel farm target. Georgia EPD encourages USMC to continue to work with the USACE on their efforts to avoid and minimize wetland impacts in this area. In addition, while the language of page 3-115 states that “[s]urface waters located within the proposed target areas are composed primarily of manmade ditches and drainages,” it is unclear from Figure 3-21 whether the waters impacted by Target Area 8 are these types of features. USMC should clearly identify such features on Figures 3-19 through 3-25.
3. Please clarify the total acres of direct wetland impacts associated with Alternative 4. Various portions of the draft EIS document reference 12.6 acres of direct wetland impacts, but the total impacts presented in Table 3-38 equal 13.2 acres of direct wetland impacts.

Comments Concerning Impacts to Floodplains

4. Figure 3-18, 100-Year Floodplains, does not cite the specific Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) or FIRM panels applicable to this project; however, it does include the reference “FEMA 1996 and 2001.” Because the currently effective FIRM for Long County and incorporated areas is dated September 26, 2008 and the currently effective FIRM for McIntosh County and incorporated areas is dated March 16, 2009, it appears that the references used for Figure 3-18, cited as “FEMA 1996 and 2001,” have been superseded. While many of the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) or areas of the 1-percent annual flood event or 100-year floodplains shown on Figure 3-18 appear to correlate well with the currently effective FIRMs, the prominent, triangular SFHA that trends northwest along the western margin of the project from the Long County/McIntosh County line does not. Please revise the EIS to include information from the most current FIRMs.

Response to Comment 09:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. If the Record of Decision (ROD) calls for the acquisition of property, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) would continue to consult throughout the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permitting process with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), who is a cooperating agency on this Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), and with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) to ensure all required permits are obtained.

Although construction details are discussed in the FEIS, these details would not be finalized until after any property acquisition occurred. The details in the FEIS are estimates based on USMC need in order to provide an accurate assessment of potential impacts. As previously stated, the USMC would continue to consult with the USACE, who is a cooperating agency on this FEIS, throughout the CWA Section 404 permitting process in an effort to reduce potential impacts to jurisdictional waters.

Figures 3-19 through 3-25 in the FEIS have been updated to show which impacts are to manmade features and which ones are to natural features. The “Action Alternatives” portion of Section 3.5.4.1 contains impact tables showing the breakdown of direct and indirect impacts on ditches/drainages and natural streams. These impacts are also discussed in the text for each target area; however, to clarify the impacts discussion, language has been added to each table to show that all ditches/drainages are manmade.

Target Area 4 was inadvertently left out of Table 3-38, which caused the direct and indirect wetland impacts for Alternative 4 to be misstated. The Alternative 4 direct wetland impacts are 21.2 acres and the indirect wetland impacts are 365.6 acres. Tables 3-38 and 3-39 and the associated text have been updated to reflect this change.

As referenced in your comment, Figure 3-18 has been updated using the currently effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for Long County dated September 26, 2008, and for McIntosh County dated March 16, 2009. Sections 3.5.3.2 and 3.5.4.2 have been updated to reflect changes in the floodplain acreages due to these new data.

Response to Comment 09 continues on next page.

Townsend EIS Project Manager
September 7, 2012
Page 2

5. This project occurs in the area of a pending, multi-county, flood risk study, the Georgia Coastal Mapping Project (GCMP). At current FEMA funding levels, GCMP FIRM panels affected solely by riverine flooding should become effective in late 2013. GCMP FIRM panels subject to storm surge should be effective by fall 2015. For background on this pending study, contact the local floodplain administrators, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources / Floodplain Management Unit at (404) 675-1757, or our Georgia Flood M.A.P. site online, <http://www.georgiadfirm.com>. A regional perspective is available from the FEMA Region IV Coastal Analysis and Mapping site, <http://www.southeastcoastalmaps.com>.

Comments Concerning Impacts to Groundwater

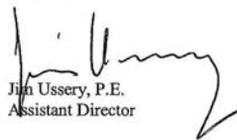
6. The EIS discusses use of an existing or a newly drilled well as a water supply, but does not specify the rate of groundwater withdrawal from the well. Please note that a permit is required for withdrawal of 100,000 gallons or more of groundwater per day. Additionally, if more than 25 people use the water for potable purposes on any day, a "Permit to Operate a Public Water System" will be required, in which permitting will include Wellhead protection efforts; a review of construction details, well design, and health and safety concerns; and testing of water quality (source approval). If the well requires permitting, EPD's Watershed Protection Branch will also evaluate any potential impacts to the well from TBR activities, including the well's location with respect to the bombing range and possible explosive chemicals contamination.

If the well is installed within the Upper Floridan aquifer, permitting protocol as defined in the Coastal Permitting Plan (June, 2006) does allow for new permits or additional withdrawals from the Upper Floridan aquifer in either Long or McIntosh counties. EPD's Watershed Protection Branch will work with the USMC on any appropriate withdrawal application, if they can provide sufficient information and a well-supported justifiable need. An application will require a description of the best practices for water conservation.

The Surficial aquifer or the Brunswick aquifer could also be considered for water supply purposes, though either provides groundwater much less abundantly than the Upper Floridan aquifer. These shallower aquifers may be somewhat more susceptible to local groundwater contamination, which might be of concern to a water supply cited near the bombing range. An application for withdrawal would be appraised per our permitting policy, if sufficient information and a justifiable need can be provided.

Should you have any questions concerning this correspondence, please contact Amy Potter at (404) 656-2833.

Sincerely,



Jim Ussery, P.E.
Assistant Director

JU:ap
File: Townsend Bombing Range (R)
S:\RDRIVE\AMY\DoD\USM\NEPA\New\Townsend Bombing Range EIS.doc

Continuation of response to Comment 09.

The Proposed Action could increase the number of range personnel depending on the alternative selected by approximately 8 to 14 people. Therefore, there may be 23 to 29 personnel at an expanded range. Approximately 2,000 gallons per day are currently withdrawn from the well by 15 range personnel. Groundwater withdrawal is not expected to exceed the permit threshold of 100,000 gallons per day. Additional information has been added to Section 3.13.4.2 to clarify this point. If the ROD calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would continue to consult with GA DNR and the Environmental Protection Division's (EPD's) Watershed Protection Branch to ensure all required permits are obtained. The FEIS provides estimated construction details based on USMC need in order to provide an accurate assessment of any potential impacts. If the ROD calls for the acquisition of property, these construction details would be finalized after the land has been acquired. If the USMC determines there is a need for a well, the USMC would work with the EPD's Watershed Protection Branch on any appropriate withdrawal application.

10



MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

A.G. 'SPUD' WOODWARD
DIRECTOR

September 27, 2012

Townsend EIS Project Manager
Post Office Box 180458
Tallahassee, Florida 32318

RE: **Conditional** Consistency Determination for DEIS: Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, McIntosh County, Georgia

Dear Sir or Madam:

Staff of the Coastal Management Program has reviewed your June 25, 2012; July 2, 2012; and August 15, 2012 letters, as well as the attached Coastal Consistency Determination for the above referenced project. The proposed action includes acquisition of land, acquisition of a timber easement, modification of existing airspace, construction of infrastructure to support PGM training, and improvement of capabilities.

Final design plans for facility construction will not be available until after ROD (record of decision) issuance and completion of the land acquisition process. Therefore some reasonably foreseeable impacts to coastal resources cannot be concisely described at this point in time. Several enforceable policies may require additional coordination and/or state permits prior to actual construction, including but not limited to:

- CCD 5.9 Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act (O.C.G.A. 12-7-1, et seq.): 25' buffer variance may be required.
- CCD 5.12 Georgia Heritage Trust Act (O.C.G.A. 12-3-70, et seq.): conduct additional investigations within target areas after acquisition to identify cultural resources and determine if they are National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible and consult with the Historic Preservation Division and interested Native American tribes to avoid or minimize adverse effects to historic properties.
- CCD 5.13 Groundwater Use Act (O.C.G.A. 12-5-90, et. seq.): permits for groundwater withdrawals over 100,000 gallons per day, potable water used by more than 25 people, wells within the Upper Floridan aquifer, and/or wells within the 100-year floodplain may be required.
- CCD 5.15 Historic Areas (O.C.G.A. 12-3-50, et seq.): conduct additional investigations within target areas after acquisition to identify cultural resources and determine if they are National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible and consult with the Historic Preservation Division and interested Native American tribes to avoid or minimize adverse effects to historic properties.

ONE CONSERVATION WAY | BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31520-8686
912.264.7218 | FAX 912.262.3143 | WWW.COASTALGADNR.ORG

Response to Comment 10:

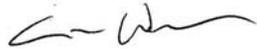
Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) notes your concurrence with the Coastal Consistency Determination included in Appendix C of the Final Environmental Impact Statement. If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would continue to consult with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to ensure all required permits are obtained.

USMC Townsend Bombing Range Expansion
September 26, 2012
Page 2

- CCD 5.23 Georgia Safe Drinking Water Act (O.C.G.A. 12-5-170, et seq.): permits for potable water used by more than 25 people, wells within the Upper Floridan aquifer, and/or wells within the 100-year floodplain may be required.
- CCD 5.31 Georgia Water Quality Control Act (O.C.G.A. 12-5-20, et seq.): National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits may be required. Additionally, if a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit is required from the US Army Corps of Engineers, a Section 401 Water Quality Certificate may be required.

The Program **concurs** with your consistency determination with the **condition** that any necessary State of Georgia permits and/or permissions are obtained prior to commencement of construction. The acquisition of land, acquisition of timber rights, and modification of existing airspace are fully consistent with the applicable enforceable policies of the Georgia Coastal Management Program and may proceed unconditionally. Please feel free to contact Kelie Moore or me if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



A.G. "Spud" Woodward
Director

SW/km

cc: Dale Caldwell, GaDNR/EPD Water Quality via e-mail
Alice Vick, GaDNR/EPD Buffers via e-mail
Dave Crass, GaDNR/HPD via e-mail

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Appendix C
Comments Received During the DEIS Review Period with Responses

Appendix C.3
Local Government

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11

COMMENT SHEET — Townsend Draft EIS Public Meeting

Ludowici, GA • August 9, 2012



NAME (Please Print): Becky S. Fowler

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: Long County Tax Commissioner

ADDRESS: Po Box 628
Ludowici GA 31316

Please provide written comments on this sheet and drop into the comment box or mail to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Written comments must be postmarked on or before August 27, 2012.
Your comments will become part of the Final EIS.

COMMENTS: We as a County cannot afford to
lose this much tax base in our small
County. We are continually losing money from
our digest and as taxpayers we are
really hurting! We do not understand
why government entities keep taking
from our digest. I live in the area
where jets fly so close to my rooftop
it rattles whatnots off of my wall.
I do not like it at all.

Response to Comment 11:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues can be found in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS), the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs. There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

12

MR. DEMPSY GOLDEN: I'm the Chairman of the Long County Board of Education, and I understand that the military needs to be trained, and I understand that the Townsend Bombing Range, if it's enlarged to the recommended enlargement, will increase the training ability of our military on the East Coast. And I certainly support our military being well-trained and equipped.

But at the same time, being the Chairman of the Board of Education, we have to be concerned about property taxes. And I'm extremely concerned about the number of acres being taken off of the tax digest for tax revenue.

And my primary concern with this activity is that I think we in Long County need some way to be assured that the lost tax revenue from the property that will be taken into the bombing range that we will be compensated for that, because that's my primary concern is the tax revenue.

Response to Comment 12:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues can be found in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS), the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs. There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

13

COMMENT SHEET — Townsend Draft EIS Public Meeting

Ludowici, GA • August 9, 2012



NAME (Please Print): Mark I. Hall

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: Long County Development Authority
Long County Sheriff's Office

ADDRESS: 479 Milkpond Rd SE Ludowici, GA 31316

Please provide written comments on this sheet and drop into the comment box or mail to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Written comments must be postmarked on or before August 27, 2012.
Your comments will become part of the Final EIS.

COMMENTS: The bombing range is not the best idea, but
if it does come. Area 6 & 8 would cause
the least tax burden on Long County Residents.

Possible to build a small facility near 57
in Long County with support for military & Retires
maybe a VA Clinic and/or AAFF's store/gas station (small one)

Long County has a Industrial Park near a Rail system
and could be used to bring supplies in for the
ranges. This could be a way to provide jobs to the
local town (Ludowici) and help with promoting
business.

Response to Comment 13:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) selected Alternative 4 as the Preferred Alternative. As the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analysis concludes, Alternative 4 best meets the purpose of and need to modernize and expand Townsend Bombing Range; it is the best balance of operation utility and acceptable environmental impacts.

The USMC acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues can be found in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final EIS. Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

It is estimated that the expanded facility would require four full-time additional personnel: a chief law enforcement officer, a forester, and two technicians and up to 12 range operators, as well as part-time or contracted labor maintenance crews. Construction-related activities

Response to Comment 13 continues on next page.

Public Comment Summary Report

COMMENTS: In total the Acquisition and its Alternatives are not very easy to take in. Jobs are few, Taxes are high, and lives and daily living will be affected by this.

If there is a way to provide a source of revenue or jobs for Long County & the area I think you will have a better response.

Maybe a air base or communications station.

Thank you for your time and may the decision that is made be for the best interest of Long County, the State of Georgia, and the United States



Continuation of response to Comment 13.

associated with the Proposed Action and their related operations and maintenance activities would generate jobs during the construction period and would contribute to local income (please refer to Section 3.2.4). As summarized in Table 3-27 of the Final EIS, it is estimated that the Proposed Action would generate 15 permanent jobs and 113 temporary jobs under the Preferred Alternative. The salaries of these 15 additional personnel would total \$1,168,000 annually. Construction to support the Preferred Alternative would result in an estimated \$11.4 million in direct expenditures.

14

COMMENT SHEET — Townsend Draft EIS Public Meeting

Ludowici, GA • August 9, 2012



NAME (Please Print): Beverly Johnson

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: Long County Tax Assessor

ADDRESS: PO Box 665 Ludowici GA 31316

Please provide written comments on this sheet and drop into the comment box or mail to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Written comments must be postmarked on or before August 27, 2012.
Your comments will become part of the Final EIS.

COMMENTS: As I have stated before, Long County cannot afford to have higher taxes. And that is what will happen if the Government keeps on getting taxable property which turns to Non-taxable. Long County has already given 24,615 acres up to Ft. Stewart, and over 18,000 acres to other Georgia-State-Entities and we don't get any tax help from these. If the Government continues acquiring land in Long County, the taxables will have to leave because they cannot afford the high taxes that will be needed to operate Long County with. Please think this over again and don't take our land!

Response to Comment 14:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues can be found in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS), the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs. There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, cumulative effects analysis identifies the impact on the environment that would result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes these other actions. Please refer to Section 4 "Cumulative Effects" in the FEIS, in particular Section 4.3.2.3.

15



LONG COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
20 September 2012

CRAIG NOBLES, SHERIFF

LONG COUNTY, LUDOWICI, GA 31316
(912) 545-2118 . FAX (912) 545-2120

Townsend EIS
Attention: Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL32318

Re: Comments on Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) EIS

Dear Sir:

I succeeded my late Father , Mr. Cecil Nobles as Sherriff of Long County. As Chief Law Enforcement Officer of Long County I take this responsibility seriously. It is my sworn duty to protect the citizens, and to assure public safety. In this connection please accept my comments regarding the Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range and ensuing environmental documentation. I notice that none of the comments submitted by my late father for the first draft EIS were even in the latest version.

1. The proposed condemnation of over 33,000 acres of Long County private owned land will have a most adverse environmental effect upon the citizens of this county. We are one of the smallest and poorest counties in the State of Georgia. Literally, the "take" of private lands and removal from tax books of the county will be disastrous to the county and its citizens. In Long County we have an inordinate acreage of government-owned land that does not produce a cent of revenue. Fort Stewart Reservation took over 22,000 acres, and the State of Georgia has considerable public lands in the County resulting in a total of over 47,500 acres which is not taxed. We have no significant industrial or business base to provide employment or tax revenue. If the "take" is consummated, it is estimated the county will lose a significant part of its remaining tax base, and it will be impossible for us to provide essential governmental services, without an unbearable tax burden on the remaining private property owners. My department is operating on a limited budget now, and with a growing, service demanding population, we will not be able to survive as a local government entity. Last year Senator Graham of South Carolina appeared on local TV and was exuberant about the Department of Defense decision to base the JSF at Beaufort MCAS, bringing with it numbers of high tech, lucrative paying jobs to Beaufort County SC, probably one of the richest counties in the State of South Carolina. While Long County Georgia one of the poorest counties in this state must bear the cost of a desecrated tax base for a defense facility that will not add one job nor provide a cent of income to the people of this county. This is blatant environmental injustice!! Why doesn't the USMC use the Poinsett Range in Sumter County South Carolina, since it is mostly on public land,

Response to Comment 15:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. Please be assured that your participation has become part of the record and contributed to the decision-making process. Comments from Sheriff Cecil Nobles were received and were included in the Appendix D.2 of the Scoping Summary Report, which was Appendix A of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and also appears as Appendix A in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues can be found in Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS. Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

If the Record of Decision (ROD) calls for the acquisition of land, the USMC/Department of the Navy would first attempt to acquire title to the subject lands by negotiating to purchase the lands for fair market value; condemnation proceedings would only be initiated if required or if doing so is part of the terms in an agreed-upon transaction.

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, cumulative effects analysis identifies the impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other

Response to Comment 15 continues on next page.

acres and is about the same size as Townsend ? The burden of this take will be on those who derive the most economic benefit.

2. I have a number of complaints about the noise of these jets from TBR when funerals at Middleton Memorial Church were being conducted. From the information I have been able to learn from the JSF EIA on the internet, this noise will be more intense than what we are presently experiencing. We also have an elementary school (Smiley Elementary) in the direct route to the TBR. I hear numerous complaints with low flying jets disturbing the school activities there. The new Long County High School is being constructed directly in the flight path of TBR. This is not mentioned in the EIS.
3. Our only semblance of industry in the county is forestry. The land proposed for taking, is some of the most pristine productive forest land in the state. By removing this vast acreage of private owned lands, the action is likely to foreclose any chance of the county attracting any industry in the emerging biofuel technology field because we will have fewer natural resources to draw upon.
4. As Sheriff of Long County, I question the safety of placing a weapons danger zone for missiles so close to Georgia Highway 57. That highway is our most direct route to the Interstate System, and errant aerial munitions will compromise the safety of the traveling public. Although the documents provided by the USMC state that no high explosive munitions will be used, I have concerns that the rocket propellants, spotting charges, and array of hazardous heavy metals is likely to contaminate the ground water in that part of the county. It is untenable to contaminate such pristine ecosystems when there are already thousands of contaminated acres elsewhere that could be used for this purpose.
5. The loss of such a large acreage in some of the best hunting lands in the South will have a marked effect upon seasonal tourism in the county, although this is not a large business, it does provide some income from sportsmen that use these lands for hunting and fishing. This income will be lost to the county, and our citizens and neighbors from Florida and South Carolina will be denied hunting on lands they have enjoyed for years.
6. The location of the proposed land take will create a serious detraction for law enforcement, in that it will close several roads providing access to the southeastern part of the county. That area being isolated by the Townsend Range Expansion will exacerbate the illegal drug problem that requires so much of our enforcement resources. It will also hamper aerial surveillance, and emergency response service to that portion of the county.

In summary, the citizens of this county are sensitive to national defense needs, having a large military population from Fort Stewart, but we cannot understand why the Department of Defense would consider an action with such adverse environmental impact, especially in the socioeconomic sector that is so

Continuation of response to Comment 15.

past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes these other actions. Please refer to Section 4 “Cumulative Effects” of the FEIS, in particular Section 4.3.2.3.

The proposed modernization of Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) is a separate action from the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) East Coast basing decision. These two projects address separate aviation requirements for the USMC. The modernization at TBR is to support the training needs of the current aircraft, the F/A-18. The decision to base the JSF at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort was announced through a ROD in December 2010.

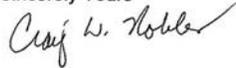
The USMC conducted a multi-step screening process to identify and compare Department of Defense ranges that could support the Proposed Action. The USMC identified seven candidate ranges located within 165 nautical miles of MCAS Beaufort: Fort Stewart, Georgia; Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia; Poinsett Range, South Carolina; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Gordon, Georgia; Grand Bay Range, Georgia; and Camp Blanding, Florida. TBR is the only range to meet all of the range evaluation criteria. Please refer to Section 2.1 and Table 2-1 in the FEIS for more information.

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training. TBR has worked with members of the community in the past to avoid training activities during certain time periods, such as funerals.

Response to Comment 15 continues on next page.

discriminatory against a small local government entity... We know that it is not the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) nor the Policy of the Department of Defense to permit an action that will adversely impact the public to this degree. The environmental injustice that will result from this action should not be tolerated. It is requested that I be furnished a copy of your response and actions to be taken on these comments.

Sincerely Yours



CRAIG NOBLES

Continuation of response to Comment 15.

The USMC understands that the potential noise effects of expanding TBR are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the FEIS. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights.

The Proposed Action could result in up to approximately 9,211 acres where wood products would no longer be harvested commercially. The land taken out of production of forest products represents a small portion (approximately 4%) of all forestland in Long and McIntosh Counties. Please refer to Section 4.3.1.2 of the FEIS.

Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the USMC. Weapon danger zones (WDZs) are established as safety measures to protect personnel on or near the range. A WDZ may be near the range boundary, but the WDZ has requisite safety factors built in. No additional buffer land is required. Each WDZ is sized so that any munition released has only a one out of one million probability of landing outside the WDZ. The chance of the

Response to Comment 15 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 15.

munition hitting a specific point, such as State Highway 57, is far less. Please refer to Sections 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 of the FEIS for details on WDZs and the land acquisition necessary to contain these zones, respectively. The WDZs that are shown on Figure 2-2 are modeled to contain all weapon impacts, including ricochets, occurring within the WDZ.

As a point of clarification, precision-guided munitions (PGMs) are not rockets and therefore do not contain propellants. The unguided munitions (“dumb bombs”) that are currently used at TBR are inert (non-explosive). These munitions are made of concrete and utilize a spotting charge. A spotting charge activates upon impact to help score how well the ordnance was delivered on the target, but it does not contain explosives. An expanded TBR would continue to permit the use of only inert munitions. The proposed expansion of TBR would accommodate training with inert PGMs. Please refer to Section 3.5.3.3 of the FEIS for discussion regarding the programs that the USMC has in place to monitor groundwater and prevent contamination from occurring.

If the ROD calls for the acquisition of property, some private use hunting leases would be discontinued. The Proposed Action would create more opportunities for increased public access to previously inaccessible privately administered recreation lands through the TBR hunting program (please refer to Section 3.3.4 of the FEIS). Hunting access on any newly acquired land would be equal opportunity and open to all members of the public under a lottery system that is currently administered without a fee.

No portion of State Highway 57 would be closed under any of the action alternatives. The current practice of temporarily closing Blue’s Reach Road (also known as Old Barrington Road and Old Cox Road) during certain training activities would continue under any of the action alternatives. Under Alternatives 1, 3, and 4, range officials may close the portion of Blue’s Reach Road (also known as Old Barrington Road and Old Cox Road) that enters the new range boundary when access to the range would conflict with training operations. The road would otherwise remain open. Additional information has been added to Section 3.11 of the FEIS to clarify this point. Emergency services and law enforcement would not be affected. The USMC and the GA ANG currently work with emergency services, such as air ambulance, to suspend training operations and allow access through the restricted airspace. This working relationship would continue in the future and no loss or delay of emergency services is expected. This information has been added to several sections throughout the FEIS to help clarify this point.

16

From: Wally Orrel <Wally@McIntoshGA.com>
Posted At: Friday, August 24, 2012 1:29 PM
Conversation: Concern for the taking of additional property to expand the Townsend Bombing Range
Subject: Concern for the taking of additional property to expand the Townsend Bombing Range

As a citizen of McIntosh County and the President of the Darien-McIntosh County Chamber of Commerce, I have had many conversations with our residents. Most like me are supportive of our military, however we are a very poor county and the taking of more and more land from our tax rolls place a tremendous financial burden on our residents. Our county has more 30% of its land owned by the government.

The solution would be to provide a funding mechanism to compensate the counties on McIntosh and Long in a fair manner on an annual basis.

Thank you for your consideration,

Wally T. Orrel
President/Executive Director
McIntosh County Chamber/Industrial Development Authority
PO Box 896
103 Ft King George Drive
Darien, Georgia 31305
(912) 437-6659
Wally@McIntoshGA.com

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdUp1BfZ1NE&feature=youtu.be>

committed to economic growth, creating jobs and representing the business community

Response to Comment 16:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues can be found in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact States (FEIS). Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS), the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs. There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

Public Comment Summary Report

09/19/2012 16:02 Poppell & Associates

(FAX)912-437-2320

P.001/002

17

Poppell and Associates
111 Broad Street
P. O. Box 2332
Darien, Georgia 31305

Telephone Number: (912) 437-2181
Fax Number: (912) 437-2320

Email: apoppell@darientel.net

Fax Transmittal Form

To: (912) 265-9013
From: (912) 437-2320
Name: Charles Wilson, Office of Jack Kingston
Date Sent: 9/20/2012
CC: Brett Cook, County Manager
Phone:
Number of Pages: 2
Fax:

Charles:

I was instructed to forward the reply to you regarding the expansion of the TBR. Having sent it, we realize that DOD has unequivocally stated that a timber easement is not under consideration. We are currently meeting with appraisers to determine the value of the real property and the current timber easement.

I will be in touch.

Ad Poppell

Response to Comment 17:

Response to Comment 17 provided on the next page.

09/19/2012 16:02 Poppell & Associates

(FAX)912-437-2320

P.002/002

Poppell and Associates

Attorneys at Law
P. O. Box 2332
Darien, Georgia 31305
Telephone: (912) 437-2181
Facsimile: (912) 437-2320

September 20, 2012

Transmitted by Facsimile to (912) 265-9013

Mr. Charles Wilson
Office of Jack Kingston
United States House of Representatives
1510 Newcastle Street, Suite 200
Brunswick, Georgia 31520

Re: McIntosh County
Townsend Bombing Range (TBR)

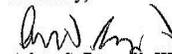
Dear Charles:

In response to your request for a position on the question of county compensation, McIntosh County continues in its original position: the counties affected should have a perpetual easement on the property for the purposes of harvesting timber. Taking into consideration the fact that the property will be thoroughly harvested before title is transferred to the government, we also ask that you compensate the county at the suggested rate for the first 15 years to allow the timber to mature to harvesting size.

Additionally, I noted in the Draft Environmental Statement that the government was contemplating the planting of trees which take considerably longer to mature (50+ years) than the commercially viable trees being used on the current range easement. This type of tree would render a timber easement of little use, and as such, McIntosh County would ask that commercially viable trees be planted.

If you have any questions or concerns, please advise.

Sincerely,



Adam S. Poppell, III
Attorney for McIntosh County

cc: Mr. Brett Cook, County Manager

Continuation of Comment 17.

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) received this comment from McIntosh County via Charles Wilson, Office of Congressman Jack Kingston. The USMC proposed to purchase the timber easement from McIntosh County, Georgia, on approximately 3,007 acres of land within the current Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) boundary. To ensure the safety of TBR personnel and the public, it is necessary for the USMC to own all the timberland and to manage it in support of mission requirements (please refer to Section 2.2.2 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement). Continuation of the McIntosh County timber easement is not compatible with safe range operations in the future. If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of land and the timber easement, the USMC would enter into negotiations with McIntosh County to determine compensation for the timber easement.

18

Long County Board of Commissioners

BOARD MEMBERS:
Robert C. Walker
Chairman
David Richardson
Vice-Chairman
Clifton DeLoach
Wallace Shaw
Andy Fuller

P.O. Box 476
Ludowici, Georgia 31316
Phone: (912) 545-2143
Fax: (912) 545-2150

Mary Ann Odum
Clerk
B. Jay Swindell
Attorney

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE US MARINE CORPS TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners of Long County Georgia hereby determines that the proposed expansion and construction of said facility in Long and McIntosh Counties Georgia is detrimental to the public interest of the citizens of Long County in the following:

1. The acquisition of private owned lands by the United States Government will remove up to 33,455 Acres of private owned land from the tax base of this county. The loss of this tax revenue together with previous acquisitions/losses to both State and Federal Tax exempt entities will create a serious funding deficiency and will restrict the ability of this body to provide even the barest of essential government services to the citizens of Long County.
2. We are vitally concerned with the public safety issues arising from the operation of the facility so close to the residences of our citizens. The change in minimum flight altitude of the required Military Operational Area, attendant to the range, together with the approach route to the range results in overflight of our Smiley Elementary School, and the New Long County High School. The noise level from overflights in approach to Townsend Range is at times intolerable, and certainly a detraction to public education.
3. The proposed range expansion operation will permanently close the airspace South and East of Ludowici, Georgia, to all air traffic to include medical evacuation, and forest fire surveillance aircraft. The denial of these emergency services could result in disastrous consequences, and unwarranted compromise in public safety.
4. The removal of such a large portion of the forest acreage from Long County will have a detrimental effect on our ability to attract the emerging forest industries to this county. Long County has no significant industry other than the military and the forest industry. The proposed expansion of Townsend Bombing Range will not add one additional job opportunity to the county and the local expenditures for construction will be insignificant.
5. We feel that the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement - July 2012* prepared for the USMCAS Beaufort grossly understates the impact on the physical and cultural environment of this county.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners of Long County hereby Oppose the Expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range in it's present format.

Adopted this 24th day of September, 2012.

"South Georgia's Fastest Growing County"

Response to Comment 18:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues can be found in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS), the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs. There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

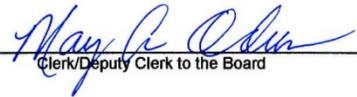
The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

As a point of clarification, Alternative 3 would acquire the largest amount of acreage (34,667 acres in both counties) of which 26,341 acres is in Long County. The Preferred Alternative, which is Alternative 4, would acquire 28,436 acres of which 20,110 acres are in Long County.

Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the USMC. Weapon danger zones (WDZs) are established as safety measures to protect personnel on or near the range. A WDZ may be near the range boundary, but the WDZ has requisite safety factors built in. No additional buffer land is required. Each WDZ is sized so that any munition released has only a one out of one million probability of landing outside the WDZ. Please refer to Sections 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 of the FEIS for details on WDZs and the land acquisition necessary to contain these zones, respectively. The WDZs that

Response to Comment 18 continues on next page.

By 
Chairman
Board of Commissioners, Long County Georgia

ATTEST: 
Clerk/Deputy Clerk to the Board



Continuation of response to Comment 18.

are shown on Figure 2-2 in the FEIS are modeled to contain all weapon impacts, including ricochets, occurring within the WDZ.

The USMC understands that the potential noise effects of expanding TBR are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 of the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Section 2.2.3 and 3.6 of the FEIS).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community.

Response to Comment 18 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 18.

Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

The USMC and the GA ANG currently work with emergency services, such as air ambulance, to suspend training operations and allow access through the restricted airspace. This working relationship would continue in the future and no loss or delay of emergency services is expected. This information has been added to several sections throughout the FEIS to help clarify this point.

Timber operations would continue on any acquired lands. The Proposed Action could result in up to approximately 9,211 acres where wood products would no longer be harvested commercially. The land taken out of production of forest products represents a small portion (approximately 4%) of all forestland in Long and McIntosh Counties (please refer to Section 4.3.1.2 of the FEIS).

It is estimated that the expanded facility would require four full-time additional personnel: a chief law enforcement officer, a forester, and two technicians and up to 12 range operators, as well as part-time or contracted labor maintenance crews. Construction-related activities associated with the Proposed Action and their related operations and maintenance activities would generate jobs during the construction period and would contribute to local income (please refer to Section 3.2.4). As summarized in Table 3-27 of the FEIS, it is estimated that the Proposed Action would generate 15 permanent jobs and 113 temporary jobs under the Preferred Alternative. The salaries of these 15 additional personnel would total \$1,168,000 annually. Construction to support the Preferred Alternative would result in an estimated \$11.4 million in direct expenditures.

This Environmental Impact Statement is prepared in accordance with Section (102)(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and regulations implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), United States Department of the Navy NEPA regulations (32 CFR Part 775), and USMC NEPA directives (Marine Corps Order P5090.2A, Chapter 12, change 2).

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Appendix C
Comments Received During the DEIS Review Period with Responses

Appendix C.4
Tribal Government

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19



HAUDENOSAUNEE

TUSCARORA NATION
2006 MT. HOPE ROAD — VIA: LEWISTON, NEW YORK 14092

July 12, 2012

B.C. Murtha
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort
United States Marine Corps
Beaufort, SC 29904-5001

Re: Townsend Bombing Range Modernization

Dear Colonel Murtha:

The Tuscarora Nation wish to inform you that the are interested in the above project, to the extent of the finding of human remains, funerary and sacred objects in the removal of Mother Earth during this project. We are also interested in the uncovering of old village sites. Otherwise we have no objections to the proposed project. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 716-297-1148 or Fax 716-297-7735.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping the Tuscarora Nation informed on this project.

ONEH!

Chief Leo R. Henry, Clerk
Tuscarora Nation

cc: Townsend EIS Project Manager
p.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Response to Comment 19:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) would continue to consult with federally recognized tribes. The USMC would contact federally recognized tribes if any Native American resources or cultural items, such as archaeological resources or human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are found.

20



the
Chickasaw
Nation HEADQUARTERS

Arlington at Mississippi / Box 1548 / Ada, OK 74821-1548 / (580) 436-2603

Bill Anoatubby
Governor

Jefferson Keel
Lieutenant
Governor

August 13, 2012

Colonel B.C. Murtha
U.S. Marine Corps
Marine Corps Air Station
Beaufort, South Carolina 29904-5001

Dear Colonel Murtha:

Thank you for the letter regarding the completion of the Townsend Bombing Range Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

After reviewing the information, we are in agreement with the assessment and have no objections to the proposed undertaking. We concur with the finding of no adverse effect to historic properties and we accept the special conditions set forth in this report. We do not presently know of any specific historic properties or properties of significant religious or sacred value.

In the event the agency becomes aware of the need to enforce other statutes we request to be notified under NEPA, NAGPRA, AIRFA, ARPA, NHPA and Professional Standards. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Amber Jarrett, preservation and repatriation manager, at (580)559-0825, amber.jarrett@chickasaw.net or LaDonna Brown, historic preservation officer, at (580)272-5593, ladonna.brown@chickasaw.net.

Sincerely,

Jefferson Keel, Lt. Governor
The Chickasaw Nation



God Bless America!

Response to Comment 20:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) would continue to consult with federally recognized tribes. The USMC would contact federally recognized tribes if any Native American resources or cultural items, such as archaeological resources or human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are found.

21

From: Brandi Ross <bross@unitedkeetoowahband.org>
Posted At: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 2:20 PM
Conversation: Response for Townsend Bombing Range Modernization
Subject: Response for Townsend Bombing Range Modernization

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma does not have any environmental concerns with this project at this time, but we reserve the right to comment at a later date.

Thank you

*Brandi Ross, M.S.
Natural Resources Director
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
16315 Hwy 10, Tahlequah, OK 74465
Office (918)-772-4351
Cell (918)-951-0545*

Response to Comment 21:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) would continue to consult with federally recognized tribes. The USMC would contact federally recognized tribes if any Native American resources or cultural items, such as archaeological resources or human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are found.

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Appendix C
Comments Received During the DEIS Review Period with Responses

Appendix C.5
Citizens and Organizations

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22

Patricia Alisau
8501 Ga. Hwy 57

Ludowici, 31316

WE are the owners of a 100 acres with our home that has been in the same family for 200 years, that from what we understand would be affected with this expansion. We could not make the last meeting, but, we agree with the other comments we have read. It already affects us now, with the plane flying so low that it frightens our horses. Now this would bring down our property values, among other things. THIS IS NOT GOOD FOR ANYONE OR THING IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Response to Comment 22:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for United States Marine Corps (USMC), Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

The USMC understands that the potential noise effects of expanding TBR are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 of the FEIS).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that

Response to Comment 22 continues on next page.

Public Comment Summary Report

Continuation of response to Comment 22.

Local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

There are numerous factors, such as parcel size, existing uses, proximity to infrastructure and specific location that are unique to every property. These factors make it difficult to accurately predict future property valuation changes arising from the Proposed Action. The information contained in the FEIS is the best analysis of anticipated impacts that would result from the proposed expansion of TBR.

23 William Amerson
1262 SW Big Oak Rd

Townsend, 31331

I live in Cox community. I work in Jesup. Myself and many others travel Highway 57 daily....will it be open to through traffic? Will there be a road around it?

Response to Comment 23:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. No portion of Highway 57 would be closed under any of the action alternatives. Additional information has been added to Section 3.11 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement to clarify this point.

24 Anthony Baker
7 Cedar Marsh Retreat

Savannah, 31411

I support this project

Response to Comment 24:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

25 Max Baldwin
2 River Otter Lane

Savannah, 31411

I support the efforts to upgrade the bombing range to allow for precision guided missile usage.

Response to Comment 25:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

26

Marjorie Sweerus Bell
2002 Gillian St

Placenta, 92870

I was just a child in the 40's when the gov't took Property and I don't see the need to take the Sacred ground of our ancestors .The Sand Hills are unique. What effect will it have on the Altamaha River? The economic effect on Long Co. will be terrible, but what does Big Brother care about the Little Citizen!!

Response to Comment 26:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) consulted with a total of 21 federally recognized Native American tribes during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping and Section 106 compliance processes for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.2.2 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement [FEIS]). To date, no tribal issues or concerns, including Native American archaeological resources, properties of traditional religious or cultural importance, or traditional cultural properties or sacred sites, have been identified for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS).

As detailed in Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS, the USMC conducted desktop research, archaeological investigations, and field surveys for proposed acquisition areas where entry was permitted (see Appendices H and I of the FEIS). Documented cultural and/historical resources were noted and identified during these processes. However, if a resource such as a burial ground/cemetery is not officially documented, then the USMC may not have been able to accurately assess that point of interest. The USMC welcomes documentation of all cultural and historical resources.

If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would continue to consult with federally recognized tribes. The USMC would contact federally recognized tribes if any Native American resources or cultural items, such as archaeological resources or human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are found. Section 2.4.3 of the FEIS discusses the removal of Area 2 (located adjacent to the Altamaha River) from further consideration of the project. As a result, all of the areas identified for potential acquisition (illustrated on Figure 2-18 of the FEIS) are located an appreciable distance from the Altamaha River.

27 Beth Blalock
817 W. Peachtree St.
Suite 200
Atlanta, 30308

September 26, 2012 VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL to townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com
Colonel B.C. Murtha U.S. Marine Corps Commanding Officer Re: Townsend Bombing Range DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement Dear Colonel Murtha: On July 2, 2012, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) notified the Georgia Conservancy of the completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to expand and modernize the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) located in McIntosh County, Georgia. The proposed action is stated as being necessary to support "the Marine Corps aviation training and readiness proficiency in the use of inert precision-guided munitions." In the Draft EIS, the USMC has identified four land acquisition alternatives for expansion to meet training requirements. The four alternatives feature three designated land areas in and around the current TBR (Area 1A, Area 1B and Area 3). As a statewide environmental organization, the Georgia Conservancy develops solutions to protect Georgia's environment through collaboration, education and advocacy on water, air, land and growth management issues. In response to the USMC's notice and request for comments, the Georgia Conservancy submits these comments on the Draft EIS for consideration. In particular, the Georgia Conservancy submits these comments to express its support for Alternative 2 with regard to the expansion of TBR. Alternative 2 utilizes Acquisition Area 3 which is to the north of the current facilities. This Alternative guides the expansion the farthest away from the Altamaha River and the many Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)s, including the Townsend Wildlife Management Area, in that corridor. Additionally, we appreciate the consideration of our comments dated September 7, 2010, that requested the removal of Area 2 from consideration for the expansion of TBR. Area 2 included 14,752 acres of land located in Long and McIntosh counties with frontage on the Altamaha River and the Townsend WMA. The USMC removed Area 2 from consideration prior to the issuance of the Draft EIS. We wish to express our gratitude for the decision to remove this important wildlife and natural area. Sincerely,
Beth A. Blalock General Counsel

28 Gina Boltz
4848 North Crestridge
Toledo, 43623

This is the last thing we should focus or spend money on.

Response to Comment 27:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps selected Alternative 4 because the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analysis concludes that it best meets the purpose of and need to modernize and expand Townsend Bombing Range; it is the best balance of operational utility and acceptable environmental impacts. As illustrated on Figure 2-18 in the Final EIS, all of the proposed land acquisition areas are located an appreciable distance from the Altamaha River.

Response to Comment 28:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

Public Comment Summary Report

29 Thomas Brown
664 Pelzer Drive

Mt. Pleasant, 29464

The Marines and our Sea Services need to modernize the Townsend Bombing Range. Today, Marines at MCAS Beaufort have to fly to the west coast to train with precision-guided munitions before they deploy. That doesn't seem cost effective. Modernizing the Townsend Bombing Range to allow precision-guided munitions will keep our Marines in their home base for a few weeks before deployment. From reading the available documents there are no real environmental concerns about the expansion of the range. Strongly recommend approval. You fight the way you train.

Response to Comment 29:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

30 Thomas Brown
664 Pelzer Drive

Mt Pleasant, 29464

I support the Marines and USAF need to improve the Townsend Bombing Range. Improvements to the bombing range is essential for Navy/Marine aviation readiness. One part of the conflict is national verses local priorities. I am sympathetic to local concerns but often such results turn out not to be the magnitude proported. Often there are positive results that can range from preserving environmental habitats to maintaining a rural environment that most locals, including me, cherish. Financial concerns cannot always be allowed to be the sole rational for making critical decisions when national military readiness is at stake. I can professionally avow that the more training I had prior to deployment the greater was my ships material and personnel readiness. There is a limit to virtual training. Most often real world events don't occur at the time and place of a combat commander's choosing. As much real world training as possible mitigates the risk of defeat and increases the confidence in one ability to fight as he/she trained.

Response to Comment 30:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

31



COMMENT SHEET — Townsend Draft EIS Public Meeting

Darien, GA • August 7, 2012

NAME (Please Print): Mark + Kathy Dawson
 AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: SELF - Citizens of McIntosh County
Hunters, Fishes, Campers
 ADDRESS: 1514 Bond Rd SE Darien, GA 31305

Please provide written comments on this sheet and drop into the comment box or mail to:

Townsend EIS
 Project Manager
 P.O. Box 180458
 Tallahassee, FL 32318

Written comments must be postmarked on or before August 27, 2012.

Your comments will become part of the Final EIS.

COMMENTS: 1. Really hope Old Cox Road will never be
permanently closed - It really saves a lot of miles and
time rather than going all the way around thru Hwy 57
toward Middleton Lake Area.
2. Hope that they consider less training and any road
closures during Deer/Hog Hunting Season - especially on
Long Dirt Rd from end pavement near Seal Bridge Rd to
Midleton Lake Road. A lot of hunters or All hunters that hunt
to the West of dirt make road use this road for Access
there here for hunting.
3. ~~Revenue~~ Revenue loss of Timber definitely
concerns us for loss of tax revenue as our taxes
are already going up! + Long Co. Already is
behind in paying McIntosh for revenue on 911.

Response to Comment 31:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. No portion of State Highway 57 would be closed under any of the action alternatives. The current practice of temporarily closing Blue's Reach Road (also known as Old Barrington Road and Old Cox Road) during certain training activities would continue under any of the action alternatives. Under Alternatives 1, 3, and 4, range officials may close the portion of Blue's Reach Road (also known as Old Barrington Road and Old Cox Road) that enters the new range boundary when access to the range would conflict with training operations. The road would otherwise remain open. Additional information has been added to Section 3.11 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to clarify this point.

The USMC acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues can be found in Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS. Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

32

Thomas Farmer
 1330 West Peachtree Street, NW
 Suite 410
 Atlanta, 30309

September 27, 2012 Mr. William A. Drawdy United States Marines Corps Marine Air Corps Station Beaufort, South Carolina 29904-5001 5050 NREAO/074 – Proposed modernization and expansion of Townsend Bombing Range Dear Mr. Drawdy: The Nature Conservancy in Georgia has reviewed the proposed expansion plans for the Townsend Bombing Range and the accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We understand the importance of this training facility to our national security and enjoy the close working relationship we have developed with the Navy and the USMC over the past seven years. This partnership has done a great deal to protect the Altamaha River corridor while buffering the range from incompatible development. As previously stated in our comment letter to the Marines Corps in 2010 regarding Townsend Bombing Range expansion plans, The Nature Conservancy has opposed any expansion into Area 2 on the proposed expansion map. We appreciate the Marine Corps taking our comments into consideration and leaving Area 2 out of the expansion plans. As to the current EIS, TNC has two specific comments with regard to the EIS. First, Figure 3-2 on Page 3-6 describes the "Goodwood Easement" (parts of Acquisition Areas 1A and 1B) as owned by The Nature Conservancy. While the Conservancy did retain a restrictive easement here in the initial 2006 conservation transaction with International Paper, the easement was then transferred to the USMC in 2008. The Conservancy no longer holds property interests in any of the Acquisition Areas under study in the DEIS. Figure 3-6 should be corrected to reflect this fact. Since the purpose and terms of the restrictive easement on the Goodwood tract are entirely consistent with military use of the Goodwood tract by USMC, acquisition of the Goodwood tract by USMC (in which the restrictive easement would vanish) presents no legal or practical concern. A possibility exists, however, that the elimination of a "conservation easement" by USMC, one that was placed there originally as part of a highly-publicized conservation initiative, could be perceived by some as an unfortunate outcome. The Conservancy would therefore encourage the USMC's management plans for the Goodwood tract to show a clear environmental or ecological benefit despite the loss of the restrictive easement, with messaging to that effect in the EIS. Land management practices that involve prescribed fire and restoration of longleaf pine would obviously represent such benefit, even with the construction of training facilities, target areas, or other military infrastructure on portions of the Goodwood tract. Second, we would like to comment on the plant species Hairy Rattleweed (*Baptisia Arachnifera* Duncan), an endangered species listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as well as by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Volume II of the Draft EIS states that it occurs in shallow pools in piedmont granite outcrops. This is not true. This plant is endemic to Wayne and Brantley Counties in southeastern Georgia. Its native habitat is open pine flatwoods with seasonally wet, sandy soils. It does especially well in recently burned areas. It sometimes persists along roads and powerlines or in pine plantations. Once again, we value this partnership and understand the importance of Townsend for military training purposes. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to direct any questions you may have to Thomas Farmer, Director of Government Relations, at 404-253-7215. Sincerely, Thomas K. Farmer, Jr. Director, Government Relations The Nature Conservancy in Georgia

Response to Comment 32:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. Figure 3-2 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) has been revised to reflect the change in ownership of the Goodwood Easement.

If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of land, all property would be managed in accordance with the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, which is developed in conjunction with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, with a focus on ecosystem management that shares many of the same goals as the conservation easement.

The habitat description for hairy rattleweed has been updated throughout Section 3.8 in the FEIS. The occurrences in Volume II of the FEIS are from historical consultation and cannot be changed; however, a notice has been placed at the beginning of Appendix G to inform the reader of the incorrect information.

33

From: Nfischet@aol.com
Posted At: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 2:42 PM
Conversation: property owner in Long,and McIntosh County,Ga
Subject: property owner in Long,and McIntosh County,Ga

My property is directly next to the Rayonier property, and it is the Davis property. I need to know how, and what impact you propose for my family property, how much buffer, and how much will my property be affected, not just now, but in the future. It is in the family Estate, and as Administrator, I need to make decisions for the affected heirs.....thank you
N.D.Fischette, P O Drawer 1831, Darien, Ga 31305

1

Response to Comment 33:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. There are numerous factors, such as parcel size, existing uses, proximity to infrastructure, and specific location that are unique to every property. These factors make it difficult to accurately predict future property valuation changes arising from the Proposed Action. The information contained in the Final Environmental Impact Statement is the best analysis of anticipated impacts that would result from the proposed expansion of Townsend Bombing Range.

34

COMMENT SHEET — Townsend Draft EIS Public Meeting

Darien, GA • August 7, 2012



NAME (Please Print): N. D. FISCHETTI

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: ADMINISTRATOR OF A.C. DAVIS ESTATE,
LONG CO.

ADDRESS: PO DRAWER 1831
DARIEN, GA 31305

Please provide written comments on this sheet and drop into the comment box or mail to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Written comments must be postmarked on or before August 27, 2012.

Your comments will become part of the Final EIS.

COMMENTS: OUR FAMILY PROPERTY IS THE A.C.
DAVIS ESTATE AND IS BOUNDED BY
RAILROADS. WE NEED TO BE PROTECTED,
OR AN EASEMENT BE PAID FOR FOR OUR
PROTECTION, OUR PROPERTY WILL BE
USELESS FOR ANYTHING BUT GROWING TIMBER,
BUT IT DOES HAVE THE FAMILY HOMES ON IT
AND THE CEMETARY CLOSE BY. I NEED
TO BE CONTACTED ABOUT THIS.

THANK YOU

Response to Comment 34:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. There are numerous factors, such as parcel size, existing uses, proximity to infrastructure, and specific location that are unique to every property. These factors make it difficult to accurately predict future property valuation changes arising from the Proposed Action. The information contained in the Final Environmental Impact Statement is the best analysis of anticipated impacts that would result from the proposed expansion of Townsend Bombing Range. While we appreciate your concern about the cemetery nearby, it is located outside of the proposed acquisition area.

35

COMMENT SHEET — Townsend Draft EIS Public Meeting

Darien, GA • August 7, 2012 AND Ludowici Ga, Aug 9, 2012



NAME (Please Print): Neill D. Fischette, as Excutor of A.C. Davis Estate, and Administrator of A.C. Davis Trust and acting as agent for T A Davis Estate
 AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: _____

See Above, Excutor/Administrator

ADDRESS: P O DRAWER 1831, Darien, Ga, 31305

Please provide written comments on this sheet and drop into the comment box or mail to:

Townsend EIS
 Project Manager
 P.O. Box 180458
 Tallahassee, FL 32318

Written comments must be postmarked on or before August 27, 2012.
 Your comments will become part of the Final EIS.

COMMENTS: I agree that there should be a training facility for our Military.
But I also have to look out, and have been entrusted to do what is in the
best interest for the current, and future generations of my family!
This proposed area runs up to, and adjoins my family property (which has been
in the family for several generations). The proposed bombing range will
forever limit the use, and growth of this property. It will never be able to
be developed as needed for any future generation. In fact, my Father WAS the
Tibet Hunting Club, and the very fact is that it will be no more, due to the
loss of the use of Rayoner Pasture by hunters. I have currently lost a
Tennant due to night noise. And there ARE three homes on our land. The family
Cemetery is near also, The other landowners are affected also, as their land
use is forever compromised. There will be no way to plan a store, or lodgings,
or even have the land appreciate in value. It will always be compromised, and
limited in useages. The taxes, however WILL go up, due to the fact that the
timber properties have been taken off the tax rolls, and the current
landowners will have to "pick up the slack" in higher taxes.
There should be a compensation paid to the landowners, each, and every
year, for the loss, or future loss of the use of their properties, and it
should have a cost of living increase, or adjustment for future generations.
This would only be a fair way for all involved.

See reverse of this page

Response to Comment 35:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. There are numerous factors, such as parcel size, existing uses, proximity to infrastructure, and specific location that are unique to every property. These factors make it difficult to accurately predict future property valuation changes arising from the Proposed Action. The information contained in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is the best analysis of anticipated impacts that would result from the proposed expansion of Townsend Bombing Range (TBR).

If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, some private use hunting leases would be discontinued. The Proposed Action would create more opportunities for increased public access to previously inaccessible privately administered recreation lands through the TBR hunting program (please refer to Section 3.3.4 of the FEIS). Hunting access on any newly acquired land would be equal opportunity and open to all members of the public under a lottery system that is currently administered without a fee.

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) understands that the potential noise effects of expanding TBR are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the FEIS. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation

Response to Comment 35 continues on next page.

Public Comment Summary Report

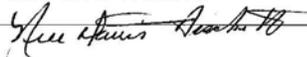
COMMENTS: My father helped in the past, by allowing the range to have gravel, and trying to be a good neighbor to the range as it is currently. But now, there have been real and tangible losses, with tenants vacating, the loss of Rayone land as a hunting area, and the loss of leasing property for the Hunting Club.

I want to stress that this is the family property here in Long County. I will also have a problem with my 51 acre property in McIntosh County, on the other side of the proposed new acquisition for expanding the bombing range.

I strongly feel there should be a very fair annual compensation paid out to the neighbors of the expansion. For the loss, and future loss/limitation of the land, and increased taxes that will surely follow the removing of all the timber companies land from the tax rolls.

I am looking forward to a meeting from you, to work out the details on this, for the A C Davis Trust/heirs, and the T A Davis heirs, and other adjoining landowners.

Neil Davis Fischette



Continuation of response to Comment 35.

Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 of the FEIS).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

The USMC acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues can be found in Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS. Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

Since the USMC does not have specialized knowledge or expertise concerning revenue-generating options and budgetary practices available to the potentially affected counties, the USMC cannot make recommendations concerning local budget prioritization and/or plans to adjust the tax base to address the potential losses of tax revenues.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. TBR is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

36

Robert Gephart
207 Hampshire Road

Savannah, 31410

I strongly support the modernization of Townsend Bombing Range, and recommend adoption of Marine's Alternative 4.

Response to Comment 36:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

37

COMMENT SHEET — Townsend Draft EIS Public Meeting

Ludowici, GA • August 9, 2012



NAME (Please Print): Freddie L. Goode

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: CITIZEN

ADDRESS: #52 OAK ST. PO box 451 ludowici, Ga
31316

Please provide written comments on this sheet and drop into the comment box or mail to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Written comments must be postmarked on or before August 27, 2012.
Your comments will become part of the Final EIS.

COMMENTS: My Complaint is That we will
lose ^(APP) 30,000 A year Taxes That we
will get if we keep the land. On top
of this problem, the STATE has purchased
Thousands of LAND in long county
AND TURNED IT over TO THE DNR. The
DNR (STATE) Does NOT pay property
Taxes, so this will have to be made
up by The Citizens of long county
by a TAX increase.

Response to Comment 37:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues can be found in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

Since the USMC does not have specialized knowledge or expertise concerning revenue-generating options and budgetary practices available to the potentially affected counties, the USMC cannot make recommendations concerning local budget prioritization and/or plans to adjust the tax base to address the potential losses of tax revenues.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

38

MR. GARY GORDON: My first comment is these airplanes fly directly over our house low and loud and continuous. And every time they fly they go right over our house.

My second comment is, again, this is going to be this much more land taken out of our tax digest, and we are a poor county.

Response to Comment 38:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) understands that the potential noise effects of expanding Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) are of concern to those living in proximity of TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 of the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

Response to Comment 38 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 38.

The USMC acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues can be found in Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS. Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. TBR is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

39



August 27, 2012

SAVANNAH
AIRPORT
COMMISSION

Townsend EIS Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

CHAIRMAN
Sylvester C. Formey

Re: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range

To Townsend EIS Project Manager:

VICE-CHAIRMAN
Stephen S. Green

On Tuesday, August 7, 2012, we participated in a Marine Corps public meeting regarding the proposed modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) located in McIntosh County, Georgia. During the meeting, OIC Stuart Strickland and MSgt David Callaway assured us that any airspace modifications proposed under the EIS would not affect airspace outside the current Military Operating Area (MOA).

COMMISSIONERS
Shirley B. James
Sheldon Tenenbaum
Lois C. Wooten

Master Sergeant (MSgt) David Callaway and TBR Officer in Command (OIC) Stuart Strickland stated that the MOA will not expand outside of the existing boundaries already established for the MOA. They indicated that the only airspace that will change is already within the confines of the MOA in the immediate area around the TBR. As stated in the Fact Sheet, "the USMC is proposing to modify Restricted Area R-3007A by extending the current restricted area laterally to the proposed acquisition area boundary. The proposed modification would eliminate the current gap from 100 feet above ground level down to the surface of the ground over the areas proposed for acquisition". This seems to confirm what was stated in the meeting.

LEGAL COUNSEL
James B. Blackburn

In response to our question as to why the regional location map showed an area extending eastward from the MOA over the Atlantic Ocean, OIC Strickland stated the following; *The Regional Location Map does contain confusing information and could be misleading. He also stated, The reason this area is depicted as part of the MOA is due to the Military Training Routes, VR-25 and VR-45, which lead into and out of TBR. The VR-25 and VR-45 altitude range is 500AGL to 4000AGL which does intersect the Victor 1 Airway, north/south along eastern coastline; however, these Training Routes are only active when military aircraft are flying to/from TBR, and use of these Training Routes is directly coordinated with JAX Center and SAV Tracon. Once the last aircraft has reported clear of the Training Route, the airspace is inactive thus allowing other aircraft to transition through.*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Patrick S. Graham, A.A.E.

ASSISTANT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Gregory B. Kelly, A.A.E.

400 AIRWAYS AVENUE • SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31408 • 912.964.0514 P • 912.964.0877 F • WWW.SAVANNAHAIRPORT.COM

Response to Comment 39:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process and your attendance at the public meeting. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) and the Georgia Air National Guard were pleased to address your concerns at the public meeting on August 7, 2012, pertaining to restricted airspace and the Military Operations Area (MOA). As discussed in Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), the MOA would not change as part of the Proposed Action. Additional text has been added to the FEIS to clarify this point. The proposed modification would eliminate the current gap from 100 feet above ground level down to the surface of the ground over the areas proposed for acquisition. This extension, which would apply only to the existing restricted airspace over lands proposed for acquisition, unites the airspace with acquired land to enable the delivery of inert ordnance in order to comply with Federal Aviation Administration regulations. It is not an indication that fixed-wing flight operations will be conducted at altitudes below 100 feet. No lateral modification of the R-3007 complex is proposed as part of the Proposed Action.

Figure 3-28 in the FEIS has been altered to reflect the correct MOA boundary.

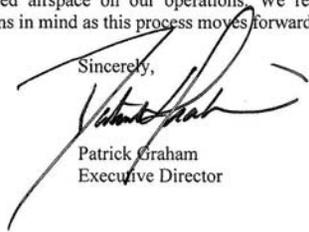
The USMC has noted your concerns regarding the airspace. If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would continue to work with the Federal Aviation Administration and any affected parties during the approval process for the proposed airspace modification.

Comment 39 continues on next page.

The main concern for the Savannah Airport Commission is the possibility of any restricted airspace expansion outside the existing boundary. The impact of MOAs and restricted airspace can be significant and sometimes negative on airports and their general aviation traffic.

The Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport will continue to monitor the actions of the military when it pertains to Military Operating Areas, Special Use Airspace, Restricted Areas, and the activities and dimensions thereof. Many public use airports along the eastern seaboard, especially in Southeast Georgia, are wedged between, and under the airspace surrounding our airport MOAs which impact commercial business and general aviation operations. While the Airport fully supports military training, the Airport is concerned about the continued and potential impacts of MOAs and restricted airspace on our operations. We request that the military planner and staff keep our concerns in mind as this process moves forward.

Sincerely,



Patrick Graham
Executive Director

ce:gk:cc

40

MR. MARK HALL: If there is a way that there could be jobs created or some sort of revenue brought in, it might help with maybe make it a little bit more palatable.

Response to Comment 40:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. It is estimated that the expanded facility would require four full-time additional personnel: a chief law enforcement officer, a forester, and two technicians and up to 12 range operators as well as part-time or contracted labor maintenance crews. Construction-related activities associated with the Proposed Action and their related operations and maintenance activities would generate jobs during the construction period and would contribute to local income (please refer to Section 3.2.4 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement [FEIS]). As summarized in Table 3-27 in the FEIS, it is estimated that the Proposed Action would generate 15 permanent jobs and 113 temporary jobs under the Preferred Alternative. The salaries of these 15 additional personnel would total \$1,168,000 annually. Construction to support the Preferred Alternative would result in an estimated \$11.4 million in direct expenditures.

41

Alice Hartley
121 J. Barrett Ln NE

Ludowici, 31316

I understand the importance of training for our military. I also understand that my taxes will probably go up if more property is taken for training purposes. I am a widow on a fixed income. It will be hard to put out more money. I hope another area will be considered for this bombing range. (I pray for the safety of every pilot who flies over my house.)

Response to Comment 41:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues can be found in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

Since the USMC does not have specialized knowledge or expertise concerning revenue-generating options and budgetary practices available to the potentially affected counties, the USMC cannot make recommendations concerning local budget prioritization and/or plans to adjust the tax base to address the potential losses of tax revenues.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

The USMC conducted a multi-step screening process to identify and compare Department of Defense ranges that could support the Proposed Action. The USMC identified seven candidate ranges located within 165 nautical miles of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort: Fort Stewart, Georgia; TBR, Georgia; Poinsett Range, South Carolina; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Gordon, Georgia; Grand Bay Range, Georgia; and Camp Blanding, Florida. TBR is the only range to meet all of the range evaluation criteria. Please refer to Section 2.1 and Table 2-1 in the FEIS for more information.

Public Comment Summary Report

42 Martha Hatfield
15 Hilda Ave

Beaufort, 29907

I support the expansion and modernization of this facility.

Response to Comment 42:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

43 Lawrence Hooten
1375 Ann Ct

Perris, 92570

If the Air Force has so little regard for sacred land, perhaps they won't mind turning Washington DC into a bombing range. :p

Response to Comment 43:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) consulted with a total of 21 federally recognized tribes during the National Environmental Policy Act scoping and Section 106 compliance processes for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.2.2 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement [FEIS]). To date, no tribal issues or concerns, including traditional cultural properties or sacred sites, have been identified for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS). To the greatest extent possible, the USMC would work to avoid any cultural resources that are found on any newly acquired federal property and to minimize any potential impacts.

44

From: elizabeth houston <ebhouston69@gmail.com>
Posted At: Friday, September 07, 2012 2:32 PM

Concerned about disruption of area proposed for range would be disruptive and unsafe for residents of the area. The echo systems in the area would be destroyed. I have lived in military areas before, and support the military wholeheartedly. However, this installation is not judicious use of the area involved. Thank you, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Houston

1

Response to Comment 44:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the United States Marine Corps (USMC). Weapon danger zones (WDZs) are established as safety measures to protect personnel on or near the range. A WDZ may be near the range boundary, but the WDZ has requisite safety factors built in. Each WDZ is sized so that any munition released has only a one out of one million probability of landing outside the WDZ. Please refer to Sections 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for details on WDZs and the land acquisition necessary to contain these zones, respectively. The WDZs that are shown on Figure 2-2 in the FEIS are modeled to contain all weapon impacts, including ricochets, occurring within the WDZ.

The USMC understands that the potential noise effects of expanding Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 in the FEIS. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 of the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 in the FEIS).

Response to Comment 44 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 44.

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

The National Environmental Policy Act requires federal agencies to examine the potential impacts of their proposed actions on the human environment, which includes the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment. The FEIS analysis evaluated 14 resources areas including Wetlands (Section 3.4.4) and Biological Resources (Section 3.8.4).

45

MR. ROGER HOUSTON: I am opposed to this land acquisition by the United States Marine Corps of the land for the expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range for the following reasons.

Number one, I feel the Environmental Impact Statement is incomplete in its content. They do not address specific issues such as water quality, lead from the strafing activities. The socio-economic data that they are using is almost seven years old and does not properly reflect the current economic conditions in Long County.

The biggest issue I have with this is the acquisition of this land by the federal government will basically be a significant blow to Long County's tax base. And the basic fact is if government acquires 34,000 acres of land, with already there being thirty-something thousand acres already owned by the federal government at Fort Stewart, and an additional 25,000 acres owned by the State of Georgia, there will not be enough private land left in Long County to be able to fund the county and be able to maintain a charter under the Georgia Constitution.

Basically if this land grab goes through, Long County will cease to exist as a viable county and we will have to reintegrate back into Liberty or back to the pre-1920 borders because there will not be enough tax base to pay basic county services.

Never mind the quality of life that we will suffer under because of the noise and the fact there's a pretty good chance, it looks like, 57 will get closed during certain times because of training activity. I would hope they would, being that they're dropping bombs and strafing.

Response to Comment 45:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. Water quality within the existing Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) and within the potential land acquisition areas, as it pertains to surface waters, floodplains, and groundwater, is detailed in Section 3.5 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). In conjunction, wetlands are analyzed in Section 3.4. Hazardous materials and waste from existing and future operations are analyzed in Section 3.14. Please refer to these sections of the FEIS for additional details. The FEIS is prepared in accordance with Section (102)(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and regulations implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ; 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), United States Department of the Navy (DON) NEPA regulations (32 CFR Part 775), and United States Marine Corps (USMC) NEPA directives (Marine Corps Order [MCO] P5090.2A, Chapter 12, change 2). The USMC utilized the best available data in the FEIS.

The USMC acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues can be found in Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS. Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

Since the USMC does not have specialized knowledge or expertise concerning revenue-generating options and budgetary practices available to the potentially affected counties, the USMC cannot make recommendations concerning local budget prioritization and/or plans to adjust the tax base to address the potential losses of tax revenues.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. TBR is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to

Response to Comment 45 continues on next page.

My opinion is there are other areas that the Marine Corps can look besides expanding Long County to do this type of training. There's bombing ranges all up and down the East Coast that can be utilized. Fort Stewart is a prime example. It's a matter of one federal agency talking to another federal agency to use joint facilities. That, to me, makes more sense than them trying to grab 34,000 acres with a dwindling -- we have a federal budget that's about to get cut.

That's just some of my concerns I will have in a written statement that I will present to the Marines as part of my comments.

Continuation of response to Comment 45.

national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the USMC. Weapon danger zones (WDZs) are established as safety measures to protect personnel on or near the range. A WDZ may be near the range boundary, but the WDZ has requisite safety factors built in. No additional buffer land is required. Each WDZ is sized so that any munition released has only a one out of one million probability of landing outside the WDZ. The chance of the munition hitting a specific point, such as State Highway 57, is far less. Please refer to Sections 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 of the FEIS for details on WDZs and the land acquisition necessary to contain these zones, respectively. The WDZs that are shown on Figure 2-2 in the FEIS are modeled to contain all weapon impacts, including ricochets, occurring within the WDZ.

The USMC understands that the potential noise effects of expanding TBR are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the FEIS. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation

Response to Comment 45 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 45.

Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 in the FEIS).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

The USMC conducted a multi-step screening process to identify and compare Department of Defense ranges that could support the Proposed Action. The USMC identified seven candidate ranges located within 165 nautical miles of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort: Fort Stewart, Georgia; TBR, Georgia; Poinsett Range, South Carolina; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Gordon, Georgia; Grand Bay Range, Georgia; and Camp Blanding, Florida. TBR is the only range to meet all of the range evaluation criteria. Please refer to Section 2.1 and Table 2-1 in the FEIS for more information.

46

Roger Houston
1547 Elim Church Rd

Ludowici, 31316

The arrogance and lack of reasoning shown by the Marines is astounding. Ft Stewart is 267,000 acres, with a 60,000 acre impact area in the center of the reservation. You mean to tell me you cannot set up a Memorandum of Agreement between 2nd MAW and 3RD Infantry Division for annual range usage at FSGA for delivery practice of JDAM and GBU ? Congress needs to know about this, because it appears the USMC Brass at 2ND MAW are clearly violating the Goldwater Nicholls Act . Your ESA clearly misleads the public regarding the closure of GA HWY 57. The range currently requires closure of the Blues Reach Rd, which is a privately maintained dirt road between Ludowici and Cox, Ga, whenever there is bombing or strafing underway. The range even installed gates at each corner to prevent traffic from passing. Your targets on the proposed range are all within 2000 meters of the Tibet Rd and Ga HWY 57, which is much closer than the distance from the current Townsend Bomb Targets to the Blues Reach Rd, yet you say you will not have to close those roads during the time the range is hot. Again I ask, are you lying to the public or are you recklessly endangering the public here? Thirdly, Why are you dropping the airspace ceiling from 300 feet to 100 feet in R3007 Coastal East, knowing there are two schools directly in the approach path to the range south of Ludowici? Are the Marines that arrogant and stupid enough to endanger nearly 1000 school kids(most of them military dependents) by having fully fueled and armed Hornets transiting to the target at NOE height? Finally, explain to the Congressional Budget Office why it is imperative that the Marines spend 64 million dollars of our tax money to buy 30,000 acres of land at the same time there are plans to cut 12 combat squadrons from the Marines inventory and order of battle. At least 2 to 4 of those squadrons will probably be from Beaufort MCAS. With there being 7 squadrons there now, is it economically feasible to build a range to cater to 3 to 4 squadrons, with half of those not being there for carrier, UDP Japan, and Mideast deployments? The JDAM costs about 50000 dollars apiece, so you only get to practice dropping even the inert version about once a year on the average pilot's logbook. Dont tell me it will save money by doing it here instead of Yuma or the Stumps. I only thought the Marines lied to you when you were drinking with them in a bar. Had no idea they would lie to the taxpayers who pay their salaries.

Response to Comment 46:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) conducted a multi-step screening process to identify and compare Department of Defense ranges that could support the Proposed Action. The USMC identified seven candidate ranges located within 165 nautical miles of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort: Fort Stewart, Georgia; Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia; Poinsett Range, South Carolina; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Gordon, Georgia; Grand Bay Range, Georgia; and Camp Blanding, Florida. TBR is the only range to meet all of the range evaluation criteria. Please refer to Section 2.1 and Table 2-1 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for more information.

Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the USMC. Weapon danger zones (WDZs) are established as safety measures to protect personnel on or near the range. A WDZ may be near the range boundary, but the WDZ has requisite safety factors built in. No additional buffer land is required. Each WDZ is sized so that any munition released has only a one out of one million probability of landing outside of the WDZ. The chance of the munition hitting a specific point, such as State Highway (Hwy.) 57, is far less. Please refer to Sections 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 in the FEIS for details on WDZs and the land acquisition necessary to contain these zones, respectively. The WDZs that are shown on Figure 2-2 in the FEIS are modeled to contain all weapon impacts, including ricochets, occurring within the WDZ.

No portion of State Hwy. 57 would be closed under any of the action alternatives. The current practice of temporarily closing Blue's Reach Road (also known as Old Barrington Road and Old Cox Road) during certain training activities would continue under any of the action alternatives. Under Alternatives 1, 3, and 4, range officials may close the portion of Blue's Reach Road (also known as Old Barrington Road and Old Cox Road) that enters the new range boundary when access to the range would conflict with training operations. The road would otherwise remain open. Additional information has been added to Section 3.11 in the FEIS to clarify this point.

The USMC understands that the potential noise effects of expanding TBR are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and

Response to Comment 46 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 46.

near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the FEIS. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area (MOA) or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 in the FEIS).

As a point of clarification, minimum flight altitude for fixed-wing flight operations would not change as part of the Proposed Action. As explained in the FEIS (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6), the change in airspace would affect only Restricted Airspace R-3007. The proposed modification would eliminate the current gap from 100 feet above ground level down to the surface of the ground over the areas proposed for acquisition. This extension, which would apply only to the existing restricted airspace over lands proposed for acquisition, would unite the airspace with acquired land to enable the delivery of inert ordnance in order to comply with FAA regulations. It is not an indication that fixed-wing flight operations will be conducted at altitudes below 100 feet. No lateral modification of the R-3007 complex is proposed as part of the Proposed Action.

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

The decision to enable a local precision-guided munitions (PGM) training capability is not solely an economic decision. PGMs are no longer a “specialty” weapon. They have evolved into a primary weapon of choice that every pilot must be capable of delivering accurately. The ability to fulfill this training requirement locally would enable units to concentrate on advanced weapons and tactics during deployments to USMC ranges in the southwestern United States. Currently, there are six F/A-18 squadrons at MCAS Beaufort. The USMC aviation plan does not indicate the squadron cuts quoted.

47

1702 Elim Church Road NE
Ludowici, Georgia 31316
23 September 2012

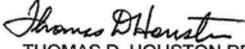
Townsend EIS
Attention: Project Manager
PO Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Dear Sir or Maam,

Attached please find my comments of the Draft EIS presented on the web site of your firm with a suspense date of 27 September 2012.

I request that you provide in writing your acceptance /rejection of each comment submitted, for inclusion into the Final EIS, and the reason(s) for rejection. Also request a copy of the Final EIS.

If you have questions or desire anything further, please call me on my cell AC912 256-5402, or my Home phone at 912 545-2208.

Sincerely Yours

THOMAS D. HOUSTON REP, CHMM
Long County Resident and Woodlands Owner

Enclosure

Response to Comment 47:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. Figure 2-2 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) presents the largest weapon danger zone (WDZ) for each proposed target area at their actual size with other map features to use for reference.

Figure ES-2 is meant merely for comparison to show the size difference between the WDZs. Text was added to Sections ES.3 and 1.1.4 in the FEIS to clarify this point. As explained in Section 2.4.3, Area 2 was removed from further consideration in the FEIS after it was determined to be incapable of meeting the minimum threshold training requirements that are described in Section 2.1.1 of the FEIS.

Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the United States Marine Corps (USMC). WDZs are established as safety measures to protect personnel on or near the range. A WDZ may be near the range boundary, but the WDZ has requisite safety factors built in. No additional buffer land is required. Each WDZ is sized so that any munition released has only a one out of one million probability of landing outside the WDZ. The chance of the munition hitting a specific point, such as State Highway 57, is far less. Please refer to Sections 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 in the FEIS for details on WDZs and the land acquisition necessary to contain these zones, respectively. The WDZs that are shown on Figure 2-2 in the FEIS are modeled to contain all weapon impacts, including ricochets, occurring within the WDZ. Other conventional weapons are covered in this FEIS. Table 2-4 explains what operations, including strafing, would be allowed on each new target area. Table 2-5 shows the current and proposed future breakdown of training operations including 20-millimeter sorties. Further, all current range operations, as discussed in Section 2.2.5.1 and on Table 2-2 in the FEIS, would continue.

Additional information on laser safety and regulations has been added to Section 2.2.1 of the FEIS.

The USMC uses simulators for training. The USMC considered using simulator and virtual reality computer simulation models to provide

Response to Comment 47 continues on next page. Additional materials provided with this comment letter also begin on the next page.

COMMENTS
TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
By
THOMAS D. HOUSTON, REP, CHMM

1. The entire reason for the preparation of this EIS revolves around satisfying all air crew training requirements for the "smart bombs" close to the MCAS, Beaufort. This concept has been applied in the selection of government owned or controlled real estate for further study, apparently with little regard to the environmental impact on the population of Long County. In eliminating Area 2 from further consideration the reasons given were: Study Area 2 fails to meet "Minimum Threshold Training Requirement" Study Area 2 is frequently flooded by the Altamaha River and range maintenance and range clearance are impossible. This not a valid statement. Timber harvesters have no problem removing timber from the land, and in recent years there has been few freshets that have rendered the area untrafficable The Acquisition Area 2 was deeded to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) by Rayonier, TNC in turn gave the State of Georgia DNR Title to the land so no ad valorem tax is collected by Long County.
2. Since the only reason for TBR to have the additional land area is to provide a Weapons Danger Zone (WDZ) for errant "Smart Bombs" in case of guidance system failure. (ES.2, ES.3 Page v The WDZ may be classified, but the EIS should have the Plate ES-1 dimensioned to show what the actual WDZ is.
3. On Page vii of ES, the WDZ fan for the PGM is superimposed on to the existing TBR dumb bomb fan. You will note, the PGM SDW extends into Acquisition Area 2, which is no longer under consideration by the USMC. Has some other real estate agreement been consummated with Georgia DNR to permit this? I realize this may be intended to show a mere comparison of the two munitions danger zones, but the average layman would question a WDZ not even being on the planned acquisition. If Acquisition Area 2 would satisfy 72 percent of MCAW 31 Training Requirement, why eliminate this least impact alternate on Long County Citizens? Since Area 2 already belongs to the State of Georgia, it is local tax free. The final EIS needs this explanation.
4. I note that Target Area No. 1, in Acquisition Area 3, a Tactical Target Site, is located within 200 meters of the proposed boundary of Area 3. A reasonable person may ask "What is the WDZ for the JDAM applied to this target site and why a tactical target is located this close to the proposed property line? Obviously the USMC feels they need to take 33000 Acres of Long County Land to assure public safety for TBR, It would appear that they would locate the target in the middle of the area rather than endanger the public on Footpeice Road . (See my Comment 2 above) The EIS does not specifically address the use of other conventional weapons such as the .50Cal, 20mm, and 30mm automatic weapons. A statement to the effect that the range expansion is limited to JADAM PGM should be put in the EIS. Even in high angle strafe, the ricochet radius of danger would extend to private land.
5. Target Area 6 in Acquisition Area 1b is within 1200 m of the State Highway 57. Again, Nothing is dimensioned on Plate ES-1, (See my Comment 2 above).It is impossible to determine if the required WDZ is provided.
6. No mention has been made of the environmental impact of laser military guidance systems. Although the systems are probably classified some explanation should be given to the public as to their relative safety or restrictions being promulgated for their use, especially for an area as close to residences and traveling public on Georgia 57.
7. I assume that the GPS guidance system of PMG entails entering target coordinates, and The on board computer in the aircraft provides the coordinates and altitude of the point of bomb release. After bomb release, the crew has no other control on the weapon? Other services have been very successful in simulation for this type training. It would be in the

1/3

Continuation of response to Comment 47.

precision-guided munitions (PGM) training. However, simulated training alone cannot substitute for real-world training in the handling and delivery of PGMs (please refer to Section 2.4.4 of the FEIS).

The four papers that were selected for the newspaper advertisements were chosen based on location and circulation. However, all local newspapers were issued a press release by Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort announcing the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and a second press release for the extension of the comment period.

The USMC acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues can be found in Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS. Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

The Proposed Action could result in up to approximately 9,211 acres where wood products would no longer be harvested commercially. The land taken out of production of forest products represents a small portion (approximately 4%) of all forestland in Long and McIntosh Counties. Please refer to Section 4.3.1.2 of the FEIS.

Response to Comment 47 continues on next page.

- public interest for the USMC to explain why this alternative is not considered versus procuring all of the huge land area they seek.
8. The preparers and reviewers of this document did not provide an official notice in the Official County Organ of Long County, which is the Coastal Courier in Hinesville, Georgia. Each of Georgia's 159 Counties has an official county organ for the publication of notices affecting the public in that county. It is not understood why this omission occurred. The notice was published in the Brunswick News, Savannah Morning News, Darien News and Wayne County Press. With the exception of the Savannah Morning News, it is doubtful that 40 Long Countians read these papers. The citizens of Long County need an explanation of this omission in the Final EIS.
 9. The loss of ad valorem tax from 33000 acres of private lands, even though classed as corporative forest acres will have a significant effect on the quality of life of the people of this small county. Moreover, bringing the large acreage under USMC resource management will foreclose any tax relief options for the foreseeable future, because with the planned 80 year timber rotation, even with Federal Revenue Sharing, the planted pine and bare cut over land on the demised acreage will not be a source of tax income for the county for many years. This needs to be brought out in the Final EIS as a significant impact. Standing timber from military ranges has limited or no value when contaminated by military munitions.
 10. The only significant tax producing industry in Long County is forestry. The removal of such a significant resource from the county will likely foreclose any opportunity to attract the location of the emerging biotechnology manufacturing industry to this county, which could provide the much needed diverse employment in the future.
 11. Based on what is provided in the Draft EIS it appears that the socio economic environmental impact is grossly underestimated. (Comments 8, 9, above).
 12. As a private forest farmer with land near the North land boundary of Acquisition Area 3, I have "real world" concerns that with the further flight restrictions being placed on Coastal MOA. As the result this project we may not be able to use aerial application practices in our forestry program. Although my program is small compared to neighboring industrial forest land owners, this is highly likely to result in my having to go to more expensive ground systems to apply herbicides, fertilizers, and insecticides. This impact should be included in the Final EIA. Certainly the denial of airspace needed for emergency fire protection, is an extremely adverse impact and a significant public safety issue.
 13. No mention is made in the Draft EIA of the anticipated wetlands remediation practices that will be required by Section 404 of CWA. Is this likely to result in additional Land Take?
 14. Many changes in the physical and cultural environments have evolved since the first draft EIS was presented last year at the scoping meeting. Among these are:
 - a. The existing Smiley Elementary School is in the direct approach to Acquisition Area 1b and the new Long County High School is being constructed in this approach zone. The Draft EIS does not mention either of these hazards to our school children. The Long County Board of Education has passed a resolution opposing the TBR Expansion based on both noise level and risk. What action is proposed on this resolution?
 - b. At least one Native American Grave has been identified in the Ryals Family Cemetery. The survivors of the family have notified the Yamessee Nation of this fact. At present they have not responded to the family request for assistance. This is a very obscure plot of "holy ground". The location is not firmly established by the preparer's cultural resource people.
 - c. It is noted that the Snuff Box Surface Drainage Canal is located on the west limit of Acquisition Area 1b. The plans of the USMC to maintain this vital waterway have not been addressed in the EIS, and failure to adequately maintain the canal will probably result in flooding of adjacent private lands and possibly Georgia 57. If the USMC determined they were not able to maintain the simple targets in Area

Continuation of response to Comment 47.

Emergency services and law enforcement would not be affected. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) currently work with emergency services, such as air ambulance, to suspend training operations and allow access through the restricted airspace. This working relationship would continue in the future and no loss or delay of emergency services is expected. This information has been added to several sections throughout the FEIS to help clarify this point.

As explained in the FEIS (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6), the change in airspace would affect only Restricted Airspace R-3007. The proposed modification would eliminate the current gap from 100 feet above ground level down to the surface of the ground over the areas proposed for acquisition. This extension, which would apply only to the existing restricted airspace over lands proposed for acquisition, would unite the airspace with acquired land to enable the delivery of inert ordnance in order to comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations. It is not an indication that fixed-wing flight operations will be conducted at altitudes below 100 feet. No lateral modification of the R-3007 complex is proposed as part of the Proposed Action.

Please refer to Section 3.4 of the FEIS for the wetlands analysis.

The USMC understands that the potential noise effects of expanding TBR are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the FEIS. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

Response to Comment 47 continues on next page.

- 2, their task with canal maintenance will be equally as challenging. This should be addressed in the Final EIS. (Page 3-102 EIS).
- d. In the "Welcome Pamphlet" handed out at Ludowici Public Meeting on 9 August 2012 on page 6, in the Paragraph "Comparison of Candidate Ranges" last bullet, "Must not currently host conflicting military operations." Even though the Georgia Air Guard is the Range Operator, does this mean that the Savannah Combat Flight Training Facility of the Georgia Air Guard, at Savannah Hilton Head Regional Airport will no longer be able to use TBR? Will the USMC takeover operation of the range? The Final EIS needs to clarify this issue. With today's austere funding situation for the armed forces, what has changed the joint force concept that was so successful in Iraq?
 - e. Has a detailed economic analysis been made of the military construction appropriation costs for this project? Of course this amount is classified, but rumor has it that \$75 Million will be requested for this project, and USMC personnel meeting with local government officials have reported it would save \$160 Million in fuel cost for flights to Arizona and California Ranges to maintain proficiency with JDAM or PGM. This does not appear to be realistic. Certainly the USMC aviators must have all types of flight training other than PGM, and missions to the west could provide the opportunity, such as in-flight refueling, counter electronic measures, and tactical evasion. It is understood that Military Operation Air Space from the Federal Aviation Agency is only valid for some 650 Hours of use per year. It doesn't make a lot of sense to spend \$75M for expansion for such a short period of use, the net benefit resulting in only a 13 % increase in the training requirement. (72% for Area 2 versus 85% for preferred alternate)
 - f. There has been a change in the aerial ambulance service provider for lower end of Long County. This service is now based in Brunswick, and it has been reported that the Military Operational Area airspace adds as much as 30 minutes to flight time from Brunswick to a Long County Emergency Scene. This issue is not treated in the Draft EIS. This is a significant environmental impact for the people of Long County and the traveling public on Georgia 57. The Georgia Forestry Commission has gone to full aircraft surveillance for forest fires. Although the Georgia Air Guard has in the past provided the salary for the Long Forestry Tower Operator, since the MOA restricts surveillance flights in the TBR operational area. What is the plan for continuation of this service? The Final EIS should address this vital issue.
 - g. Has any consideration been given to the fact that the Sequestration of the Federal Military Budget may render the requirement for the expansion invalid due to mandatory force structure reductions of the USMC? Has the expense both present and future in connection with the preparation, review, revision and staffing of the Final EIS been estimated? If so, it should be included in the document if not classified.

Continuation of response to Comment 47.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by FAA regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area (MOA) or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 of the FEIS).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the Action Alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

The USMC consulted with a total of 21 federally recognized tribes during the National Environmental Policy Act scoping and Section 106 compliance processes for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.2.2 of the FEIS). To date, no tribal issues or concerns, including traditional cultural properties or sacred sites, have been identified for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS). To the greatest extent possible, the USMC would work to avoid any cultural resources that are found on any newly acquired federal property and minimize any potential impacts. As detailed in Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS, the USMC conducted desktop research, archaeological investigations, and field surveys for proposed acquisition

Response to Comment 47 continues on next page.

Public Comment Summary Report

Continuation of response to Comment 47.

areas where entry was permitted (see Appendices H and I in the FEIS). Documented cultural and/historical resources were noted and identified during these processes. However, if a resource such as a burial ground/cemetery is not officially documented, then the USMC may not have been able to accurately assess that point of interest. The USMC welcomes documentation of all cultural and historical resources.

The Snuff Box Canal traverses the current TBR and has been maintained as required since TBR was acquired by the USMC. Required maintenance would continue if additional land is acquired.

The USMC conducted a multi-step screening process to identify and compare Department of Defense ranges that could support the Proposed Action. The USMC identified seven candidate ranges located within 165 nautical miles of MCAS Beaufort: Fort Stewart, Georgia; TBR, Georgia; Poinsett Range, South Carolina; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Gordon, Georgia; Grand Bay Range, Georgia; and Camp Blanding, Florida. TBR is the only range to meet all of the range evaluation criteria. Please refer to Section 2.1 and Table 2-1 in the FEIS for more information.

Please refer to Section 3.3 of the FEIS for the socioeconomic analysis.

48 Harley Jones
6490 Deep Valley Court
Flowery Branch, 30542

I support the modernization of the Townsend Bombing Range. Having an East Coast location would actually be an environmental gain as it would reduce fuel consumption by not having to fly to the West Coast. Would also reduce maintenance cost by reducing flight hours and increase aircraft and crew availability.

Response to Comment 48:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

49

Sharon Kitchen
P.O.Box 324

Townsend, 31331

To whom it may concern, I and my husband are both Native American. Extensive research into this area since 1869 by Clarnece B. Moore has identified thousands of burials and village sites before anyone came over in boats. Therefore I am sure you have notified ALL Federally recognized Nations ,by MOU, of your intent to do this. This will fall under Section 106 of N.A.G.P.R.A. My husband was also a Marine, so I know that the country needs areas. My father and all uncles served in WWII. However, the dead need respect, no matter who they are. Too many times developments are done and our relations are bagged or boxed and warehoused. This is just horrible. I would not want any family to have this experience. Thank you for your time, Sharon L. Kitchen (founder-STSSA)

Response to Comment 49:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) consulted with a total of 21 federally recognized tribes during the National Environmental Policy Act scoping and Section 106 compliance processes for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.2.2 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement [FEIS]) The purpose of this consultation was to identify tribal issues or concerns including, but not limited to, Native American archaeological resources, properties of traditional religious or cultural importance, or traditional cultural properties (TCPs). To date, no tribal issues or concerns, including TCPs or sacred sites, have been identified for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS).

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990 protects Native American cultural items under federal ownership or control. If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would comply with NAGPRA for future undertakings affecting this property (please refer to Section 3.9.2.1 of the FEIS). To the greatest extent possible, the USMC would work to avoid any cultural resources that are found on any newly acquired federal property and to minimize any potential impacts. However, NAGPRA also establishes a process for the authorized removal of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony.

50

Date: 7-31-12

To: J.R. Snider
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Marine Corps Air Station
Beaufort, S.C. 29904-5001

From: Sharon L. Kitchen (founder)
Save the Sacred Sites Alliance
P.O. Box 324
Townsend, Ga. 313

Re: Townsend Bombing Range EIS and public input

Col. Snider,

I will take a few moments to state my thoughts on this plan. First you should be aware that I am Native American and deeply concerned over the sacred sites that this plan for 51,000 acres will disturb or destroy. There are villages and thousands of burials in these 3 counties that will be impacted. These sites are too numerous to count. There is a rich Native American history in this area. Already to many have been wantonly destroyed. No laws were followed. The developers did NOT care. One such choice was the Darien mall. It was called Dunwoody cemetery. I have the book that the McIntosh County Commission did. Were people contacted? NO. Were the bodies moved pursuant to laws? NO. The people who went out to put flowers on their love ones graves found instead pavement over the bodies. One commissioner, still in office today, still has nightmares of the skeletons that were concreted over. Still others were removed and dumped behind the El-Chepo gas station across the Hwy. 251. Still others, our ancestors were dumped behind that, in the woods. All this was seen by the people of this county in 1994. More examples could be given but it would take too long. I have the pictures. What a statement about human beings. Land is so precious as to destroy and desecrate graves? I think NOT. Now with this EIS, and plans to take over and destroy untold numbers of graves and village sites, the Section 106 of N.G.P.R.A. Applies. You already know this. Any Federal money on any project states this. I have read your list of Nations. Since Georgia did a complete destruction of the Native Americans in this whole state, and forcefully removed thousands to Oklahoma and elsewhere, the land grab is almost complete. Is greed the only thing left? I hope not. How much land needs to be destroyed? How many graves dug up? How many more people.....HUMANS.....need to be put in boxes and bags and put in universities, or warehouses? Where is this thing called, respect? Is there none left? I have the complete study of Clarence B. Moore in 1898. It list all those "mounds"-graves he found in these 3 counties, slated for complete destruction and desecration. If you leave out these areas and the wetlands and the streams and the rivers, you do not have much left. Yes, some of the burials go down 45 feet. Some areas the bodies are coming up, skeletons are not uncommon to find along the river banks. Even Capt. John McIntosh has washed out, to be reburied 3 times. The last time his iron casket was buried was just this last year. In the area across from the mall, near the tire store in the woods I saw the flags marking where someone had been poking about. Now, after reading the Draft EIS I see it was someone with this project. Shovel test will not do the job. A complete Phase I, then Phase II and Phase III will be needed. We have on our board, an outstanding Archeologist, that used to be used for the state of Georgia. He is extremely well versed on the state of Georgia. He also knows the good and bad people that claim to be archeologist. His name is Patrick Garrow. He used to be with Garrow and

Response to Comment 50:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) consulted with a total of 21 federally recognized tribes during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping and Section 106 compliance processes for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.2.2 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement [FEIS]). To date, no tribal issues or concerns, including Native American archaeological resources, properties of traditional religious or cultural importance, or traditional cultural properties or sacred sites, have been identified for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS).

As detailed in Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS, the USMC conducted desktop research, archaeological investigations, and field surveys for proposed acquisition areas where entry was permitted (see Appendices H and I of the FEIS). Documented cultural and/historical resources were noted and identified during these processes. However, if a resource such as a burial ground/cemetery is not officially documented, then the USMC may not have been able to accurately assess that point of interest. The USMC welcomes documentation of all cultural and historical resources.

If the Record of Decision (ROD) calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would continue to consult with federally recognized tribes. The USMC would contact federally recognized tribes if any Native American resources or cultural items, such as archaeological resources or human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are found.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990 protects Native American cultural items and under federal ownership or control. If the ROD calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would comply with NAGPRA for future undertakings affecting this property (please refer to Section 3.9.2.1 of the FEIS). To the greatest extent possible, the USMC would work to avoid any cultural resources that are found on any newly acquired federal property and to minimize any potential impacts. Appendix H in the FEIS contains more information on the Section 106 consultation process.

Response to Comment 50 continues on next page.

Associates. There is also another archeologist named Joe Joseph with New South Associates in Stone Mountain, Ga. He is also very aware of this region and the ancestors that are here.

I will include a list of the different peoples that used to be in this area, back in the time before Columbus landed here, or anyone else for that matter. This should expand your list of contacts to be made, as not all the First Peoples of Turtle Island were included in your list. Their descendants will need to be contacted.

I should also note, that my father served in W.W.II. Also all my 5 uncles. My husband served in the Marines during the Vietnam era. My son served in the Marines during Iraq and Afghanistan and still serves in Kuwait as of this date. So I am very familiar with the military.

My next issue : noise. The F18's already zip over the tops of trees at extreme low altitudes and buzz my horses ears. This puts them into a panic. A panic group of horses can be cause for alarm, as they could bust out of their fenced in area and run into the road. Oncoming cars and horses do NOT mix. If they collide they are busted up and have to be put down and the vehicles and people can be badly hurt. All would be a big mess. So, when the jets start to fly we have to be on guard. There is no such thing as relaxing at home. The dogs are under the beds shaking so bad they can not walk. Yes, your jets fly that low, that often. NO ONE CARES!! If they did, they would stop. They do not.

Several times within the last 5 years, I have had to call the FAA. Not so much for this as I should not be able to describe what the pilot is wearing. Our Oak and Pine trees are tall. They will come down. It is just a matter of when. Sure, we are near the Harris Neck area. Sure it is near the water. They first have to make it past the houses, buiness, roads, traffic, power lines. How many pilots do you want to loose? I hope not any. This buzzing goes on daily. It is much worse when countries send over their units to "learn". What a mess.

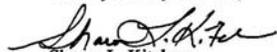
Next, this little county thinks it wants to put in a little airport. Can you explain how F18's and crop dusters in the same airspace will survive? Makes no sense. We need our military alive to fight..... not splattered somewhere in a marsh, or river or road. As I write this today the jets are flying low again.

I hope to hear from you or someone. I know the open comment time is now and when and where the meetings will be held. We have told all we know about these meetings.

I would also request the FINAL EIS. I also request an EAS. An EAS is much more thorough.

My first and foremost concern is the sacred sites and burials. THEY NEED TO BE LEFT ALONE.....THEY NEED TO REST IN PEACE.

Thank you for your time,



Sharon L. Kitchen

Save the Sacred Sites Alliance

cc: elders file

cc: Mr. Darrell Gundrum NAVFAC SE Archeologist
code EV23 P.O. Box 30 Bldg 903 Yorktown, Jacksonville, Fl. 32213-0030
phone: 904-542-6944 email: darrell.gundrum@navy.mil

cc: Dr. David Crass Dept. SHPO email: www.georgiashpo.org
attn: Elizabeth Shirk Environmental Review Coordinator Re: HP-110120-007 McIntosh County
254 Washington St. S.W. Ground Level
Atlanta, Ga. 30334 reg Phone: 404-656-2840 /other phone: 404-651-6624 fax: 404-657-1368

Continuation of response to Comment 50.

The USMC understands that the potential noise effects of expanding Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the FEIS. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 of the FEIS).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

Response to Comment 50 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 50.

Because of your involvement in the project by submitting comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and by attending the August 7, 2012 public meeting in Darien, Georgia, you will receive future notifications throughout the remainder of the NEPA process, including availability of the FEIS. Any additional archaeological investigations would be dictated by regulatory requirements and would occur once land acquisition has occurred.

Additional materials provided with this comment letter appear on the following pages.

A Short Look at the Indigenous of the S.E. Ga. Coast

Prior to 1492 and Columbus the coast of Ga. Had been home to aboriginal societies for thousands years. The Spanish missions had substantial impacts to Indian societies.

In this area of McIntosh County, Darien, Ga. As well as Townsend, Eulonia, Crescent, South Newport, St. Simmons were many native villages and many, many burials.

The northern most province Guale were 6 primary towns, from the Ogeechee River to the mouth of the Altamaha River. In fact the name Altamaha is a Yamessee name after the chief, "Aratomahan".

The furthest north was the town of Chatuache.

The next: Sapala (known as the Bourbon Field site).

The next: Phelipe (inland at New Port River area).

The next: Gaule (Yamassee Head or now know as St. Catherine's Island).

The next: Talaje/Asajo (the Fort King George site in Darien, Ga).

The next: Tupiqui (the Pine Harbor site).

The 4 Mocama towns were as follows:

The most Northern: Guadalquini (southern tip of St. Simmons Island).

The next: Mocama (now know as Cumberland Island).

The next: the Harrison Homestead site on Amelia Island.

The next: Puerto (Fort George Island at the St. Johns River).

Northern most Chiefs towns were Guale and Espogache and they were under the Asajo/Jalaje.

Then the Talaje and Tupiqui.

The preminent settlement in the 1580 to 1590's was Tolomoto.

The reduction of the Guale and Mocama, was the same as the Timucua experienced in N. Fl. At St. Augustine. Massive epidemics and stress of draft labor (slavery).

1661 marked the beginning of the end of the Guale and Mocama towns with the arrival of the Chichimeco warriors from Va. (also called Jac'an). They came to the Altamaha away from Va. Because of the arrival of the English, who made war on them daily. The Chichimeco were also known as Rechahecrians and were displaced Erie of the Great Lakes area, who were forced to move during the Iroquois wars. They had been recruited into the Indian slave trade demanded back in Va. After they left to go back to Va., the Yamassee arrived, also spelled Yamasis, from the lower South Carolina coast called at that time Escamacu.

In 1673 nearly 1/2 of the slave labors were Yamassee, taken from the Guale and Mocama area yearly. Some were taken to Barbados.

In 1670 a 150 English colonist arrived in Charles Town.

In western Ga and Al the Creek Confederacy was alive and doing well.

After 1665 the Guale were moved to Sapala (now know as Sapelo Island-around 1675).

In the 1670 the Indian group called Chilique (who also understood the Guale language) appeared.

In 1681 Chilique was know as Ohilques. The Chalaques was know as Cherokee, by some.

The word Chilique is thought to be a Muskogean term as Cherokee...meaning, "people of a different language". The Chichimeco/Westo Indians had palisade towns near the Savannah River area.

The following are other groups that arrived:

"Cowatoe(Coweta),"Chorkae"(Cherokee),"Cussetaw"(Kasihta),"Checsaws"(Chickasaw),and

"Chiskers"(Chisea).

In 1670 the Va. Explorer John Lederer went into N.C.. The Ocaneechee and the Catawba knew the Chichimeco "Rickohockan" or "Oustack"(Westo).

The Gaule and Yamassee also spoke a Muskogean dialect.

The largest Yamassee population was on St. Simmons Island, with the 2nd on Amelia Island.

In 1680 the Chichimeco joined forces with the Chisel ,(ancestral to the lower Creeks) ,and the Chilique.

In 1683 the French pirates landed and the Yamassee fled to present day Hilton Head Island.

All the Yamassee were to move to the township of Santa Marie on Amelia Island. On Wednesday, Oct. 25th 1684 the pirates burned down the 3 towns in less than a week. There was no place left to live for the Gaule and the Mocama. The last retreat left was made to the deep interior of the lower Creek towns of (Coweta and Kasihta).

Early on Nov. 1684 a 150 Scots arrived and the Yamassee formed an alliance. The Yamassee were under the leader of "Aratomahan", now know as (Altamaha), in the town called Stuarts Town, in the area of Port Royal Sound. The towns on St. Simmons had been burned down by the pirates. There was no return. After 1685 the Guale and Mocama were composed of 5 towns located between Amelia Island and the mouth of the St. Johns River. As one leader was heard to have said, "...today we find ourselves destroyed and anihilated, and all the province reduced to only one hundred men...". The Amelia Island had now become the new Guale province. The new Mocama province was 2 locations: one on Fort George Island, and the other of Santa Cruz on the west side of the St. Johns River.

The coast of Georgia was abandoned. Carolina and Florida continued to battle on. Over 23 years the Guale and Mocama had shrunk from 10 mission towns with hundreds in each to only 5 with very little remaining due to assaults. Despite all this, the Chiefly lineage was maintained, keeping the names and identity alive.

In 1702 Amelia Island was overrun by the English burning their way to St. Augustine. Now the Guale and Mocama were down to 2 towns. But after the Yamassee Wars of 1765 the descendants of the Yamassee who had gone to the Carolinas were at this location again.

Then.....in 1763, they were sent to Cuba.

Now, all that remains are some names that were kept. Also are the burials and sacred sites.

See the book called : The Georgia and South Carolina Coastal Expeditions of Clarence B. Moore His work was published by the Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia in 1897 and 1898. The ISBN # 0-8173-0941-1. *also page 31 for "Bahama" (Harriestuck - me Intos L & Co) are there.*

- * Almost All of the Intosh has burials from all the groups returned.
- the info for this paper was taken from: The Struggle for the Georgia Coast by John E. Worth
- ISBN# 0-8203-1745-4 Mr. Worth is an anthropologist at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta, Ga.

*"A Short Look" put together
By: Sharon L. Kitchener (founder)
Save the Sacred Sites Alliance*

Additional information on the Yamassee
and other native nations

Pg.3

The Spanish used drafts for their protection (slave labor).

Due to the epidemics : first in 1649 the typhus or yellow fever, then in 1654 the smallpox and then in 1659 the measles all lead to the heavy death toll of the native peoples in Georgia.

In 1711, 270 natives were evacuated from the Keys in Florida to Cuba. The Spanish continued to use the native peoples and the Africans as militia against the English. In 1693 the Spanish king granted "freedom", to the African peoples that had escaped, and were flocking to Florida thru Georgia for freedom. In 1711 and the 1714 the Carolina s experienced a slave revolt and they joined the Yamassee War against the English. A few of the Nations were: Mocama, Yamassee, Timucuan, Apalachee, Casapuya, Ibaja, Ocute, and Jororo.

In 1724 a group of former slaves joined the Yamassee chief Jorge to St. Augustine for religious and sanctuary reasons.

At the end of 1763 and the 7 years war, with The Treaty of Paris, Spain gave Florida to the English. This included ~~what~~ what would become known as Georgia, as well. Thus started the evacuations of 3,000 people and their belongings. This took 10 months. Most arrived in Cuba with a few to Campeche. Most settled in Guanabaco in Cuba. A native 27 year old woman named Ana Maria was an Ibaja from Tolomoto near Darien, Ga. She died at this age and was buried at the cemetery in Guanabacoa, Cuba. An elder woman, a caica,(leader), Maria Francisca was also buried there.

Now the Lower Creeks moved into the rest of Georgia and Florida. They are now known as the Seminoles.

After 20 years, at the conclusion of the American Revolution, the British retoceded Florida/ Georgia back to Spain. Some settlers returned to resettle their communities in the 1784. Now the British colonists were forced out. African and Native now lived together, again as before. They continued to live together in Guanabaco, Cuba as well. Their descendants continue to live on in Cuba. The original cemetery is still in Guanabaco, Cuba.

In a book titled, "Beyond Black and Red" by Mathew Restall, who is a professor of Latin American history, and anthropology at Pa. State University, this is covered in much more detail. ISBN# 0-8263-2403-7

There is a statement in the front of this book by Ramilla Cody (Miss Navajo Nation for 1998), "Biracial people should not be judged as "half" anything".

A Short Look at the Indigenous of the S.E. Ga. Coast

Pg.4

Pg. 1 -4 - brief history

Pg. 2, 3 - book credits

Pg. 4 - credits

For more information please read the following books:

1. "The Georgia and South Carolina Coastal Expeditions of Clarence B. Moore"
ISBN# 0-8173-0941-1 dated 1987 & 1898
2. "The Struggle for the Georgia Coast" by John E. Worth
ISBN#0-8203-1745-4
3. " Beyond Black and Red" by Mathew Restall
ISBN# 0-8263-2403-7

These books, as well as others, will get you started on the path to understand the Indigenous "First Peoples of Turtle Island". Their villages and burial sites still remain to this day throughout many counties of Ga. Fl, and S.C. as well as all the states. They MUST be protected. Everyone's resting place MUST be protected. Today it is theirs...tomorrow, it could be yours. This is the only Planet we have the HONOR to call home. We MUST "HONOR" our ancestors. Join us in this effort. Genealogy, is one way to get started. To find out that you have Native American ancestors is just the beginning of the "path".

The First Peoples of Turtle Island (USA), are here and are willing to help anyone who wishes to understand our rich history and culture. All one has to do ,is be respectful and ask.

You can also Google the entire list of Nations ,(Federally recognized). They have their own websites and addresses.

But remember: Respect is the FIRST rule.

Then, the second ,will be to listen.

The third, will be to have fun on your path....

What information awaits you.....

Sharon L. Kitchen (founder)
Save the Sacred Sites Alliance
P.O. Box 324
Townsend, Ga. 31331

Save The Sacred Sites

SAVE THE SACRED SITES



Save The Sacred Sites Alliance Who And What We Are

Save The Sacred Sites (also know by STSS) is an informational alliance of several Native American and Non Native American organizations loosely governed by a board mostly made up of Native Americans. Our sole purpose is to inform. We inform people of their rights under the laws that govern burials of all races. We have protected everything from Native American, African American, and European American, Confederate Burials, Sacred Sites, Historic Sites from destruction.

A misconception that most developers and some government officials have is that we oppose them and their development, and/ or progress or them making a profit. Our organization has had to help others take on some development projects because we saw that laws were being broken. But our main goal is to educate the developers and government officials and those who try to stop the destruction of their ancestor's burials, that there are alternatives to adversarial positions that are taken on either side of the issue.

Our main goal is to educate and provide opportunities for people to act in responsible and legal and moral ways and still make a good profit on their lands. On our board we have federally recognized Native Americans from many Nations, we have African Americans and European Americans who are archaeologists with very, very credible credentials. We also have ex law enforcement, and those who advise us on legal matters. We do not, however, push our services on anyone or any of our member's services. We are of course, always available to assist those who need them. And some, such as archaeologists, do charge. But not all archaeologists that we know as credible are associated with us.

We try to help developers, and real estate organizations, avoid legal snags that cut into their profits and/ or operational funds and government agencies to not lose valuable, time consuming losses to legal battles over cemeteries, historic and sacred places. There are some Federal Native American Nations that we know who may allow builders to develop responsibly as deemed by their traditions, section 106 of

NAGPRA Federal laws and the abandon cemeteries and each states abandon cemetery acts and non abandon cemetery laws of each state.

There are some simple things that governmental bodies can implement to stop the entire adversarial process.

- (1) Vote into law regulations that will govern burials and give the enactment of those laws to neutral, knowledgeable and fully qualified persons/ organizations. And follow those laws that already exist.
- (2) Make it so that the developers have to go through these qualified people BEFORE they get their permits on state or federal levels. (State and federal agencies can and do coordinate their efforts on this all the time.)
- (3) Have knowledgeable, qualified, neutral consultants who can advise you what to do when prehistoric/ historic sites, burials or historic sacred sites come up to be developed on, or even adjoining properties to these developments.
- (4) Consult with knowledgeable, archaeologists of the area to find where all sites of historic significance are.
- (5) Have these areas mapped out so that they are known by the governmental agencies who can then inform the developer that the land has to have an archaeology study before the land can be touched.
- (6) For historic sites a phase I study can sometimes reveal artifacts.
- (7) But for burials, it sometimes requires a Phase II or III to find the burials. (8) For burials it is wise to consult family members where their family members are buried, if those members are available. And it is required by law to consult ALL living descendants involved before starting ANY disturbance of burials. And there are usually records that can be found also of burials.
- (9) It is required by law that ALL known federally recognized Native American Nations that have ever lived in your state be notified if ANY Native burial is to be disturbed.
- (10) Have all developers and governmental officials attend a mandated educational program in order to develop in your county/ city that will inform them of all the laws and the penalties for violations of laws, even if they say that they already know the laws, because it protects the city, county, state or federal agencies that provide the education. Save The Sacred Sites provides such educational opportunities with our founder and has done so in the past saving the counties who do so untold dollars.
- (11) Know that there are credible and non credible archaeological firms. By this we mean that some archaeological firms have museums and want to fill them. They are known by all knowledgeable people. A very good consultant and neutral party for all is Pat Garrow, who helped write the burial laws for the state of Georgia. You can count on his recommendations to be fair and honest for all parties involved. He does not take sides, is retired, and works for a private firm now.

Public Comment Summary Report

Also, New South and Associates VP, Joe Joseph does a fine and neutral job for all parties. These are a few of our recommendations for your protection. Also it is important to not even give the appearance of a conflict of interest. Whether there is one or not, an appearance of a conflict of interest can set all kinds of legal obstacles in the way of governmental agencies, developers and real estate.

Save the Sacred Sites tries to give the appearance of a neutral party. But we will state applicable laws that are being broken; it is our obligation to take the side of the law. And to some we may seem adversarial. But this position only appears when there are legal or moral obligations for us to fulfill.

On the whole our position is educational and advisory. And we try to be helpful to all parties involved to make the process expedient, profitable, legal, moral, and to make everyone's public appearance a good one to help keep the economy growing and peace in each community.

Save The Sacred Sites will direct to the information available of services to any government agency, developer, real estate agency, or persons who suspect burials or historic or sacred sites. Mostly what we have found is that misinformation has caused some developers fears of losses of time and money that makes them want to not contact agencies that could help them to avoid troubles and/ or law suits.

Our email is savethesacredsites@gmail.com. Our online website is www.myspace.com/savethesacredsites with over 3,000 members on that site and in the millions (nationally and internationally) in the extended network.

In order to remain neutral, Save The Sacred Sites provides our services for free locally. If we have to travel, because of gas prices, costs of food and lodging, we have to ask for compensation, but only for food, gas and lodging. Save The Sacred Sites has members who are Federally Recognized Native Americans in the USA and in some foreign countries that can recommend agencies for the appropriate actions for burials, sacred historic sites and historic areas.

We have the lists of all the federally recognized Native American Nations and their historic preservation officers for your area. We know how to consult with the Army Corps of Engineers.

We are more than willing to help. And we more than willing to educate so that these valuable historic assets to your county/ city are not lost. One developer that we are working with has found artifacts over 3,000 years old with mounds there. He is going to build an interpretive center there that will bring millions of tourist dollars to the county. McIntosh is rich in heritage that is, being rapidly lost. And many are looking for ways to enhance the economy.

Save The Sacred Sites can show real estate companies, developers, and property owners how to enhance their property value by building around these areas and making a good name for your organization. We show government agencies how to enhance your tourist dollars and protect everyone's heritage.

Burials are a sacred trust that the deceased person leaves with the descendents, and the community. Respecting these places can only enhance the reputation of any agency. And reputation is what business is all about.

We thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,
Save The Sacred Sites

51

COMMENT SHEET — Townsend Draft EIS Public Meeting

Darien, GA • August 7, 2012



NAME (Please Print): SHARON L. KITCHEN

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: SAVE THE SACRED SITES ALLIANCE

ADDRESS: 2579 Belle Hammock Rd. N.E.

Townsend, GA 31331 / mail = P.O. Box 324 Townsend GA 31331

Please provide written comments on this sheet and drop into the comment box or mail to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Written comments must be postmarked on or before August 27, 2012.

Your comments will become part of the Final EIS.

COMMENTS: (1) I gave my written info "Against" this project - I am Cherokee, I brought Jim McGhee he is Federally Recognized Blood Creek - We are NOT for this. Section 106 N.A.G.P.R.A.

(2) Noise - I own a horse farm - on Belle Hammock - I have received many "noise" complaints F18's / Helicop. should not be below Pine tree - One Day - horses & cows will be tangled - They run away x F18's & Helic. come over - Enough is enough!

Response to Comment 51:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) consulted with a total of 21 federally recognized tribes during the National Environmental Policy Act scoping and Section 106 compliance processes for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.2.2 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement [FEIS]). To date, no tribal issues or concerns, including Native American archaeological resources, properties of traditional religious or cultural importance, or traditional cultural properties or sacred sites, have been identified for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS).

As detailed in Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS, the USMC conducted desktop research, archaeological investigations, and field surveys for proposed acquisition areas where entry was permitted (see Appendices H and I of the FEIS). Documented cultural and/historical resources were noted and identified during these processes. However, if a resource such as a burial ground/cemetery is not officially documented, then the USMC may not have been able to accurately assess that point of interest. The USMC welcomes documentation of all cultural and historical resources.

If the Record of Decision (ROD) calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would continue to consult with federally recognized tribes. The USMC would contact federally recognized tribes if any Native American resources or cultural items, such as archaeological resources or human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are found. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990 protects Native American cultural items and under federal ownership or control. If the ROD calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would comply with NAGPRA for future undertakings affecting this property (please refer to Section 3.9.2.1 of the FEIS). To the greatest extent possible, the USMC would work to avoid any cultural resources that are found on any newly acquired federal property and minimize any potential impacts. Appendix H of the FEIS contains more information on the Section 106 consultation.

The USMC understands that the potential noise effects of expanding TBR are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise

Response to Comment 51 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 51.

effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the FEIS. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 in the FEIS).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

52

Date: 08-08-12

To: Mr. Len Winter
Historic Preservation Officer
Cultural Resources Section Head
NAVFAC SE-EV23
Box 30A, Building 903
NAS Jacksonville
Jacksonville, Fl. 32212 Phone:904-542-6861 fax:904-542-6345 email:len.winter@navy.mil

From: Sharon L. Kitchen (founder)
Save the Sacred Sites Alliance
P.O.Box 324
Townsend, Ga. 31331

Re: 8-7-12 Townsend Bombing Range (4-7pm) meeting-Darien,Ga.

Mr. Len Winter,

I am writing this as a follow up to meeting you at the Darien 8-7-12 expo. I and Jim were glad to see you there. I know we exchanged a lot of information and thoughts. I am sure there will be more to follow in the coming months. I did think there was going to be a presentation given by someone concerning this matter, so I was a disappointed that it was only a gathering of information by those in charge from the citizens that arrived expecting the same. Your displays show the amount of effort and time already put into this project. It appeared as a "done-deal".

I share Jim's comment that this is a "no-go" project as far as the Native American point of view. To many of our ancestors have already been dug up, warehoused, or destroyed. We have had enough. Someones' grave should be respected. A grave, no matter who, or what race, is not just a "cultural artifact". It is a person who lived and died and was buried, not to be disturbed. For to long, Native Americans have been dug up and "studied" at length, and then warehoused in bags or boxes. This is not respect. In this current time, this is still going on all over this country. Study time is over. Disrespect time is over. Inhuman action is over. Grave robbing time is over. NO is NO.

In the area already called the TBR -Townsend bombing range.....areas that are bombed also hold graves. Every time bombs go off, I can only think of one thing, how many body parts just blew up? I just do not hear the noise. The noise is bad enough. I have already written about this. The jet noise is Horrible. The helicopter noise is horrible. The dogs are past terrified. The horses are running in fear constantly. This goes on every day and into the midnight hours. No sleeping. All this and they want to expand? No way.

I gave the other archeologist the letter last night that I am including to you with this cover letter. Jim will probably write you as well. You have his and my address and phone numbers. We hope to hear from you.

We also want the final EIS. We still request a EAS. Then a Phase I, possibly moving to a Phase II and even a Phase III. A hit and miss shovel test in areas that have burials as deep as 45 feet down will not work. Thus the request for a complete EAS.

Thank you for your time,

Sharon L. Kitchen



Response to Comment 52:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The public meeting process is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared in accordance with Section (102)(2)(c) of NEPA and regulations implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ; 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), United States Department of the Navy (DON) NEPA regulations (32 CFR Part 775), and United States Marine Corps (USMC) NEPA directives (Marine Corps Order [MCO] P5090.2A, Chapter 12, change 2).

The Draft EIS has been reviewed by the Navy, the USMC, and multiple state and federal regulatory agencies. No comments were received from these groups regarding not meeting the goals of NEPA. Please visit the public Web site www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com for a detailed explanation of the NEPA process and the project schedule. No decision has been made until the project Record of Decision (ROD) is signed by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment).

The USMC consulted with a total of 21 federally recognized tribes during the NEPA scoping and Section 106 compliance processes for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.2.2 of the FEIS). To date, no tribal issues or concerns, including Native American archaeological resources, properties of traditional religious or cultural importance, or traditional cultural properties or sacred sites, have been identified for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS).

As detailed in Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS, the USMC conducted desktop research, archaeological investigations, and field surveys for proposed acquisition areas where entry was permitted (see appendices H and I). Documented cultural and/historical resources were noted and identified during these processes. However, if a resource such as a burial ground/cemetery is not officially documented, then the USMC may not have been able to accurately assess that point of interest. The USMC welcomes documentation of all cultural and historical resources.

Response to Comment 52 continues on next page. Additional materials provided with this comment letter also appear on the following pages.

Date: 7-31-12

To: J.R. Snider
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Marine Corps Air Station
Beaufort, S.C. 29904-5001

From: Sharon L. Kitchen (founder)
Save the Sacred Sites Alliance
P.O. Box 324
Townsend, Ga. 313

Re: Townsend Bombing Range EIS and public input

Col. Snider,

I will take a few moments to state my thoughts on this plan. First you should be aware that I am Native American and deeply concerned over the sacred sites that this plan for 51,000 acres will disturb or destroy. There are villages and thousands of burials in these 3 counties that will be impacted. These sites are too numerous to count. There is a rich Native American history in this area. Already to many have been wantonly destroyed. No laws were followed. The developers did NOT care. One such choice was the Darien mall. It was called Dunwoody cemetery. I have the book that the McIntosh County Commission did. Were people contacted? NO. Were the bodies moved pursuant to laws? NO. The people who went out to put flowers on their loved ones graves found instead pavement over the bodies. One commissioner, still in office today, still has nightmares of the skeletons that were concreted over. Still others were removed and dumped behind the El-Chepo gas station across the Hwy. 251. Still others, our ancestors were dumped behind that, in the woods. All this was seen by the people of this county in 1994. More examples could be given but it would take too long. I have the pictures. What a statement about human beings. Land is so precious as to destroy and desecrate graves? I think NOT. Now with this EIS, and plans to take over and destroy untold numbers of graves and village sites, the Section 106 of N.G.P.R.A. Applies. You already know this. Any Federal money on any project states this. I have read your list of Nations. Since Georgia did a complete destruction of the Native Americans in this whole state, and forcefully removed thousands to Oklahoma and elsewhere, the land grab is almost complete. Is greed the only thing left? I hope not. How much land needs to be destroyed? How many graves dug up? How many more people.....HUMANS.....need to be put in boxes and bags and put in universities, or warehouses? Where is this thing called, respect? Is there none left? I have the complete study of Clarence B. Moore in 1898. It lists all those "mounds"-graves he found in these 3 counties, slated for complete destruction and desecration. If you leave out these areas and the wetlands and the streams and the rivers, you do not have much left. Yes, some of the burials go down 45 feet. Some areas the bodies are coming up, skeletons are not uncommon to find along the river banks. Even Capt. John McIntosh has washed out, to be reburied 3 times. The last time his iron casket was buried was just this last year. In the area across from the mall, near the tire store in the woods I saw the flags marking where someone had been poking about. Now, after reading the Draft EIS I see it was someone with this project. Shovel test will not do the job. A complete Phase I, then Phase II and Phase III will be needed. We have on our board, an outstanding Archeologist, that used to be used for the state of Georgia. He is extremely well versed on the state of Georgia. He also knows the good and bad people that claim to be archeologist. His name is Patrick Garrow. He used to be with Garrow and

Continuation of response to Comment 52.

If the ROD calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would continue to consult with federally recognized tribes. The USMC would contact federally recognized tribes if any Native American resources or cultural items, such as archaeological resources or human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are found.

The USMC understands that the potential noise effects of expanding TBR are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the FEIS. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 in the FEIS).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that

Response to Comment 52 continues on next page. Additional materials provided with this comment letter also appear on the following pages.

Public Comment Summary Report

Associates. There is also another archeologist named Joe Joseph with New South Associates in Stone Mountain, Ga. He is also very aware of this region and the ancestors that are here.

I will include a list of the different peoples that used to be in this area, back in the time before Columbus landed here, or anyone else for that matter. This should expand your list of contacts to be made, as not all the First Peoples of Turtle Island were included in your list. Their descendants will need to be contacted.

I should also note, that my father served in W.W.II. Also all my 5 uncles. My husband served in the Marines during the Vietnam era. My son served in the Marines during Iraq and Afghanistan and still serves in Kuwait as of this date. So I am very familiar with the military.

My next issue : noise. The F18's already zip over the tops of trees at extreme low altitudes and buzz my horses ears. This puts them into a panic. A panic group of horses can be cause for alarm, as they could bust out of their fenced in area and run into the road. Oncoming cars and horses do NOT mix. If they collide they are busted up and have to be put down and the vehicles and people can be badly hurt. All would be a big mess. So, when the jets start to fly we have to be on guard. There is no such thing as relaxing at home. The dogs are under the beds shaking so bad they can not walk. Yes, your jets fly that low, that often. NO ONE CARES!! If they did, they would stop. They do not.

Several times within the last 5 years, I have had to call the FAA. Not so much for this as I should not be able to describe what the pilot is wearing. Our Oak and Pine trees are tall. They will come down. It is just a matter of when. Sure, we are near the Harris Neck area. Sure it is near the water. They first have to make it past the houses, buiness, roads, traffic, power lines. How many pilots do you want to loose? I hope not any. This buzzing goes on daily. It is much worse when countries send over their units to "learn". What a mess.

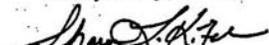
Next, this little county thinks it wants to put in a little airport. Can you explain how F18's and crop dusters in the same airspace will survive? Makes no sense. We need our military alive to fight..... not splattered somewhere in a marsh, or river or road. As I write this today the jets are flying low again.

I hope to hear from you or someone. I know the open comment time is now and when and where the meetings will be held. We have told all we know about these meetings.

I would also request the FINAL EIS. I also request an EAS. An EAS is much more thorough.

My first and foremost concern is the sacred sites and burials. THEY NEED TO BE LEFT ALONE.....THEY NEED TO REST IN PEACE.

Thank you for your time,


Sharon L. Kitchen
Save the Sacred Sites Alliance

cc: elders file

cc: Mr. Darrell Gundrum NAVFAC SE Archeologist
code EV23 P.O. Box 30 Bldg 903 Yorktown, Jacksonville, Fl. 32213-0030
phone: 904-542-6944 email: darrell.gundrum@navy.mil

cc: Dr. David Crass Dept. SHPO email: www.georgiashpo.org
attn: Elizabeth Shirk Environmental Review Coordinator Re: HP-110120-007 McIntosh County
254 Washington St. S.W. Ground Level
Atlanta, Ga. 30334 reg Phone: 404-656-2840 /other phone: 404-651-6624 fax: 404-657-1368

Continuation of response to Comment 52.

local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

Because of your involvement in the project by submitting comments on the Draft EIS and by attending the August 7, 2012, public meeting in Darien, Georgia, you will receive future notifications throughout the remainder of the NEPA process, including availability of the FEIS. Any additional archaeological investigations would be dictated by regulatory requirements and would occur once land acquisition has occurred.

Additional materials provided with this comment letter appear on the following pages.

A Short Look at the Indigenous of the S.E. Ga. Coast

Prior to 1492 and Columbus the coast of Ga. Had been home to aboriginal societies for thousands years. The Spanish missions had substantial impacts to Indian societies.

In this area of McIntosh County, Darien, Ga. As well as Townsend, Eulonia, Crescent, South Newport, St. Simmons were many native villages and many, many burials.

The northern most province Guale were 6 primary towns, from the Ogeechee River to the mouth of the Altamaha River. In fact the name Altamaha is a Yamessee name after the chief, "Aratomahan".

The furthest north was the town of Chatuache.

The next: Sapala (known as the Bourbon Field site).

The next: Phelipe (inland at New Port River area).

The next: Gaule (Yamassee Head or now know as St. Catherine's Island).

The next: Talaje/Asajo (the Fort King George site in Darien, Ga).

The next: Tupiqui (the Pine Harbor site).

The 4 Mocama towns were as follows:

The most Northern: Guadalquini (southern tip of St. Simmons Island).

The next: Mocama (now know as Cumberland Island).

The next: the Harrison Homestead site on Amelia Island.

The next: Puerto (Fort George Island at the St. Johns River).

Northern most Chiefs towns were Guale and Espogache and they were under the Asajo/Jalaje.

Then the Talaje and Tupiqui.

The preminent settlement in the 1580 to 1590's was Tolomoto.

The reduction of the Guale and Mocama, was the same as the Timucua experienced in N. Fl. At St. Augustine. Massive epidemics and stress of draft labor (slavery).

1661 marked the beginning of the end of the Guale and Mocama towns with the arrival of the Chichimeco warriors from Va. (also called Ja'gan). They came to the Altamaha away from Va. Because of the arrival of the English, who made war on them daily. The Chichimeco were also known as Rechaecrians and were displaced Erie of the Great Lakes area, who were forced to move during the Iroquois wars: They had been recruited into the Indian slave trade demanded back in Va. After they left to go back to Va., the Yamassee arrived, also spelled Yamasis, from the lower South Carolina coast called at that time Escamacu.

In 1673 nearly 1/2 of the slave labors were Yamassee, taken from the Guale and Mocama area yearly. Some were taken to Barbados.

In 1670 a 150 English colonist arrived in Charles Town.

In western Ga and Al the Creek Confederacy was alive and doing well.

After 1665 the Guale were moved to Sapala (now know as Sapelo Island-around 1675).

In the 1670 the Indian group called Chilique (who also understood the Guale language) appeared.

In 1681 Chilique was know as Ohilque. The Chalaques was know as Cherokee, by some.

The word Chilique is thought to be a Muskogean term as Cherokee... meaning, "people of a different language". The Chichimeco/Westo Indians had palisade towns near the Savannah River area.

The following are other groups that arrived:

"Cowatoe(Coweta),"Chorkae"(Cherokee),"Cussetaw"(Kasihta),"Checsaws"(Chickasaw),and

"Chiskers"(Chisea).

In 1670 the Va. Explorer John Lederer went into N.C.. The Ocaneechee and the Catawba knew the Chichimeco "Rickohockan" or "Oustack"(Westo).

The Gaule and Yamassee also spoke a Muskogean dialect.

The largest Yamassee population was on St. Simmons Island, with the 2nd on Amelia Island.

In 1680 the Chichimeco joined forces with the Chisel ,(ancestral to the lower Creeks), and the Chilique.

In 1683 the French pirates landed and the Yamassee fled to present day Hilton Head Island.

All the Yamassee were to move to the township of Santa-Marie on Amelia Island. On Wednesday, Oct. 25th 1684 the pirates burned down the 3 towns in less than a week. There was no place left to live for the Guale and the Mocama. The last retreat left was made to the deep interior of the lower Creek towns of (Coweta and Kasihta).

Early on Nov. 1684 a 150 Scots arrived and the Yamassee formed an alliance. The Yamassee were under the leader of "Aratomahan", now know as (Altamaha), in the town called Stuarts Town, in the area of Port Royal Sound. The towns on St. Simmons had been burned down by the pirates. There was no return. After 1685 the Guale and Mocama were composed of 5 towns located between Ameila Island and the mouth of the St. Johns River. As one leader was heard to have said, "...today we find ourselves destroyed and annihilated, and all the province reduced to only one hundred men....". The Amelia Island had now become the new Guale province. The new Mocama province was 2 locations: one on Fort George Island, and the other of Santa Cruz on the west side of the St. Johns River.

The coast of Georgia was abandoned. Carolina and Florida continued to battle on. Over 23 years the Guale and Mocama had shrunk from 10 mission towns with hundreds in each to only 5 with very little remaining due to assaults. Despite all this, the Chiefly lineage was maintained, keeping the names and identity alive.

In 1702 Amelia Island was overrun by the English burning their way to St. Augustine. Now the Guale and Mocama were down to 2 towns. But after the Yamassee Wars of 1765 the descendants of the Yamassee who had gone to the Carolinas were at this location again.

Then.....in 1763, they were sent to Cuba.

Now, all that remains are some names that were kept. Also are the burials and sacred sites.

See the book called : The Georgia and South Carolina Coastal Expeditions of Clarence B. Moore His work was published by the Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia in 1897 and 1898. The ISBN # 0-8173-0941-1. See page 21 for "Barthema" (Cherokee - McIntosh & Co.)
* Almost all of the work has burials from all the groups named.

- the info for this paper was taken from: The Struggle for the Georgia Coast by John E. Worth
- ISBN# 0-8203-1745-4 Mr. Worth is an anthropologist at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta, Ga.

"A Short Look" put together
By: Sharon L. Kitchen (founder)
... the Sacred Sites Alliance

Additional information on the Yamassee
and other native nations

Pg.3

The Spanish used drafts for their protection (slave labor).

Due to the epidemics : first in 1649 the typhus or yellow fever, then in 1654 the smallpox and then in 1659 the measles all lead to the heavy death toll of the native peoples in Georgia.

In 1711, 270 natives were evacuated from the Keys in Florida to Cuba. The Spanish continued to use the native peoples and the Africans as militia against the English. In 1693 the Spanish king granted "freedom", to the African peoples that had escaped, and were flocking to Florida thru Georgia for freedom. In 1711 and the 1714 the Carolina s experienced a slave revolt and they joined the Yamassee War against the English. A few of the Nations were: Mocama, Yamassee, Timucuan, Apalachee, Casapuya, Ibaja, Ocute, and Jororo.

In 1724 a group of former slaves joined the Yamassee chief Jorge to St. Augustine for religious and sanctuary reasons.

At the end of 1763 and the 7 years war, with The Treaty of Paris, Spain gave Florida to the English. This included ~~include~~ what would become known as Georgia ,as well. Thus started the evacuations of 3,000 people and their belongings. This took 10 months. Most arrived in Cuba with a few to Campeche. Most settled in Guanabaco in Cuba. A native 27 year old woman named Ana Maria was an Ibaja from Tolomoto near Darien, Ga. She died at this age and was buried at the cemetery in Guanabacoa, Cuba. An elder woman, a caica,(leader), Maria Francisca was also buried there.

Now the Lower Creeks moved into the rest of Georgia and Florida. They are now known as the Seminoles.

After 20 years, at the conclusion of the American Revolution, the British retoceded Florida/ Georgia back to Spain. Some settlers returned to resettle their communities in the 1784. Now the British colonists were forced out. African and Native now lived together,again as before. They continued to live together in Guanabaco, Cuba as well. Their descendants continue to live on in Cuba. The original cemetery is still in Guanabaco, Cuba.

In a book titled, "Beyond Black and Red" by Mathew Restall,who is a professor of Latin American history, and anthropology at Pa. State University, this is covered in much more detail. ISBN# 0-8263-2403-7

There is a statement in the front of this book by Ramilla Cody (Miss Navajo Nation for 1998), "Biracial people should not be judged as "half" anything".

A Short Look at the Indigenous of the S.E. Ga. Coast

Pg.4

Pg. 1 -4 - brief history

Pg. 2, 3 - book credits

Pg. 4 - credits

For more information please read the following books:

1. "The Georgia and South Carolina Coastal Expeditions of Clarence B. Moore"
ISBN# 0-8173-0941-1 dated 1987 & 1898
2. "The Struggle for the Georgia Coast" by John E. Worth
ISBN#0-8203-1745-4
3. " Beyond Black and Red" by Mathew Restall
ISBN# 0-8263-2403-7

These books, as well as others, will get you started on the path to understand the Indigenous "First Peoples of Turtle Island". Their villages and burial sites still remain to this day throughout many counties of Ga. Fl, and S.C. as well as all the states. They MUST be protected. Everyone's resting place MUST be protected. Today it is theirs...tomorrow, it could be yours. This is the only Planet we have the HONOR to call home. We MUST "HONOR" our ancestors. Join us in this effort. Genealogy, is one way to get started. To find out that you have Native American ancestors is just the beginning of the "path".

The First Peoples of Turtle Island (USA), are here and are willing to help anyone who wishes to understand our rich history and culture. All one has to do ,is be respectful and ask.

You can also Google the entire list of Nations ,(Federally recognized). They have their own websites and addresses.

But remember: Respect is the FIRST rule.

Then, the second ,will be to listen.

The third, will be to have fun on your path....

What information awaits you.....

Sharon L Kitchen (founder)
Save the Sacred Sites Alliance
P.O. Box 324
Townsend, Ga. 31331

53

Marcia Lane
2105 Willow Jak Rd

Mulberry, 33860

The entire 51,000 acres of the bombing range is registered on the federal list of Sacred Places. It is Muskogee Creek land with old village sites and burial mounds and has been documented in a public book by Clarence B Moore 1869 and later on by Louis Larsen and Patrick Garrow all archeologists. NAGPRA law section 106 applies here. Has anyone even bothered to obey the law and go through the proper procedure for this land? I being of Muskogee descent object strongly against the plans for this land of my ancestors that does not belong to you but to my people whom you stole it from. I would like a report on how you have complied with section 106 Of the NAGPRA LAWS.

Response to Comment 53:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) consulted with a total of 21 federally recognized tribes, including the Muskogee Creek Nation during the National Environmental Policy Act scoping and Section 106 compliance processes for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.2.2 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement [FEIS]). The Muskogee Creek Nation responded during the Section 106 consultation and was provided notification of the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (see Appendix H in the FEIS). To date, no tribal issues or concerns, including Native American archaeological resources, properties of traditional religious or cultural importance, or traditional cultural properties or sacred sites, have been identified for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS).

As detailed in Section 3.9.3.2, the USMC conducted desktop research, archaeological investigations, and field surveys for proposed acquisition areas where entry was permitted (see Appendices H and I in the FEIS). Documented cultural and/historical resources were noted and identified during these processes. However, if a resource such as a burial ground/cemetery is not officially documented, then the USMC may not have been able to accurately assess that point of interest. The USMC welcomes documentation of all cultural and historical resources.

If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would continue to consult with federally recognized tribes. The USMC would contact federally recognized tribes if any Native American resources or cultural items, such as archaeological resources or human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are found.

54

From: Don Lewis <1donlewis@comcast.net>
Posted At: Sunday, August 26, 2012 3:42 PM
Conversation: Snuff Box Canal
Subject: Snuff Box Canal

To Whom It May Concern:

I recently read in *The Darien News* an article about the expansion of the bombing range, and it stated that part of the acquisition would include the Snuff Box Canal area. I often launch by kayak into Snuff Box Canal where it intersects with Highway 251 and paddle down to Darien. Will I still be able to do this if you acquire Snuff Box Canal?

Thanks in advance for your response.

Regards,

R. Don Lewis, Jr.
166 Merion
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
912-222-4575 (cell)

Response to Comment 54:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The area of the Snuff Box Canal that you referenced is approximately 5 miles southeast of the proposed acquisition area and would not be affected by the Proposed Action.

55

Danny W. Lindsey, Vice President Transmission
Bin 10240
241 Ralph McGill Blvd, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-3374



August 27, 2012
CERTIFIED MAIL

Project Manager, Townsend EIS
Post Office Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Townsend Bombing Range Modernization

Dear Project Manager,

Georgia Power Company ("Georgia Power") has reviewed the Draft EIS for the Townsend Bombing Range Modernization project and, as an affected party, submits the following comments.

1. Georgia Power's greatest concern involves the potential environmental impacts that could result from the need to relocate existing electrical transmission (high-voltage) and distribution (low-voltage) utility facilities in the area. There are two transmission lines adjacent to the existing Townsend bombing range. All four of the proposed alternatives would include both of these lines and two of the four alternatives would include the Townsend electrical substation; see Attachments 1&2.
2. One of the two transmission lines is a 500-kilovolt (kV) bulk power supply line. This line must be operated and maintained in accordance with the reliability standards for bulk power system as set forth by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). NERC is certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to set and enforce these standards on electric utilities. Our 500 kV lines are the backbone of our transmission system and an outage on this line could have implications on the grid spanning much further than just the local area of operation.
3. Loss or disruption in service of the other transmission line (a 115 kV line), which is also regulated by NERC standards, could have detrimental service impacts on many communities and businesses in southeast Georgia.
4. In order to operate effectively Georgia Power must maintain 24-hour, year round access to all of our electrical facilities. Access is needed so that we can respond immediately to power outages in order to restore service, patrol the line when there are momentary outages to check

Response to Comment 55:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. To develop proposed land acquisition areas, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) used modeling software for determining the weapon danger zones and analysis of land ownership surrounding Townsend Bombing Range. As depicted on Figure 2-2 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), where possible, easily recognizable landscape features, such as roads and power lines, were used to create natural boundary lines for the land acquisition areas. The proposed acquisition areas would go up to but would not include these landscape features. The Proposed Action does not include the acquisition of the power lines or the current utility rights-of-way (ROWs). No utility transmission lines or associated ROWs would be affected by the Proposed Action. Additional language has been added to Sections 2.2.1 and 3.13.4.2 of the FEIS to clarify this point. Utility ROWs on or adjacent to active military lands are generally viewed as compatible land uses that provide a net public benefit.

The USMC notes your request for continued notification throughout the remainder of the Environmental Impact Statement and will provide notification of the availability of the FEIS.

Comment 55 continues on the next page. Additional materials provided with this comment letter also appear on the following pages.

EIS for Proposed Modernization and Expansion of TBR

Public Comment Summary Report

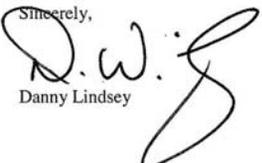
Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Townsend Bombing Range Modernization
 Page 2
 August 27, 2012

for possible line damage or trees coming in contact with the line, perform routine and emergency maintenance, and vegetation management.

5. Appropriate access for the above activities is secured through easements that cannot be blocked or removed and grant right of entry to the property that cannot be denied. Any encroachments within the easement (i.e. roads, fences, signs, etc.) have to be reviewed and approved or denied as appropriate. The existing easements will be transferred with any property purchased that contains a transmission line or substation; see attachment 3 for current access routes (highlighted in yellow).
6. If the proposed land use proves to be incompatible with safety and reliability of or access to the utility lines or substation, then relocation of these facilities may be necessary. Relocation would trigger additional environmental impacts including potential impacts to community, cultural, and natural resources. Relocation of these facilities may be the financial obligation of the Department of the Navy/Marine Corps.
7. To determine compatibility and whether facilities will need to be relocated, Georgia Power needs the following information: availability of schedules and/or notices of operation when the range will be active, a list of activities being conducted adjacent to electrical facilities and if those activities would restrict access for operation and maintenance, and potential physical impacts to line operation from range activities.

Georgia Power believes it is necessary to consider the above impacts when assessing the total environmental impact of the proposed project. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and offer our technical assistance in any matters relating to electrical transmission and distribution facilities.

By way of this letter, Georgia Power formally requests to receive all future notices issued with respect to the EIS or the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing. Pursuant to Rule 1506.6 of the Council for Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1506.6), Georgia Power seeks direct mail notice as both (1) a person who has requested notice, and (2) a party holding property rights potentially impacted. Please direct future correspondence on this Townsend Bombing Range expansion to Mr. Terry Hodges, Risk Management Manager, Bin 10180, 241 Ralph McGill Blvd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30308-3374. Mr. Hodges may be contacted at 404-506-7807 or sthodges@southernco.com.

Sincerely,

 Danny Lindsey

TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE MODERNIZATION
 PROJECT UPDATE — July 2012

PROJECT UPDATE:

On July 13, 2012, the Marine Corps published the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS in the Federal Register. The Notice of Availability officially announced the publication of the Draft EIS and beginning of the 45-day public comment period for the Draft EIS. The comment period for the Draft EIS is being held from July 13 through August 27, 2012.

Public meetings will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 in Darien, Georgia, and Thursday, August 9, 2012 in Ludowici, Georgia. A Final EIS will be published in Spring 2013. The Final EIS will directly address the comments from the public that were received on the Draft EIS.

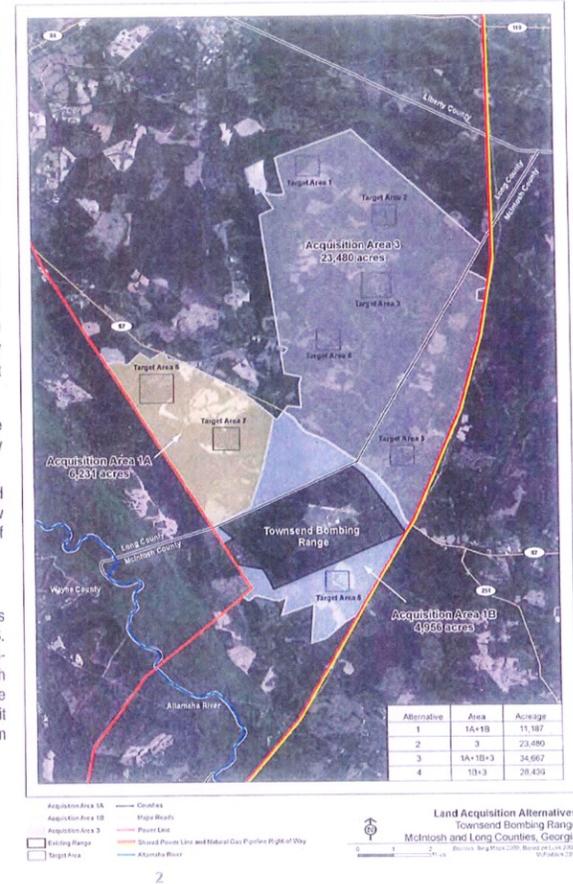
A Record of Decision on the project will be published by the Department of the Navy Summer 2013.

If the Record of Decision recommends land acquisition, Congress would have to review and approve funds for the purchase of lands at fair market value.

NEXT STEPS:

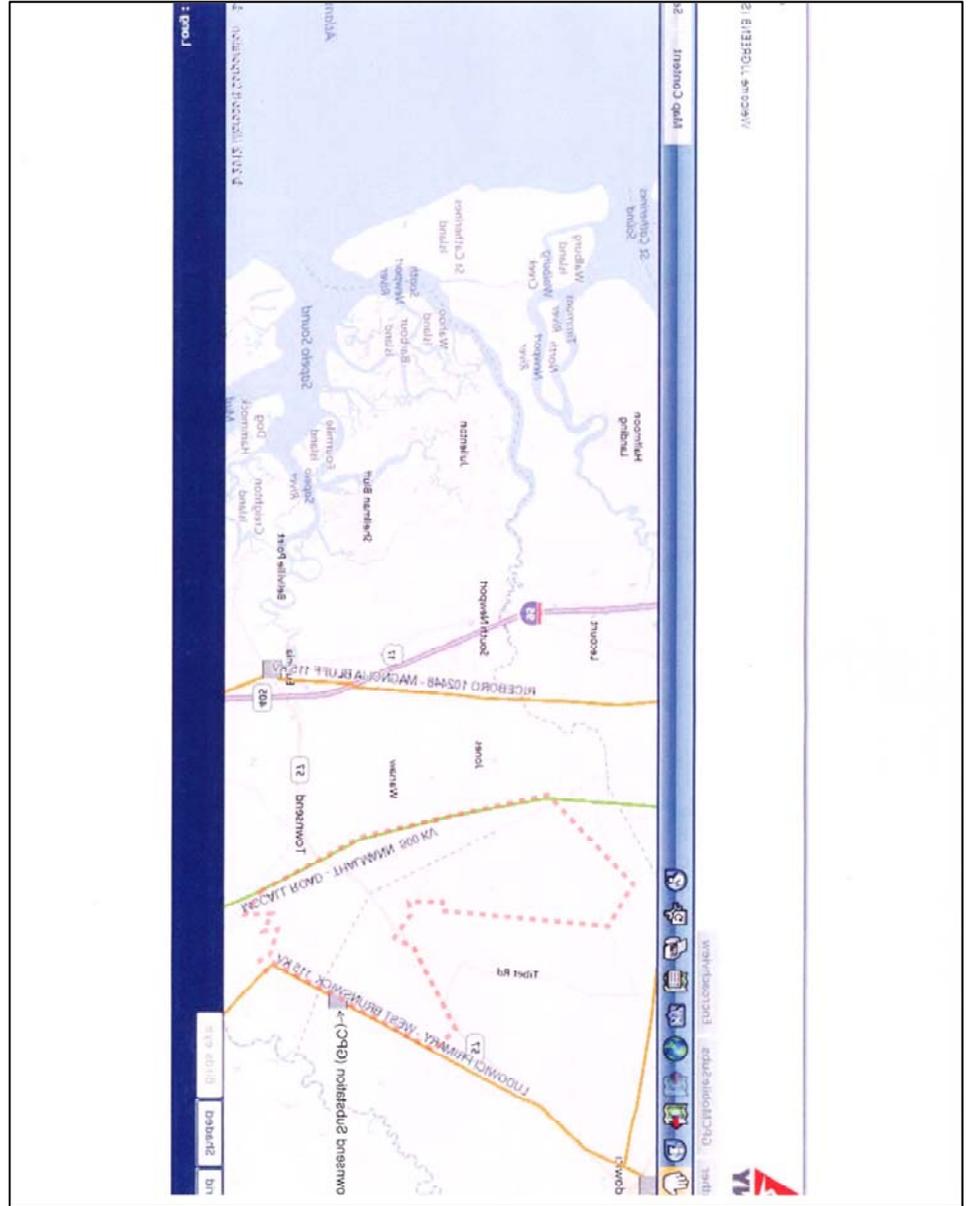
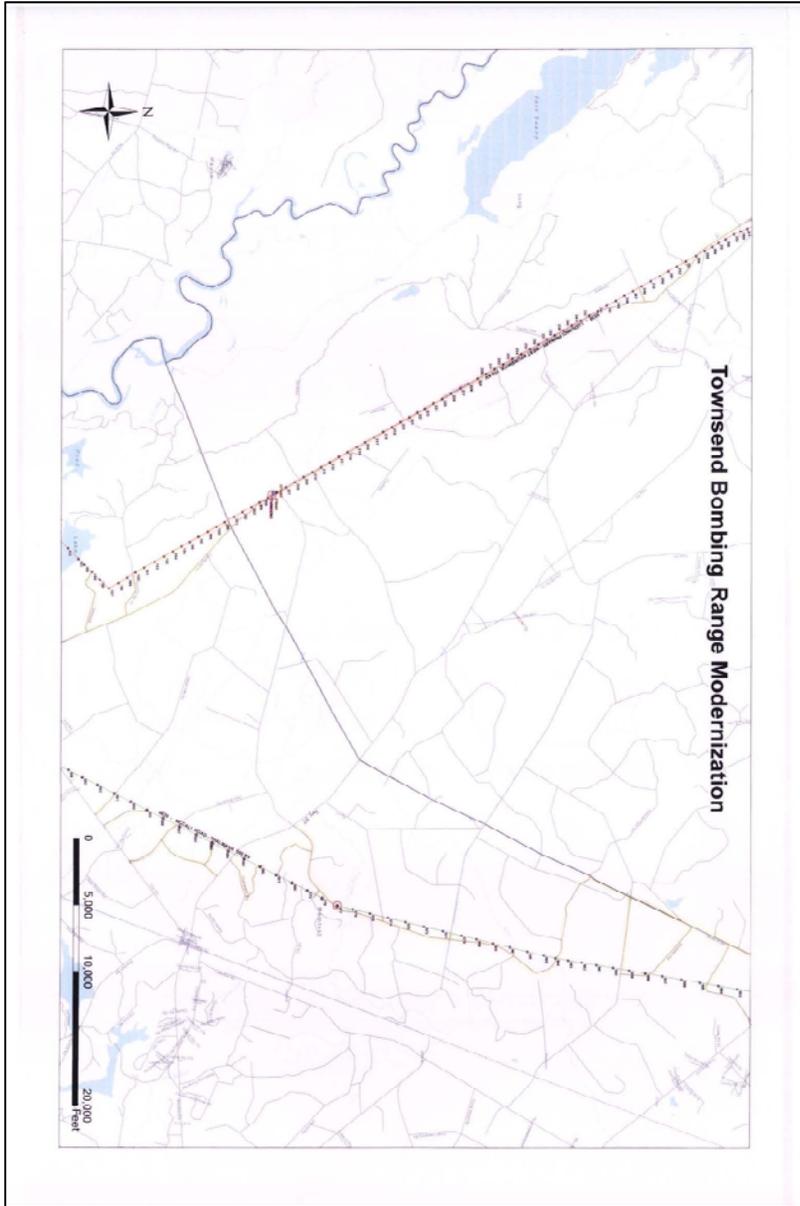
The Marine Corps welcomes comments from the public on the Draft EIS. Comments can be submitted during the 45-day comment period (July 13 through August 27, 2012). Please see the information in the tan box below to submit your comment or for more information please visit:

www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com.



TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT EIS:
 Mail: Townsend EIS Project Manager
 Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, Florida 32318
 E-mail: townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 Visit: www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com
 Contact: Public Affairs Office 846-228-6123



56

Ralph Maggioni
4 Dinghy Place

Savannah, 31410

There are certainly benefits to upgrading the range. Traveling to the west coast increases the risks to our military personnel, increases the wear and tear on the equipment, is environmentally wasteful in the excessive consumption of fuel, and in the long run is horribly wasteful in the spending of tax dollars that are very scarce to say the least. The "away" time of the personnell is also a drag on troop morale and that of their families. Travel to the west coast is costly on all fronts and should be avoided at all costs. God Bless our Troops and their families, Ralph Maggioni Savannah, GA 912-313-5582

Response to Comment 56:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

57

MR. DON MELTON: My main concerns have been answered here tonight and I appreciate the effort that has been put forward to answer all those questions. One of the primary questions, of course, was the tax issue. We don't want increased taxes.

My other concern was the error aspect, since I'm 1.5 miles from a target and I think that has sufficiently been answered, provided there is no human error. I'll just pray for that. . Thank you.

Response to Comment 57:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues is in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the USMC. Weapon danger zones (WDZs) are established as safety measures to protect personnel on or near the range. A WDZ may be near the range boundary, but the WDZ has requisite safety factors built in. No additional buffer land is required. Each WDZ is sized so that any munition released has only a one out of one million probability of landing outside the WDZ. The chance of the munition hitting a specific point, such as State Highway 57, is far less. Please refer to Sections 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 in the FEIS for details on WDZs and the land acquisition necessary to contain these zones, respectively. The WDZs that are shown on Figure 2-2 are modeled to contain all weapon impacts, including ricochets, occurring within the WDZ.

58

Thomas McCay
207 Atkinson Ave.

Savannah, 31404

I am writing in full SUPPORT of expanding the Townsend Bombing Range. Our Marines should not have to deploy to the West Coast in advance of their deployment to train. Two of the chief reasons would be: (1) Cost - It does not seem cost effective for these machines and personnel to fly 2,000 miles and spend those extra resources, when the same thing can be accomplished within a few minutes flight time from their home base. (2) These wartime deployments are a strain on families under normal circumstances. I believe it puts unreasonable additional burden on the pilots and their families to add time by relocation to the West Coast for training that could be in their own backyard. There are probably other advantages to having an expanded and modernized Townsend Range, but these two are very important.

Response to Comment 58:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

59

Saunders mcmullian
8 Stuyvesant Oval
apt. 11-E
New York, 10009

I am the ggg grandson of William Ryals, R.S. of Montgomery County, Ga. My great grandfather James C. Ryals, M.D. married Ann Elizabeth Mann of the William Mann,R.S. family. They were married 1860 in Montgomery County, Ga. Edward C. Ryals and Ocana E. Middleton Ryals were my great great Uncle and Aunt they are buried in a Ryals cemetery in the preposed bombing range. Ocana E. Middleton was a Yamassee (Creek) Native American. My brother Amos Ryals McMullian, also a Marine are very concerned about the Townsend Bombing Range expansion. We find this very unnecessary especially with the down sizing of the military. The increase from 5000 acres to nearly 30,000 acres is excessive and is over reaching by the federal government. We want the federal authorities to assure the Ryals Family that the Ryals Cemetery will be respected and that their final resting place will not be desecrated by Marine bombs

Response to Comment 59:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. All federal laws and regulations and United States Marine Corps (USMC) and Department of the Navy instructions with regard to cemeteries will be followed.

As detailed in Section 3.9.3.2, the USMC conducted desktop research, archaeological investigations, and field surveys for proposed acquisition areas where entry was permitted (see appendices H and I in the Final Environmental Impact Statement). Documented cultural and/historical resources were noted and identified during these processes. Although there are several cemeteries surrounding the proposed expansion area, only the B.B. Rozier gravesite (Rozier Cemetery) was found to be within the Proposed Townsend Bombing Range Expansion Area. If a resource such as a burial ground/cemetery is not officially documented, then the USMC may not have been able to accurately assess that point of interest. The USMC welcomes documentation of all cultural and historical resources.

If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would continue to consult with federally recognized tribes. The USMC would contact federally recognized tribes if any Native American resources or cultural items, such as archaeological resources or human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are found.

60

MR. LARRY MIDDLETON: My comments are the air traffic patterns. I live right next to the bombing range, and right now they're lining up, it seems like, right over the house. They come over the house so low; they make so much racket. And the patterns, if they some way could change the patterns for their aircraft it would be a lot better. But other than that, I don't have anything much to say about it other than the patterns of the aircraft.

Response to Comment 60:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) understands that the potential noise effects of expanding Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 of the FEIS).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

61

Tony Middleton
4334 Fern Creek

Jacksonville, 32277

I am VERY upset to hear that the bombing range may expand dramatically in the near future. I have many family members and ancestors buried in several backwoods cemeteries within the area that would soon be churned by bombs and of course become off limits to the public. This is outrageous on its face - to think the bones of my cherished ancestors may soon be disturbed so some boot Lt can hone his skillset with JDAMs! Haven't you people have enough practice blowing things up in Afghanistan and Iraq lately? ENOUGH ALREADY!!!!

Response to Comment 61:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. All federal laws and regulations and United States Marine Corps (USMC) and Department of the Navy instructions with regard to cemeteries will be followed.

As detailed in Section 3.9.3.2, the USMC conducted desktop research, archaeological investigations, and field surveys for proposed acquisition areas where entry was permitted (see Appendices H and I of the Final Environmental Impact Statement). Documented cultural and/historical resources were noted and identified during these processes. However, if a resource such as a burial ground/cemetery is not officially documented, then the USMC may not have been able to accurately assess that point of interest. The USMC welcomes documentation of all cultural and historical resources.

If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would continue to consult with federally recognized tribes. The USMC would contact federally recognized tribes if any Native American resources or cultural items, such as archaeological resources or human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are found.

62

Tony Middleton
4334 Fern Creek

Jacksonville, 32277

I think you should shake the Army's hand and use their facilities at Ft Stewart - and leave the residents of Long and McIntosh counties alone. There is a clear undertone in the explanation given about why Ft Stewart can't be used that literally stank of interservice rivalry. I know - I served 7 years in the Marines and I know how badly jarheads hate to work with doggies. But it is an outrage to uproot people who have lived for generations on their land. My family has lived in Long and McIntosh county Georgia since 1819. One of these days disenfranchised citizens are gonna break the eminent domain stick off in your govt asses.

Response to Comment 62:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) conducted a multi-step screening process to identify and compare Department of Defense ranges that could support the Proposed Action. The USMC identified seven candidate ranges located within 165 nautical miles of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort: Fort Stewart, Georgia; Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia; Poinsett Range, South Carolina; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Gordon, Georgia; Grand Bay Range, Georgia; and Camp Blanding, Florida. TBR is the only range to meet all of the range evaluation criteria. Please refer to Section 2.1 and Table 2-1 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for more information.

The Preferred Alternative (Alternative 4) would not involve the relocation of any residents (please refer to Figure 3-3 and Table 3-20 in the FEIS). During the development of the action alternatives and the selection of the Preferred Alternative, the USMC sought to minimize the disruption to the social fabric in the local community (i.e., to avoid the acquisition and subsequent relocation of private residences, locally owned businesses, or acquisition of real property that is owned by individuals) by focusing on the acquisition of land that is owned by corporations (i.e., commercial forestland). Please refer to Section 2.5.2 of the FEIS.

Public Comment Summary Report

63

MR. NORMAN MOCK: My concern is the blocking of the access on the Old Barrington Road because if you come down Old Barrington Road and you get to where the gates are at now, you have to drive all the way back almost to what we call the Linnie Mae Road, which is County Road 3, back down to 57 to come around to access the other side to hunt.

If there was some way that, being there's not very much bombing range that crosses the Blues Reach, if you could may improve the road across Barrington Road to where you could still have access around it and access the swamp, even if the range is closed from the county roads, where you can still access that part between the bombing range and the river is my concern.

Response to Comment 63:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the United States Marine Corps (USMC). No portion of State Highway 57 would be closed under any of the action alternatives. The current practice of temporarily closing Blue's Reach Road (also known as Old Barrington Road and Old Cox Road) during certain training activities would continue under any of the action alternatives. Under Alternatives 1, 3, and 4, range officials may close the portion of Blue's Reach Road (also known as Old Barrington Road and Old Cox Road) that enters the new range boundary when access to the range would conflict with training operations. The road would otherwise remain open. Additional information has been added to Section 3.11 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement to clarify this point.

64

Jim Morgan
95100 Willet Way

Amelia Island, 32034

Requiring our Aviators to travel cross country to fine tune their skills while ignoring the local range is a waste of their time and U.S. Taxpayer money and adds needless wear and tear on their A/C.

Response to Comment 64:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

65

COMMENT SHEET — Townsend Draft EIS Public Meeting

Ludowici, GA • August 9, 2012



NAME (Please Print): Danny Norman

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: 99 Griffin Rd S.E.
Alenhurst, Ga 31301

Please provide written comments on this sheet and drop into the comment box or mail to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Written comments must be postmarked on or before August 27, 2012.

Your comments will become part of the Final EIS.

COMMENTS: ~~Suppose~~ A viable alternative to the overall impact of this project should be of most importance. The loss of tax revenue - timber tax revenue - loss of land ~~is~~ impacted by this expansion for future development options - increased noise ~~to~~ levels to existing homeowners are not adequately addressed.

Response to Comment 65:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues is in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

The USMC understands that the potential noise effects of expanding TBR are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the FEIS. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Response to Comment 65 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 65.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 in the FEIS).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

66

Rita Oglesby
3904 Ga Hwy 57

Ludowici, 31316

Table 3-22: It must be noted that any construction activities will have little if any economic impact on Long County. The close proximity of TBR to McIntosh County will direct any benefits derived from the construction to that county. In addition, the contracts for the construction will be administered thru government agencies which are not directed towards local businesses but utilize Multiple Award Task Order Contracts which target larger, national companies. The EIS fails to address any of the noise impacts associated with target runs or flight paths and the reduction in the minimum flight level. Reduction of the minimum height of the flight paths from 300 to 100 feet above ground level will have significant impact on the surrounding communities to include individual homes, vehicular traffic on Hwy 57, Hwy 84 and Interstate I-95, public facilities such as the Long County Elementary, Middle and High schools. The included noise impact zones identified within Figure 3-30 are incorrect based upon observed operations from the TBR over the last ten years. The presented contours have omitted the northwest path often used during day and night operations. In addition, the data fails to fully analyze the low altitude approaches and departures which generate significant noise pollution for human and wildlife inhabitants within Coastal MOA. It is interesting that 'peak noise is measured only to identify potential areas where complaints may occur, not to determine an action's level of impact' (3-141). Is not the intent of the EIS to identify the impacts associated with any and all actions? Transportation (3.11 Vol I) : The EIS fails to identify the safety consequences associated with conduction of training in a bombing range that has impact zones in extreme close proximity to a State of Georgia highway. There is no evidence that a detailed traffic count for Ga Highway 57 was performed. Public comment has reported that closure of the highway would be required during training operations; however, the EIS has failed to detail the circumstances when closure would be necessary and any procedures that could be employed to notify the public of the closures. The EIS fails to identify that GA Hwy 57 is a Hurricane Excavation Route for coastal communities of Georgia. The report does not identify that Ga Highway 57 is a historic highway which was named Wiregrass Trail by the State of Georgia. The Wiregrass Trail, a 70 mile historic route through southeastern Georgia, runs through Tattnall County. This scenic byway (Highway 57), in addition to providing a scenic alternative route to Georgia's Golden Isles from Atlanta and Northwest Georgia, also possesses historical, academic and ecological significance. Information can be found at: [www.tattnall.com](http://www.tattnall.com/EDNnotebook.html), <http://www.tattnall.com/EDNnotebook.html>, and <http://mydocs.dot.ga.gov/info/honorariums/Resolutions/1993-18-TB.pdf>. The Wiregrass Trail, a 70 mile historic route through southeastern Georgia, runs through Tattnall County. This scenic byway (Highway 57), in addition to providing a scenic alternative route to Georgia's Golden Isles from Atlanta and Northwest Georgia, also possesses historical, academic and ecological significance. www.wiregrasstrail.com. <http://www.tattnall.com/EDNnotebook.html> <http://mydocs.dot.ga.gov/info/honorariums/Resolutions/1993-18-TB.pdf> Permanent closure of Georgia Highway 57 would have devastating consequences to the local community as well as regional and national transportation for personal, recreational, governmental and commercial. For the residents of Long County, Ga Hwy 57 is the only

Response to Comment 66:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) understands that the potential noise effects of expanding Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area (MOA) or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 in the FEIS).

As a point of clarification, minimum flight altitude for fixed-wing flight operations would not change as part of the Proposed Action. As explained in the FEIS (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6), the change in airspace would affect only Restricted Airspace R-3007. The proposed modification would eliminate the current gap from 100 feet above ground level down to the surface of the ground over the areas proposed for acquisition. This extension, which would apply only to the existing restricted airspace over lands proposed for acquisition, unites the airspace with acquired land to enable the delivery of inert ordnance in order to comply with FAA regulations. It is not an indication that fixed-wing flight operations will be conducted at altitudes below 100 feet. No

Response to Comment 66 continues on next page.

route to Brunswick, Georgia for employment, higher-level school, shopping, and medical services. Ga Hwy 57 is also a significant traffic route for many residents of surrounding counties to second homes along the coast. It is also a major path from I-16 to I-95 for many national companies such as WalMart, Target, UPS, Claxton Chicken, as well as a major route that supplies timber to the many processing companies in the surrounding counties. There is no discussion of the cost impact to the local and state law enforcement agencies that will have increased costs associated with having to utilize alternate routes to accomplish their jobs. As the EIS identifies the possible users of the training range, the document itself does not discuss the increase in number of flights or the lowering of the flight level that would occur with the additional users nor the wildlife, economic, social, cultural, safety, or noise impacts on individuals or the region associated on the increased aircraft. This needs to address the full impact on the loss of revenue to the counties that will be associated with the reduction in property values for any land located within any of the multiple flight paths to be used for training and the future development of surrounding counties that will be negatively impacted by the increased, lower flight approaches to the expanded range. The loss of tax revenues to Long County combined with the decrease in the quality of life to the many inhabitants of the southern portion of the county was not satisfactorily evaluated considering the long term significance of the proposed project.

Continuation of response to Comment 66.

lateral modification of the R-3007 complex is proposed as part of the Proposed Action.

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

No portion of State Highway (Hwy.) 57 would be closed under any of the action alternatives. The current practice of temporarily closing Blue's Reach Road (also known as Old Barrington Road and Old Cox Road) during certain training activities would continue under any of the action alternatives. Under Alternatives 1, 3, and 4, range officials may close the portion of Blue's Reach Road (also known as Old Barrington Road and Old Cox Road) that enters the new range boundary when access to the range would conflict with training operations. The road would otherwise remain open. Additional information has been added to Section 3.11 in the FEIS to clarify this point.

Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the USMC. Weapon danger zones (WDZs) are established as safety measures to protect personnel on or near the range. A WDZ may be near the range boundary, but the WDZ has requisite safety factors built in. No additional buffer land is required. Each WDZ is sized so that any munition released has only a one out of one million probability of landing outside the WDZ. The chance of the munition hitting a specific point, such as State Hwy. 57, is far less. Please refer to Sections 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 in the FEIS for details on WDZs and the land acquisition necessary to contain these zones, respectively. The WDZs that are shown on Figure 2-2 in the FEIS are modeled to contain

Response to Comment 66 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 66.

all weapon impacts, including ricochets, occurring within the WDZ. No public roadways would be closed as part of the Proposed Action.

The USMC acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues is in Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS. Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

Since the USMC does not have specialized knowledge or expertise concerning revenue generating options and budgetary practices available to the potentially affected counties, the USMC cannot make recommendations concerning local budget prioritization and/or plans to adjust the tax base to address the potential losses of tax revenues.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. TBR is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

67

From: joe parker jr <joe.parkerjr@hotmail.com>
Posted At: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 8:54 AM
Conversation: adequate public notice
Subject: adequate public notice
Importance: High

Sir or Ma'am,

The only local newspaper published in Long County is the weekly **Long County Press**, Post Office Box 1228, Ludowici, GA 31316. The telephone number is 912 256-7990 and the e-mail address is pressexpress@bellsouth.net. I strongly urge you to include the Long County Press prominently in all your plans for outreach, public notice, etc.

Regards,
joe parker

Response to Comment 67:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The four papers that were selected (please refer to Table 1-4) for the newspaper advertisements were chosen based on location and circulation. However, all local newspapers were issued a press release by Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort announcing the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and a second press release for the extension of the comment period.

68

COMMENT SHEET — Townsend Draft EIS Public Meeting

Darien, GA • August 7, 2012



NAME (Please Print): Cheryl Popiel

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: Resident

ADDRESS: 5690 Coy Rd. SW
Townsend, GA 31331

Please provide written comments on this sheet and drop into the comment box or mail to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Written comments must be postmarked on or before August 27, 2012.

Your comments will become part of the Final EIS.

COMMENTS:

Primary concern is economic impact on community i.e. reduction of tax basis for County + it's transfer to citizens & affect on property values.

Also of concern is environmental impact + Air pollution with increased air traffic

Response to Comment 68:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues is in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

There are numerous factors, such as parcel size, existing uses, proximity to infrastructure, and specific location that are unique to every property. These factors make it difficult to accurately predict future property valuation changes arising from the Proposed Action. The information contained in the FEIS is the best analysis of anticipated impacts that would result from the proposed expansion of TBR.

The Environmental Impact Statement is prepared in accordance with Section (102)(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and regulations implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), United States Department of the Navy NEPA regulations (32 CFR Part 775), and USMC NEPA directives (Marine Corps Order P5090.2A, Chapter 12, change 2). Section 3.10 of the FEIS evaluates potential air quality impacts (specifically aircraft-related emissions) associated with each alternative and the No Action Alternative, specifically Sections 3.10.3.3 and 3.10.4.2. No significant impacts to air quality are anticipated under any of the action alternatives.

69

COMMENT SHEET — Townsend Draft EIS Public Meeting

Darien, GA • August 7, 2012



NAME (Please Print): Ron Popiel

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: local resident

ADDRESS: 5690 Cox Rd., S.W.
Townsend, Ga. 31331

Please provide written comments on this sheet and drop into the comment box or mail to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Written comments must be postmarked on or before August 27, 2012.
Your comments will become part of the Final EIS.

COMMENTS: personnel @ meeting very helpful
and courteous.

Concerns mostly are economic and
the potential for loss of property values.
Our property will be only 5 miles from
proposed expansion. Increased noise, volume
and activity could deter potential real
estate buyers.

One has to be concerned when life
savings are mostly in home and 4/1 ac.
farm. Also concerned about negative impact
to growth in an area already suffering
from no economic growth.
Thank you

Response to Comment 69:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. There are numerous factors, such as parcel size, existing uses, proximity to infrastructure, and specific location that are unique to every property. These factors make it difficult to accurately predict future property valuation changes arising from the Proposed Action. The information contained in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is the best analysis of anticipated impacts that would result from the proposed expansion of Townsend Bombing Range (TBR).

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) understands that the potential noise effects of expanding TBR are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the FEIS. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that

Response to Comment 69 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 69.

local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

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COMMENT SHEET — Townsend Draft EIS Public Meeting

Darien, GA • August 7, 2012



NAME (Please Print): MARTA RAMAGE

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: TOWNSEND RESIDENT

ADDRESS: 6104 COX RD S/W, TOWNSEND, GA. 31331

Please provide written comments on this sheet and drop into the comment box or mail to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Written comments must be postmarked on or before August 27, 2012.

Your comments will become part of the Final EIS.

COMMENTS: ① I am concerned about the following:

- ① Reduction in property value.
- ② NOISE
- ③ Safety (possibility of pilot error in dropping bombs, reliability of the GPS guiding system)
- ④ Possibility of expanding further in the future.
- ⑤ Increase in the no. of sorties
- ⑥ The fact that there is no financial benefit to McIntosh County
- ⑦ I would like some documentation that would indicate that property values in other areas did not drop as a result of having a bombing range
- ⑧ Assurance that there would be less noise

Response to Comment 70:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. There are numerous factors, such as parcel size, existing uses, proximity to infrastructure, and specific location that are unique to every property. These factors make it difficult to accurately predict future property valuation changes arising from the Proposed Action. The information contained in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is the best analysis of anticipated impacts that would result from the proposed expansion of Townsend Bombing Range (TBR).

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) understands that the potential noise effects of expanding TBR are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the FEIS. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that

Response to Comment 70 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 70.

local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the USMC. Weapon danger zones (WDZs) are established as safety measures to protect personnel on or near the range. A WDZ may be near the range boundary, but the WDZ has requisite safety factors built in. No additional buffer land is required. Each WDZ is sized so that any munition released has only a one out of a million probability of landing outside the WDZ. The chance of the munition hitting a specific point, such as State Highway 57, is far less. Please refer to Sections 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 of the FEIS for details on WDZs and the land acquisition necessary to contain these zones, respectively. The WDZs that are shown on Figure 2-2 are modeled to contain all weapon impacts, including ricochets, occurring within the WDZ.

The FEIS only examines potential impacts of the Proposed Action. If future actions at TBR are proposed, an additional, separate Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, would be performed.

Table 2-5 in the FEIS identifies the existing sortie breakdown and how it would change for each of the action alternatives. As discussed in Section 3.7.4.2 and Table 3-61, under the Proposed Action a greater percentage of sorties would be conducted above 10,000 feet. Operations conducted at higher altitudes decrease the noise experienced at ground level.

The USMC acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues is in Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS. Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, please refer to Section 3.2.4.3, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs. There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. TBR is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

It is estimated that the expanded facility would require four full-time additional personnel: a chief law enforcement officer, a forester, and two technicians and up to 12 range operators as well as part-time or contracted labor maintenance crews. Construction-related activities associated with the Proposed Action and their related operations and maintenance activities would generate jobs during the construction period and would contribute to local income (please refer to Section 3.2.4 of the FEIS). As summarized in Table 3-27, it is estimated that the Proposed Action would generate 15 permanent jobs and 113 temporary jobs under the Preferred Alternative. The salaries of these 15 additional personnel would total \$1,168,000 annually. Construction to support the Preferred Alternative would result in an estimated \$11.4 million in direct expenditures.

71

From: Jalen Reddish <jreddish88@gmail.com>
Posted At: Tuesday, August 21, 2012 11:50 AM
Conversation: tdr expansion
Subject: tdr expansion

To whom it may concern,

I would like to start off by thanking you all for the ridiculous 1724 page Environmental Impact Statement. After looking through the document, a few issues have come to my attention. These alternative actions are proposals to increase the size of the Townsend Bombing range(TBR) because the range is not adequate for the use of Precession-Guided Munitions(PGMs).The document has four different actions to increase the size of the TBR. These four action areas will acquire extreme amounts of land, implement large losses of revenue and undermines the closer Fort Stewart location.

The four action areas acquire large amounts of land. The action area proposed best by the USMC, alternative action 3(AA3), is the largest area acquiring 34,667 acres. The second, third, and fourth are alternative 4(AA4), alternative 2(AA2), alternative 1(AA1) acquiring 28,436 acres, 23,480 acres, and 11,187 acres, respectively. The smallest action area, AA1, is 11,187 acres which triples the size of the TBR. This is outrageous because with the acquisition of area B1(B1 is 4,956 acres of the 11,187 of the AA1) the USMC could house target area 8 which is designed to deploy PMGs. So Why does the USMC need that much land, then in later reading, it states the USMC will have to take over all the timber easements including the 3,007 acre timber easement that McIntosh county currently manages on the current TBR. The reasoning was the frequency of controlled burnings.

The alternative action areas all contain a significant amount of taxable land and timber that will be taken from the counties and given to the USMC. The four alternative action areas have a specific cost to both McIntosh and long county. The specific cost of AA1 is the least amount of revenue lost with a total loss of 58,210 for McIntosh and 251,300 for long county. The most amount of revenue lost is the USMC proposed plan, AA3, is a staggering total loss of 187,456 for McIntosh and 780,723 for long county. In already troubling economic times, how are McIntosh and long county suppose to deal with such dramatic losses?

The alternative action areas are all unnecessary. The Ft. Stewart location is 25 nautical miles closer and has adequate land and airspace. Though you all say it doesn't host conflicting military operations. I would assume that you all are taking about the aviation ordnance which only allows day time flights from May 1st through October 31st.

In conclusion, I propose no action alternative be taken. The acquisition of so much land, loss of tax revenues and the lack of pursuit of Ft Stewart location will not allow me to let you all squander the resources of McIntosh and Long county. I completely support America and its military and would be in support of an action that just acquired 1B but dont think the public of McIntosh and Long counties should be held accountable for the greed and inefficiency of our armed services.

1

Response to Comment 71:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. Please refer to Section 2.2.1 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) which details the four land acquisition alternatives currently being assessed. Each action alternative must meet the minimum threshold training requirement – each land acquisition alternative must provide for a minimum of two 15-degree cones for final attack heading with the release of weapons at airspeeds from 360 to 450 knots and at 24,000 feet mean sea level. Area 1B is not a standalone alternative. Area 1B does not meet the minimum threshold training requirement. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) selected Alternative 4 because the FEIS analysis concludes it best meets the purpose of and need to modernize and expand Townsend Bombing Range (TBR); it is the best balance of operation utility and acceptable environmental impacts.

Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the USMC. Weapon danger zones (WDZs) are established as safety measures to protect personnel on or near the range. A WDZ may be near the range boundary, but the WDZ has requisite safety factors built in. No additional buffer land is required. Each WDZ is sized so that any munition released has only a one out of one million probability of landing outside of the WDZ. The chance of the munition hitting a specific point, such as State Highway 57, is far less. Please refer to Sections 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 in the FEIS for details on WDZs and the land acquisition necessary to contain these zones, respectively. The WDZs that are shown on Figure 2-2 in the FEIS are modeled to contain all weapon impacts, including ricochets, occurring within the WDZ.

The USMC acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues is in Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS. Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, please refer to Section 3.2.4.3, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs. There

Response to Comment 71 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 71.

are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

Since the USMC does not have specialized knowledge or expertise concerning revenue-generating options and budgetary practices available to the potentially affected counties, the USMC cannot make recommendations concerning local budget prioritization and/or plans to adjust the tax base to address the potential losses of tax revenues.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. TBR is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

The USMC conducted a multi-step screening process to identify and compare Department of Defense ranges that could support the Proposed Action. The USMC identified seven candidate ranges located within 165 nautical miles of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort: Fort Stewart, Georgia; TBR, Georgia; Poinsett Range, South Carolina; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Gordon, Georgia; Grand Bay Range, Georgia; and Camp Blanding, Florida. TBR is the only range to meet all of the range evaluation criteria. Please refer to Section 2.1 and Table 2-1 in the FEIS for more information.

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COMMENT SHEET — Townsend Draft EIS Public Meeting

Ludowici, GA • August 9, 2012



NAME (Please Print): JANET REDDISH

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: CONCERNED CITIZEN OF LONG COUNTY TAX PAYER

ADDRESS: 337 Sando Lane NE. Ludowici, Ga. 31316

Please provide written comments on this sheet and drop into the comment box or mail to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Written comments must be postmarked on or before August 27, 2012.
Your comments will become part of the Final EIS.

Sept 11, 2012

COMMENTS: *Regulations did not allow planes to fly lower than 300 ft now they will be allowed to fly tree top level or less than 100 ft. The noise level will be tremendous at the schools and residents. Not to mention Long County has a new high school that is under construction.*
Danger of an accident from the low flying planes over the area.
Highway 57 between Ludowici, Long County, and Townsend closed during bombing exercises. Cutting off emergency services, law enforcement, school bus routes and to the residents living in area. Route 57, known as the "Wiregrass Trail" is in route to I-95, which is also an evacuation route.

over →

Response to Comment 72:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. As a point of clarification, minimum flight altitude for fixed-wing flight operations would not change as part of the Proposed Action. As explained in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6), the change in airspace would affect only Restricted Airspace R-3007. The proposed modification would eliminate the current gap from 100 feet above ground level down to the surface of the ground over the areas proposed for acquisition. This extension, which would apply only to the existing restricted airspace over lands proposed for acquisition, would unite the airspace with acquired land to enable the delivery of inert ordnance in order to comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations. It is not an indication that fixed-wing flight operations will be conducted at altitudes below 100 feet. No lateral modification of the R-3007 complex is proposed as part of the Proposed Action.

The USMC understands that the potential noise effects of expanding Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the FEIS. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by FAA regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal MOA or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 in the FEIS).

Response to Comment 72 continues on next page.

COMMENTS: Long County will suffer a huge economic impact. Losing thousands of acres off our tax digest. The loss of travelers that would stop and buy gasoline and eat meals in route to I-95. All of this burden will fall on the tax payers of Long County many second and people on fixed incomes.

We were told 40% of the timber management profits would go to (Atlanta) state and that money could, I repeat could be rerouted back to Long County and Mr. Intosh if legislature so designated. We don't have much faith in that happening.

We also understand that most of the timber is already being harvested. So what does that leave for Long County? Nothing from nothing leaves nothing.

Tax payers feel they should be compensated for this loss. We need help! Long County has already lost thousands of acres to the state for WMA's we were not compensated for.

It would have been great if Long County could have been represented by some of our politicians. Representing our best interests and well being. No one seems to care about the little people.

NOTE: Sept 5, 2012 Wed 8:20 AM I was walking outside my house and 2 jets flew over about tree top high. The noise was so loud it shook the ground and trees. It scared me so much I was shaking. I thought they were going to crash or it was the end of the world. God help those people and schools that live in that vicinity. About 15 minutes later 2 more flew over.

Continuation of response to Comment 72.

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the USMC. No portion of State Highway 57 would be closed under any of the action alternatives. Additional information has been added to Section 3.11 in the FEIS to clarify this point.

The USMC acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues is in Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS. Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, please refer to Section 3.2.4.3, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs. There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

Since the USMC does not have specialized knowledge or expertise concerning revenue-generating options and budgetary practices available to the potentially affected counties, the USMC cannot make recommendations concerning local budget prioritization and/or plans to adjust the tax base to address the potential losses of tax revenues.

Response to Comment 72 continues on next page.

73

Townsend EIS
 Project Manager
 P.O. Box 180458
 Tallahassee, Fl. 32318

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to let you know that we as 3rd generation tax payers in Long County, Ga., senior citizens or fixed income earners you to understand and hear we can not afford to pay more taxes.

Long County is one of the poorest counties in the State of Georgia. There is little industry from forest lands and few businesses that provide employment.

We are very concerned over every aspect of expanding the Townsend Bombing Range. There is Smiley Elementary School in direct route to the bombing range, not to mention the danger, noise and environmental impact it will have. In addition, road closures in that area will impede law enforcement and emergency services.

To take another 36,000 to 40,000 acres of TAX EXEMPT land, adding to the already thousands and thousands of acres taken by state and federal government, which the tax

Response to Comment 73:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. Please be assured that your participation has become part of the record and contributed to the decision making process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues is in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

Since the USMC does not have specialized knowledge or expertise concerning revenue-generating options and budgetary practices available to the potentially affected counties, the USMC cannot make recommendations concerning local budget prioritization and/or plans to adjust the tax base to address the potential losses of tax revenues.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

The USMC understands that the potential noise effects of expanding TBR are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the FEIS. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL.

Response to Comment 73 continues on next page.

Public Comment Summary Report

taxpayers of Long County have to pay. This would only add to the tremendous burden and hardships we already have.

We recently had 7,244 acres taken by Governor Sonny Perdue for yet another WMA (Wildlife Management Area) in Long County. Which make 2 or 3 WMAs in Long County that tax payers are also paying for.

We understand that expanding bombing range, Long County would lose around 50% more of its remaining tax base. We cannot afford.

In closing, no one seems to care how devastating this loss will be for the Long County tax payers.

It appears Long County has only more taxes and death to look forward too.

Sincerely,

The Reddish's
337 Senior Lane NE
Lawrenceville GA 30046

Continuation of response to Comment 73.

All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 in the FEIS).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the USMC. No portion of State Highway 57 would be closed under any of the action alternatives. The current practice of temporarily closing Blue's Reach Road (also known as Old Barrington Road and Old Cox Road) during certain training activities would continue under any of the action alternatives. Under Alternatives 1, 3, and 4, range officials may close the portion of Blue's Reach Road (also known as Old Barrington Road and Old Cox Road) that enters the new range boundary when access to the range would conflict with training

Response to Comment 73 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 73.

operations. The road would otherwise remain open. Additional information has been added to Section 3.11 in the FEIS to clarify this point. Emergency services and law enforcement would not be affected. The USMC and GA ANG currently work with emergency services, such as air ambulance, to suspend training operations and allow access through the restricted airspace. This working relationship would continue in the future and no loss or delay of emergency services is expected. This information has been added to several sections throughout the FEIS to help clarify this point.

74 David Reilly
1062 Greenwillow Drive
St. Marys, 31558

The inability to train with PGM at Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) has resulted in units at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, to perform nearly a third of their proficiency training during deployments to ranges on the West Coast. The ranges on the West Coast are uniquely suited for large-scale, live-fire training. The inability to train with PGM at TBR detracts from the Marine Corps' ability to utilize the ranges on the West Coast to meet more advanced training requirements. This degrades the efficiency of these larger ranges by committing precious training time to more basic training. Individual aircrew training with inert PGM is more appropriately and efficiently performed at ranges within training flight distance of the home station. The TBR project should be approved so the Marines can properly train with PGM at TBR and not travel to the west coast for training that is not as effective while increasing the use of fuel and time away from family.

Response to Comment 74:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. As a point of clarification, an expanded Townsend Bombing Range would continue to permit the use of only inert munitions.

75 David Reilly
1062 Greenwillow Drive
St. Marys, 31558

After reviewing the Project information, I strongly endorse the marine's efforts to acquire the land needed for the modernization and expansion of the TBR. I further endorse the approval of the EIS so that the marines can move forward with this much needed project. "Training as you fight" is fundamental to the success of our marines when sent in harms way. The TBR offers this type training. Further the marines should not have to routinely travel 3000 miles to obtain this training. This area of GA has the room and the land is right for this type training.

Response to Comment 75:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

76 Jon Rembold
37 East River Dr

Beaufort, 29907

The expansion of TBR is important to our national security as it improves the training opportunities for our pilots. There are very few inconveniences caused by the planned expansion as outlined in the EIS, so this project should be pursued with utmost urgency. This will improve on some of the most cost-effective training the Marine Corps has to offer since our planes can deploy from Beaufort, execute a training evolution, and return on a single tank of fuel. I am in favor of this expansion.

77

MR. MIKE RIDDLE: One of the questions was they're talking about over in the Resource Analysis section that there will be a -- 40 percent of the net profit from the harvested timber that is brought in from when the military acquires whatever land will basically be going back to the state, where it's supposed to come back to McIntosh and Long County, according to information that was provided.

But when I've asked several representatives from the military and also the Legislature's Office that was here, they said that at this point that 40 percent is not earmarked for McIntosh or Long County.

I guess my question would be in lieu of or the example with the Fifth Brigade not coming to Fort Stewart and the remediation funding for that after there was acknowledgement of negative impact, with the military already acknowledging that Long County and McIntosh will have an annual negative impact, how come that 40 percent of the profit can't be earmarked to come back to Long County and McIntosh County?

Response to Comment 76:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

Response to Comment 77:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. According to Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14-R, "Forty percent of installation net proceeds shall be distributed to the state that includes the military installation or facility from which forest products were sold during a fiscal year." There are no legal mechanisms by which the United States Marine Corps (USMC) can alter this regulation or any state regulation regarding distribution of revenues to counties. However, if an installation or facility is located in more than one county within the state, the USMC may provide a description of the acres of the installation or facility situated in each county along with the entitlement to the state.

78

McLeod Rominger
112 Harlan Dr.

Savannah, 31406

We do not need a live fire precision guided range on either coast. Just use simulators and stop squandering dollars that we don't have. This country is broke. We can hardly afford to spend this type of money on practice. Please focus your efforts on the safety of troops deployed and spend your energy on bringing them home.

Response to Comment 78:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. As a point of clarification, an expanded Townsend Bombing Range would continue to permit the use of only inert munitions. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) uses simulators for training. The USMC considered using simulator and virtual reality computer simulation models to provide precision-guided munitions (PGM) training. However, simulated training alone cannot substitute for real-world training in the handling and delivery of PGMs (please refer to Section 2.4.4 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement).

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Page 1 of 1

TROZIER

From: "TROZIER" <trozier@darientel.net>
To: <trozier@darientel.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 10:11 PM
Subject: Bombing Range Expansion
 Post Office Box
 180458
 Tallahassee, Florida
 32318

I realize this will most likely fall on deaf ears (which mine may become also due to jet noise), but I hate to see the Bombing Range Expansion for the following reasons 1.NOISE POLLUTION : There is already too much noise from jets using range now, they turn our peacefull neighborhood into the likes of living very near to an airport. It's very hard to enjoy nature, hunting, fishing, or even conversation when the jets are using the Townsend Bombing Range. More use will expose everyone within miles even more noise.

2.Land Acquisitions : The Darien News August 16,2012 edition reported that the Rozier Cemetery would be in the Wepons Danger Zone who wouldn't be against losing their right to visit the grave site of past family members.

3.Need: Seems to me with the U.S.A. in such debt to other counties that the Federal Government would be looking for ways to save money insted of buying enough land to create a facility which we already have and use and will continue to use on West Coast. A wise man told me on several occasions a very true statment that you should keep in mind which goes like this we cannot spend and will never be able to spend ourself out of debt.If our government local and federal would realize this America would again thrive.

4.Opposition: It's no use to reply or oppose to the Bombing Range Expansion because it's the Government and they do anything they want to, this is what was told to me on several occasions by people who object to the Bombing Range and I also know this but isn't this the kind of Dictatorship were spending lives and money to combat in other countries.

NUFF said
 Ivy
 Rozier
 1875 Old Townsend
 Rd.N.W.
 Townsend Ga.31331

9/26/2012

Response to Comment 79:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) understands that the potential noise effects of expanding Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 in the FEIS).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

Response to Comment 79 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 79.

If the Record of Decision (ROD) calls for the acquisition of land, access to visit the Rozier Cemetery would be granted and coordinated with the Range Operating Authority in accordance with the Range Operating Regulations and public safety.

Current and future USMC operations require aircrew expertise in the use of precision-guided munitions (PGMs). The Proposed Action would provide a modern and realistic training environment by accommodating the use of inert PGMs and the larger safety zones their use requires (please refer to section 1.2 in the FEIS for a detailed description of the purpose and need).

The National Environmental Policy Act requires federal agencies to examine the potential impacts of their proposed actions on the human environment, which includes the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment. The FEIS identifies Alternative 4, which is the acquisition of Areas 1B and 3, as the Preferred Alternative; however, the ROD, which is anticipated in summer 2013, would determine which alternative would be selected. If called for in the ROD, any land acquisition ultimately would have to be approved by Congress.

80 Richard Ryala
20 Eagle Court

Ormond Beach, 32174

My great grandmother Ocana E. Ryals is buried north of State Road 57 between Townsend and Ludowici, GA. There are Federal Statutes protecting Native American burial sites from desecration. To include this area into a Marind bombing range most certainly constitutes desecration. Thank you for your consideration of this most important issue. J.R. Ryals, MD

Response to Comment 80:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) consulted with a total of 21 federally recognized tribes during the National Environmental Policy Act scoping and Section 106 compliance processes for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.2.2 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement [FEIS]). To date, no tribal issues or concerns, including Native American archaeological resources, properties of traditional religious or cultural importance, or traditional cultural properties or sacred sites, have been identified for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS).

As detailed in Section 3.9.3.2, the USMC conducted desktop research, archaeological investigations, and field surveys for proposed acquisition areas where entry was permitted (see Appendices H and I in the FEIS). Documented cultural and/historical resources were noted and identified during these processes. Although there are several cemeteries surrounding the proposed expansion area, only the B.B. Rozier gravesite (Rozier Cemetery) was found to be within the Proposed Townsend Bombing Range Expansion Area. If a resource such as a burial ground/cemetery is not officially documented, then the USMC may not have been able to accurately assess that point of interest. The USMC welcomes documentation of all cultural and historical resources.

If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would continue to consult with federally recognized tribes. The USMC would contact federally recognized tribes if any Native American resources or cultural items, such as archaeological resources or human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are found.

81

Robert Ryals
4130 Buttercup Way

Tallahassee, 32311

My Great Grandmother and Great Grandfather are buried in the areas delineated for a proposed bombing range. GGrandmother was a full blooded Native American. They are buried in a small cemetery where others are also buried. I think the least you could do is re-locate these remains to a cemetery in the local area.

Response to Comment 81:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) consulted with a total of 21 federally recognized tribes during the National Environmental Policy Act scoping and Section 106 compliance processes for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.2.2 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement). To date, no tribal issues or concerns, including Native American archaeological resources, properties of traditional religious or cultural importance, or traditional cultural properties or sacred sites, have been identified for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS).

As detailed in Section 3.9.3.2, the USMC conducted desktop research, archaeological investigations, and field surveys for proposed acquisition areas where entry was permitted (see Appendices H and I in the FEIS). Documented cultural and/historical resources were noted and identified during these processes. Although there are several cemeteries surrounding the proposed expansion area, only the B.B. Rozier gravesite (Rozier Cemetery) was found to be within the Proposed Townsend Bombing Range Expansion Area. If a resource such as a burial ground/cemetery is not officially documented, then the USMC may not have been able to accurately assess that point of interest. The USMC welcomes documentation of all cultural and historical resources.

If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would continue to consult with federally recognized tribes. The USMC would contact federally recognized tribes if any Native American resources or cultural items, such as archaeological resources or human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are found.

82

MR. RANDY SIMMONS: My question is where our loss of tax revenue, has anything been worked out where we are going to be reimbursed or to help us out with our taxes?

Response to Comment 82:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues is in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, as discussed in Section 3.2.4.3, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs. There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

Since the USMC does not have specialized knowledge or expertise concerning revenue-generating options and budgetary practices available to the potentially affected counties, the USMC cannot make recommendations concerning local budget prioritization and/or plans to adjust the tax base to address the potential losses of tax revenues.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

83

Linda SMITH
159 Roy Smith Rd. SE

LUDOWICI, 31316

I request that you do not follow through with the expansion into Long County. As a landholder I struggle now to pay taxes and believe that Long County would be very negatively impacted by the loss of revenue. I also have a horse barn and have had to establish a no-fly zone to keep them safe from the trauma caused by low flying planes. As a teacher, I am very concerned about any increase in noise or presence of aircraft. The assumption that accidents don't happen does not guarantee anything. I live off Hwy 57. Would there ever, under any circumstances, be a time that that highway would be closed? It has to be a probability. Please consider leaving our county intact. Thank you

Response to Comment 83:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues is in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, please refer to Section 3.2.4.3, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs. There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

The USMC understands that the potential noise effects of expanding TBR are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the FEIS. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Response to Comment 83 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 83.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area (MOA) or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 in the FEIS).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

As a point of clarification, minimum flight altitude for fixed-wing flight operations would not change as part of the Proposed Action. As explained in the FEIS (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6), the change in airspace would affect only Restricted Airspace R-3007. The proposed modification would eliminate the current gap from 100 feet above ground level down to the surface of the ground over the areas proposed for acquisition. This extension, which would apply only to the existing restricted airspace over lands proposed for acquisition, would unite the airspace with acquired land to enable the delivery of inert ordnance in order to comply with FAA regulations. It is not an indication that fixed-wing flight operations will be conducted at altitudes below 100 feet. No lateral modification of the R-3007 complex is proposed as part of the Proposed Action.

Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the USMC. Weapon danger zones (WDZs) are established as safety measures to protect personnel on or near the range. A WDZ may be near the range boundary, but the WDZ has requisite safety factors built in. No additional buffer land is required. Each WDZ is sized so that any munition released has only a one out of one million probability of landing outside the WDZ. The chance of the munition hitting a specific point, such as State Highway (Hwy.) 57, is far less. Please refer to Sections 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 for details on WDZs and the land acquisition necessary to contain these zones, respectively. The WDZs that are shown on Figure 2-2 in the FEIS are modeled to contain all weapon impacts, including ricochets, occurring within the WDZ.

No portion of State Hwy. 57 would be closed under any of the action alternatives. Additional information has been added to Section 3.11 to clarify this point.

84

Patricia Smith
159 Roy Smith Rd SE

Ludowici, 31316

As a family we are strongly apposed to the expansion of Townsend Bombing Range. The planes create a serious disturbance to our lives. It affects our home life, our work life, our school life. Not only do we have horses, but a lot of people in our community do as well - the loud noises frighten them and could cause them to seriously injure or kill themselves. An incident like this would be devastating.

Response to Comment 84:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) understands that the potential noise effects of expanding Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 in the FEIS).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

85

Buddy Sullivan
179 Sandhurst Dr

Richmond Hill, 31324

My name is Buddy Sullivan. I am the official county historian for McIntosh County and have written a comprehensive history of the county, "Early Days on the Georgia Tidewater" a sizeable portion of which entailed research in the 19th and 20th history and land uses of the section of the county in which the Townsend Bombing Range has been located for many years. I am a fourth generation native of the county and have lived and worked in the county for much of my life. I fully, repeat FULLY, support the U.S. Marine Corps' recommended Alternative 4 for expansion of the Range for live-fire training purposes. I have been a guest observer of operations at the Range in the past and am convinced of its vital utility to the efficient and effective training for the military pilots and aircrew of all our service personnel. We need this facility, particularly in regard to support of the training facility at MCAS Beaufort and our other combat aviators to conduct proper Precision Guided Munitions Training. I have a vested interest in this as I wholeheartedly, and fervently, support our nation's armed forces, especially in these times of fiscal austerity and the looming financial stresses and cutbacks associated with the potential budget deficits for the Department of Defense if Congress does not take proper action by the end of the year. I am a dues-paying member of the Navy League of the United States, Savannah, GA Chapter and the United Naval Institute of Annapolis, MD. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views in enthusiastic support of the Range's proposal for Alternative 4. Sincerely, Roy E (Buddy) Sullivan Richmond Hill, GA 31324 bsullivan@coastalnow.net

Response to Comment 85:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. As a point of clarification, an expanded Townsend Bombing Range would continue to permit the use of only inert munitions.

86

Pat Tatum
11378 GA HWY 23

Glennville, 30427

I am opposed to the acquisition of this property for the use of a bombing range. The tax base for these two counties will be negatively affected because of the removal of this property from the taxable acreage. Highway 57 is also a very heavily traveled area and will not be safe for travel.

Response to Comment 86:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues is in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, please refer to Section 3.2.4.3, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs. There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the USMC. Weapon danger zones (WDZs) are established as safety measures to protect personnel on or near the range. A WDZ may be near the range boundary, but the WDZ has requisite safety factors built in. No additional buffer land is required. Each WDZ is sized so that any munition released has only a one out of one million probability of landing outside of the WDZ. The chance of the munition hitting a specific point, such as State Highway 57, is far less. Please refer to Sections 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 in the FEIS for details on WDZs and the land acquisition necessary to contain these zones, respectively. The WDZs that are shown on Figure 2-2 in the FEIS are modeled to contain all weapon impacts, including ricochets, occurring within the WDZ.

87

wendell theus
2553 cecil nobles hwy
gopher cut lane N.W.
IUDOWICI, 31316

DEAR SIRs, JUST SAW THE LATEST PROPOSAL FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE CURRENT TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE. BESIDES MANY ENVIROMENTAL REASONS,THE PEACE OF OUR CITIZENS(DAILY BARRAGE OF JET PLANE NOISE), THE RAPE OF OUR PROPERTY VALUES, THE INSULT AGAINST OUR VALUE AS U.S. CITIZENS-- THERE IS THE PURELY FINANCIAL SCOPE OF THIS TAKING OF OUR RIGHTS AS EQUAL TAXPAYERS BY LITERALLY ROBBING THE CITIZENS OF LONG COUNTY OF THERE TAXBASE AS PROPERTY OWNERS. WE ARE AND HAVE BEEN AND PROBABLY ALWAYS WILL BE CONSIDERED A _POOR_ COUNTY AND TO CONSUME US OF THE WHOLE LOWER END OF OUR POOR COUNTY IS TOTALLY UNREASONABLE.

Response to Comment 87:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) understands that the potential noise effects of expanding Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 in the FEIS details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Section 2.2.3 and 3.6 in the FEIS).

As a result of the Proposed Action, the percentage of operations conducted below 3,000 feet above ground level would decrease under each of the action alternatives. Please refer to Table 3-61 and the accompanying text in the FEIS. Noise effects should not increase under the Proposed Action. The USMC and the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG) are committed to being good neighbors and understand that local residents may have questions or concerns regarding noise from training events. To that end, the USMC and the GA ANG maintain a system to receive reports or other noise concerns from members of the community. Residents should contact the range at (912) 963-3007 with questions or concerns about noise from training.

88

COMMENT SHEET — Townsend Draft EIS Public Meeting

Ludowici, GA • August 9, 2012



NAME (Please Print):

Wendell A. Theus

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION:

member Altamaha Riverkeepers
Retired

ADDRESS:

2553 Cecil Nobles Hwy.
Ludowici, GA.

Please provide written comments on this sheet and drop into the comment box or mail to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Written comments must be postmarked on or before August 27, 2012.

Your comments will become part of the Final EIS.

COMMENTS:

Have made e-mail comments, comments
at EIS Public Meeting AND this comment sheet.
Main concerns: Loss of Tax Revenue to Long Co.
Impact money should be made to help
compensate this loss.
Future property values affected by enlarging
this facility -
Danger to nearby homeowners, property owners.
Guarantees not in place to limit future changes
in Bombing Range size.
Many things affected that you cannot foresee.
This county cannot afford an uncompensated loss
of property taxes.
Please consider this and other concerns from
Long County taxpayers and residents.

Response to Comment 88:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues is in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

Since the USMC does not have specialized knowledge or expertise concerning revenue-generating options and budgetary practices available to the potentially affected counties, the USMC cannot make recommendations concerning local budget prioritization and/or plans to adjust the tax base to address the potential losses of tax revenues.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

There are numerous factors, such as parcel size, existing uses, proximity to infrastructure and specific location that are unique to every property. These factors make it difficult to accurately predict future property valuation changes arising from the Proposed Action. The information contained in the FEIS is the best analysis of anticipated impacts that would result from the proposed expansion of TBR.

Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the USMC. Weapon dangers zones (WDZs) are established as safety measures to protect personnel on or near

Response to Comment 88 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 88.

the range. A WDZ may be near the range boundary, but the WDZ has requisite safety factors built in. No additional buffer land is required. Each WDZ is sized so that any munition released has only a one out of one million probability of landing outside of the WDZ. The chance of the munition hitting a specific point, such as State Highway 57, is far less. Please refer to Sections 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 in the FEIS for details on WDZs and the land acquisition necessary to contain these zones, respectively. The WDZs that are shown on Figure 2-2 in the FEIS are modeled to contain all weapon impacts, including ricochets, occurring within the WDZ.

The FEIS only examines potential impacts of the Proposed Action. If future actions at TBR are proposed, an additional, separate Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, would be performed.

89

MR. WENDELL THEUS: I have previously e-mailed comments concerning the expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range. I didn't have a whole lot of information to base the comments I made. But after meeting and talking some today at the EIS meeting, I have a better picture, I think, of what's being proposed.

My number-one concern was being a taxpayer and the loss of tax revenues from the military's buying and using the property. The way I understand it, it takes it off of the county's tax roll, so to speak, which is a considerable expense to the other property taxpayers.

I was unsure whether this property was being purchased or more like a lease situation with the paper companies, which are the primary piece of the property involved. I felt like they had enough tax breaks as it was.

This property expansion is probably almost one-third of the county. It appears to be, looking at the maps, I'm glad to see, that it's not involving a whole lot of individual property owners, especially their houses and their home properties. That was a main concern of mine that it might be.

Also, I'm glad to see that this proposal is the one closest to being accepted and not going close to the river, which I think was one of the original concerns, which I would be terrifically against. I don't mind saying that I am a member of the riverkeepers organization. I think they do a good job of protecting the river basin. And I'm not antimilitary in any manner whatsoever, but I do like to see the environment protected at any reasonable cost.

Response to Comment 89:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues is in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, please refer to Section 3.2.4.3, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs. There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

Since the USMC does not have specialized knowledge or expertise concerning revenue-generating options and budgetary practices available to the potentially affected counties, the USMC cannot make recommendations concerning local budget prioritization and/or plans to adjust the tax base to address the potential losses of tax revenues.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

The FEIS only examines potential impacts of the Proposed Action. If future actions at TBR are proposed, an additional, separate Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, would be performed.

Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the USMC. Weapon danger zones (WDZs) are established as safety measures to protect personnel on or near the range. A WDZ may be near the range boundary, but the WDZ has requisite safety factors built in. No additional buffer land is required.

Response to Comment 89 continues on next page.

And having lived here 61 years, I think I've got a good feel for and knowledge of the environment and of the species that live here. And I know the military has got a good record of protecting species. I hunted many years at Fort Stewart, Georgia, and I saw the way they done things to protect the environment and endangered species.

Beyond the tax issue and the protection of the species, as well as the river basin property, which I feel that they are addressing, would be the usage of the property in very close proximity to homeowners, property owners.

After looking at the proposed maps at this meeting, I see that one of my friends' house and property is approximately 300 yards from the target area overlap which is a safety zone. I feel like this is a very very close area for him living there in that close proximity, is something that needs to be looked at. I know I would not personally want to live that close to the bombing impact area, even allowing for the safety zone issue.

Other than that, I guess I've got some concern about the fact that the DOD military can change the usage of this property at some point in time maybe without public input. By this I'm meaning going to larger plane bombing missions such as the B-1B bomber. There were rumors around that they were going to utilize this.

The comments I've got today are saying no, but I know things can change, so we're always looking down the road to possible changes in that area, which I feel like, if it's

Continuation of response to Comment 89.

Each WDZ is sized so that any munition released has only a one out of one million probability of landing outside the WDZ. The chance of the munition hitting a specific point, such as State Highway (Hwy.) 57, is far less. Please refer to Sections 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 in the FEIS for details on WDZs and the land acquisition necessary to contain these zones, respectively. The WDZs that are shown on Figure 2-2 in the FEIS are modeled to contain all weapon impacts, including ricochets, occurring within the WDZ.

No portion of State Hwy. 57 would be closed under any of the action alternatives. The current practice of temporarily closing Blue's Reach Road (also known as Old Barrington Road and Old Cox Road) during certain training activities would continue under any of the action alternatives. Under Alternatives 1, 3, and 4, range officials may close the portion of Blue's Reach Road (also known as Old Barrington Road and Old Cox Road) that enters the new range boundary when access to the range would conflict with training operations. The road would otherwise remain open. Additional information has been added to Section 3.11 in the FEIS to clarify this point.

Comment 89 continues on next page.

going to be considered, definitely needs to be seen in the format of public meetings like this for the county residents if there is any major changes to be made in it.

Beyond that, my concern would be the possible closing of county roads, meaning what we call the Blues Reach Road, which is a county-maintained road. And the comments I have got are that they probably would be about the same possibility of closing that there is today where the Blues Reach follows the existing bombing range, that there are gates put up but very rarely closed.

I was assured that Highway 57 would not be closed under almost any circumstances, except maybe out-and-out war or something along that line.

Beyond these concerns is what I consider, when I think of Long County, and my home county is a very poor county, that I don't want us to be seen as a county that can be, for lack of better words, kicked around, abused by the Department of Defense, the military, or anybody else, just because we are a poor county and the attitude is, well, let's just dump it on Long County.

I feel like we've got a lot to offer in lots of ways, but I don't want us to be considered in that manner, that we are actually offering a very good situation for the DOD to have this facility expanded and maintained.

We need to be considered in the manner of possible impact funds to help offset any tax losses incurred by the taxpayers, the property owners of Long County. We are not looking to make money or anything of that nature, but we would like to be justly compensated for the costs incurred or maintained by the property owners.

90

Bonnie Tomassetti
4985 S. Honeytown Rd.

Wooster, 44691

Please check for sacred sites, and FOLLOW the law.

Response to Comment 90:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) consulted with a total of 21 federally recognized tribes during the National Environmental Policy Act scoping and Section 106 compliance processes for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.2.2 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement [FEIS]). To date, no tribal issues or concerns, including Native American archaeological resources, properties of traditional religious or cultural importance, or traditional cultural properties or sacred sites, have been identified for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS).

As detailed in Section 3.9.3.2, the USMC conducted desktop research, archaeological investigations, and field surveys for proposed acquisition areas where entry was permitted (see Appendices H and I in the FEIS). Documented cultural and/historical resources were noted and identified during these processes. However, if a resource such as a burial ground/cemetery is not officially documented, then the USMC may not have been able to accurately assess that point of interest. The USMC welcomes documentation of all cultural and historical resources.

If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would continue to consult with federally recognized tribes. The USMC would contact federally recognized tribes if any Native American resources or cultural items, such as archaeological resources or human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are found.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990 protects Native American cultural items and under federal ownership or control. If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would comply with NAGPRA for future undertakings affecting this property (please refer to Section 3.9.2.1 of the FEIS). To the greatest extent possible, the USMC would work to avoid any cultural resources that are found on any newly acquired federal property and minimize any potential impacts. Appendix H of the FEIS contains more information on the Section 106 consultation.

91

COMMENT SHEET — Townsend Draft EIS Public Meeting
Ludowici, GA • August 9, 2012



NAME (Please Print): HERMAN Wells

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: Retired Game WARDEN

ADDRESS: 149 Game WARDEN Rd. J.E.
Ludowici, Georgia 31316

Please provide written comments on this sheet and drop into the comment box or mail to:

Townsend EIS
Project Manager
P.O. Box 180458
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Written comments must be postmarked on or before August 27, 2012.
Your comments will become part of the Final EIS.

COMMENTS: I don't think Long Co. residents should
be charged a fee to hunt on the property
on days allowed. I also hope the pilots
Went the hot dogs & fly so low. Lastly
I think Long Co. should be reimbursed
for lost tax revenue.

Herman Wells

Response to Comment 91:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, some private use hunting leases would be discontinued. The Proposed Action would create more opportunities for increased public access to previously inaccessible privately administered recreation lands through the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) hunting program (please refer to Section 3.3.4 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement [FEIS]). Hunting access on any newly acquired land would be equal opportunity and open to all members of the public under a lottery system that is currently administered without a fee.

As a point of clarification, minimum flight altitude for fixed-wing flight operations would not change as part of the Proposed Action. As explained in the FEIS (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6), the change in airspace would affect only Restricted Airspace R-3007. The proposed modification would eliminate the current gap from 100 feet above ground level down to the surface of the ground over the areas proposed for acquisition. This extension, which would apply only to the existing restricted airspace over lands proposed for acquisition, would unite the airspace with acquired land to enable the delivery of inert ordnance in order to comply with Federal Aviation Administration regulations. It is not an indication that fixed-wing flight operations will be conducted at altitudes below 100 feet. No lateral modification of the R-3007 complex is proposed as part of the Proposed Action.

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues is in Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS. Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

Response to Comment 91 continues on next page.

Continuation of response to Comment 91.

Since the USMC does not have specialized knowledge or expertise concerning revenue-generating options and budgetary practices available to the potentially affected counties, the USMC cannot make recommendations concerning local budget prioritization and/or plans to adjust the tax base to address the potential losses of tax revenues.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. TBR is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army, and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

92 Robb Wells
105 Byan Dr

Beaufort, 29902

The expansion of the bombing range is essential to this country's national defense. I am for the expansion.

Response to Comment 92:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

93



LEWIS S. WIENER
DIRECT LINE: 202.383.0140
E-mail: lewis.wiener@sutherland.com

SUTHERLAND ASBILL & BRENNAN LLP
1275 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20004-2415
202.383.0100 Fax 202.637.3593
www.sutherland.com

September 25, 2012

Via E-Mail: townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com
& First Class Mail

Townsend EIS Project Manager
Post Office Box 180458
Tallahassee, Florida 32318

325 John Knox Road, Building F, Suite 140
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Re: Comments to July 2012 Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed
Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia

Dear Mr. Drawdy:

Rayonier Forest Resources, L.P. ("Rayonier") submits the enclosed comments to the July 2012 Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia ("Draft EIS").

As noted in the Abstract accompanying the Draft EIS, "NEPA requires federal agencies to examine the potential impacts of their proposed actions on the human environment, which includes the natural and physical environment, and the relationship of people with that environment." The Draft EIS is deficient and fails to meet this goal.

Rayonier is the largest property owner within the footprint of the proposed land acquisition area (regardless of whether the USMC elects Alternatives 1, 2, 3 or 4) and the party most directly affected by the Proposed Action considered in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS fails to consider how Rayonier actually manages the property and how it utilizes and manages the property's abundant natural resources. Because of this, the Draft EIS fails to adequately analyze the true impact of the Proposed Actions on the property within the proposed land acquisition area (as well as adjacent parcels) and the adverse impact on the local economy and community by, among other things, eliminating jobs and reducing the multitude of benefits that are generated from a working forest. In addition, the Draft EIS in some cases ignores entirely the impacts of the proposed actions and fails to consider reasonable alternative actions, including the granting of a timber reservation or lease to Rayonier, which would, among other things, reduce the price

ATLANTA AUSTIN HOUSTON NEW YORK SACRAMENTO WASHINGTON DC

Response to Comment 93:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared in accordance with Section (102)(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and regulations implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ; 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), United States Department of the Navy (DON) NEPA regulations (32 CFR Part 775), and United States Marine Corps (USMC) NEPA directives (Marine Corps Order P5090.2A, Chapter 12, change 2). The Draft EIS (DEIS) was reviewed by the DON, USMC, and multiple state and federal regulatory agencies. No comments were received from these groups regarding not meeting the goals of NEPA or raising concerns with the proposed property management if acquisition were to occur.

Any acquired land would be managed not to interfere with the military mission and in accordance with the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) that would be developed in collaboration with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR). Forestland would be managed in accordance with ecosystem management practices including harvesting, thinning, and replanting timber. This change in management style is not expected to negatively impact jobs in the local area (please refer to Sections 3.1.3, 3.1.4, and 3.2.4.3 in the Final EIS [FEIS]). To grant a timber reservation or lease is not compatible with safe range operations as detailed in Section 2.2.2 of the FEIS.

Comment 93 continues on next page. Additional materials provided with this comment letter and responses to the comments therein begin on the following pages.

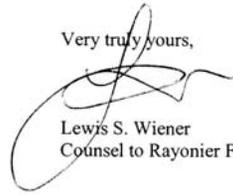
Public Comment Summary Report

Townsend EIS Project Manager
September 25, 2012
Page 2

to the American taxpayers for the property's acquisition and would allow Rayonier to continue to productively manage portions of the property without impairment of or interference with mission critical operations.

For the reasons discussed in greater detail in the enclosed comments, the Draft EIS fails to meet the requirements of NEPA and the related regulations and directives that guided the study. We would be pleased to meet with you to answer any questions and to discuss these issues in greater detail.

Very truly yours,



Lewis S. Wiener
Counsel to Rayonier Forest Resources, L.P.

Enclosures

cc: Curtis Hensyl
Mark Bridwell

Continuation of Comment 93. Additional materials provided with this comment letter and responses to the comments therein begin on the next page.

Submitted Sept 25, 2012

Rayonier Forest Resources, L.P. Response to the Draft
Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed
Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing
Range, Georgia, Volume I and II, July 2012

SUTHERLAND

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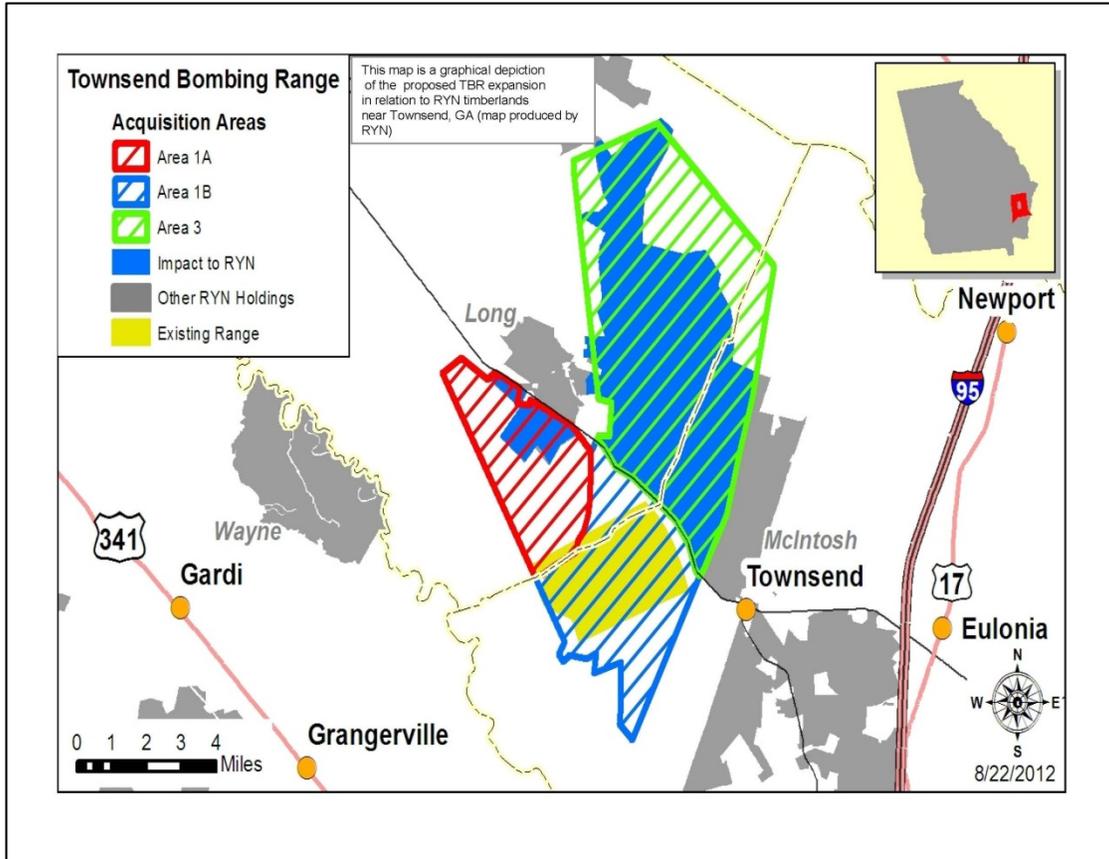
OUTLINE

SUTHERLAND

-
- Map of Townsend Bombing Range Expansion Acquisition Areas and Rayonier Forest Resources, L.P. (RYN) Timberlands (generated by RYN)
 - Economic Impacts to RYN timberlands within, adjacent, and proximate to the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) expansion
 - Land Use – Marketable Forest Resources
 - Land Use – Ownership and Relocation
 - Transportation
 - Land Use – Prime Farmland
 - Socioeconomics – Forest Resources
 - Wetlands
 - Impacts to non-timber benefits from RYN's ownership and forest stewardship
 - Recreation
 - Socioeconomics – Economy, Employment, and Income
 - Noise – Ordnance
 - Errors and Omissions in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Biological Resources – Wildlife
 - Biological Resources – Threatened and Endangered Species and Migratory Birds
 - Water Resources – Groundwater
 - Cultural Resources
 - Topography, Geology, and Soils – Topography
 - Topography, Geology, and Soils – Soils

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Economic Impacts to RYN timberlands within, adjacent, and proximate to the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) expansion

Land Use- Marketable Forest Resources

SUTHERLAND

The EIS states:

- Forest management would change from the primary objective of wood production based on short-rotation pine plantations to broader objectives using an ecosystem approach to management. Planned clearing for target areas would require approximately 257 acres and may require additional clearing during the configuration of the Weapon Impact Scoring System (WISS).
- Pine products would shift from the pulpwood, chip-n-saw, and some sawtimber that result from short (30-year) rotations, to greater proportions of high-quality sawtimber that would result from growing trees for up to 80 years.

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xix)

RYN Response:

- The statements addressed in the EIS regarding change in the land use away from Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certified private forest management materially understates the current and future benefits and opportunities from this working forest. As shown in the previous map, the Proposed Action significantly impacts RYN's core forestry business. Specifically:
 - Current forest management in Areas 1A and 3 provides extensive ecosystem management, wildlife habitat, recreation, aesthetics, clean air and clean water. Not only does RYN lose the ability to ensure continued production of these services, but the forest management plan proposed by DOD is for long-rotation forestry, which is less efficient at sequestering carbon, and results in much higher instances of tree mortality which, in turn, releases carbon into the atmosphere.

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Continuation of response to Comment 93.

The Proposed Action would result in changes in forest management to meet the primary objective of supporting the military mission of Townsend Bombing Range (TBR). Other objectives would also be supported, including production of a sustained yield of timber products, maintaining the quality of visual resources, and providing enhanced wildlife habitat.

While the exact mix of environmental and economic benefits would differ from Rayonier's current forest management, forest management under the Proposed Action would continue to produce wood fiber in substantial quantities, provide habitat to a variety of wildlife species, and support air and water quality. Carbon sequestration is not a primary objective of current USMC ecosystem management, but would continue to occur under the Proposed Action.

Land Use- Marketable Forest Resources (continued)



RYN Response (cont'd):

- Current forest management in Areas 1A and 3 produces a variety of products (including pulpwood, chip-n-saw, sawtimber, pine poles, pine straw and other forest products supporting a wide array of local businesses. Fiber supply availability is essential for the current production and future growth opportunities of these businesses.
- The forest management plan proposed in the EIS would reduce employment opportunities for local people.
- Current forest management in Areas 1A and 3 has significantly higher productivity for forest products as compared to productivity estimates analyzed in EIS.
- Nontraditional forest products (cell towers, wax myrtle gathering, berry farming, pine straw) will be eliminated from future land use, reducing value to Rayonier and the local economy.
- Opportunities for wind towers will be compromised if not eliminated entirely.

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Continuation of response to Comment 93.

If the Record of Decision (ROD) calls for the acquisition of land, future forestry program operations on TBR would continue to provide employment opportunities (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS).

The forest productivity values used in the DEIS and the FEIS were provided by the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Since actual forest productivity data are not available, the FEIS uses the best publically available data. The NRCS productivity values are estimates based on the inherent productivity of each soil map unit and do not necessarily correspond to actual productivities of any specific area which vary with multiple factors including forest management practices.

Nontraditional forest products are not precluded from future production under the ecosystem management concept. If the ROD calls for the acquisition of land, the USMC would consider these products on a case-by-case basis to determine if they are compatible with the military mission and range operations.

Cellular phone towers would be subject to further analysis to determine compatibility with range operations.

United States Department of Energy Wind Resource maps indicate that McIntosh and Long Counties contain some of the lowest wind speeds on their scale of measurement, not unlike the vast majority of the Southeast (Source: http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov/wind_resource_maps.asp?stateab=ga). Wind towers are not a reliable, cost-effective source of electrical power for McIntosh and Long Counties and therefore construction is unlikely, thus no potential impacts are expected.

Land Use- Ownership and Relocation

SUTHERLAND

The EIS states:

- Minimal to negligible impacts to land use as a result of changes in land ownership, including one privately owned property located within Acquisition Area 3.

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xix)

RYN Response:

- RYN Timberlands have been under active forest management for over 50 years, providing productivity increases, established infrastructure, balanced age class of timber stands and efficient forest management costs.
- Private forestland owners have lost their social license to use prescribed burning as a tool. Under the long-rotation forest management regime described by the EIS, fuel loads are likely to greatly increase unless prescribed burning is used aggressively, and there is material risk that the DOD will not be able to employ prescribed burning as a management tool indefinitely. Specifically the proximity to Areas 3 and 1A, along with the existing range, are extremely close to the I-95 corridor, making the impacts from a forest fire very serious.

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Continuation of response to Comment 93.

Section 3.1.3.5 of the FEIS states that the current INRMP for TBR calls for tri-annual prescribed burns to reduce understory fuel loads and risk of wildfire. The FEIS also states that it is assumed that key provisions of the current TBR INRMP would be extended to newly acquired properties (please refer to Section 3.1.4). Additionally, consistent with current practice on TBR, the USMC would provide resources to prevent and control any wildfires, including those that could result from use of ordnance. Firebreaks would be installed as needed on acquired lands. Prescribed burning would be conducted in accordance with the Georgia Forestry Commission's regulations.

Land Use- Ownership and Relocation (continued)

SUTHERLAND

The EIS states:

- Minimal to negligible impacts to land use as a result of changes in land ownership, including one privately owned property located within Acquisition Area 3.

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xix)

RYN Response:

- Areas 3 and 1A RYN timberlands have unique and outstanding site productivity, proximity to timber markets, access to public roads, site operability, established road system, proximity to Interstate, and recreation attributes that makes this property challenging and costly to replace. Specifically:
 - Existing bombing range is a source of significant wildfire hazard (as noted by EIS). Increased size of proposed range will dramatically increase cost and scope of fire prevention work for neighboring land owners (including RYN). Risk is from prescribed burning and ordnance-initiated wildfires. This risk is exacerbated by a disruption/loss in access to parcels adjacent to or nearby the taking, and the associated increase in response time and road coverage. Fire risk is also exacerbated by the much less aggressive fire-fighting policies of the DOD as compared to those of private forestland owners.

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Continuation of response to Comment 93.

Existing fire control operations are extensive and done in accordance with the Georgia Forestry Commission's regulations. These practices would continue if any additional land is acquired. As stated in the FEIS, if the ROD calls for the acquisition of land, prescribed burning would be used extensively to meet range operations requirements and reduce the chance of wildfire. Firebreaks would also be installed and maintained on any acquired land. Furthermore, the USMC's fire prevention operations, including the prescribed burning of these tracts, would be expected to reduce the overall wildfire hazard.

Land Use- Ownership and Relocation (continued)



RYN Response (cont'd):

- To the extent DOD practices prescribed burning, this will cause periodic disruptions in RYN forest management activities.
- RYN has made an extensive commitment to studying and improving forest productivity. Part of this practice is the establishment and testing of forest productivity research plots. Research test plots contain and will produce valuable data that are impossible to replicate should they be lost.

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Continuation of response to Comment 93.

The USMC follows all safety requirements as prescribed by the Georgia Forestry Commission and the INRMP for TBR.

If the ROD calls for the acquisition of property, this property would be used to fulfill United States Department of Defense (DOD) training requirements as detailed in the FEIS.

Land Use- Ownership and Relocation (continued)



The EIS states:

- Minimal to negligible impacts to land use as a result of changes in land ownership, including one privately owned property located within Acquisition Area 3.

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xix)

RYN Response:

- EIS fails to consider that the location of Areas 3 and 1A have significant alternative uses besides timberland that generate significant value for RYN. Specifically:
 - The location of Areas 3 and 1A have previously been determined to have high-value, heavy mineral resources as found in *Developments in Sedimentology*, Vol. 58, 1145-1232. Mineral resources such as these generate significant revenues. Mineral extraction generates jobs.

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Continuation of response to Comment 93.

Based on the information provided in *Developments in Sedimentology*, Vol. 58, 1145-1232, these deposits are not within the proposed acquisition area. The Darien deposit is east of Interstate 95 (located well outside the proposed acquisition area). The Ludowici deposit is in the foreshore of one of the old Penholoway shoreline barrier islands, which is approximately 13 miles west of Interstate 95 starting just south of the Canoochee River stretching approximately 16 miles south-southwest. This location places it north of Acquisition Area 3 and therefore also outside the proposed acquisition area.

Land Use-
Ownership and Relocation (continued)

SUTHERLAND

RYN Response (cont'd):

- The location of the proposed TBR expansion is in a landscape that is transitioning from remote timberland/agriculture land use to one that includes rural homesteads. Many individuals are seeking a rural home site in this area. This transition generates jobs and generates wealth for the community and current land owners; both likely to be negatively impacted by TBR expansion.

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Continuation of response to Comment 93.

USMC studies have not indicated such a trend in McIntosh and Long Counties. If the ROD calls for the acquisition of property, it would be used to fulfill DOD training requirements as detailed in the FEIS.

Transportation

The EIS states:

- No acquisition of state and/or locally owned roads and/or rights-of-way.
- Short-term transportation impacts during construction activities may occur due to additional construction equipment and vehicles using Highway 57.

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xxiv)

RYN Response:

- The areas defined within the expansion of the TBR is bisected by Highway 57, which is a vital corridor to the businesses and communities of Long and McIntosh Counties. Specific transportation impacts include:
 - Any closure, temporary or otherwise, of Hwy. 57 would create significant adverse impacts to the delivery of wood to Rayonier's Jesup Mill, local businesses, and families.
 - Proposed acquisition of Area 3 creates severe and costly access impairment for remainder of RYN timberlands not acquired to east and north of Area 3 (see following maps).
 - RYN has not received maps of sufficient detail to precisely locate boundaries of Area 3 and 1A. Other RYN timberlands may be impacted as well.
 - Impaired access elevates fire danger.
 - Use of prescribed burning creates traffic hazards – a significant risk considering the proximity of property to I-95 (major traffic corridor).

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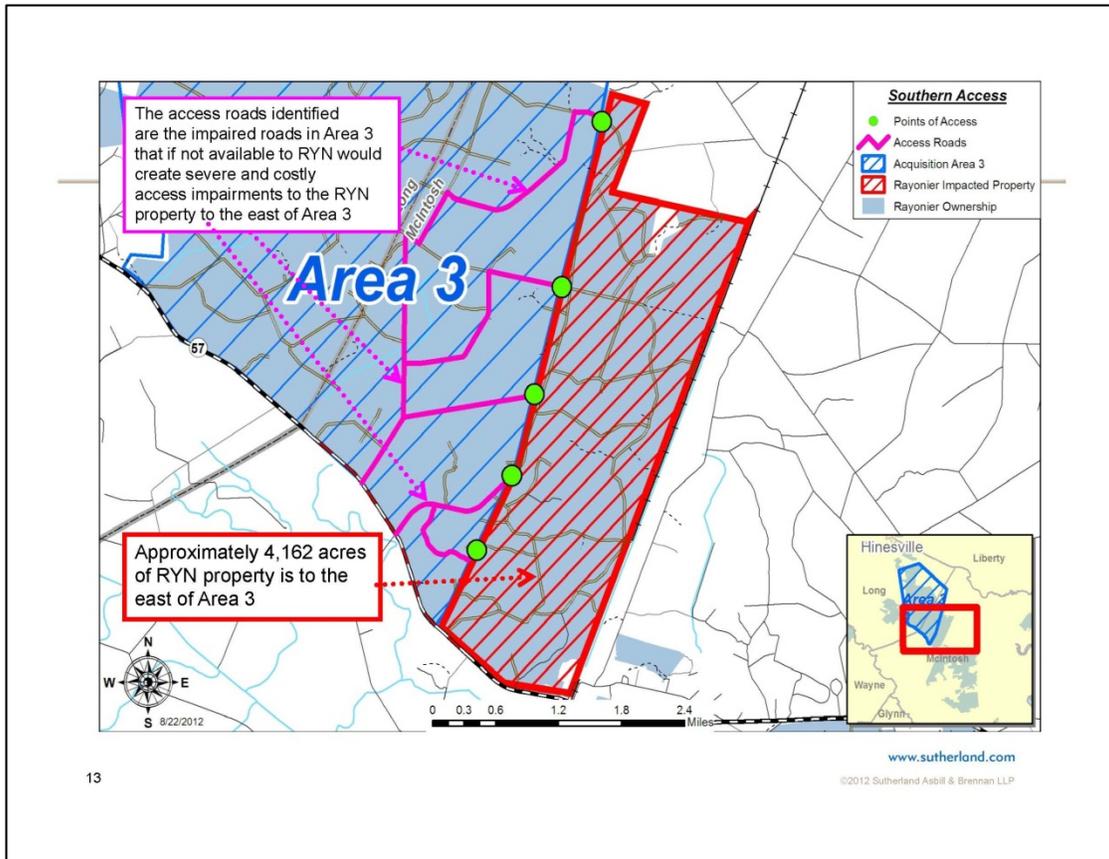
Continuation of response to Comment 93.

Under the Proposed Action, State Highway 57 would not be closed or adversely affected. Additional information has been added to Section 3.11 of the FEIS to clarify this point.

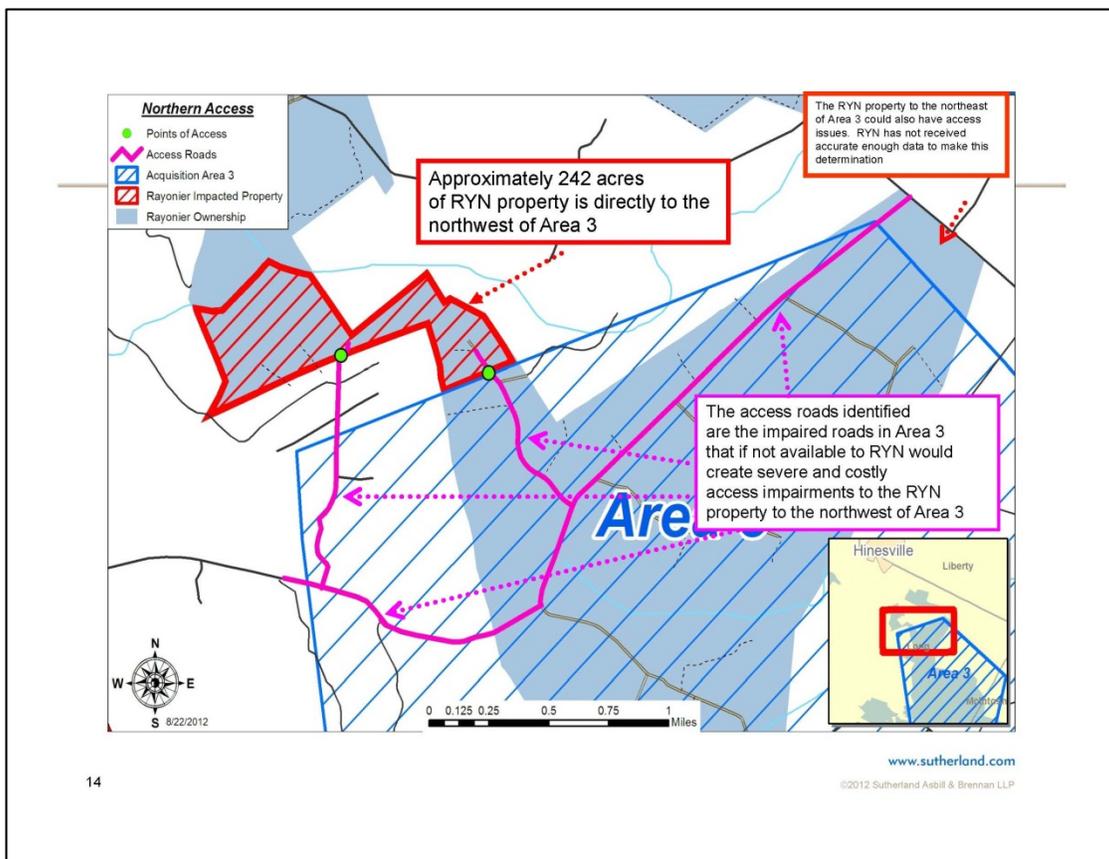
If the ROD calls for the acquisition of property, the following processes would then occur: identify required properties, notify the owners of interest in property, hire a survey to identify legal property boundaries, hire an independent appraiser to determine fair market value, make an offer to the owner at fair market value, negotiate terms of agreement and enter into purchase agreement.

The DON would engage in negotiations with affected landowners. Property access would be addressed during negotiations. In the event of an emergency, the USMC would coordinate with nearby landowners and emergency services to allow access. As previously stated, the USMC would continue to manage land to reduce wildfire risk (see response to previous comments on Slide 8). Also, please refer to the previous response regarding prescribed burning (see comment and response on Slide 9).

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Land Use- Prime Farmland



The EIS states:

- Minimal impacts to approximately 10 acres of prime farmland located in Acquisition Area 1B.

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xix)

RYN Response:

- EIS fails to consider and analyze the existing land use and future potential to convert to agriculture, specifically:
 - Much of the RYN timberlands in Areas 3 and 1A (majority) was in farm production at one time. Removing this land from potential for conversion to agriculture reduces the ability of local farmers to have access to land.
 - Loss of any timberlands to RYN ownership extinguishes "option value" associated with fee ownership. That is, the ability of RYN to benefit from alternative uses of the land.

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Continuation of response to Comment 93.

Thank you for your comment and it has been noted for the public record. USMC studies have not indicated such a trend in McIntosh and Long Counties. As these areas have returned to a forested environment, conversion could be cost prohibitive and may violate "swampbuster" provisions of NRCS farming practices. If the Proposed Action is implemented, property owners would be offered fair market value.

Socioeconomics- Forest Resources



The EIS states:

- Significant impacts
 - Timber sales tax revenue loss over time of \$151,987 in McIntosh County and \$458,076 in Long County.

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xx)

RYN Response:

- Loss of the RYN's working forest in Areas 1A and 3 would have significant impact to the local communities in Long and McIntosh Counties. Specifically:
 - RYN's forest management increases forest productivity and timber harvest volume, resulting in greater tax revenues over time (more timber is grown at a faster rate over multiple, shorter rotations, which results in the payment of more timber severance taxes).
 - The EIS estimates understate the losses and are based on assuming only a single harvest during the first 30-50 years. RYN harvests on shorter rotations and not only at the end of a rotation; they also produce multiple thinnings. The figures also fail to account for harvests during subsequent rotations.

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Continuation of response to Comment 93.

The USMC acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues can be found in Section 3.2.4.3 of the FEIS. Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs (please refer to Section 3.2.4.3). There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

The USMC used best available data in the FEIS.

Wetlands



The EIS states:

- Minor direct (dredging, filling, clearing, or conversion) and indirect (habitat fragmentation, changes in wetland type or hydrology, reduction or loss of supporting adjacent habitats, and changes in land use) impacts to wetland environments due to construction activities for Target Areas 1-5 and 8, and the 50-foot firebreak:
 - 12.6 acres of direct impacts
 - 288.4 acres of indirect impacts

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xx)

RYN Response:

- EIS concludes that the transition to an active bombing range would cause changes to overland and subsurface flows of water that would materially and negatively impact the value of RYN's adjacent timberlands. Specifically:
 - EIS identifies changes to overland and subsurface flows could result from installation of firebreaks, target areas and/or roads. These hydrologic changes are difficult and expensive for neighboring landowners to predict and adapt to. RYN timberlands adjacent to Areas 3 and 1A could be significantly impacted. Hydrologic changes would increase management costs, reduce forest site productivity, and disrupt wildlife habitat corridors. It also reduces the appeal of this land to alternative uses such as rural homesteads.

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Continuation of response to Comment 93.

As stated in the FEIS, surface water flow would be affected within the proposed target areas on USMC property. The USMC does not expect adjacent properties to be affected.



Impacts to non-timber benefits from RYN's ownership and forest stewardship

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Recreation

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The EIS states:

- Minimal adverse impacts due to lack of access to limited quasi-public hunting and fishing areas within the acquisition areas. Beneficial impacts as a result of opportunities for increased public access to previously inaccessible privately administered recreation lands through the TBR program.

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xx)

RYN Response:

- Current RYN forest management and stewardship in Areas 1A and 3 provide a wide array of recreation to local members of the community, many of which have had many years of use on the land. Specific impacts to RYN's loss of Areas 3 and 1A include:
 - Local hunting clubs who lease RYN land will lose the opportunity to have freedom to participate in wildlife habitat improvement initiative.
 - Local hunting clubs will lose the opportunity to camp on the property.
 - Loss of Access. Current access is 365 days a year for a large number of recreational uses under current management; the hunting program identified in EIS includes a lottery program and reduced hunting periods due to bombing activity.

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Continuation of response to Comment 93.

The USMC and the DON made several attempts to obtain information from Rayonier on the local hunt clubs that use their property in order to assess impacts to these hunt clubs. However, no information was provided to the USMC/DON. As noted in Section 3.3.4 of the FEIS, the Proposed Action would create opportunities for increased public access to previously inaccessible privately administered recreation lands through the TBR hunting program. An overall increase in publicly accessible lands associated with the action alternatives would offset some lost in the private sector.

Recreation (continued)



RYN Response (cont'd):

- Wildlife habitat diversity will be lost due to long-rotation forest management cited in the EIS, owing to the lack of understory cover in over-mature forests.
- Loss of hunting activities. Some hunting activities currently exist year-round (wild hog hunting). This recreational use will be lost due to bombing range activities.
- Prescribed burning on DOD land will disrupt hunting and other recreational activities due to smoke drift and other potential hazards.
- The forest management defined in the EIS will cause changes to hydrology and upset the local wildlife habitat and their food, cover, and travel corridors.

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Continuation of response to Comment 93.

The changes to forest management that would be made under the Proposed Action would create habitat types that are not supported by current forest management practices on much of the managed forest land in the region around TBR. Most forest land in the region is currently short-rotation, planted pine forest. While such lands can and do provide a variety of habitat types when well-managed, the Proposed Action would ultimately result in small stands of low-density planted and naturally regenerated trees. Low-density forests provide opportunities for the development of understory vegetation that may not develop within managed high-density stands managed for maximizing wood fiber production. Such habitats are not extensive in the region and the project would therefore result in greater habitat diversity when the broad regional setting is considered. Comments received on the DEIS from State of Georgia agencies, the USFWS, and environmental groups support this management approach.

Refer to the previous response regarding local hunt clubs on Slide 19 and the previous response regarding safety during prescribed burning on Slide 9.

The changes in forest management for the Proposed Action would alter aspects of forest cover which would be expected to result in other changes, including wildlife habitat and possibly aspects of hydrology of the affected land. Any changes to hydrology would be expected to be minor and gradual. Changes to habitat would also be gradual, occurring over a period of several years to decades. The changes would be expected to be no more upsetting to wildlife and hydrology than current forest management. Comments received on the DEIS from State of Georgia agencies, the USFWS, and environmental groups support this management approach.

Socioeconomics Economy, Employment, and Income

SUTHERLAND

The EIS states:

- Significant impacts
 - Tax revenue loss of \$35,469/yr in McIntosh County and \$131,318/yr in Long County
- Less than significant impacts
 - 105 temporary jobs during construction
 - 23 permanent jobs during operations

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xx)

RYN Response:

- The EIS understates the economic impact of the Proposed Action and fails to consider that eliminating the RYN working forest in Areas 3 and 1A will have significant negative impacts on primary and secondary employment in local communities. Specifically:
 - Employees in logging, forest management, equipment operators, and support services (equipment maintenance, etc.) will be directly and negatively impacted.
 - Employees and business income indirectly associated with the forest industry will be lost due to the impact of economic multipliers in the local and regional economies that comes from RYN's forest management.

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Continuation of response to Comment 93.

Refer to the previous response regarding employment on Slide 6.

Noise- Ordnance

SUTHERLAND

The EIS states:

- Noise from gunnery strafing does not disperse out much farther than the target area boundaries and would remain within the range boundary.
- The lowest modeled noise countour (57 dBC) of the air gunnery noise would remain well within the range boundaries.

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xxi)

RYN Response:

- Increased air travel to the expanded bombing range could lower values of alternative land uses on adjacent and surrounding RYN timberlands. An expanded footprint will cause more adjacent RYN timberlands to be impacted.

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Continuation of response to Comment 93.

The USMC understands that the potential noise effects of expanding TBR are of concern to those living in proximity to TBR and near the potential expansion areas. The analysis of the potential noise effects of the Proposed Action is presented in Section 3.7 of the FEIS. Noise is calculated using an average noise exposure over a 24-hour period, the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL). The threshold at which restrictions on compatible land use are recommended is 55 DNL. All land areas subject to 55 DNL are within the boundaries of the existing TBR and the proposed expansion areas. Thus, no privately owned land or schools are currently exposed to 55 DNL, nor would private land or schools be exposed to 55 DNL after expansion.

The proposed expansion of TBR would provide for more high-altitude training. However, some training would still be required at present altitudes. Table 3-61 details the anticipated change in flight altitudes by alternative.

Pilots would continue to observe minimum altitude limits and avoidance of populated areas as required by Federal Aviation Administration regulations. TBR expansion would not bring about changes to the Coastal Military Operations Area or R-3007 restricted airspace that would allow for or result in lower flights (please refer to Sections 2.2.3 and 3.6 of the FEIS).



Errors and Omissions in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

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Biological Resources- Wildlife

The EIS states:

- Minor short-term (temporary displacement during construction activities) and long-term (permanent loss or alteration of habitat due to vegetation clearing in target areas) adverse impacts to wildlife. Long-term beneficial effects as a result of implementation of an ecosystem management plan for vegetation and timber resources within the acquisition areas. Benefits include improved food resources, enhanced habitat connectivity, conversion to natural pine ecosystems, and improvements of the quality of shrub and herbaceous stratum for nesting activities.

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xxii)

RYN Response:

- Existing forest management performed by RYN provides extensive wildlife habitat and ecosystem services.
- RYN forest management conforms to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) standard.
 - Performance relative to the SFI standard is verified by a third-party audit process.
 - Property was enrolled in SFI in 2001.
- The SFI standard includes rigorous guidelines for forest management practices, with 20 objectives that promote sustainable forestry and ecosystem health, including:
 - Protection of water resources;
 - Promotion of biological diversity;
 - Protection of special sites; and
 - Adherence to Best Management Practices

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Continuation of response to Comment 93.

Thank you for your comment and it has been noted for the public record.

Biological Resources-
Wildlife (continued)

SUTHERLAND

RYN Response (cont'd):

- The EIS provides no evidence that a change in management from the acquisition of Areas 3 or 1A will result in ecological benefits relative to current RYN forest management practices.
- Current RYN managed harvest plans provide a mosaic of different habitat types across the landscape (providing enhanced habitat for a variety of species compared to the forest management regime identified in the EIS).
- Habitat connectivity, planned and conducted by RYN, is provided by streamside management zones (SMZ) and harvest adjacency constraints.

Continuation of response to Comment 93.

The FEIS states that implementation of “ecosystem management” by the USMC would, over time, result in creation of older, smaller, lower density stands of pine forests and would also result in older, unharvested hardwood stands. These habitat types are less common in the broad region than short-rotation loblolly and slash pine plantations and harvested hardwood forests. While current forest management can provide high-quality habitat and other ecological functions, the relative scarcity of older, low-density pine stands, and older hardwood stands, should create habitats for plants and animals that are relatively scarce in the region. That would increase the overall diversity of habitat and species which would be an ecological benefit that current management cannot provide. Comments received on the DEIS from State of Georgia agencies, the USFWS, and environmental groups support this management approach.

Biological Resources-
Threatened and Endangered Species and Migratory Birds

SUTHERLAND

The EIS states:

- Per Section 7 under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS):
 - May affect, not likely to adversely affect the eastern indigo snake, gopher tortoise, and wood stork.
 - No affect to frosted flatwoods salamander, striped newt, Kirtland's warbler, Backman's warbler, bald eagle, and hairy rattleweed.
- For migratory birds, potential direct (mortality) and indirect (construction noise, if increased human activity, and the removal of existing vegetation and habitat) impacts during construction activities in the target areas. Long-term beneficial effects as a result of implementation of an ecosystem management plan for vegetation and timber resources within the acquisition areas. Benefits include improved food resources, enhanced habitat connectivity, conversion to natural pine ecosystems, and improvements of the quality of shrub and herbaceous stratum for nesting activities.

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xxii)

RYN Response:

- Existing RYN forest management provides extensive wildlife habitat and ecosystem services. RYN land is managed to conform with third-party certification to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) standard.
- Long-rotation forestry cited in the EIS is known to produce less biodiversity, particularly for migratory birds, than practices actively employed by RYN.
- Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) regarding Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E), and G1/G2 are considered and protected by RYN professional foresters during forest management planning (SFI Performance Measure 4.1.2).
- Biological Diversity is also part of the SFI planning process conducted by RYN professional foresters (SFI Performance Measures 4.1.1, 4.1.3, 4.1.5, and 4.2.1).

Continuation of response to Comment 93.

While forest management by Rayonier may indeed benefit a number of species, the Proposed Action would add habitats that are relatively scarce in the region and that benefit other species, thereby adding to the overall diversity of species of the region. Comments received on the DEIS from State of Georgia agencies, the USFWS, and environmental groups support this management approach.

Biological Resources-
Threatened and Endangered Species and Migratory Birds
(Continued)

SUTHERLAND

RYN Response (cont'd):

- RYN forestry professionals use known occurrence from past surveys and each state's heritage site for the potential occurrence of a G1/G2 species to be present to address and protected during forest management planning (SFI Performance Measure 4.1.2) and the requirements of the ESA.
- RYN forestry professionals use a Cover Type Diversity Index methodology to address the Biological Diversity part of the SFI planning process (SFI Performance Measures 4.1.1, 4.1.3, 4.1.5, and 4.2.1).
- Conversion to natural pine ecosystems and long-rotations is unlikely to improve the availability of food, cover, and overall biodiversity.

Continuation of response to Comment 93.

See previous response to comment on Slide 26.

Water Resources- Groundwater

SUTHERLAND

The EIS states:

- Installation of a new supply well at the new range tower and support facilities in Area 3; existing well would remain in use at the existing range compound. Proposed groundwater usage would be slightly greater than current usage due to additional personnel and facilities.

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xxi)

RYN Response:

- Use of ordnance could contaminate surface and groundwaters and have the potential to create off-site impacts to adjacent RYN timberlands.

Continuation of response to Comment 93.

As noted in Section 3.5.3.3 of the FEIS, a Range Environmental Vulnerability Assessment (REVA) has been conducted at TBR. The purpose of the REVA is to identify the potential for a release of munitions constituents (MC) from the operations or range complex to off-range areas. Based on the current REVA, no off-range migration is expected. The REVA program would address any newly acquired land.

Cultural Resources

SUTHERLAND

The EIS states:

- No impacts on archaeological resources located outside of the target areas. However, implementation would have the potential to result in permanent, indirect, negative impacts on built resources that are buildings because these buildings would be vacated following acquisition, would deteriorate over time, and the USMC would not maintain or monitor their condition. Additionally, implementation has the potential to result in direct, negative, permanent impacts on cultural resources located within target areas, including archaeological resources and built resources (structures and buildings)... The USMC would manage remaining portions of acquired areas (outside target areas) in accordance with the updated Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP). Survey results:
 - 16 total cultural resources (12 inside target areas, 4 outside target areas)
 - 5 potential historic properties (3 inside target areas, 2 outside target areas)

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xxiii)

RYN Response:

- Current forest management performed by RYN provides protection for cultural resources.
- As a third-party Sustainable Forestry Certified (SFI) management system, cultural sites are taken into account (Performance Measures 6.1.1, 6.1.2) and once lost, they cannot be replaced.

Continuation of response to Comment 93.

Thank you for your comment and it has been noted for the public record.

Topography, Geology, and Soils- Topography

SUTHERLAND

The EIS states:

- Minor impacts to topography would occur due to the construction of roads, target structures, and firebreaks that may require grading.

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xxiv)

RYN Response:

- Changes to overland and subsurface flows could result from installation of firebreaks, target areas and/or roads. These hydrologic changes are difficult and expensive for neighboring landowners to predict and adapt to (e.g. RYN property to the of Area 3).
- Adjacent lands are and can be directly impacted, such as denigrating or killing forest stands or indirectly by constituting an inverse condemnation and generating attendant costs to pursue compensation.

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Continuation of response to Comment 93.

Refer to the previous response to comments on Slide 17. USMC studies have not indicated an impact on adjacent land.

Topography, Geology, and Soils- Soils

SUTHERLAND

The EIS states:

- Moderate short-term direct impacts during target structure, roadway construction, and facility relocation. Minor short-term indirect impacts would consist of transport of sediment from disturbed areas to adjacent areas. Moderate long-term direct impacts from munitions delivery, road use, road and target maintenance and explosives ordnance disposal (EOD) clearance (soil disturbance that would increase the potential for soil erosion).
 - 235.16 acres of direct impacts including 18.5 acres of direct impacts to areas designated as prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance
- Would also involve the construction of a new observation tower rather than relocation of the existing facilities.

(Draft EIS Table ES-2, page xxiv)

RYN Response:

- Wildfires will result in increased sediment delivery into local hydrologic systems, with adverse impacts to aquatic life.

Continuation of response to Comment 93.

While an increase in the size, frequency, or intensity of wildfires could potentially result in reduced vegetative groundcover and in increased erosion and sediment runoff, the FEIS states that the USMC would institute a policy of regular prescribed burns to manage fuel loads and would plan for and provide resources to promptly and effectively deal with wildfires that might occur as a result of the Proposed Action. The risks of increased sediment delivery and adverse impacts on aquatic life are, therefore, considered to be minimal.

94

Linda Williams
1017 Williams St

Miamisburg, 45342-1724

I do not understand - and AM AGAINST - any Native lands being taken from them - their ancestors were driven from the country where they were THE FIRST PEOPLES as it is. They were promised certain areas to be theirs and now the government of the USA thinks it okay to take what was promised by our forefathers - NO! DO NOT DO THIS! DO NOT MAKE THE MUSCOGEE CREEK LANDS IN GA AND MAKE IT A BOMBING RANGE! Citizen Linda Williams

Response to Comment 94:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The United States Marine Corps consulted with a total of 21 federally recognized tribes, including the Muscogee Creek Nation, during the National Environmental Policy Act scoping and Section 106 compliance processes for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.2.2 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement [FEIS]). The Muscogee Creek Nation responded during the Section 106 consultation and was provided notification of the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS; see Appendix H of the FEIS). To date, no tribal issues or concerns, including Native American archaeological resources, properties of traditional religious or cultural importance, or traditional cultural properties or sacred sites, have been identified for the Proposed Action (please refer to Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS).

As detailed in Section 3.9.3.2 of the FEIS, the USMC conducted desktop research, archaeological investigations, and field surveys for proposed acquisition areas where entry was permitted (see Appendices H and I in the FEIS). Documented cultural and/historical resources were noted and identified during these processes. However, if a resource such as a burial ground/cemetery is not officially documented, then the USMC may not have been able to accurately assess that point of interest. The USMC welcomes documentation of all cultural and historical resources.

If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the USMC would continue to consult with federally recognized tribes. The USMC would contact federally recognized tribes if any Native American resources or cultural items, such as archaeological resources or human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are found.

95

COMMENT SHEET — Townsend Draft EIS Public Meeting
 Ludowici, GA • August 9, 2012



NAME (Please Print): Thomas W. Wright

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: 710 BRADLEY POINT Rd
SAVANNAH, GA 31410

Please provide written comments on this sheet and drop into the comment box or mail to:

Townsend EIS
 Project Manager
 P.O. Box 180458
 Tallahassee, FL 32318

Written comments must be postmarked on or before August 27, 2012.
 Your comments will become part of the Final EIS.

COMMENTS: TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE MODERNIZATION
ALTERNATIVE 4 should BE APPROVED AND ACCOMPLISHED
 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MARINE PILOTS AND AIRCREW
 SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRAIN AT THEIR HOME BASE ON A
 REASONABLE SCHEDULE. FLYING CROSS COUNTRY TO TRAIN
 IS COSTLY, WASTEFUL AND INEFFICIENT.
 There are NO ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS THAT WILL BE
 SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED. The Government should
 address the loss of TAX REVENUE BY COUNTIES BUT
 IT SHOULD NOT DELAY COMPLETION OF THIS
 MODERNIZATION.
 OUR MILITARY DESERVE SENSIBLE, SAFE AND
 EFFICIENT TRAINING RANGES -
Tom Wright

Response to Comment 95:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. The USMC acknowledges the potential loss of tax revenues to local governments under the Proposed Action and recognizes tax loss as a significant impact. Discussion of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on local tax revenues is in Section 3.2.4.3 of the Final Environmental Impact States (FEIS). Although there are some federal programs that compensate local governments for loss of tax revenues associated with certain federal lands, please refer to Section 3.2.4.3, the land uses associated with the Proposed Action would not fall under existing federal local tax reimbursement programs. There are no legal mechanisms by which the USMC can compensate local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from the conversion of privately owned lands to federal ownership.

Since the USMC does not have specialized knowledge or expertise concerning revenue-generating options and budgetary practices available to the potentially affected counties, the USMC cannot make recommendations concerning local budget prioritization and/or plans to adjust the tax base to address the potential losses of tax revenues.

The military services must prepare for future security of the Nation. Townsend Bombing Range is a uniquely situated security asset and a key contributor to national security. Its location makes it a critical training tool for USMC, Air Force, Navy, Army and Air Guard units. Expansion of the range is necessary to meet current and future training requirements.

Public Comment Summary Report

96 Thomas W Wright
710 Bradley Point Rd

Savannah, 31410

Modernization of the Townsend bombing range is critically important to the defense of our country. Modernization using alternative 4 will provide better training at less cost and time for military pilots and air crews. There are no significant environmental or economic effects on the local area affected by the modernization and it gives local governments an opportunity to combine counties and save money, also.

Response to Comment 96:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

97 Alan Yovich
19 Lake Heron Court West

Pooler, 31322

I support the expansion of the Townsend Bombing range. I understand that there would not be any environmental issues and that it makes little sense for our Marines in this economy to be flying out to the west coast for training prior to deployment. This would save on the military budget resources plus allow our troops more time with their families prior to a lengthy deployment

Response to Comment 97:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

98 From: usacitizen1 usacitizen1 <usacitizen1@live.com>

Posted At: Saturday, July 14, 2012 2:01 PM

Conversation: US MILITARY BOMBING UP AMERICA - NJ GEORGIA VT - WHY -PRACTICE IN OTHER WAYS WITHOUT BOMBING UP AMERICA

Subject: FW: US MILITARY BOMBING UP AMERICA - NJ GEORGIA VT - WHY -PRACTICE IN OTHER WAYS WITHOUT BOMBING UP AMERICA

Response to Comment 98:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process.

I OPPOSE THE USE OF OVER 34,000 ACRES OF GEORGIA FOR BOMBING PRACTICE. IT IS TIME THAT PRACTICE SHIFTS TO OTHER METHODS THAN DESTROYING AMERICA. THE TREES, PLANTS, ANIMALS, BIRDS AND POSSIBLY PEOPLE THAT WILL BE VAPORIZED OR BURNED UP FROM THIS PRACTICE IS EXTENSIVE AND NOT DESERVED. THE PRACTICE NEEDS TO FIND OTHER WAYS TO BE DONE. THIS AGENCY ALREADY BOMBS VERMONT, NEW JERSEY AND MANY OTHER SITES AROUND AMERICA. IT IS TIME TO STOP THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF THIS DESTRUCTION. IT IS TIME TO SHUT DOWN THIS BOMBING PROGRAM. IT COSTS A LOT OF MONEY. PRACTICE CAN BE ACHIEVED IN CHEAPER WAYS. THIS PLAN IS LUDICROUS. IT SHOULD NOT BE APPROVED BY ANYBODY OR ANY GOVT AGENCY. THIS COMMENT IS FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD. JEAN PUBLIC

Public Comment Summary Report

99 Concerned Citizen
1 Bull St.

SAVANNAH, 31401

The definition of "FAIR MARKET VALUE" is below. There is nothing "FAIR" about a government confiscation of land, at a price that is not mutually agreed upon, that befalls even the most perverted description of "FAIR". See definition hereafter: Fair Market Value - a price at which buyers and sellers, with a reasonable knowledge of pertinent facts and not acting under any compulsion, are willing to do business. - Websters'

100

From: usacitizen1 usacitizen1 <usacitizen1@live.com>
Posted At: Saturday, August 25, 2012 3:00 PM
Conversation: SETTING UP FAKE PUBLIC COMMENT SITES IS THAT WHAT ENE.COM DOES ON PURPOSE? SEE BELOW COMMENTS. FW: Undeliverable: public comment on federal register FW: WHY THE HELL DO WE NEED A BIGGER BOMBING RANGE IN GEORGIA WHEN WE HAVE OTHERS IN VERMONT AND ALL OVE

Subject: SETTING UP FAKE PUBLIC COMMENT SITES IS THAT WHAT ENE.COM DOES ON PURPOSE? SEE BELOW COMMENTS. FW: Undeliverable: public comment on federal register FW: WHY THE HELL DO WE NEED A BIGGER BOMBING RANGE IN GEORGIA WHEN WE HAVE OTHERS IN VERMONT AND ALL OVE

use what you have. there is no need for this additional spending and gouging for tax dollars from teh us public. I out of 2 americans is presently liiving in poverty. this is spendign that does not have to be done. use what you have. you have 24,000 acres, which is a huge amount. it is also clear that anyone travelling on rt 57 is not safe at all at any time if this is "training" going on. i do not believe america needs or wants to pay for this expansion. this is not good for america to blow up georgia. you are ALSO causing to be cut down many trees, and creating a heat island. you are bombing the hell out of any animals that live in this site. i believe there are also endangered plants in this site. it is clear this is blowing up things, which the military loves to do. it is certainly not necessary. you can practice without blowing up things in actuality. this proposal is another proposal to suck the life out of taxpayers for more and more and more tax dollars. the middle class has no more left to give and they are going down into poverty. this needs to be denied. this comment is for the public record. jean public

Response to Comment 99:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. If the Record of Decision calls for the acquisition of property, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) is committed to working with affected property owners through the real estate process. As a point of clarification, the USMC would hire an independent appraiser to determine fair market value. The property owners and the USMC would negotiate terms of an agreement based on the assessed fair market value.

Response to Comment 100:

Thank you for your participation in the public comment process. Public safety during current operations and any future expanded operations is of the utmost concern to the United States Marine Corps (USMC). Weapon danger zones (WDZs) are established as safety measures to protect personnel on or near the range. A WDZ may be near the range boundary, but the WDZ has requisite safety factors built in. No additional buffer land would be required. Each WDZ is sized so that any munition released has only a one out of one million probability of landing outside the WDZ. The chance of the munition hitting a specific point, such as State Highway 57, is far less. Please refer to Sections 1.1.4 and 2.2.1 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for details on WDZs and the land acquisition necessary to contain these zones, respectively. The WDZs shown on Figure 2-2 of the FEIS are modeled to contain all weapon impacts, including ricochets, occurring within the WDZ. As a point of clarification, the unguided munitions ("dumb bombs") that are currently used at Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) are inert (non-explosive). These munitions are made of concrete and utilize a

spotting charge. A spotting charge activates upon impact to help score how well the ordnance was delivered on the target but it does not contain explosives. An expanded TBR would continue to permit the use of only inert munitions. The proposed expansion of TBR would accommodate training with inert precision-guided munitions (PGMs).

The Proposed Action would add habitats that are relatively scarce in the region and that benefit other species, thereby adding to the overall diversity of species of the region. Comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement from State of Georgia agencies, the USFWS, and environmental groups support this management approach.