

**Appendix A**

**Scoping Summary Report**

This page left blank intentionally.

---

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

**November 2012  
Revised January 2013**



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

This page left blank intentionally.

## Executive Summary

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

### ES.1 Description of the Proposed Project

As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) is evaluating a range of reasonable alternatives for modernizing and expanding TBR in order to meet current and future training requirements. As such, several alternatives, in the form of land acquisition scenarios, have been identified that would meet this need. These alternatives were developed through the use of modeling software to determine the land area necessary to accommodate the use of inert (with spotting charges) precision-guided munitions at TBR in a manner that will allow pilots from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort to accomplish nearly all of their training requirements while maintaining public safety at and around TBR.

Six alternatives (five action alternatives and the No Action Alternative) were presented to the public during the public scoping periods. Subsequently, five alternatives (four action alternatives and the No Action Alternative) were presented in the draft EIS. The alternatives were reevaluated and refined after the scoping and public comment periods resulting in a slightly modified set of four action alternatives, which are analyzed in the final EIS, along with the No Action Alternative.

### ES.2 Public Scoping Process

#### Notification

The USMC initiated a 30-day public scoping period, from August 6 to September 7, 2010, through the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register*. At the conclusion of the initial scoping period, the EIS Team identified a problem with the project's Post Office Box because comment letters were not received and some were returned to sender. As a result, the USMC reopened the public scoping period for an additional 30 days, from October 10 to November 8, 2010, to allow the public an opportunity to resubmit their feedback.

#### Public Scoping Meetings

Two open-house public scoping 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 Proposed Action and alternatives. The first meeting was held in Ludowici, Georgia, on August 24, 2010, and the second in Darien, Georgia, on August 26, 2010. No public scoping meetings were held during the additional scoping period.

#### Additional Public Outreach

In addition to the public scoping meetings, the USMC has attended various regional and local interest group meetings and accepted invitations for briefings to various groups, associations, and councils. These groups include, but are not limited to: the McIntosh County Manager, Long County Commission Chairman, The Nature Conservancy, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Executive

Director of the Altamaha Riverkeepers, United States and State of Georgia Congressmen and Senators, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

## Other Media

In order to provide the public with current project information, resources, and updates, the USMC has developed a project Web site (<http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>) that is being maintained throughout the EIS process. In addition to the advertisements in local newspapers, the USMC conducted interviews and made announcements at local radio stations and media outlets. Live interviews and radio spots that announced the project details and public scoping meeting details were conducted and played on WYNR 102.5 Fun Country; WWSN 103.3 FM; and WHFX, 107.7 The Fox. In addition to these interviews and radio spots, these stations ran information about the public scoping meetings and invited people to get involved and voice any concerns or support.

## ES.3 Cooperating Agencies

TBR is under the jurisdiction of the USMC and is part of the Georgia Air National Guard's (GA ANG's) Combat Readiness Training Center in Savannah, Georgia. The airspace is controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Therefore, at the beginning of the EIS process, the USMC requested via letter that these entities participate in the preparation of this EIS as cooperating agencies. The GA ANG accepted the invitation by letter dated November 16, 2010, and the FAA accepted by letter dated April 8, 2011. Additionally, in response to a coordination meeting with the USACE on November 29, 2010, the USMC transmitted a letter to the USACE, Savannah District, with an invitation to participate in the EIS process as a cooperating agency; the USACE accepted by letter dated May 26, 2011. The USMC will regularly coordinate, throughout the EIS process, with these agencies.

## ES.4 Public Scoping Comments

### Comment Methods

The public was offered the opportunity to provide comments during the two scoping periods via a number of methods, including submitting a comment form at one of the scoping meetings, email, mail, and the public Web site (<http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>). The USMC advertised these methods in the NOI and the scoping letters, on the public Web site, in press releases to the local media, in display advertisements in local newspapers, and on the scoping meeting comment sheets and display boards. A total of 110 comments were received during the two public scoping periods (Table ES-1).

Comment Method	Number of Comments Received		Totals
	Initial Scoping Period	Second Scoping Period	
Scoping Meetings	18 <sup>(a)</sup>	N/A <sup>(b)</sup>	<b>18</b>
Mail	2	28	<b>30</b>
Email	23	11	<b>34</b>
Web Site	20	8	<b>28</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>110<sup>(c)</sup></b>

Notes:

(a) Four comments were provided at the Ludowici, Georgia, meeting, and 14 were provided at the Darien, Georgia, meeting.

(b) No additional scoping meetings were held during the second scoping period.

(c) A comment received from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma after the scoping periods had closed is not included in this table but is discussed in Section 5.2 and appears in Appendix D.

## **Stakeholder Groups**

During the public scoping periods for the proposed TBR Modernization and Expansion EIS, 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.

Scoping letters were sent to 15 tribal organizations. To date, only four tribes have responded. The Catawba Nation responded with the following requests: (1) all information in hardcopy; (2) additional information on sites considered for acquisition; (3) photographs of the project area from each direction; and (4) a copy of any archaeological surveys that have been completed in the project area. The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma also responded to the scoping letter, stating that they had no objection to the referenced project, but that if any remains, artifacts, or other items were discovered, that construction be halted and they be re-contacted. The Seminole Tribe of Florida declined to comment at this time, but requested they be added to the distribution list for the Draft EIS. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma also sent a scoping response letter and stated that the project is out of the area of their interest.

## **Scoping Comments**

A wide variety of resources and issues were identified through comments received during the scoping periods. Many of these issues were also voiced during the public scoping meetings to Project Team members.

This page left blank intentionally.

# Table of Contents

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
List of Tables .....	ix
List of Figures .....	ix
Acronyms and Abbreviations .....	x
<b>1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
1.1 Purpose of Scoping .....	1-1
1.2 Description of Proposed Project .....	1-1
<b>2 Public Scoping Process .....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
2.1 Scoping Periods .....	2-1
2.2 Scoping Notification .....	2-1
2.2.1 <i>Federal Register</i> Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS .....	2-1
2.2.2 Scoping Letters .....	2-1
2.2.3 Press Releases and Newspaper Advertisements .....	2-2
2.2.4 Public Web Site .....	2-2
2.2.5 Other Media .....	2-3
<b>3 Public Scoping Meetings .....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
3.1 Scoping Meeting Attendance .....	3-1
3.2 Scoping Meeting Format .....	3-1
<b>4 Additional Public Outreach .....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
4.1 Meetings and Briefings .....	4-1
4.2 Cooperating Agencies .....	4-1
<b>5 Public Scoping Comment Summary .....</b>	<b>5-1</b>
5.1 Comment Methods .....	5-1
5.2 Stakeholder Groups .....	5-1
5.3 Scoping Comments .....	5-2
5.4 Other Concerns .....	5-6

## **Appendices**

- A Public Notification Documentation**
  - A.1 Notice of Intent**
  - A.2 Mailing List**
  - A.3 Newspaper Affidavits**
    - First Scoping Period*
    - Second Scoping Period*
  - A.4 Press Releases**
    - First Scoping Period*
    - Second Scoping Period*
  - A.5 Scoping Letter Samples**
    - First Scoping Period*
    - Second Scoping Period*
  - A.6 Newspaper Articles**
    - First Scoping Period*
    - Second Scoping Period*
  
- B Public Scoping Meeting Materials**
  
- C Cooperating Agency Letters**
  - C.1 Georgia Air National Guard**
  - C.2 Federal Aviation Administration**
  - C.3 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District**
  
- D Comments Received During Public Scoping Periods**
  - D.1 First Scoping Period**
    - Written Comments at Scoping Meetings*
    - Mailed Comments*
    - Emailed Comments*
    - Web Site Comments*
  - D.2 Second Scoping Period**
    - Mailed Comments*
    - Emailed Comments*
    - Web Site Comments*

## List of Tables

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
2-1 Notice of Intent/Public Scoping Newspaper Advertisements.....	2-2
2-2 Townsend Bombing Range Environmental Impact Statement, Newspaper Articles.....	2-2
3-1 Schedule of Public Scoping Meetings and Attendance.....	3-1
4-1 Public Outreach Meetings and Briefings .....	4-1
5-1 Comments Received During the Public Scoping Periods .....	5-1
5-2 Commenting Stakeholder Groups.....	5-2

## List of Figures

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
3-1 Scoping Meeting Room Layout.....	3-2

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DoN	Department of the Navy
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
TBR	Townsend Bombing Range
U.S.C.	United States Code
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USMC	United States Marine Corps

# 1 Introduction

This Scoping Summary Report presents a summary and overview of the scoping process conducted for the Environmental Impact Statement (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 public scoping process, including notification methods used by the USMC to inform the public of opportunities for involvement during the scoping period; Section 3 summarizes the scoping 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 Scoping

Scoping, as required by NEPA, is defined as the process by which lead agencies solicit input from the public and interested agencies on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed in the EIS and the methods by which they will be evaluated. The intent of the scoping process is to provide ample opportunity for the public and agencies to learn about and comment on the Proposed Action, alternatives, and the No-Action Alternative. This Scoping Summary Report discusses the materials prepared for, as well as public input obtained during, the scoping process. Although this report identifies the scoping comments obtained during the scoping period, it does not make decisions regarding the Proposed Action, nor does it set forth policies.

## 1.2 Description of Proposed Project

As part of the NEPA process, the USMC is evaluating a range of reasonable alternatives for modernizing and expanding TBR in order to meet current and future training requirements. As such, several alternatives, in the form of land acquisition scenarios, have been identified that would meet this need. These alternatives were developed through the use of modeling software to determine the land area necessary to accommodate the use of inert (with spotting charges) precision-guided munitions at TBR in a manner that will allow pilots from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort to accomplish nearly all of their training requirements while maintaining public safety at and around TBR.

Six alternatives (five action alternatives and the No Action Alternative) were presented to the public during the public scoping periods. Subsequently, five alternatives (four action alternatives and the No Action Alternative) were presented in the draft EIS. The alternatives were reevaluated and refined after the scoping and public comment periods resulting in a slightly modified set of four action alternatives, which are analyzed in the final EIS, along with the No Action Alternative.

This page left blank intentionally.

## 2 Public Scoping Process

### 2.1 Scoping Periods

The USMC initiated a 30-day public scoping period, from August 6 to September 7, 2010, through the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* as detailed in Section 2.2.1. At the conclusion of the initial scoping period, the EIS Team identified a problem with the project's Post Office Box because comment letters were not received and some were returned to sender. As a result, the USMC reopened the public scoping period for an additional 30 days, from October 10 to November 8, 2010, to allow the public an opportunity to resubmit their feedback. The comments received during both scoping periods are detailed in Section 5.

### 2.2 Scoping Notification

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

- a NOI to prepare an EIS announcement in the *Federal Register*;
- a mailing of public scoping letters to government agencies, special interest groups, and local landowners/residents;
- a public Web site; and
- press releases, newspaper advertisements, and local radio public service announcements.

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 Intent to Prepare an EIS

As required by NEPA, an NOI to prepare an EIS was published in the *Federal Register* (75 FR 47564) on Friday, August 6, 2010 (Appendix A). This notice set forth the USMC's intent to prepare an EIS to evaluate the potential effects of the proposed modernization and expansion of TBR in McIntosh and Long Counties, Georgia. The NOI announced the Proposed Action, proposed alternatives, and the purpose and need for the Proposed Action. The NOI also provided the public scoping meeting times and locations, the project Web site location, contact information for questions about the proposal, and the closing date of the public scoping period.

#### 2.2.2 Scoping Letters

The USMC mailed letters to various government agencies, representatives, and organizations to inform them of the opening of the formal scoping period, the methods for providing comments, and the scoping meeting dates, times, and locations, as announced in the NOI published in the *Federal Register*. Additionally, individual letters were mailed to political officials within potentially affected congressional districts and counties, informing them of the project and scoping details. When the need for a second scoping period was identified, letters were again mailed to government agencies, representatives, organizations, and political officials to provide them with details of the second scoping period.

Both rounds of scoping letters were distributed to stakeholders, private landowners, other interested parties, and all individuals and groups who have requested to be on the scoping mailing list

(Appendix A). The mailing list will be used throughout the NEPA process to ensure that all interested parties are kept informed. The mailing list will be expanded to include all those who attended the scoping meetings or provided comments or expressed an interest in being informed.

### 2.2.3 Press Releases and Newspaper Advertisements

In addition to publication of the NOI, the USMC issued a press release on August 6, 2010, announcing the opening of the formal scoping period, as well as the dates, times, locations, and purpose of the scoping meetings. An additional press release was issued on October 9, 2010, when the need for an additional scoping period was determined.

The press releases were distributed to approximately 25 media representatives. Furthermore, advertisements announcing the scoping periods were placed in three local newspapers as described in Table 2-1. The press releases and publication affidavits are provided in Appendix A.

In addition to the scoping 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.

<b>Table 2-1 Notice of Intent/Public Scoping Newspaper Advertisements</b>	
<b>Newspaper</b>	<b>Publication Dates</b>
<i>Press-Sentinel</i> (Jesup)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial Scoping Period: Wednesday, August 11, Saturday, August 14, 2010</li> <li>Second Scoping Period: Wednesday, October 13, 2010</li> </ul>
<i>Darien News</i> (Darien)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial Scoping Period: Thursday, August 12, Thursday, August 19, 2010</li> <li>Second Scoping Period: Thursday, October 14, 2010</li> </ul>
<i>Savannah Morning News</i> (Savannah)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial Scoping Period: Sunday, August 15 through Tuesday, August 17, 2010</li> <li>Second Scoping Period: Sunday, October 10, 2010</li> </ul>

Notes:

*Press Sentinel* is a biweekly distribution newspaper.

*Darien News* is a weekly distribution newspaper.

*Savannah Morning News* is a daily distribution newspaper.

<b>Table 2-2 Townsend Bombing Range Environmental Impact Statement Newspaper Articles</b>	
<b>Newspaper</b>	<b>Publication Dates</b>
<i>Florida Times-Union</i> (Jacksonville, FL)	August 7, 2010
<i>Beaufort Gazette</i> (Beaufort, SC)	August 12, 2010 and October 9, 2010
<i>Darien News</i> (Darien, GA)	August 12, 2010 and September 2, 2010
<i>Brunswick News</i> (Brunswick GA)	August 27, 2010
<i>Savannah Morning News</i> (Savannah, GA)	August 30, 2010 and October 31, 2010
<i>Coastal Courier</i> (Hinesville, GA)	September 15, 2010 and October 8, 2010

### 2.2.4 Public Web Site

In order to provide the public with project information, resources, and updates, the USMC has developed a project Web site (<http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>) that will be maintained throughout the EIS process. Specifically, the Web site provides relevant studies, press releases and other public notification information, scoping meeting displays and handouts, and an online comment form that was available for use during the public scoping periods. Furthermore, the Web site provides a link to a Frequently Asked Questions downloadable handout that will also be updated throughout the NEPA

process. Other information, such as project description, anticipated project schedule, and associated maps/figures, are also available on the Web site.

### **2.2.5 Other Media**

In addition to the advertisements in local newspapers, the USMC conducted interviews and made announcements at local radio stations and media outlets. Live interviews and radio spots that announced the project details and public scoping meeting details were conducted and played on WYNR 102.5 Fun Country; WWSN 103.3 FM; and WHFX, 107.7 The Fox. In addition to these interviews and radio spots, these stations ran information about the public scoping meetings and invited people to get involved and voice any concerns or support. Additionally, Lauren Nobles at 1140 AM conducted a 30-minute radio interview with USMC Master Sergeant Chad McMeen.

Newspaper interviews were conducted with the following publications: *The Darien News*, *The Brunswick News*, *The Beaufort Gazette*, *The Florida Times Union*, and *Inside the Navy*. An interview was also conducted with a freelance journalist (out of Columbia, South Carolina) for the Associated Press.

This page left blank intentionally.

### 3 Public Scoping Meetings

Two open-house public scoping 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 Proposed Action and alternatives. The first meeting was held in Ludowici, Georgia, on August 24, 2010, and the second in Darien, Georgia, on August 26, 2010. No public scoping meetings were held during the additional scoping period.

#### 3.1 Scoping Meeting Attendance

Table 3-1 summarizes the public scoping 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.

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
August 24, 2010	City of Ludowici Meeting Room City Hall 469 N. Macon Street, Ludowici, GA	4:00 – 7:00 pm	55
August 26, 2010	Haynes Auditorium Ida Hilton Public Library, 1105 Northway, Darien, GA	4:00 -- 7:00 pm	93
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>148</b>

Note: No public scoping meetings were held during the additional scoping period.

#### 3.2 Scoping Meeting Format

The public scoping 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 Navy/USMC personnel and other members of the Project Team. The goals of these meetings were to introduce the communities to the EIS process, provide available project information, 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 five information stations, each staffed by knowledgeable Navy/USMC personnel and/or other members of the Project Team to provide technical expertise in their subject matter area. Information station topics included Public Involvement, History and Mission, Proposed Action, Alternatives, and Environmental Analysis. Similarly, a multi-page fact sheet/newsletter provided supplementary information for each information station. The USMC also provided two computer stations that used digital overlays of the alternative boundaries and aerial photographs (Google Earth<sup>®</sup>) 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 scoping meetings continue to be available at the project Web site and are contained in Appendix B.

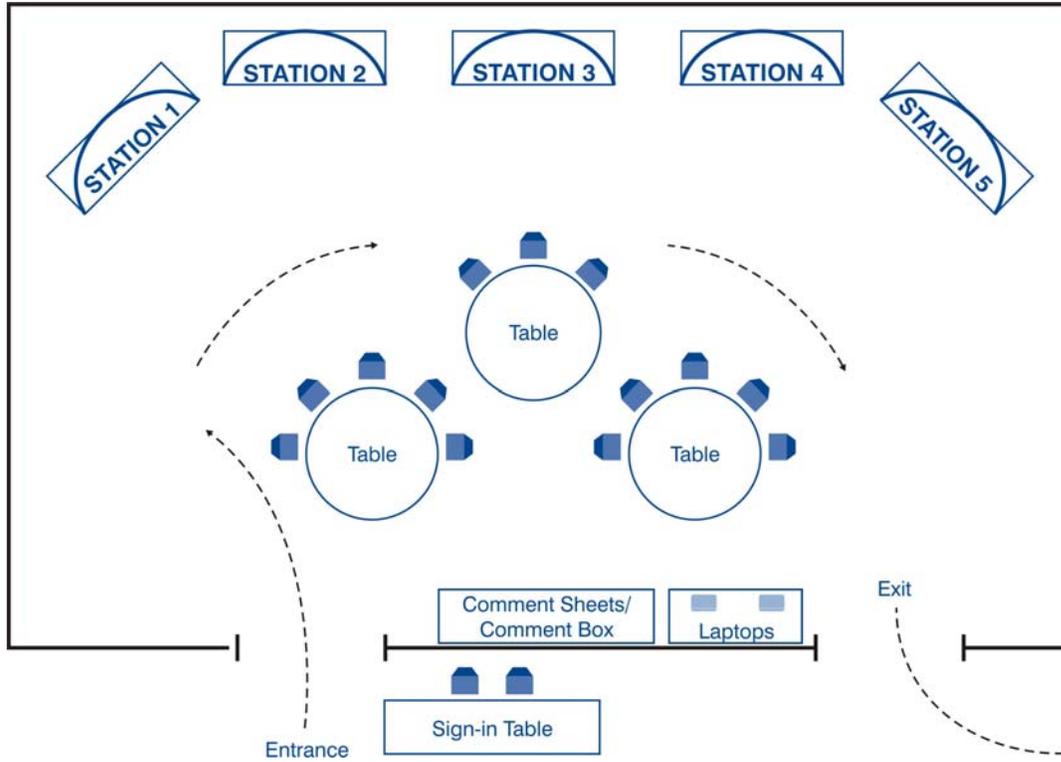


Figure 3-1: Scoping Meeting Room Layout.

## 4 Additional Public Outreach

### 4.1 Meetings and Briefings

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 McIntosh County Chamber of Commerce, the McIntosh County Tax Assessor Board Chairman, Glynn County Airport Commission, Long County, Altamaha Riverkeepers, Georgia Coastal Regional Commission, The Nature Conservancy, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and representatives from offices of elected officials.

Date	Meeting/Interested Entity/Individual
August 4, 2010	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Annual Review
August 4, 2010	McIntosh County Manager: Luther Smart
August 5, 2010	Long County Commission Chairman: Bobby Walker
August 17, 2010	South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control <sup>(a)</sup>
August 19, 2010	The Nature Conservancy and Georgia Department of Natural Resources in Atlanta, Georgia
August 25, 2010	McIntosh County Chamber of Commerce: Wally Orrel, President; Industrial Development Authority: Wally Orrel, Executive Director; Glynn County Airport Commission: Collette Edmisten and Steven Brian; McIntosh County Tax Assessor Board: Paul Griffin, Chairman (McIntosh County resident and retired Navy pilot; <i>The Darien News</i> : Kathleen Russell
August 25, 2010	Altamaha Riverkeeper: Deborah Shepherd, Executive Director
August 25, 2010	Coastal Regional Commission in Brunswick, Georgia (covers Long and McIntosh Counties): Tricia Reynolds, Planning Director; Jason Kotarski, Historic Preservation Planner; and Allen Burns, Executive Director
October 21, 2010	Rural Properties TerraPointe Services Inc. representing Rayonier: Curtis Hensyl, Manager
November 8, 2010	Representative from Senator Saxby Chambliss' office: Katherine Murph; Representative from Senator Johnny Isakson's office: Jarod Downs
November 29, 2010	United States Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District: Mark Padgett, Shaun Blocker, and William Rutlin
November 30, 2010	United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Coastal Environmental Services Office: Strant Colwell and Robert Brooks
December 1, 2010	Georgia Department of Natural Resources: David Mixon, Will Ricks, Brad Winn, Jacob Thompson, and Matt Elliott
December 9, 2010	Representatives from Congressman Jack Kingston's office: Tom Lamb and Jeff Hogan
January 4, 2011	Long County Commission meeting

Note:

(a) SC Tier 1 Partnering Team Meeting

### 4.2 Cooperating Agencies

TBR is under the jurisdiction of the USMC and is part of the Georgia Air National Guard's (GA ANG's) Combat Readiness Training Center in Savannah, Georgia. The airspace is controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Therefore, at the beginning of the EIS process, the USMC requested via letter that these entities participate in the preparation of this EIS as cooperating agencies

(Appendix C). The GA ANG accepted the invitation by letter dated November 16, 2010 and the FAA accepted by letter dated April 8, 2011(Appendix C). Additionally, in response to a coordination meeting with the USACE on November 29, 2010, the USMC transmitted a letter to the USACE, Savannah District, with an invitation to participate in the EIS process as a cooperating agency (Appendix C); the USACE accepted by letter dated May 26, 2011. The USMC will regularly coordinate, throughout the EIS process, with these agencies.

## 5 Public Scoping Comment Summary

### 5.1 Comment Methods

The public was offered the opportunity to provide comments during the two scoping periods via a number of methods, including submitting a comment form at one of the scoping meetings, email, mail, and the public Web site (<http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>). The USMC advertised these methods in the NOI and the scoping letters, on the public Web site, in press releases to the local media, in display advertisements in local newspapers, and on the scoping meeting comment sheets and display boards. A total of 110 comments were received during the two public scoping periods as listed in Table 5-1 and detailed in Appendix D.

Comment Method	Number of Comments Received		Totals
	Initial Scoping Period	Second Scoping Period	
Scoping Meetings	18 <sup>(a)</sup>	N/A <sup>(b)</sup>	<b>18</b>
Mail	2	28	<b>30</b>
Email	23	11	<b>34</b>
Web Site	20	8	<b>28</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>110<sup>(c)</sup></b>

Notes:

(a) Four written comments were provided at the Ludowici, Georgia, meeting, and 14 were provided at the Darien, Georgia, meeting.

(b) No additional scoping meetings were held during the second scoping period.

(c) A comment received from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma after the scoping periods had closed is not included in this table, but is discussed in Section 5.2 and appears in Appendix D.

### 5.2 Stakeholder Groups

During the public scoping periods for the proposed TBR Modernization and Expansion EIS, 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 scoping period.

As noted in Table 5-2, the majority of comments (72 comments; 65% of total received) came from local residents/landowners. 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. Duplicate comments received through different media or during the additional comment period are included. All comments are provided in Appendix D.

Scoping letters were sent to 15 tribal organizations (see Appendix A for a complete list). To date, four tribes have responded. The Catawba Nation responded with the following requests: (1) all information in hardcopy; (2) additional information on sites considered for acquisition; (3) photographs of the project area from each direction; and (4) a copy of any archaeological surveys that have been completed in the project area. The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma also responded to the scoping letter, stating that they had no objection to the referenced project, but that if any remains, artifacts, or other items were discovered, that construction be halted and they be re-contacted.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida declined to comment at this time, but requested they be added to the distribution list for the Draft EIS. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma sent a scoping response letter stating that the project is out of the area of their interest.

Stakeholder	Comment Method			Web Site	Totals
	Meeting	Mailed	Emailed		
Landowner/Citizen	13	16	21	22	<b>72</b>
Environmental Group	1	1	4	0	<b>6</b>
Media	0	0	3	1	<b>4</b>
Local Government	1	7	3	0	<b>11</b>
Hunt Club Representative	2	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Tribe	0	3	1	0	<b>4</b>
Regulatory Agency	0	3	0	1	<b>4</b>
Regional Recreationalist	1	0	0	1	<b>2</b>
Other	0	1	2	3	<b>6</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>111<sup>(a)</sup></b>

Note:

(a) Includes all comments received to date, including those received after the scoping period had closed.

### 5.3 Scoping Comments

A wide variety of resources and issues were identified through comments received during the scoping period. Many of these issues were also voiced during the public scoping meetings to Project Team members. Based on comments heard and received in writing, the most pressing concerns include the following:

- Impacts to privately owned real property (including property values and taxes);
- Loss of county tax revenue;
- Impacts to hunting/fishing and recreational activities;
- Perceived increases in air traffic and noise;
- Local road closures; and
- Impacts to biological and water resources.

### 5.4 Other Concerns

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

- Inquiries about the project timeframe;
- Potential misfires/crashes;
- Chemicals associated with munitions;
- Changes in ground operations at TBR associated with the Proposed Action;
- Increases in local road traffic as a result of the expansion;
- Changes in flight paths;

*Scoping Summary Report*

- Electric transmission lines (if they would need to be relocated);
- Fire maintenance regime;
- Impacts on cultural resources;
- Impacts on airspace;
- Air quality degradation;
- Confusion over NEPA documentation already prepared;
- Preference for West Coast training or training at another installation in Georgia or South Carolina (such as Fort Stewart, Fort Benning, Fort Jackson, or Shaw Air Force Base);
- Alternative selection criteria validity; and
- Military spending.

Additionally, some comments were purely in support or opposition of the Proposed Action, with little or no justification. Several commenters had specific questions that will need to be considered individually by the USMC.

This page left blank intentionally.

## Appendix A

# Public Notification Documentation

- A.1 Notice of Intent
  - A.2 Mailing List
  - A.3 Newspaper Affidavits  
*First Scoping Period*  
*Second Scoping Period*
  - A.4 Press Releases  
*First Scoping Period*  
*Second Scoping Period*
  - A.5 Scoping Letter Samples  
*First Scoping Period*  
*Second Scoping Period*
  - A.6 Newspaper Articles  
*First Scoping Period*  
*Second Scoping Period*
-

This page left blank intentionally.

**Appendix A**  
**Public Notification Documentation**

**Appendix A.1**  
**Notice of Intent**

This page left blank intentionally.

sites such as Marine Corps Training Area Bellows (Bellows) in Waimanalo, and training and readiness operations by the VMM and HMLA squadrons at various training facilities statewide currently used by the Marine Corps. In addition to MCB Hawaii Kaneohe Bay and Bellows, VMM and HMLA squadrons may train at Wheeler Army Airfield, Dillingham Airfield, and various U.S. Army training areas on Oahu; Pohakuloa Training Area on the island of Hawaii; Molokai Training Support Facility and Kalaupapa Airfield on Molokai; and the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai.

### Environmental Issues and Resources To Be Examined

After scoping is completed, the EIS analysis will evaluate potential environmental effects associated with each alternative selected for full analysis. Issues to be addressed include, but are not limited to, aircraft noise, cultural resources, traffic, socioeconomics, biological resources, geology and soils, water quality, air quality, safety, hazardous materials and waste, visual resources, and environmental justice.

### Agency Consultations

The DoN will undertake appropriate consultations with regulatory entities pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, and other applicable laws or regulations. Consultation will include but is not limited to the following federal, state, and local agencies: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, State Historic Preservation Office, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, National Park Service, Native Hawaiian Organizations, Historic Hawaii Foundation, and State of Hawaii Office of Planning.

### Schedule

This Notice of Intent initiates a 30-day scoping comment period to identify issues to be addressed in the EIS and reasonable and feasible alternatives to implement the proposed action. The next opportunity for public input to the EIS process occurs with publication of a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the **Federal Register** and local media, announcing release of the Draft EIS and commencement of a 45-day public comment period. A notice will be published in local papers to advertise public meetings for the project during the 45-day comment period. The DoN will consider and respond to all comments received on the Draft EIS when preparing the Final EIS. The DoN

intends to issue the Final EIS in late 2011, at which time an NOA will be published in the **Federal Register** and local media. The NOA will initiate a 30-day waiting period, after which the Assistant Secretary of the Navy or Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy will issue a Record of Decision.

Dated: July 29, 2010.

**D.J. Werner,**

*Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate  
Generals Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register  
Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2010-19422 Filed 8-5-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### **Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range in McIntosh County, GA**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to 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), Department of the Navy (DoN) NEPA regulations (32 CFR Part 775), and United States Marine Corps (USMC) NEPA directives (Marine Corps Order P5090.2A, changes 1 and 2), the DoN intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and conduct public scoping meetings for the modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) located in McIntosh County, Georgia to accommodate the use of inert (with spotting charges) Precision Guided Munitions (PGMs) with their associated larger land requirements. 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 TBR is owned by the DoN, and is operated by the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG). The DoN will prepare the EIS.

**DATES AND ADDRESSES:** The DoN is initiating a 30-day public scoping process to identify community interests and local issues to be addressed in the EIS, which starts with the publication of this Notice of Intent. Two public scoping meetings, using an informal open house format, will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the following dates

and at the following locations in Georgia:

(1) Tuesday, August 24, 2010, City of Ludowici Meeting Room, City Hall, 469 North Macon Street, Ludowici, GA 31316.

(2) Thursday, August 26, 2010, Haynes Auditorium—Ida Hilton Public Library, 1105 Northway, Darien, GA 31305.

The public is invited to attend these meetings to view project-related displays, speak with USMC representatives, and submit public comment forms. All comments regarding the scope of issues that the USMC should consider during EIS preparation must be received prior to September 7, 2010. Additional information concerning the meetings and the proposed alternatives are available on the EIS website at <http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com> and will be announced in local and regional newspapers. Please submit requests for special assistance, sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired, oral comments, or other auxiliary aids needed at the scoping meeting to the EIS Project Manager by August 16, 2010.

**Submitting Comments:** Federal, state, local agencies and interested parties are encouraged to provide oral and/or written comments regarding the scope of the EIS, reasonable alternatives and/or specific issues or topics of interest to the public. There are four ways by which comments can be submitted: (1) Attending one of the public scoping open-houses; (2) submitting through the project's public website at <http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>; (3) E-mail to [townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com); (4) submitting written mailed comments on the scope of the EIS. All written comments should be submitted and/or postmarked no later than September 7, 2010. Comments submitted by mail should be sent to: Townsend EIS, Project Manager, Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, FL 32318.

The USMC will consider all comments received during the scoping period. A mailing list has been assembled to facilitate preparation of the EIS. Those on this list will receive notices and documents related to EIS preparation. This list includes local, state, and federal agencies with jurisdiction or other interests in the alternatives. In addition, the mailing list includes adjacent property owners, affected municipalities, and other interested parties such as conservation organizations. Anyone wishing to be added to the mailing list may request to

be added by contacting the EIS project manager at the address provided below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Community Planning and Liaison Office; *Attn:* Ms. Alice Howard, Post Office Box 9103, Building 601, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Beaufort, South Carolina 29904-5001; *phone:* 843-228-7558; *e-mail:* [townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide a modern air-to-ground training range which can accommodate inert (with spotting charges) PGMs for aviation units stationed at MCAS Beaufort through the modernization and expansion of TBR in order to meet current training requirements.

The need for the Proposed Action is 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 Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort must use West Coast training ranges to satisfy PGM training requirements. Having a range available for this training would result in greater training efficiency. To accomplish the proposed action, the USMC would acquire land adjacent to the existing 5,183-acre TBR and would expand the area of controlled access around the bombing targets. The EIS will consider several land acquisition scenarios and configurations of the range to meet the training requirements.

*Preliminary Alternatives:* At this time, it is anticipated that the EIS will evaluate five action alternatives and the No Action Alternative. Land acquisition scenarios were developed through the use of modeling software to determine the land area necessary to accommodate the use of inert (with spotting charges) PGMs at TBR in a manner that will accomplish the training requirements while maintaining public safety. The EIS will also consider other feasible land acquisition scenarios that may be identified during scoping or during the preparation of the EIS. The five action alternatives currently identified for analysis in the EIS are as follows:

Alternative 1 proposes the acquisition of approximately 11,948 acres to the northwest and southeast of the TBR boundary along the south side of State Highway 57.

Alternative 2 proposes a combination of the property acquisition under Alternative 1 with an additional 24,880 acres located northeast of TBR and to the north of State Highway 57, totaling approximately 36,828 acres.

Alternative 3 proposes the acquisition of approximately 24,880 acres located northeast of TBR and to the North of State Highway 57.

Alternative 4 proposes a combination of the property acquisition under Alternative 1 with an additional 14,752 acres between TBR and the Altamaha River, totaling approximately 26,700 acres.

Alternative 5 proposes a combination of the property acquisition under Alternative 3 and Alternative 4 totaling approximately 51,580 acres.

The No Action Alternative proposes no land acquisition and no changes to operations at TBR. Aviation units stationed at MCAS Beaufort would continue to deploy to the western United States to undergo inert (with spotting charges) PGM training and meet individual aircrew training requirements.

*Environmental Issues and Resources To Be Examined:* The EIS will evaluate potential environmental effects associated with each of the alternatives. Issues to be addressed may include, but are not limited to: Safety; land use; recreation; air quality; socioeconomic and environmental justice; water resources; noise; cultural resources; biological resources; forestry resources; and airspace/air traffic. Relevant and reasonable measures that could avoid or mitigate environmental effects also will be analyzed. Additionally, the USMC will undertake any consultations required by the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and any other applicable laws or regulations.

*EIS Schedule:* This Notice of Intent (NOI) is the first phase of the EIS process and announces the 30-day public comment period and public scoping meetings to identify community concerns and local issues that should be addressed in the EIS. The next phase occurs when a Notice of Availability (NOA) is published in the **Federal Register** and local media to publicly announce the release of the Draft EIS. A 45-day public comment period for the Draft EIS will commence upon publication of the NOA in the **Federal Register**. The USMC will consider and respond to all comments received on the Draft EIS when preparing the Final EIS. The USMC intends to issue the Final EIS no later than Spring 2012, at which time a NOA will be published in the **Federal Register** and local media. A Record of Decision is anticipated in Fall 2012.

Dated: July 29, 2010.

**D.J. Werner,**

*Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate Generals Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2010-19421 Filed 8-5-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### Notice of Availability of Government-Owned Inventions; Available for Licensing

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The inventions listed below are assigned to the United States Government as represented by the Secretary of the Navy. U.S. Patent No. 6,965,509: Poly(3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene)-based capacitors using ionic liquids as supporting electrolytes, Navy Case No. 83733//U.S. Patent No. 7,578,859: Poly(3,4-alkylenedioxythiophene)-based capacitors using ionic liquids as supporting electrolytes, Navy Case No. 97448.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for copies of the inventions cited should be directed to Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, Code 4L4000D, 1900 N. Knox Road Stop 6312, China Lake, CA 93555-6106 and must include the Navy Case number.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Michael D. Seltzer, PhD, Head, Technology Transfer Office, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, Code 498400D, 1900 N. Knox Road Stop 6312, China Lake, CA 93555-6106, *telephone:* 760-939-1074, *fax:* 760-939-1210, *E-mail:* [michael.seltzer@navy.mil](mailto:michael.seltzer@navy.mil).

**Authority:** 35 U.S.C. 207, 37 CFR part 404.7.

Dated: August 2, 2010.

**D.J. Werner,**

*Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate Generals Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2010-19395 Filed 8-5-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P**

**Appendix A**  
**Public Notification Documentation**

**Appendix A.2**  
**Mailing List**

This page left blank intentionally.

**Townsend Bombing Range EIS  
Distribution List**

Salutation	FirstName	LastName	OfficeAgency	Title	Address1a	Address1b	City_State_Zip1
<b>Federal</b>							
Senator	Saxby	Chambliss	U.S. Senate	Senator, Georgia, U.S. Senate	416 Russell Senate Office Building		Washington, DC 20510
Senator	Johnny	Isakson	U.S. Senate	Senator, Georgia, U.S. Senate	One Overton Park, Suite 970	3625 Cumberland Blvd.	Atlanta, GA 30339
The Honorable	Jack	Kingston	U.S. House of Representatives	Congressman 1st District, Georgia	2368 Rayburn HOB		Washington, DC 20515
The Honorable	Jack	Kingston	U.S. House of Representatives	Congressman 1st District, Georgia	805 Gloucester St. , Room #304		Brunswick, GA 31520
The Honorable	Sanford	D. Bishop Jr.	U.S. House of Representatives	Congressman 2nd District, Georgia	2429 Rayburn HOB		Washington, DC 20515
The Honorable	Sanford	D. Bishop Jr.	U.S. House of Representatives	Congressman 2nd District, Georgia	235 West Roosevelt Ave.	Albany Towers, Suite 114	Albany, GA 31701
Mr.	Douglas	Murphey	Federal Aviation Administration, Southern Region	Regional Administrator	1701 Columbia Ave.		College Park, GA 30337
Col.	Jeffrey	M. Hall	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District	District Commander	100 W. Oglethorpe Ave.		Savannah, GA 31401
Mr.	Heinz	Mueller	United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4	Chief, NEPA Program Office	61 Forsyth Street, SW	Mail Code: 9T25	Atlanta, GA 30303
Major	Phillip	May	Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 4	Regional Administrator	3003 Chamblee Tucker Road		Atlanta, GA 30341
Col.	John R.	Snider	U.S. Marine Corps, Air Station Beaufort	Commanding Officer	P.O. Box 55001		Beaufort, SC 22904
Mr.	Vance C.	Smith, Jr.	Georgia Department of Transportation	Commissioner	One Georgia Center	600 West Peachtree NW	Atlanta, GA 30308
Mr.	Rodney	Barry	U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration Georgia	Division Administrator	61 Forsyth Street, S.W.	Suite 17T100	Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Mrs.	Cynthia	K. Dohner	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast	Regional Director	1875 Century Boulevard, NE	Suite 400	Atlanta, GA 30345
Mr.	Strant	Colwell	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal	Field Supervisor	4980 Wildlife Drive N. E.		Townsend, GA 31331
Mr.	Dave	Purser	U.S. Forest Service, Southern Region (Region 8) NEPA Coordinator	(Acting) Team Leader for Integrating Human and Natural Resources	1720 Peachtree Road NW		Atlanta, GA 30309
Dr.	Willie	R. Taylor	Department of the Interior	Director of the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance	1849 C Street, NW	MS 2462	Washington, DC 20240
Dr.	Roy	Crabtree	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office	Regional Administrator	263 13th Avenue, South		St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Mr.	James E.	Tillman, Sr.	Natural Resources Conservation Service (Georgia USDA Office)	State Conservationist	355 East Hancock Avenue	Stop Number 200	Athens, GA 30601
<b>State</b>							
Governor	Sonny	Perdue	Office of the Governor	Governor	State of Georgia	203 State Capitol	Atlanta, GA 30334
Senator	Tommie	Williams	Georgia State Senate	President Pro Tempore, District 19 (Long, Wayne, Appling, Jeff Davis, Toombs, Montgomery, Wheeler, Liberty, and Tattnall Counties), Georgia State Senate	148 Williams Avenue		Lyons, GA 30436
Senator	Jeff	Chapman	Georgia State Senate	Senate District 3 (McIntosh, Glynn, Camden, Brantley, Charlton Counties)	P.O. Box 3119		Brunswick, GA 31521
Senator	Earl "Buddy"	Carter	Georgia State Senate	Senate District 1 (Bryan, Chatham, and Liberty Counties, Cities of Savannah, Pembroke, and Hinesville)	406 Purple Finch Drive		Pooler, GA 31322

**Townsend Bombing Range EIS  
Distribution List**

Salutation	FirstName	LastName	OfficeAgency	Title	Address1a	Address1b	City_State_Zip1
Senator	Earl "Buddy"	Carter	Georgia State Senate	Senate District 1 (Bryan, Chatham, and Liberty Counties, Cities of Savannah, Pembroke, and Hinesville)	302-B Coverdell Legislative Office Building		Atlanta, GA 30334
Mr.	Roger	Lane	Georgia House of Representatives	Representative, District 167 (McIntosh, Long, Wayne, and Glynn Counties)	P.O. Box 899-D		Darien, Georgia 31305
Mr.	Roger	Lane	Georgia House of Representatives	Representative, District 167 (McIntosh, Long, Wayne, and Glynn Counties)	402 Coverdell Legislative Office Building		Atlanta, GA 30334
Ms.	Barbara	Jackson	Georgia State Clearing House	Intergovernmental Review State Point of Contact	270 Washington Street, SW, 8th Floor		Atlanta, GA 30334
Mr.	F. Allen	Barnes	Georgia Department of Environmental	Director	2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive	Suite 1152, East Tower	Atlanta, GA 30334
Mr.	Chris	Clark	Georgia Department of Natural Resources	Commissioner	2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive	Suite 1152, East Tower	Atlanta, GA 30334
Ms.	Jenny Lynn	Bradley	Georgia Department of Natural Resources	Vice Chair, Coastal District	1 Sylvan Island Road		Savannah, GA 31404
Mr.	Spud	Woodward	Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division	Director	400 Commerce Center Drive		Brunswick, GA 31523-8251
Mr.	David	Crass	Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division	Acting Director	254 Washington Street, SW	Ground Level	Atlanta, GA 30334
Ms.	Becky	Kelley	Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites	Director	2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive	Suite 1352, East Tower	Atlanta, GA 30334
Mr.	Darrell	Crosby	Georgia Department of Natural Resources, District Operations Program	District Manager	Coastal District, Brunswick Office	400 Commerce Center Drive	Brunswick, GA 31523
Mr.	Brian	Baker	Georgia Department of Natural Resources, District Operations Program	Manager	Coastal District, Savannah Office	400 Commerce Center Drive	Brunswick, GA 31523
Mr.	Tommy	Irvin	Georgia Department of Agriculture	Commissioner	204 Agricultural Building	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr., S.W.	Atlanta, GA 30334
Major Gen.	William T.	Nesbitt	Georgia Department of Defense	Adjutant General	P.O. Box 1970		Marietta, GA 30061
Mr.	Mike	Beatty	Georgia Department of Community Affairs	Commissioner	60 Executive Park South		Atlanta, GA 30329
Mr.	Mike	Garrett	Georgia Department of Economic Development	Chairman	75 Fifth Street, N.W., Suite 1200		Atlanta, GA 30308
Col.	Bill	Hitchens	Georgia Department of Public Safety	Commissioner	P.O. Box 1456		Atlanta, GA 30371-1456
Mr.	Robert	Farris	Georgia Forestry Commission (Districts 8 and 10)	Director	5645 Riggins Mill Road		Dry Branch, Georgia 31020
Ms.	Jane	Griess	Savannah Coastal Refuges	Project Leader	Parkway Business Center	1000 Business Center Drive, Suite 10	Savannah, GA 31405
Mr.	Allen	Burns	Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia	Executive Director	Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center	127 F Street	Brunswick, GA 31520
Mr.	Rahn	Milligan	Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission - Region 6	Regional Representative	151 Langston Chapel Road	Suite 700	Statesboro, GA 30459
Mr.	Brent L.	Dykes	Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Headquarters	Executive Director	4310 Lexington Road	P. O. Box 8024	Athens, GA 30603

**Townsend Bombing Range EIS  
Distribution List**

Salutation	FirstName	LastName	OfficeAgency	Title	Address1a	Address1b	City_State_Zip1
<b>Local</b>							
Mr.	John	Cox	City of Darien, Office of Mayor	City Mayor	P.O. Box 452	106 Washington Street	Darien, GA 31305
Mr.	Brett	Cook	City of Darien, Office of Mayor	City Manager	P.O. Box 452	106 Washington Street	Darien, GA 31305
Mr.	Jason	Coley	Darien-McIntosh Chamber of Commerce	Chair	1111 Magnolia Bluff Way SW, #255		Darien, GA 31305
Mr.	Wally	Orrel	McIntosh County Industrial Development	Director	105 Fort King George Road	P.O. Box 896	Darien, GA 31305
Mr.	Luther	Smart	McIntosh County Commissioner's Office	County Manager	P.O. Box 584	310 Northway	Darien, GA 31305
Mr.	Frank	Middleton	Long County Commissioner's Office	Clerk of Court	County Courthouse	P.O. Box 476	Ludowici, GA 31316
Ms.	Myrtice	Warren	City of Ludowici	City Mayor	P.O. Box 800	469 N. Macon Street	Ludowici, GA 31316
Mr.	Mike	Deal	Wayne County Board of Commissioners	County Administrator	P.O. Box 270		Jesup, GA 31598
Mr.	Herb	Shaw	City of Jesup	City Mayor	162 East Cherry Street		Jesup, GA 31546
Ms.	Onda Cole	Woodard	City of Jesup	City Manager	162 East Cherry Street		Jesup, GA 31546
<b>Tribal Representatives</b>							
Mr.	George	Blanchard	Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	Governor	2025 Gordon Cooper Drive		Shawnee, OK 74801
Ms.	Jennifer	Makaseah	Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	NAGPRA Representative/ Tribal Historical Preservation Officer	2025 Gordon Cooper Drive		Shawnee, OK 74801
Ms.	Glenna J.	Wallace	Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	Chief	P.O. Box 350		Seneca, MO 64865
Ms.	Joann	Beckham	Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	NAGPRA Representative	P.O. Box 350		Seneca, MO 64865
Mr.	Ron	Sparkman	Shawnee Tribe	Chairman	P.O. Box 189		Miami, OK 74355
Ms.	Rebecca	Hawkins	Shawnee Tribe	NAGPRA Representative	P.O. Box 189		Miami, OK 74355
Mr.	Donald	Rogers	Catawba Indian Nation	Chief	996 Avenue of the Nations		Rock Hill, SC 29730
Dr.	Wenonah G.	Haire	Catawba Indian Nation	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Director	1536 Tom Steven Road		Rock Hill, SC 29730
Mr.	Chadwick	Smith	Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma	Principal Chief	P.O. Box 948		Tahlequah, OK 74465
Dr.	Richard	Allen	Cherokee Nation	NAGPRA Representative	P.O. Box 948		Tahlequah, OK 74465
Mr.	George	Wickliffe	United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee	Chief	P.O. Box 746		Tahlequah, OK 74464
Ms.	Lisa	Stopp	United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee	NAGPRA Representative	P.O. Box 746		Tahlequah, OK 74464
Mr.	Mitchell	Cypress	Seminole Tribe of Florida	Chairman	6300 Stirling Road		Hollywood, FL 33024
Mr.	Willard	Steel	Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum	NAGPRA Representative	HC 62, Box 21 A		Clewiston, FL 33440
Mr.	A.D.	Ellis	Muscogee (Creek) Nation	Chief	P.O. Box 580		Okmulgee, OK 74447
Ms.	Joyce	Bear	Muscogee (Creek) Nation	NAGPRA Representative	P.O. Box 580		Okmulgee, OK 74447
Mr.	Buford	Rolin	Poarch Band of Creek Indians	Chairman	5811 Jack Springs Road		Atmore, AL 36502
Mr.	Robert	Thrower	Poarch Band of Creek Indians	NAGPRA Representative/ Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	5811 Jack Springs Road		Atmore, AL 36502
Mr.	Louis	McGert	Thlopthlocco Tribal Town	Town King	P.O. Box 188		Okemah, OK 74859
Mr.	Charles	Coleman	Thlopthlocco Tribal Town	NAGPRA Representative	Rt. 1 Box 190-A		Weleetka, OK 74880
Mr.	Tarpie	Yargee	Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town	Chief	P.O. Box 187		Wetumka, OK 74883
Ms.	Augustine	Asbury	Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town	Second Chief/NAGPRA Representative	P.O. Box 187		Wetumka, OK 74883
Ms.	Jennie	Lillard	Kialegee Tribal Town	Town King/Mekko	108 N. Main, P.O. Box 332		Wetumka, OK 74883
Ms.	Evelyn	Bucktrot	Kialegee Tribal Town	NAGPRA Representative	108 N. Main, P.O. Box 332		Wetumka, OK 74883
Mr.	Leo	Henry	Tuscarora Nation	Chief	2235 Mount Hope Road		Sanborn, NY 14123
Mr.	Richard	Hill	Tuscarora Nation	Tribal Representative	2235 Mount Hope Road		Sanborn, NY 14123
Mr.	Bill	Anoatubby	Chickasaw Nation	Governor	P.O. Box 1548		Ada, OK 74821
Ms.	Virginia	Nail	Chickasaw Nation	NAGPRA Representative	American Building, Suite 310		Ada, OK 74820
Mr.	Gregory	Pyle	Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	Chief	P.O. Drawer 1210		Durant, OK 74702
Mr.	Terry	Cole	Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	NAGPRA Representative	P.O. Drawer 1210		Durant, OK 74702
Mr.	Olin	William	Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	P.O. Drawer 1210		Durant, OK 74702

**Townsend Bombing Range EIS  
Distribution List**

Salutation	FirstName	LastName	OfficeAgency	Title	Address1a	Address1b	City_State_Zip1
<b>Other Interested Parties</b>							
Mr.	Braye	Boardman	The Nature Conservancy, Georgia Chapter	Chair	1330 West Peachtree Street	Suite 410	Atlanta, GA 30309
Ms.	Alison	McGee	The Nature Conservancy, Georgia Chapter	Local Staff	145 Bull Street, 2nd floor		Savannah, GA 31401
Mr.	Len	Hauss	Altamaha River Keepers	President	P.O. Box 2642		Darien, GA 31305
Mr.	Mark	Woodall	The Sierra Club, Georgia Chapter	Chapter Chair	743 E. College Ave, Suite B		Decatur, GA 30030
Ms.	Catharine	Brockman Kuchar	Atlanta Audubon Society	Executive Director	4055 Roswell Road		Atlanta, GA 30342
Ms.	Hazel	Langrall	Central Savannah River Land Trust	Executive Director	P.O. Box 148		Augusta, GA 30903
Mr.	Ben	Brewton	The Coastal Environmental Organization		P.O. Box 2107		Savannah, GA 31402
Mr.	Stephen A.	Stutts	Georgia Land Trust	President	428 Bull Street, Suite 210		Savannah, GA 31401
Mr.	Pierre	Howard	Georgia Conservancy	President	817 W. Peachtree Street	Suite 200	Atlanta, GA 30308
Ms.	Beth	Blalock	Georgia Conservancy, Coastal Office	Coastal Land Conservation Program Manager	428 Bull Street		Savannah, GA 31401
Mr.	Chris	Osborne	Georgia Conservation Voters	Executive Director	175 Trinity Avenue, SW		Atlanta, GA 30303
Mr.	Wayne	Jenkins	Georgia Forest Watch	Executive Director	15 Tower Road		Ellijay, GA 30540
Ms.	Ellen	Honeycutt	Georgia Native Plant Society	President	P.O. Box 422085		Atlanta, GA 30342
Ms.	April	Ingle	Georgia River Network	Executive Director	126 South Milledge Avenue	Suite E3	Athens, Georgia 30605
Mr.	Jerry L.	McCollum	Georgia Wildlife Federation	President and CEO	11600 Hazelbrand Road		Covington, GA 30014
			Southeast Land Preservation Trust	President	11 Wildwood Valley		Atlanta, GA 30350
Mr.	Russ	Webb	Savannah National Wildlife Refuge	Refuge Manager	Savannah Coastal Refuge Complex	694 Beech Hill Lane	Hardeeville, SC 29927
Mr.	William	Tan	RTOC Limited Partnership Rayonier Forest Resources		P.O. Box 728		Fernandina Beach, FL 32035
Mr.	Bill	Cain	Georgia Military Affairs Coordinating Committee	Deputy Executive Director	#7 Martin L. King Jr. Drive	Room 144	Atlanta, GA 30334
			Altamaha River Partnership		239 NE Park Avenue	Suite E	Baxley, GA 31513
<b>Additional Contacts</b>							
Mr.	Stanley	Meiburg	United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4	Regional Administrator (Acting)	Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center	61 Forsyth Street, SW	Atlanta, GA 30303
Ms.	Yvette	Aehle	Georgia Airports Association	President	SW Georgia Regional Airport	3905 Newton Rd, Suite 100	Albany, GA 31701-7356
Mr.	Frank	Field	Darien Downtown Development Authority	Executive Director	P.O. Box 452	106 Washington Street	Darien, GA 31305
Col.	Floyd	Harbin	Georgia Air National Guard Squad Combat Readiness Training Center	Commander	Savannah CRTC/CC	1401 Robert B. Miller Jr. Road	Savannah, GA 31408-9099
Ms.	Mary	Mayhew	The Georgia Lakes Society	President	P.O. Box 440994		Kennesaw, GA 30160
Mr.	Craig	Russell	Forest Resource Consultants	Account Manager	1233 Tram Rd., NW		Townsend, GA 31331
Mr.	Gerald	Cail	Portal Hunting Club	President	1909 Stuckey Lane Statesboro, GA 30461		Townsend, GA 31331
Mr.	Michael	Smith	Georgia Transmission	President and CEO	2100 E. Exchange Place	P.O. Box 2088	Tucker, GA 30084
Mr.	Michael	D. Garrett	Georgia Power	President and CEO	241 Ralph McGill Boulevard NE		Atlanta, GA 30308
Mr.	Jason	Goldstein	Southern Natural Gas		P.O. Box 2563		Birmingham, AL 35202
			Verizon Wireless of the East LP		180 Washington Valley Road		Bedminster, NJ 07921
			Atlanta Gas Light		P.O. Box 4569	Dept. 6250	Atlanta, GA 30302-4569
Ms.	Katrina	Morris	Georgia Department of Natural Resources Nongame Conservation Section	mental Review Coordinator	Wildlife Resources Conservation Center	2065 US Highway 278 SE	Social Circle, GA 30025

**Townsend Bombing Range EIS  
Distribution List**

Salutation	FirstName	LastName	OfficeAgency	Title	Address1a	Address1b	City_State_Zip1
<b>Landowners</b>							
Mr.	L. Michael	Kelly	FIATP SSF Timber LLC	President	Forest Investment Associates LP 15	Piedmont Center Suite 1250	Atlanta, Georgia 30305
Mr.	R. Lee Smith		Mid-Ohio Securities Corp		IRA 150511	1888 River Road	Jacksonville, FL 32207
Mr. and Mrs.	Lee and Christy	Smith	Lee and Christy Smith		1888 River Road		Jacksonville, FL 32207
Mr.	L. Michael	Kelly	Goodwood Georgia LLC	President	Forest Investment Associates LP 15	Piedmont Center Suite 1250	Atlanta, Georgia 30305
Mr.	William	Tan	RTOC Limited Partership	Chief Executive Officer	P.O Box 728		Fernandina Beach, FL 32035
Mr.	Lee M.	Thomas	Rayonier Forest Resources LP	President and Chief Executive Officer	P.O Box 728		Fernandina Beach, FL 32035
<b>Interested Public (Requested to be added during Scoping Period)</b>							
Mr.	Joe	Parker, Jr.	Resident		259 Old Gun Road		Midway, GA 31320
Mr.	Billy	Wilkinson	Resident		2231 Steve Nelson Road, NE		Townsend, GA 31331
Mr.	David	<i>Illegible</i>	Resident		1227 Goullds Landing Road, NE		Townsend, GA 31331
Mr. and Mrs.	Bill	Weaver	Residents		205 W. Commons Drive		St. Simons Island, GA 31522

This page left blank intentionally.

**Appendix A**  
**Public Notification Documentation**

**Appendix A.3**  
**Newspaper Affidavits**

***First Scoping Period***

This page left blank intentionally.

**Notice of Intent to Conduct Public Scoping and  
Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the  
Proposed Modernization and Expansion of  
Townsend Bombing Range, McIntosh County, Georgia**

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Department of the Navy (DoN) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and conduct public scoping meetings for the modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) located in McIntosh County, Georgia, to accommodate the use of inert (with spotting charge) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) with their associated larger land requirements. To accomplish this, the United States Marine Corps proposes to acquire lands in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater range of training activities.

The DoN is initiating a 30-day public scoping process, which begins with the advertisement of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on August 6, 2010, to identify community interests and local issues to be addressed in the EIS. Two public scoping meetings, using an informal open house format, will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations in Georgia:

**August 24, 2010**

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

**August 26, 2010**

Haynes Auditorium Ida Hilton Public Library,  
1105 Northway, Darien, GA 31305.

All written comments must be postmarked by September 7, 2010 to:

**Townsend EIS Project Manager**

Post Office Box 180458  
Tallahassee, Florida 32318

For additional project information, please refer to the project website at <http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com> or phone (843) 228-7201.

This page left blank intentionally.



# The Darien News

## DARIEN PRINTING & GRAPHICS

Post Office Box 496 • 101 Broad Street • 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, 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 12 and 19, 2010 that the following advertisement, to-wit:

6	0	35,389	38
7	0	43,251	43
8	0	48,113	48

**FOR EACH ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER, ADD \$4 REPER YEAR TO MEAN \$6915 TO THE INCOME LEVEL FOR REDUCED PRICE MEALS**

Breakfast is free to students at all schools. Lunch at AGE is \$1.00, OGIS/MCMS is \$1.20, schools is .40.

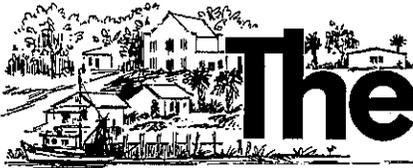
Application forms are being sent to all homes with a letter to parents or guardians. To apply households should fill out the application and return it to the school. Children from families shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Foster children may also be eligible to should contact the school for information regarding benefits. Additional forms are available. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility with each school district required to verify a sample annually. Applications may be submitted for school officials to determine eligibility, households receiving SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) or TANF (TANF) must list the child's name, their SNAP or TANF case number and household member. Households not receiving SNAP or TANF must list child's name, if security number of the parent or guardian who signs the application (or an indication that the amount of monthly income received by each household member, identified by source, member certifying that the information provided is correct. The information provided by source used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verifying data. We may inform official health and education program of the information on your form to determine benefits for evaluation purposes.

If a household member becomes unemployed, or if the household size increases, the household changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income is above.

Under the provisions of this policy, a school official will review applications and determine the determination, he/she may contact the school either orally or in writing.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to: **Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410**, or call (800) 795-3461. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

*Kathleen W. Russell*  
Kathleen W. Russell  
Editor & Publisher



# The Darien News



DARIEN PRINTING & GRAPHICS

Post

## Notice of Intent to Conduct Public Scoping and Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, McIntosh County, Georgia

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Department of the Navy (DoN) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and conduct public scoping meetings for the modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) located in McIntosh County, Georgia, to accommodate the use of inert (with spotting charge) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) with their associated target and requirements. To accomplish this, the United States Marine Corps proposes to acquire lands in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater range of training activities.

The DoN is initiating a 30-day public scoping process, which begins with the advertisement of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on August 6, 2010, to identify community interests and local issues to be addressed in the EIS. Two public scoping meetings, using an informal open house format, will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations in Georgia:

**August 24, 2010**

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

**August 26, 2010**

Haynes Auditorium Ida Hilton Public Library,  
1105 Northway, Darien, GA 31305.

All written comments must be postmarked by September 7, 2010 to:

**Townsend EIS Project Manager**

Post Office Box 180458

Tallahassee, Florida 32318

For additional project information, please refer to the project website at <http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com> or phone (843) 228-7201.

8/12-19

FAX # (912) 437-2299

ICATION

oy me sworn,

legal

RIEN NEWS;

rea adjacent  
Intosh County

d August 12 and

appeared in said editions.

Kathleen W. Russell  
Editor & Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before  
me this \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.



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:

Aug. 15, 2010 Aug. 16, 2010,  
Aug. 17, 2010, \_\_\_\_\_, 2010,  
and finds that the following advertisement, to-wit:

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

This 18 day of Aug., 2010

Alaina Fincher  
(Deponent)

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

**Notice of Intent to Conduct Public Scoping and  
Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the  
Proposed Modernization and Expansion of  
Townsend Bombing Range, McIntosh County, Georgia**

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Department of the Navy (DoN) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and conduct public scoping meetings for the modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) located in McIntosh County, Georgia, to accommodate the use of inert (with spotting charge) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) with their associated larger land requirements. To accomplish this, the United States Marine Corps proposes to acquire lands in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater range of training activities.

The DoN is initiating a 30-day public scoping process, which begins with the advertisement of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on August 6, 2010, to identify community interests and local issues to be addressed in the EIS. Two public scoping meetings, using an informal open house format, will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations in Georgia:

**August 24, 2010**

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

**August 26, 2010**

Haynes Auditorium - Ida Hilton Public Library,  
1105 Northway, Darien, GA 31305.

All written comments must be postmarked by September 7, 2010 to:

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

For additional project information, please refer to the project website at  
<http://www.townsendbombingrange.eis.com> or phone (843) 228-7201.

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 Ymelise Mallett  
advertising manager, 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 8/11/2010, 8/14/2010  
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: 8/11/2010, 8/14/2010

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 \_\_\_\_\_

This 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2010

Ymelise Mallett

(Signature of person making affidavit)

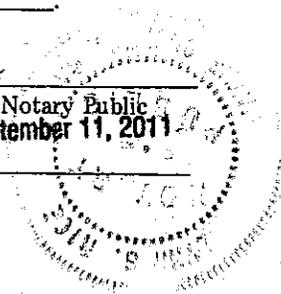
Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2010

[Signature]

Notary Public

My Commission Expires September 11, 2011

My Commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_



CLIPPING OF LEGAL  
ADVERTISEMENT  
ATTACHED HERE

**Notice of Intent to Conduct Public Scoping and Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, McIntosh County, Georgia**

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Department of the Navy (DoN) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and conduct public scoping meetings for the modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) located in McIntosh County, Georgia, to accommodate the use of inert (with spotting charge) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) with their associated larger land requirements. To accomplish this, the United States Marine Corps proposes to acquire lands in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater range of training activities.

The DoN is initiating a 30-day public scoping process, which begins with the advertisement of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on August 6, 2010, to identify community interests and local issues to be addressed in the EIS. Two public scoping meetings, using an informal open house format, will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations in Georgia:

**August 24, 2010**

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

**August 26, 2010**

Haynes Auditorium Ida Hilton Public Library,  
1105 Northway, Darien, GA 31305.

All written comments must be postmarked  
by September 7, 2010 to:

**Townsend EIS Project Manager**

Post Office Box 180458  
Tallahassee, Florida 32318

For additional project information, please refer  
to the project website at

<http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>

or phone (912) 228-7201

**Notice of Intent to Conduct Public Scoping and Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, McIntosh County, Georgia**

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Department of the Navy (DoN) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and conduct public scoping meetings for the modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) located in McIntosh County, Georgia, to accommodate the use of inert (with spotting charge) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) with their associated larger land requirements. To accomplish this, the United States Marine Corps proposes to acquire lands in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater range of training activities.

The DoN is initiating a 30-day public scoping process, which begins with the advertisement of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on August 6, 2010, to identify community interests and local issues to be addressed in the EIS. Two public scoping meetings, using an informal open house format, will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations in Georgia:

**August 24, 2010**

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

**August 26, 2010**

Haynes Auditorium Ida Hilton Public Library,  
1105 Northway, Darien, GA 31305.

All written comments must be postmarked  
by September 7, 2010 to:

**Townsend EIS Project Manager**

Post Office Box 180458  
Tallahassee, Florida 32318

For additional project information, please refer  
to the project website at

<http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>

or phone (912) 228-7201

**Appendix A**  
**Public Notification Documentation**

**Appendix A.3**  
**Newspaper Affidavits**  
***Second Scoping Period***

This page left blank intentionally.

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO REOPEN PUBLIC SCOPING  
FOR THE PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED  
MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF TOWNSEND  
BOMBING RANGE, MCINTOSH GEORGIA**

The Department of the Navy (DoN) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) located in McIntosh County, Georgia, to accommodate the use of inert (with spotting charge) precision-guided munitions with their associated larger land requirements. To accomplish this, the United States Marine Corps proposes to acquire lands in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater range of training activities.

The DoN initiated a 30-day public scoping process to identify community interests and local issues to be addressed in the EIS, which ended on September 7, 2010. However, the Environmental Impact Study Team identified a problem with the project's Post Office Box when letters were not being received and some were returned to their senders. As a result, the DoN is reopening the public comment period for an additional 30 days, which will end on November 8, 2010 to allow members of the public an opportunity to resubmit their feedback. The public may submit comments during the additional scoping period via the project Web site ([www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com)) and project email address ([townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com)).

**Also, all written comments must be  
postmarked by November 8, 2010 to:**

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



For additional project information, please refer to the project Web site at:  
[www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com) or phone (843) 228-7558

This page left blank intentionally.



# The Darien News

## DARIEN PRINTING & GRAPHICS

Post Office Box 496 • 101 Broad Street • Darien, Georgia 31305 • (912) 437-4251 • FAX # (912) 437-2299  
website: www.thedariennews.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 October 14, 2010 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 23 day of Oct, 2010.

*[Signature]*  
Notary Public



**NOTICE OF INTENT TO REOPEN PUBLIC SCOPING FOR THE  
PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR THE PROPOSED MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF  
TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE, MCINTOSH GEORGIA**

The Department of the Navy (DoN) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) located in McIntosh County, Georgia, to accommodate the use of inert (with spotting charge) precision-guided munitions with their associated larger land requirements. To accomplish this, the United States Marine Corps proposes to acquire lands in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater range of training activities.

The DoN initiated a 30-day public scoping process to identify community interests and local issues to be addressed in the EIS, which ended on September 7, 2010. However, the Environmental Impact Study Team identified a problem with the project's Post Office Box when letters were not being received and some were returned to their senders. As a result, the DoN is reopening the public comment period for an additional 30 days, which will end on November 8, 2010 to allow members of the public an opportunity to resubmit their feedback. The public may submit comments during the additional scoping period via the project Web site

([www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com)) and project email address ([townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com)).

**Also, all written comments must be postmarked**

**by November 8, 2010 to:**

Townsend EIS

Project Manager

Post Office Box 180458

Tallahassee, Florida 32318



For additional project information, please refer to the project Web site at:

**[www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com) or phone (843) 228-7558.**

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:

October 10, 2010 \_\_\_\_\_, 2010,  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2010, \_\_\_\_\_, 2010,  
and finds that the following advertisement, to-wit:

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

This 20 day of Oct, 2010

Ala Fincher  
(Deponent)

Eugene J Cronk  
Notary Public, Chatham County, Ga.

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

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO REOPEN PUBLIC SCOPING  
FOR THE PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED  
MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF TOWNSEND  
BOMBING RANGE, MCINTOSH GEORGIA**

The Department of the Navy (DoN) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) located in McIntosh County, Georgia, to accommodate the use of inert (with spotting charge) precision-guided munitions with their associated larger land requirements. To accomplish this, the United States Marine Corps proposes to acquire lands in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater range of training activities.

The DoN initiated a 30-day public scoping process to identify community interests and local issues to be addressed in the EIS, which ended on September 7, 2010. However, the Environmental Impact Study Team identified a problem with the project's Post Office Box when letters were not being received and some were returned to their senders. As a result, the DoN is reopening the public comment period for an additional 30 days, which will end on November 8, 2010, to allow members of the public an opportunity to resubmit their feedback. The public may submit comments during the additional scoping period via the project Web site ([www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com)) and project email address ([townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com)).

**Also, all written comments must be postmarked by November 8, 2010 to:**

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



For additional project information, please refer to the project Web site at [www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com) or phone (843) 228-7558.

# 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 LOIS GIBSON

\_\_\_\_\_, who, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: that he (she) is

LEGAL CLERK

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

of THE PRESS-SENTINEL  
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: October 13, 2010

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 CO. JESUP, GA

This 18 day of November 2010

Lois Gibson

(Signature of person making affidavit)

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 18 day of November 2010

[Signature]

Notary Public

My Commission Expires September 11, 2011.

My Commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO REOPEN PUBLIC SCOPING FOR THE PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE, MCINTOSH GEORGIA

The Department of the Navy (DoN) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) located in McIntosh County, Georgia, to accommodate the use of inert (with spotting charge) precision-guided munitions with their associated larger land requirements. To accomplish this, the United States Marine Corps proposes to acquire lands in the vicinity of TBR on which to create new target areas to allow for a greater range of training activities.

The DoN initiated a 90-day public scoping process to identify community interests and local issues to be addressed in the EIS, which ended on September 7, 2010. However, the Environmental Impact Study Team identified a problem with the project's Post Office Box when letters were not being received and some were returned to their senders. As a result, the DoN is reopening the public comment period for an additional 30 days, which will end on November 8, 2010 to allow members of the public an opportunity to resubmit their feedback. The public may submit comments during the additional scoping period via the project Web site

([www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com)) and project email address ([townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com))

Also, all written comments must be postmarked by November 8, 2010 to:

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



For additional project information, please refer to the project Web site at [www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com) or phone (843) 228-7558

This page left blank intentionally.

**Appendix A**  
**Public Notification Documentation**

**Appendix A.4**  
**Press Releases**

***First Scoping Period***

This page left blank intentionally.



# Media Release

Release 17-10

## **Marine Corps to Study Potential Land Acquisition**

**MCAS BEAUFORT, S.C. (Aug 6, 2010)** – The Department of the Navy announced today that it will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will analyze five alternatives for possible land acquisition that would modernize the Townsend Bombing Range, as well as a no-action alternative.

“It is imperative that Marines receive the most realistic training before deploying to combat. The modernization of our range in Townsend would allow Marines to train as they fight, with precision-guided munitions,” said Col. John R. Snider, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. “We are committed to working with the local community as partners and look forward to receiving public comments on our proposed alternatives and the issues to be studied.”

The Marine Corps’ Coastal Georgia range is operated by the Georgia Air National Guard. The Navy published its Notice of Intent to prepare the environmental study, including a description of the alternatives to be studied and announcing a schedule of public scoping meetings.

The first step in undertaking an environmental assessment will be the public scoping meetings and public comment period. The public scoping meetings are scheduled as follows:

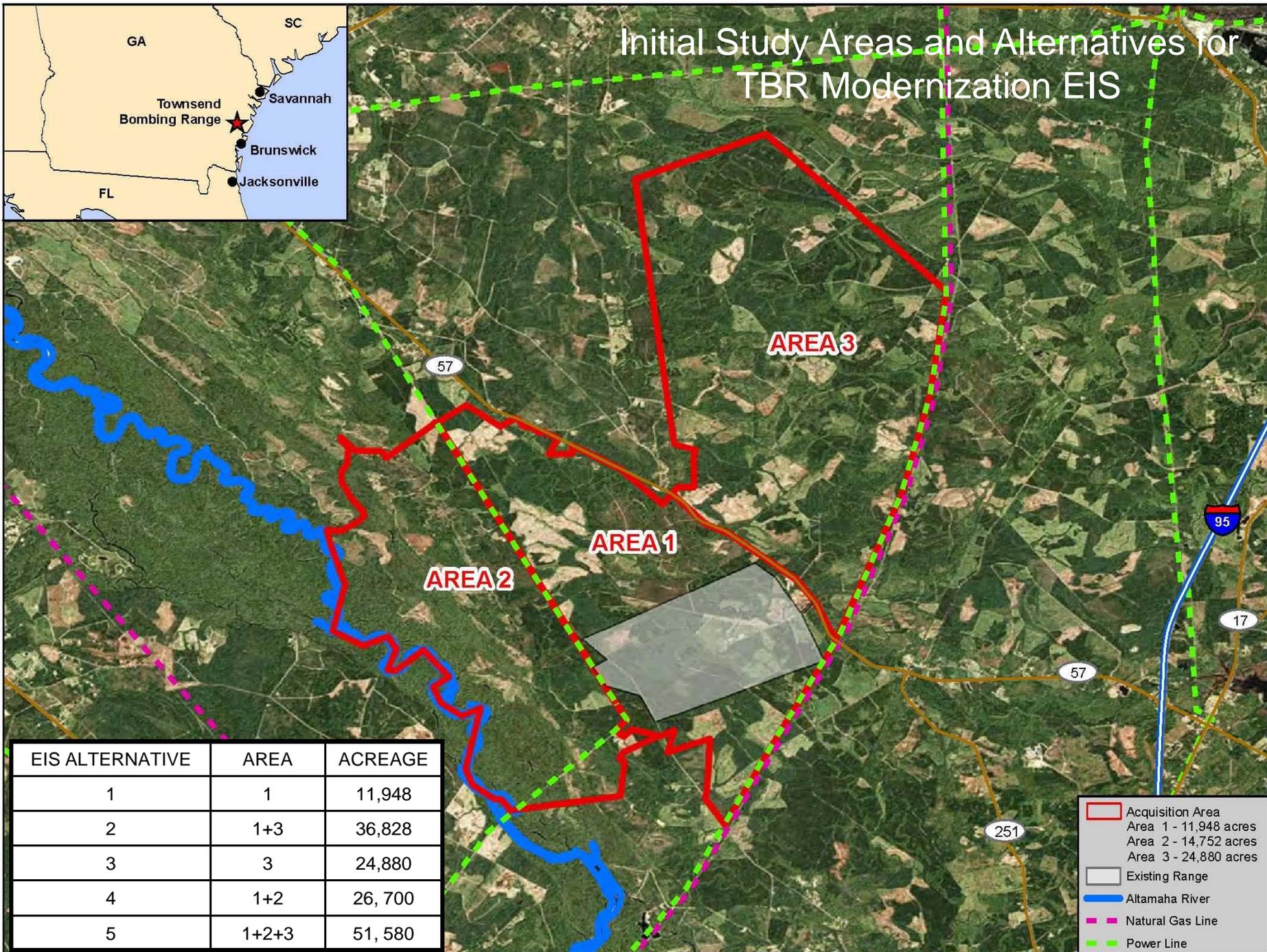
Tuesday, August 24, 2010, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., City of Ludowici Meeting Room,  
City Hall, 469 North Macon Street, Ludowici, GA 31316

Thursday, August 26, 2010, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Haynes Auditorium – Ida Hilton  
Public Library, 1105 Northway, Darien, GA 31305

The 30-day public scoping comment period will end on September 7. All public comments will be reviewed in determining the alternatives and issues to be studied and released in the final report.

Please contact Gunnery Sgt. Chad McMeen, MCAS Beaufort Public Affairs Officer, at (843) 228-7201 or cell (843) 321-6659 with any additional questions.

# Initial Study Areas and Alternatives for TBR Modernization EIS



EIS ALTERNATIVE	AREA	ACREAGE
1	1	11,948
2	1+3	36,828
3	3	24,880
4	1+2	26,700
5	1+2+3	51,580

- Acquisition Area
- Area 1 - 11,948 acres
- Area 2 - 14,752 acres
- Area 3 - 24,880 acres
- Existing Range
- Altamaha River
- - - Natural Gas Line
- - - Power Line

**Appendix A**  
**Public Notification Documentation**

**Appendix A.4**  
**Press Releases**

***Second Scoping Period***

This page left blank intentionally.



# Media Release

Release 18-10

## Marine Corps to reopen public comment period for Townsend Bombing Range

**MCAS BEAUFORT, S.C. (Oct. 8, 2010)** – The public comment period reopened to allow the community an opportunity to resend their feedback to the Department of the Navy regarding the proposed land acquisition that would modernize the Townsend Bombing Range. The new public comment period will end Nov. 8.

The decision to reopen the public comment period was made when the Environmental Impact Study team identified a problem with the designated post office box when letters were not received during the initial public scoping period.

“We anticipate this will have minimum impact to the overall EIS timeline however, we felt it necessary to inform the public and provide an opportunity to be involved and voice their comments,” said Col. John Snider, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.

Comments or questions should be submitted via the following:

- 1) The project Web site ([www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com));
- 2) Email to [townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com); or
- 3) Letter to Townsend EIS, Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, FL 32318.

All public comments will be reviewed and considered in determining the alternatives and issues to be studied. All comments will be released in the final report.

Please contact 1st Lt. Sharon Hyland, MCAS Beaufort Public Affairs Officer, at (843) 228-7201 or cell (843) 321-6658 with any additional questions.

-XXXX-

This page left blank intentionally.

**Appendix A**  
**Public Notification Documentation**

**Appendix A.5**  
**Scoping Letter Samples**

***First Scoping Period***

This page left blank intentionally.



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

11011  
CO  
August 3, 2010

Name  
Address  
City/State

Dear Name:

Subj: PROPOSED LAND ACQUISITION EXPANDING THE TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE IN  
COASTAL GEORGIA

I am writing to inform you of a proposed Department of the Navy land acquisition that would expand the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) in Coastal Georgia to enhance Marine Corps aviation training and readiness proficiency for air-to-ground operations, which will include the use of precision guided munitions (PGM). Expanding TBR and accommodating PGM training would significantly enhance aviation unit training efficiency for air crews operating from Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, South Carolina. Presently, TBR can accommodate only 43% of the required individual air crew training sorties. Proposed modernization would allow air crews to meet up to 93% of their training and proficiency requirements at Townsend Bombing Range.

The only authorized ordnance used in air crew training at TBR is inert ordnance (no explosive and only a very small smoke spotting charge), and this fact will not change under this proposed acquisition. Townsend Bombing Range is owned by the Department of the Navy, and is operated by the Georgia Air National Guard. It is the home station range for MCAS Beaufort units, and is used extensively by other military services in the region for air crew training as well.

The Marine Corps Requirements Oversight Council (MROC) determined on February 2, 2009 that current East Coast aviation training range capabilities are inadequate to support PGM deliveries. Currently, all East Coast-based Marine Corps aviation units must deploy to bombing ranges in Arizona and California to conduct the required PGM training. The MROC concluded that modernization at TBR would improve training and readiness for units stationed at MCAS Beaufort, and would also make for more efficient use of the larger training ranges in the Southwest Region. The Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment concurred with the MROC, and on December 4, 2009, the Undersecretary of Defense (AT&L) approved going forward with the study of the range modernization at Townsend Bombing Range.

An environmental impact review and assessment is the next step in the process for the proposed land acquisition. The TBR modernization study will analyze land in the vicinity of the range for possible acquisition to support achieving Marine Corps aviation training objectives. Modernization and expansion of TBR would require only a slight modification to current special use airspace supporting TBR. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process will begin Friday, August 6, with a public notice in the Federal Register announcing the study and describing the proposed alternatives that will be studied in the EIS. Public scoping meetings will be held and inputs

Subj: PROPOSED LAND ACQUISITION EXPANDING THE TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE IN  
COASTAL GEORGIA

from stakeholders will be considered in the finalization and evaluation of alternatives. All efforts of which will lead to a Record of Decision.

I have included a project fact sheet, a graphic of the potential acquisition areas that will be studied, and the public scoping meetings schedule for your ready information.

Please be assured that the United States Marine Corps and the Georgia Air National Guard are committed to working with neighbors and stakeholders as full participating partners during this entire process. Should you have any questions or desire further information, please contact my Community Planning and Liaison Officer, Ms. Alice Howard, at 843-228-7558 or via email at [townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com).

Very Respectfully,



J. R. SNIDER  
Colonel, USMC  
Commanding Officer

Attachments:  
Public Meeting Sked  
Fact Sheet  
Potential Aqn Graphic



## TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE MODERNIZATION

### Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Public Scoping Meeting Schedule

Two public scoping meetings, using an informal open house format, will be held to provide the public with an opportunity view project-related displays, speak with USMC and GA Air National Guard representatives and submit public comment forms. All comments regarding the scope of issues that the USMC should consider during the EIS preparation must be received prior to September 7, 2010. Additional information concerning the meetings and the proposed alternatives to be studied in the EIS are available on the EIS website at:

<http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>

#### Public Meetings:

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

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

Thursday, August 26, 2010

Haynes Auditorium – Ida Hilton Public Library  
1105 Northway  
Darien, GA 31305



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Community Plans & Liaison Office (Attn: Alice Howard)  
PO Box 9103, Building 601, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Beaufort, SC 29904-5001  
Phone: 843-228-7558 or e-mail: [townsendbombingrangeeis@ans.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ans.com)

This page left blank intentionally.



# TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE MODERNIZATION

## FACT SHEET

### BACKGROUND AND REQUIREMENT:

Training efficiency for pilots stationed at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort is sub-optimal because bombing ranges in the area cannot fulfill a significant percentage of aircrew proficiency requirements, including for precision-guided munitions (PGM). The Marine Corps' Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), located in coastal Georgia and operated by the Georgia Air National Guard, provides an opportunity for conducting a wider variety of training for air-to-ground operations, including with PGM. Modernization at TBR to support enhanced training would create a range meeting 93 percent of air-crew air-to-ground training requirements, as opposed to 43 percent with the current range. This would also make for more efficient use of the larger training ranges in the Southwest Region.

### MODERNIZATION STATUS:

- The Marine Corps Requirements Oversight Council (MROC) identified TBR for modernization and expansion to meet this PGM training requirement for units stationed at MCAS Beaufort. The Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment) concurred.
- The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) approved the study of opportunities for land acquisition at TBR.
- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will study TBR modernization alternatives. The EIS will analyze land in the vicinity of the range for possible acquisition. Multiple land acquisition configurations will be evaluated that could best meet the training modernization requirements. The EIS will assess environmental impacts of the alternatives, including identification of any mitigation necessary. Five alternatives have been identified in the Notice of Intent issued in the Federal Register on August 6, 2010; as well as a No Action Alternative.
- Only minor modification to current Special Use Airspace would be required for any land acquisition, i.e., modifying the current Restricted Airspace to include the area from 0-100 feet above ground level over any newly acquired lands.
- Public scoping meetings will be held on August 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> to solicit public review and comments on the project and proposed alternatives that will be studied in the EIS and will be used to finalize the range of reasonable alternatives studied in the EIS.
- A Draft EIS will be available for review and comment by the public in the Fall of 2011.
- After the Final EIS is completed and published in the Spring of 2012, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy will determine the best modernization option based on the completed EIS, training requirements, cost and other issues. This decision will be published in a Record of Decision (ROD) in the Fall of 2012.
- If approved in the ROD, any land acquisition would require Congressional approval and MILCON funding. The Federal Aviation Administration would determine through rulemaking whether to make any requested Special Use Airspace modifications.
- The Marine Corps and its partner the Georgia Air National Guard are committed to working with Congress, state and local leaders, resource and regulatory agencies, neighbors and public stakeholders throughout the process to inform them, and receive and analyze their comments.

### TBR MODERNIZATION FACTS

- The Georgia Air National Guard, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, and U.S. Navy units train at TBR and will continue to do so.
- Land acquisition to provide for new training capabilities would include sufficient lands to protect public safety.
- The land in the vicinity of the range is largely surrounded by pine forests. Fair market value would be offered for any land or property interests identified for acquisition.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Community Plans & Liaison Office (Attr: Alice Howard)

PO Box 9103, Building 601, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Beaufort, SC 29904-5001

Phone: 843-228-7558 or e-mail: townsendbombingrange@mcas.com



This page left blank intentionally.

# Initial Study Areas and Alternatives for TBR Modernization EIS



EIS ALTERNATIVE	AREA	ACREAGE
1	1	11,948
2	1+3	36,828
3	3	24,880
4	1+2	26,700
5	1+2+3	51,580

- Acquisition Area
- Area 1 - 11,948 acres
- Area 2 - 14,752 acres
- Area 3 - 24,880 acres
- Existing Range
- Altamaha River
- Natural Gas Line
- Power Line

This page left blank intentionally.



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION  
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29904-5001

IN REPLY REFER TO  
5090  
NREAO/111  
04 AUG 2010

Name  
Address  
City/State

Dear Name:

Pursuant to 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), Department of the Navy (Navy) NEPA regulations (32 CFR Part 775), and United States Marine Corps (USMC) NEPA directives (Marine Corps Order P5090.2A, changes 1 and 2), the Navy intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and conduct public scoping meetings for proposed land acquisitions that would expand Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) located in McIntosh County, Georgia, for the use of inert (with spotting charge) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) to support USMC aviation training and readiness proficiency for air-to-ground operations.

TBR is under USMC jurisdiction, owned by the federal government, and is operated by the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG). Expanding TBR by acquiring lands in the vicinity of the current range and accommodating PGM training would significantly enhance air-to-ground training capabilities at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina. Presently, TBR can accommodate only 43% of the training requirements. Implementation of the proposed project would allow USMC aviators to meet up to 93% of their training requirements at TBR.

The preparation of an EIS is necessary to support the proposed land acquisition and modernization. The study will analyze land in the vicinity of the Range for possible acquisition to support achieving USMC training objectives. The potential environmental effects associated with the proposed project will be evaluated in the EIS. The EIS process will begin with public scoping, which commences upon publication of the Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* on August 6, 2010.

The USMC is initiating the scoping process to identify community concerns and local issues to be addressed in the EIS. Federal, state, and local agencies and interested persons are encouraged to provide comments to the USMC to help identify specific issues or topics of environmental concern that should be addressed in the EIS. To obtain this input, the USMC will host two open-house public scoping meetings. During these meetings, the public will be provided an opportunity to view project-related displays, speak with USMC and GA ANG representatives, and submit comments on the proposed project. The public scoping meetings will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations in Georgia:

- 1) Tuesday, August 24, 2010, City of Ludowici Meeting Room, City Hall, 469 North Macon Street, Ludowici, GA 31316.
- 2) Thursday, August 26, 2010, Haynes Auditorium - Ida Hilton Public Library, 1105 Northway, Darien, GA 31305.

At this time, the USMC is requesting that your agency identify any specific information, issues, or concerns that should be included in the EIS that would facilitate the decision-making process. Please note that this letter is for NEPA scoping purposes only, and that the USMC shall initiate consultation under separate cover with your agency in the near future regarding this undertaking, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and implementing regulations 36 CFR 800.

Additional information concerning the meetings and the proposed project are available on the EIS Web site at: <http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>. Notices for the public scoping meetings will be published in the following local newspapers: *The Darien News*, *The Press-Sentinel*, and the *Savannah Morning News*. Comments or questions should be directed to Townsend EIS Project Manager, Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, FL 32318; email: [townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com). All written comments must be postmarked no later than September 7, 2010.

Sincerely,



J.R. SNIDER  
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer

**Appendix A**  
**Public Notification Documentation**

**Appendix A.5**  
**Scoping Letter Samples**  
*Second Scoping Period*

This page left blank intentionally.



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

October 6, 2010

Name  
Address  
City/State/Zip

Dear Name:

The United States Department of the Navy (Navy) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for proposed land acquisitions that would expand Townsend Bombing Range located in McIntosh County, Georgia, for the use of inert (with spotting charge) precision-guided munitions to support United States Marine Corps (USMC) aviation training and readiness proficiency for air-to-ground operations.

The EIS process began with a scoping period that was intended to identify community interests and local issues with the proposed project. During the 30-day (August 6 to September 7, 2010) public scoping process, the USMC hosted two open-house public scoping meetings (August 24 and 26, 2010) and accepted public comments. The USMC provided various methods for the public to comment, including email, mail, and through the project Web site. During the public scoping period, the Environmental Impact Study Team identified a problem with the project's Post Office Box when mailed comments were not being received. An exhaustive search for the letters conducted with the U.S. Postal Service resulted in the finding of nine misplaced letters, including a test letter sent by the Project Team, and the discovery that some letters had been returned to their senders. As a result, the USMC is reopening the public comment period for an additional 30 days, which will end on November 8, 2010, to allow the members of the public an opportunity to resubmit their feedback. This action is anticipated to have minimal impact to the overall EIS process; nevertheless, the USMC felt it necessary to inform the public and provide another opportunity for public comment.

Comments or questions should be submitted via the following:

- 1) the project Web site ([www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com));
- 2) email to [townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com); or
- 3) letter to Townsend EIS, Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, FL 32318.

Notices announcing the additional public scoping period will be published in the following local newspapers: *The Darien News*, *The Press-Sentinel*, and the *Savannah Morning News*. All written comments must be postmarked no later than November 8, 2010. For additional project information please refer to the project Web site at [www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com) or phone (843) 228-7558.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.R. Snider".

J.R. SNIDER  
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer

This page left blank intentionally.

**Appendix A**  
**Public Notification Documentation**

**Appendix A.6**  
**Newspaper Articles**

***First Scoping Period***

This page left blank intentionally.

# Southeast Georgia range for bombing may double

The Marine Corps wants to broaden its training at Townsend.

By **GORDON JACKSON**  
The Times-Union

The skies over McIntosh County in Southeast Georgia will be a lot busier if a Navy proposal to more than double the size of the Townsend Bombing Range is approved.

The 5,183-acre range in the county's northwest area near the Long County line has been in use since 1981, but Marine Corps officials say it's too small to conduct all the necessary training to prepare pilots for combat.

Cpl. Chris Zahn, a spokesman for the Beaufort, S.C., Marine Corps Air Station, said the range supports less than 50 percent of air crew training requirements and is too small to support precision-guided munitions training, which is a key component of Marines' war fighting.

If the bombing range is expanded, air crews will complete 93 percent of their training requirements there and save the cost of sending aircraft and their crews to the West Coast for training, Marine officials said.

"It is imperative that Marines receive the most realistic training before deploying to combat," said Col. John Snid-

er, commanding officer of the Beaufort base.

## Possible sites identified

Three tracts of private property adjacent to the range have been identified as possible sites. The tracts range anywhere in size from 11,948 acres to 51,580 acres if all three areas are bought, which is one of the options. The Navy can also choose not to expand the range, Zahn said.

Two public hearings will be held to discuss the proposal. The first is from 4 to 7 p.m. at Ludowici City Hall on Aug. 24, followed by another meeting from 4 to 7 p.m. at Haynes Auditorium in the Ida Hilton Public Library in Darien on Aug. 26.

If the range is expanded, property owners will be paid fair market value for their land, Zahn said.

## Few residents in area

County Manager Luther Smart said he just sent a memo on the proposal to county commissioners Thursday and none has yet responded.

Timber companies own most of the land under consideration and there are a few, if any, houses in the area, Smart said.

Smart said he has never received a complaint from anyone about military aircraft training at the range in his four years as county manager.

"The only thing you notice is the number of aircraft flying over," he said. "You'll hear and see the aircraft."

But people won't hear explosions because the training bombs used are inert, Zahn said.

## Environmental concerns

Smart said if there are any concerns, they could come from environmental groups. One proposed area runs along a stretch of the Altamaha River.

"There is a lot of recreational use all up and down the Altamaha River," Smart said.

Environmental studies to determine possible impacts on the river and uplands won't be completed until after the upcoming meetings, Zahn said. Comments and concerns from the meetings will be considered before the environmental study is drafted.

Officials with the Altamaha Riverkeeper said Friday that they were not aware of the proposal and had to study the issue before commenting.

Zahn said more public hearings will be scheduled after the comments are evaluated and the studies are completed. Anyone unable to attend the meetings can comment online at [www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com).

[gordon.jackson@jacksonville.com](mailto:gordon.jackson@jacksonville.com),  
(912) 729-3672

# The Gazette

THURSDAY, August 12, 2010

IN McINTOSH COUNTY, GA.

## Bombing range to expand?

Navy proposal could more than double size of Townsend Bombing Range, allowing pilots to complete almost all training at Georgia site.

By PATRICK DONOHUE  
pdonohue@beaufortgazette.com  
843-706-8152

Navy officials might purchase as much as 45,000 acres near a Georgia bombing range to give pilots from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort a chance to train closer to home.

The Navy announced plans last week to expand Townsend Bombing Range, a 5,183-acre range in McIntosh County, Ga. owned by the air station.

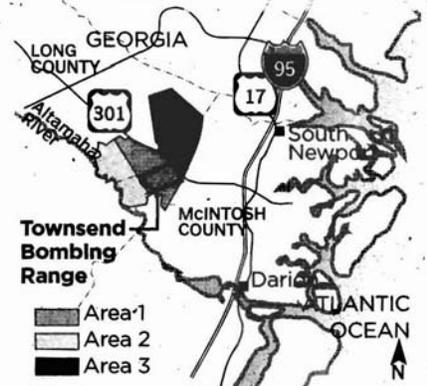
According to a notice published in the Federal Register, the Navy could opt to purchase some combination or all of three parcels near the range identified as possible expansion sites. If approved, the range could grow by between 11,000 and 45,000 acres, according to the notice. The Navy also could opt not to expand the range, which opened in 1981 and is maintained by the Georgia Air National Guard. The notice did not specify how much the land might cost.

At its current size, the range allows air crews to complete only 43 percent of

### EXPANSION OPTIONS

Below are five options to expand the 5,183-acre Townsend Bombing Range in

Option	Acreege
Area 1	11,948
Areas 1 and 3	36,828
Area 3	24,880
Areas 1 and 2	26,700
All 3 areas	51,580



The Beaufort Gazette

## RANGE

Continued from 1A

their training requirements and is too small to allow pilots to drop inert, precision-guided munitions, according to air station officials.

If the range expanded, pilots would be able to complete 93 percent of their training requirements at Townsend, which is about a 15-minute flight from MCAS Beaufort, said Cpl. Christopher Zahn, air station spokesman.

"It is imperative that Marines receive the most realistic training before deploying to combat," said Col. John Snider, the air station's commanding officer. "The modernization of our range in Townsend would allow Marines to train as they fight, with precision-guided munitions."

Now, air station pilots and entire F-18 Hornet squadrons are sent for several months to MCAS Yuma, Ariz., or MCAS Miramar, Calif., at a cost of

\$150,000 to \$350,000 per trip, Zahn said. The amount of training pilots undergo each year depends on the deployment schedule of the unit to which they are assigned.

"The whole squadron has to go because planes don't fly by themselves," Zahn said.

Public hearings to discuss the proposal have been scheduled for later this month in Ludowici, Ga., and Darien, Ga. and a draft report examining potential environmental effects is expected to be released next fall, according to the Navy.

McIntosh County Manager Luther Smart said he expects little, if any, local opposition to the Navy's plans to purchase the property, most of which is owned by timber companies.

"So far, I haven't gotten any negative feedback," Smart said. "The bombing range has been there a long time and I've never gotten any complaints."

The Navy is expected to make its final decision in 2012.

Please see RANGE on 7A

# Officials consider expanding Townsend Bombing Range

Public scoping meetings set for Aug. 24 in Ludowici, and Aug. 26 in Darien

The Townsend Bombing Range is not large enough to support the use of inert precision-guided munitions training, according to U.S. Marine Corps officers, so a modernization and expansion of the bombing range is proposed.

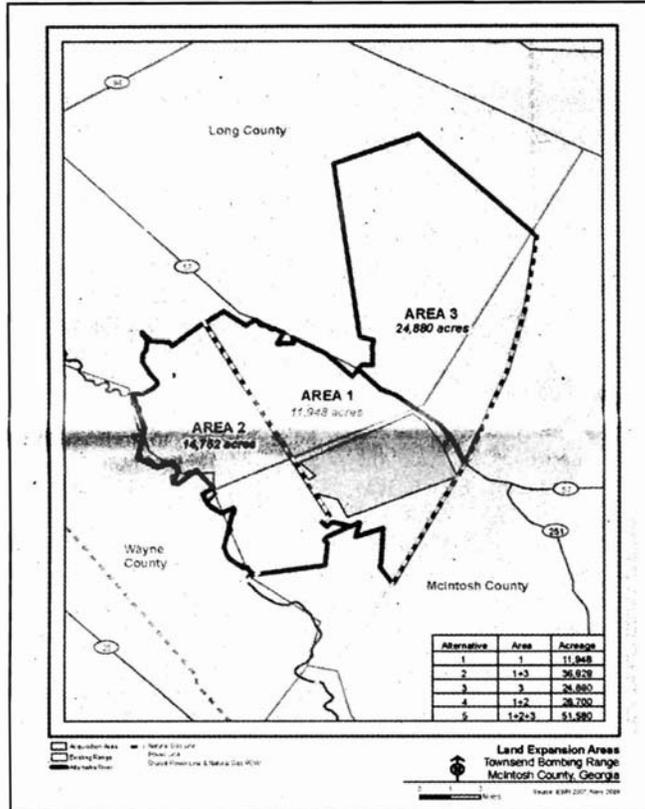
The 5,183-acre bombing range in McIntosh County, located adjacent to the Long County line, needs to be expanded so that pilots can receive the most realistic training before deploying to actual combat, officials say.

The majority of the area proposed to be expanded is in Long County. The proposed expansion would extend in the southwest direction to the Altamaha River.

Though the range has been deemed sufficient for the last 30 years, the military is looking at three surrounding tracts of privately-owned land, which could expand the bombing range by more than 50,000 acres and preclude sending airmen to the West Coast for training.

At present the Townsend Bombing Range is only able to support 43 percent of the required aircrew training for the F-18, and

See **Bombing**, page 9



This map provided by the U.S. Department of Navy and U.S. Marine Corps identifies the current area occupied by the Townsend Bombing Range (in gray) and shows possible areas of expansion.

## Bombing continued from page 9

it cannot support training with precision-guided munitions, which the Marine Corps states is a key component of war-fighting. With the proposed modernization, the range would allow the aircrews to meet 93 percent of the training requirements, and this would include the precision-guided munitions.

On Aug. 6, the Department of the Navy initiated a 30-day public scoping process to identify community interests and local issues to be addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement.

Two informal public scoping meetings will be held, both from 4 to 7 p.m.

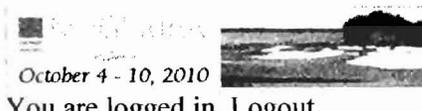
• On Tuesday, Aug. 24, the meeting will be held in Ludowici at the City of Ludowici Meeting Room in City Hall, 469 North Macon Street.

• On Thursday, Aug. 26, the meeting will be held in Darien at the Ida Hilton Public Library.

All written comments must be postmarked by Sept. 7 to Townsend EIS project manager, P.O. Box 180458, Tallahassee, FL 32318.

More information is available on line at [www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com).

Start home delivery | Place a classified ad | Golden Isles Magazine | Coastal Illustrated | Coastal Cuisine



Tickets On Sale Hosted by Davis Love III

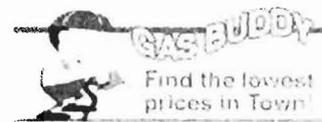


You are logged in. Logout

Home News Opinion Forms Subscriptions Advertising Classifieds Real Estate Autos Jobs Online Subscriber Pet Page



Highway 17 115 Walton Street • Darien, Georgia 912-437-2266 • Toll Free 1-877-616-8416



Public discusses bomb range

Date August 27, 2010 Section(s) Local News Byline By ERIKA CAPEK The Brunswick News

There were more questions than answers Thursday as military officials listened to comments and concerns of McIntosh County residents about a proposed expansion of a bombing range in Townsend, about 14 miles north of Darien.

The U.S. Marine Corps, which wants to acquire more land to expand the bombing range, held the second of two information sessions at the Ida Hilton Library, in Darien. The first was Tuesday in Ludowici. The Marine Corps is considering several land acquisition alternatives, ranging from nearly 12,000 acres to 51,000 acres.

Among those studying the displays set up by Marine Corps Thursday to detail the project was Wally Orrel, president of the Darien-McIntosh County Chamber of Commerce.

Orrel, one of 68 persons who browsed the displays during the first 30 minutes of the three-hour session, said he is concerned about losing thousands of acres of land and tax revenue to an expansion project that will not create any new jobs.

Ron Popiel, a McIntosh County resident, had a good reason to want to find out more about the expansion.

"We live out in that area," Popiel said. He is concerned about the potential for noise.

The bombing range is operated by the Georgia Air National Guard and used by other military forces to test munitions and to improve pilots' skills. The range cannot be used for precision guided missile training because it is too small.

The training range is used for non-explosive, or inert munitions, including guns, rockets, bombs and laser training munitions. Those munitions contain the equivalent of about a 10-gauge shotgun shell that explode on impact.

Like others, Popiel moved from station to station at the session, talking to military representatives. He noted that it seemed like a lot of precautionary measures were being taken by the military.

There is still a lot of work to be done before a decision is made. The Marine Corps is in the process of gathering information for an environmental impact statement.

An impact statement, to be completed by fall 2011, will be a detailed, roughly 3,000-page study that will analyze potential effects an expansion would have on the environment and the community.

It will also address questions and concerns residents submitted.

"There are a lot of things that need to be studied," Sgt. Chad McMeen, public affairs officer for the Marine Corps, said. "There's also a no-action alternative, and we could do nothing. This (process of analysis) is in the very early stages."

Officials are encouraging people to give them specific concerns by Sept. 7, when a 30-day public scoping period ends. Comments will be reviewed and released in a final report. The final decision is to be published in fall 2012.

Speak up

Anyone can offer comments of the planned expansion of the bombing range at Townsend online at www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com or by mail to Townsend EIS Project Manager,

http://archive.thebrunswicknews.com/archive\_detail.php?archive... 8/30/2010

Glass Repair Replacement HOME AUTO BUSINESS Click here for valuable Coupons GLASSDOCTOR 912-264-7596 152 Shell Drive • Brunswick





Published on [savannahnow.com](http://savannahnow.com) (<http://savannahnow.com>)

[Home](#) > [News](#) > 700-year-old cypress tell story of survival

## 700-year-old cypress tell story of survival

By *Savannah Morning News*

Created 2010-08-30 00:19

Mary Landers

THIS GIANT CYPRESS inspires awe from the first sight of its massive trunk, more than 43 feet around. But it's when you squeeze through a narrow opening at the base and step inside that trunk - and four other adults join you with room to spare - that you really appreciate this tree.

"This is prehistoric," said James Holland, the recently retired Altamaha Riverkeeper who's leading the tour. "No ifs, ands or buts about it."

Sunlight peaks in from the tree's chimney. A tiny Rafinesque's big-eared bat swoops overhead and perches just below a window-like opening, twitching nervously.

This tree is something.

And it's not even the biggest cypress in the stand in McIntosh County.

That honor belongs to another ancient nearby. State biologists measured its trunk circumference at 44 feet, 5 inches at breast height. That makes it larger than the official state champion cypress, though it hasn't been registered yet.

"I bet you Columbus hadn't come here when that tree had sprouted," Holland said.

It could well be true. Cypress are hard to age because they grow hollow, but Matt Elliott of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources estimates the big trees in this tract are at least 700 years old.

Even their knees are enormous, easily topping 15 feet.

"Look at the height of these cypress knees," Holland said, pointing to what looked like a smooth, wooden torpedo planted upright in the wet ground. "It breathes for the trees when this area is flooded."

Vicki Klahn knows that's true. There's plenty of water around to remind her, including a nearly chest-deep stream she just waded through. Klahn teaches science at Glynn Middle School in Brunswick, and Holland is an inspiration.

"He's a bulldog," she said. "I like how he comes out here and looks for problems but appreciates the beauty, too."

Holland first discovered this stand of massive cypress trees in McIntosh County's Altamaha River floodplain three or four years ago while fishing. The water was high and he boated through. He knew the stand was unusual because cypress is valuable wood that was logged extensively in the 1800s.

Cleanly sawed off cypress stumps give evidence that loggers came through this tract, too, but Holland figures these trees were spared because they were already hollow a century ago and therefore not as valuable as timber.

"This is not just a place with one or two big cypress," Holland said. "They're there out as far as I can take it. In this 7,000 acres there's probably the most large cypress of any swamp I've ever encountered."

The bottomland forest also holds massive Ogeechee limes, a tree of the tupelo family whose trunk looks like multiple trees in a huddle, and giant gum trees.

It sits on land purchased by Georgia last year from Rayonier Forest Resources and added to the Townsend Wildlife Management Area. As such, it's protected.

But Holland has some concerns about a proposal from the nearby Townsend Bombing Range, a Marine Corps facility, to double in size. He worries the public could lose access if the bombing range gets too close.

DNR spokeswoman Lauren Curry said her agency is monitoring the plans.

In the meantime, Holland has made it his mission to show these old giants to as many people as he can.

"I want to bring people up so they can help protect this area," he said. "People like Vicki, a biologist. I don't want nobody messing this area up. I want it for the people."



# The Darien News

SEE BREAKING NEWS: [www.thedariennews.net](http://www.thedariennews.net)

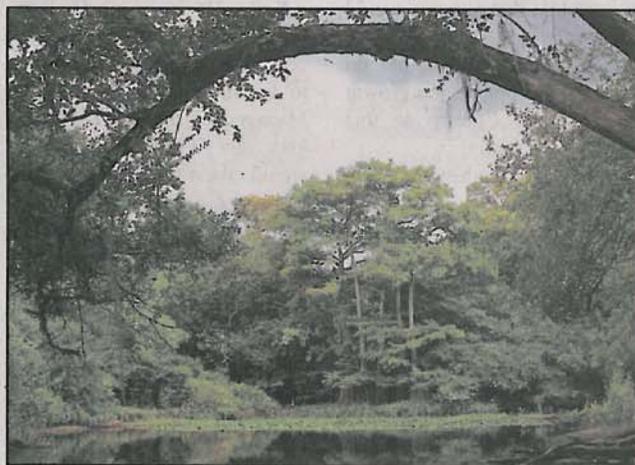
VOLUME 60, NO. 19

DARIEN, GEORGIA 31305

September 2, 2010

14 PAGES

## Questions asked about Townsend Bombing Range expansion at scoping meeting



Miller Lake is a paradise of beauty filled with bald cypress trees, lily pads and fish. It is located in the Townsend Wildlife Management Area, as well as in the proposed land expansion for the Townsend Bombing Range. If the Department of the Navy decides to choose Area 2 in the expansion, Miller Lake will be closed to the public. (Photo by James Holland)

"Let's don't get the cart before the horse," said GySgt. Chad McMeen at the Marine Corps scoping meeting concerning the proposed modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range held in Darien last Thursday. "This meeting is just the first step of a very lengthy and thorough process."

The United States Marine Corps, which opened the range in 1981 as a training facility for Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., is gathering information until Sept. 7 for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the expansion of the bombing range.

The current size of the range is insufficient for Marines to train as they fight with precision-guided munitions. Only 43 percent of

their training can be completed at Townsend. If the range is not expanded, training will have to be accomplished in California.

Therefore, the military is proposing five possible alternatives. It has identified three areas. If all three areas were included, it would encompass 51,580 acres, with the majority of that land being in Long County, primarily owned by timber companies Rayonier and Goodwood.

Area 1 includes 11,948 acres and is adjacent to the east and west of the current 5,183-acre range.

Area 2 includes 14,752 acres to the south and west of the present range and included a majority of the Townsend Wildlife Management Area. This area, though not specifically defined,

Archie Davis, III, right, looks at computer map of proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range. His family's property is located .2 miles from the proposed Area 2 expansion. The Davis family is concerned about devaluation of their property.



Frank Williams, Jr., owner of timberland in McIntosh and Long counties, discusses the modernization of the Townsend Bombing Range at last Thursday's scoping meeting in Darien.

runs along the Altamaha River, and includes such areas at Miller Lake. It does not include Plum Orchard Cemetery.

Area 3 has 24,800 acres and is located to the north and west of the present range.

The Marine Corps is considering including Alternative 1: Area 1; Alternative 2, Area 1+3; Alternative, Area 3; Alternative Areas 1+2; or Alternative, Areas 1+2+3. And there is one other option: no land expansion and no changes to the operations to the present bombing range.

Thirty minutes before the three-hour meeting was to begin on Aug. 26, the room was filled with local citizens asking such questions as to whether Hwy. 57

would be closed; if fishing and hunting on the Altamaha River would be allowed; how much taxes to the county would be lost; how much the noise level would increase; will rare and endangered species be harmed; would there be increased air space; and more.

Some of those questions were answered outright; many will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement that will take a year to complete.

Criteria to be considered concerning possible locations for a training range for the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort are that: it must be located within

See **Bombing Range**, Page 14



Donald Barker, 22, of Gainesville, died as a result of a single-vehicle accident on Saturday while driving the island for the weekend Reynolds Mansion on Saturday.

## Man dies in accident on Sapelo, funeral for Big Hog

A destination wedding was held last Saturday at beautiful Sapelo Island's "Big Hog" Family and friends were staying at the mansion, as well as in Hog Hammock Community.

On the eve of the wedding everyone in the wedding party

## Family's grief and joy

By Lucy Lea

Circumstances often present with the necessity of making unwelcome choices in life. The way we choose to respond to these circumstances says a lot about us. The obvious first reaction is not always the best response.

Last weekend while a family gathered on Sapelo Island for a joyous family occasion,

See **Family's Grief**, Page 14

# Bombing Range

Continued from Page 1

165 nautical miles of the base; it must not currently host conflicting uses; must have available restricted airspace; and must have the capability to meet the air-to-ground training requirements. The Townsend Bombing Range is the only location able to meet all of the criteria.

Military personnel explained that there would be no increase in the restricted airspace or the already large military operating area.

Utilizing non-explosive precision-guided weapons for training, the weapons are released from higher altitudes and a greater range for the target is required than are non-guided weapons. It was explained that

though these weapons are more accurate, the safety zone requirements are much larger because of having to contain the area in which the weapon may impact the ground should the guidance system fail.

In the Environmental Impact Analysis, a multitude of issues must be addressed by Fall 2011. These will include safety, noise, socio-economics, recreation, natural resources, forestry resources, air quality, water resources, cultural resources, land use environmental justice and airspace/air traffic.

If the expansion included all three proposed areas, it would include 38 percent wetlands. The current area and proposed area of expansion include rare, threatened and endangered species: the flatwoods salamander, bald eagle, gopher tortoise and wood stork. There are two places in the world where the rare Radford mint is found, and both of those

are located on the land that may be used for guided missiles.

Area 2 includes a large portion of the Townsend Wildlife Management Area along the Altamaha River that provides hunting, fishing and camping. If the area becomes part of the of the bombing range, it would be closed except for possible lottery hunts.

Concerning land use, officials stated that some of the land may be converted from forest and to target area.

According to Alice Howard, director of Community Plans and Liaison, the land would not be clear cut. There would possibly be four to five each of 500-acre areas that would be cleared similar to the 500 acres cleared at the present bombing range location.

Howard also stated that the plans as they exist would not close Hwy. 57 or the Altamaha River.

She explained that the initial plan with the five alternatives did not consider environmental issues. These will be addressed during the Environmental Impact Study. The study should reveal how the project can be accom-

plished with the least amount of land.

Military officials could not answer exactly how many acres of property would be affected in McIntosh County, though the vast majority of the land expansion would be in Long County.

According to Paul Griffin, chairman of the McIntosh County Tax Assessors Board, an estimate of the fair market value of the taxable portions of the expanded Townsend Bombing Range within McIntosh County is about \$16,000,000.

Currently, approximately 20 percent of the property in McIntosh County is owned either by the state or federal government. Taking more land for government ownership, puts more burden of taxes on McIntosh property owners, which was a primary concern of those from McIntosh County who attended last Thursday's scoping meeting.

Emily Davis of Darien who owns 125 acres of land located .2 miles from the proposed Area 2 property, attended the meeting. She stated, "I actively oppose the proposal. It will have a devastating effect on people who own

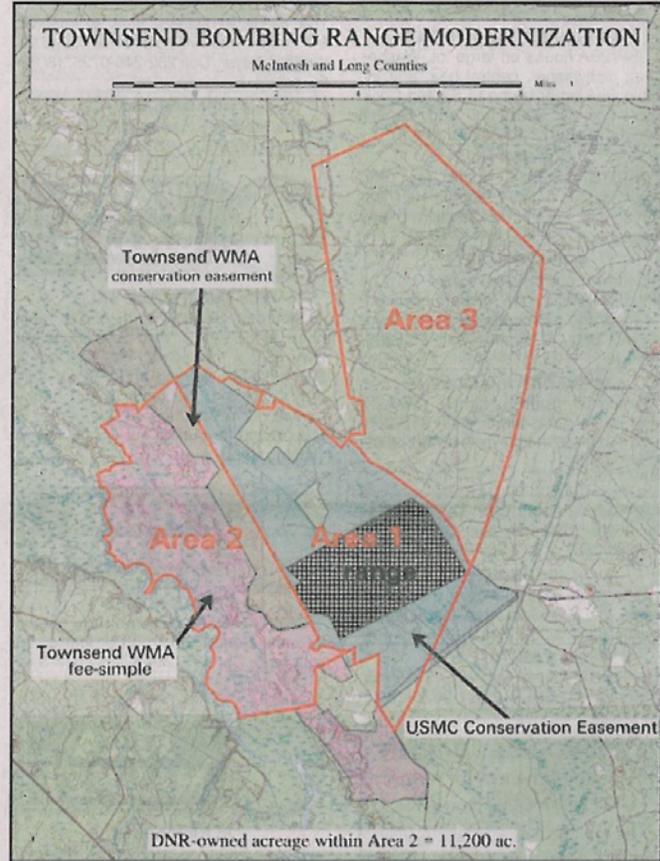
property near the area."

Davis questions exactly how much her property will be devalued. Her family utilizes the property for recreation where they go hunting, fishing and spend the night.

"The noise is horrendous," was her description of the jets flying in at a very low altitude as they approach the bombing range targets.

Other property in that area

See Questions, page 2



Area 2 of the proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range encompasses 14,752 acres. A major portion of that area is part of the Townsend Wildlife Management Area along the Altamaha River in which citizens are currently allowed to hunt, fish and enjoy the beauty of nature. Areas 1, 2 and 3 are being considered in the modernization of the Townsend Bombing Range, which currently occupies the property in Area 1 identified as "range."

**Rx Darien Pharmacy**  
 1229 Hwy. 17 • Bluestein's Shopping Complex • 437-3784

*Allow us to provide confidential, hometown service for you and your family*

**Prescriptions • Medical Supplies  
 Medical Equipment**

**CERTIFIED ELECTRIC, INC.**  
 ESTABLISHED 1971

**CELLULOSE & SPRAY FOAM INSULATION**

**INSULATION FOR:**

- Residential & Commercial
- Attics & Crawl Spaces

More

grangeeis@ene.com; or by mail, Townsend EIS Project Manager, P.O. Box 1800458, Tallahassee, FL 32318.

## Questions

*Continued from Page 14*

adjacent to the proposed expansion includes approximately 1,000 acres owned by Edgar Davis, Jr.

Plum Orchard Cemetery, adjacent to Emily Davis's property, is located near the proposed expansion.

James Holland, retired Altamaha Riverkeeper, said that he is opposed to the closing of Area 2 along the Altamaha River. The Altamaha provides so much eco-tourism. He described the huge cypress trees in Miller Lake that must be preserved.

Frank Williams, Jr., attended the meeting and sent his comments in concerning the loss of property taxes in this poor community and land devaluation. His son, Frank Williams, III, has spent hours studying the loss of tax dollars to this community.

State Representative Roger Lane of Darien attended the

scoping meeting in Darien, as well as the one held in Ludowici on Aug. 24.

"The biggest concern is what effect the expansion will have on the property taxes in each county (with Long County losing the most.)"

Lane said the military has said that they will look at alternatives in which the counties could benefit monetarily for the losses, such as payments from timber sales or funds paid in lieu of taxes as the federal government and state pay for their properties in McIntosh County.

Lane indicated that he was satisfied that the noise factor would not increase with precision-guided munitions, which will fly at a higher altitude and drop inert

munitions. Wally Orrel, Chamber president, expressed concern about the proposed expansion, in that it could have a negative effect on potential businesses that would possibly open in those areas. He expressed concern to officials about the expansion prohibiting the city's proposed airport on Hwy. 17, but Marine officials assured him that airspace would not be affected.

"The expansion does not do anything to improve job growth in McIntosh County at this point," Orrel said.

Members of the historic Portal Hunting Club at Jones lease 13,000 acres of land in McIntosh, Long and Liberty counties. Numerous members of the club attended the meetings. Angus McLeod, a club member, said he and other members oppose the

expansion that would eliminate much of their hunting territory.

Jim Morrison of Meridian and former executive director of the Georgia Wildlife Federation, opposed the inclusion of Area 2 that runs adjacent to the Altamaha River, where hunting and fishing would cease. "Put it in the piney woods in Area 3, where it won't hurt anything."

Kathy Davidson attended the meeting and expressed her concern of having restricted access to the new Townsend Wildlife Management Area. "There are very few WMAs available. It would take a lot of meat off the tables for a bunch of families here. In these economic times, it helps right now to hunt and fish in that area." She also expressed concern over the loss of property taxes.

**Public comment concerning this proposal may be made by Tuesday, Sept. 7: online at [www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com); by mail to Townsend EIS Project Manager, P.O. Box 180458, Tallahassee, FL 32318; or by email to [townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com).**

The timeline after the end of the public scoping period allows for a year to complete the draft Environmental Impact Statement. Then by Fall 2011, the public will have opportunities to meet with military officials and comment, during which time there will be an agency review. The Final EIS will be presented Spring 2012. The Secretary of the Navy will make the final decision.

## New Home Const.

### Additions - Renovations

- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Garages
- Roofs
- Sunrooms
- Mother-in-law Suites
- Drywall
- Decks
- Painting

912-832-4001

**KINGWAY CUSTOM HOMES**



## COASTAL ANIMAL HOSPITAL P.C.

**A.J. Tucker, DVM**

*Dr. Tucker is happy to serve his neighbors & friends from McIntosh County. Say "I saw it in The Darien News," & receive 10% off your first examination!*

*"Life Saving Care for Your Four-Legged Family"*

3607 Community Rd., Brunswick  
(At the light, next to Kings Colonial Ford)

**554-2050**

*Emergency Service*

8 - 5:30, Mon. - Fri.  
9 - noon, Sat.

EL DOCTOR  
HABLA ESPAÑOL

FREE  
STATE  
GREENINGS



# What about the Townsend Bombing Range expansion?

If approximately 20 percent of McIntosh County property were not already owned by the state and federal governments, concern may not be so fierce when considering the loss of more property as the military looks at expanding the Townsend Bombing Range. It is estimated that the fair market value of the taxable portions of the expanded bombing range within McIntosh County is about \$16,000,000.

Already the government owns most of this county's valuable properties, including the barrier islands of Blackbeard (federal) and Sapelo (state), as well as Harris Neck Wildlife Refuge (federal). Then, too, a major portion of the Altamaha River corridor in McIntosh County is owned by the state government.

Money paid to the county in lieu of property taxes for the property owned by the federal government in 2009 was \$167,059 and, in 2010, \$215,819. Georgia Department of Natural Resources paid the county, in lieu of taxes for Sapelo Island in 2009 and 2010, \$100,000 each year. These funds are just a drop in the county's revenue bucket as compared to the taxes paid, if the land were privately owned.

McIntosh is a poor county. As the state and federal governments continue to take our valuable and beautiful land, there are fewer taxpayers in this county who are then left with a huge tax burden that we cannot afford!

Providing an expanded area for the Townsend Bombing Range so that our military can be trained to fight for our country is something that the majority of the people in McIntosh County support.

As the military has proposed three possible areas to expand, *The Darien News* is concerned about the acquisition of Area 2, 14,753 acres along the Altamaha River that encompasses a majority of the Townsend Wildlife Management Area, which is comprised of 11,200 acres already owned by Georgia DNR. Officials say that if Area 2 were to become part of the Townsend Bombing Range, the Altamaha River would not be closed. But, where would the line be drawn to limit access to areas of wonderful beauty, hunting and fishing? What will be done to protect the rare, threatened and endangered species that live in the area?

We ask the Department of the Navy to eliminate the consideration of Area 2 for the expansion. We have been told it is the military's position that the expansion would be accomplished with the least amount of

land. Areas 1 and 3 seem to be more feasible.

Another thought process concerning the subject is that of Paul Griffin, who serves as chairman of the McIntosh County Tax Assessor's board. He points out that by the Marine Corps expanding the bombing range and not having to resort to sending pilots out west to complete their training, there will be a huge savings involved. McIntosh County should be able to share in the financial benefits and work with the Marine Corps to enhance the management of the property in a win-win situation.

Second, the county and Marine Corps need to establish a stabilized agreement on a long term basis. And finally, both should agree on an exit strategy, when the land becomes no longer valuable to the Marine Corps, and can revert back to county ownership.

McIntosh Countians: Submit your comments by Sept. 7 online at [www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com); by email, [townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com); or by mail, Townsend EIS Project Manager, P.O. Box 1800458, Tallahassee, FL 32318.

## Questions

*Continued from Page 14*

adjacent to the proposed expansion includes approximately 1,000 acres owned by Edgar Davis, Jr.

Plum Orchard Cemetery, adjacent to Emily Davis's property, is located near the proposed expansion.

James Holland, retired Altamaha Riverkeeper, said that he is opposed to the closing of Area 2 along the Altamaha River. The Altamaha provides so much eco-tourism. He described the huge cypress trees in Miller Lake that must be preserved.

Frank Williams, Jr., attended the meeting and sent his comments in concerning the loss of property taxes in this poor community and land devaluation. His son, Frank Williams, III, has spent hours studying the loss of tax dollars to this community.

State Representative Roger Lane of Darien attended the

scoping meeting in Darien, as well as the one held in Ludowici on Aug. 24.

"The biggest concern is what effect the expansion will have on the property taxes in each county (with Long County losing the most.)"

Lane said the military has said that they will look at alternatives in which the counties could benefit monetarily for the losses, such as payments from timber sales or funds paid in lieu of taxes as the federal government and state pay for their properties in McIntosh County.

Lane indicated that he was satisfied that the noise factor would not increase with precision-guided munitions, which will fly at a higher altitude and drop inert

Cash reward offered for safe return of

## Skipper's Fish Camp

sign formerly located on the corner of Broad and Screven streets!

**Call Andy at Skipper's, (912) 437-437-3474 or Darien Police Department at (912) 437-6644.**

## New Home Additions - P

- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Garages
- Roofs
- Sunroom
- Mother-in-law

912-83

### KINGWAY

4 of 4

# FREE

[Print This Article](#)

By Mike Riddle  
Correspondent

## Long County asked to oppose expansion of bombing range

Long County commissioners addressed a recent surge of opposition to the expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range during the commission's September meeting.

Long County resident Tommy Houston went before the commissioners and said he thinks the proposed range expansion will hurt county revenue and the environment. Houston said the county already recently lost more than 300,000 taxable acres to eminent domain, and the proposed expansion would take another 51,000 acres.

The resident estimated that Long County will lose \$252,714 annually if the expansion goes through.

"Nobody in this room would deny the military what they need, but I don't think they need all of this," Houston said.

He thinks that if the land is used for the bombing range project, the county should request additional financial compensation because of the potentially negative impact on Long County.

"If this happens, look for your taxes to go up," Houston said. "What I'm asking you (the commissioners) to do is to adopt a resolution against this expansion based on its environmental impact and socioeconomic impact."

After Houston spoke, Commission Chairman Bobby Walker said several more public hearings regarding the expansion have been scheduled. He encouraged all county residents to attend and offer their opinions.

Also at the meeting, Liberty Regional Medical Center Chief Financial Officer Sam Johnson told commission members about a proposed wellness program for county employees.

Johnson said LRMC has established a presence in Long County with Coastal Manor Long Term Care Facility and the emergency medical services. He also said 20 percent of LRMC's business is from Long County, and the hospital plans to add an adult day care center in the future.

Johnson said a county employee wellness program would encourage healthy lifestyle choices through education and access to affordable health care. The program also would include a free annual flu shot clinic, annual medical exams, cardiac screening, diabetes testing, cholesterol tests, prostate exams and three sick visits per year.

Walker asked how difficult would it be to add Long County senior citizens to the program.

LRMC CEO Scott Kroell, who also attended the meeting, said it would be easy to make the addition through Medicare.

After a brief discussion, commissioners decided to consider the plan further and get back to Johnson soon.

In other business commissioners:

- Appointed Harold Tatum, Lillian Simmons and Joyce Williams to the Coastal Regional Center's aging services advisory council.
- Appointed Roger Houston to the Long County Development Authority.

<http://www.coastalcourier.com/news/article/24388/>

This page left blank intentionally.

**Appendix A**  
**Public Notification Documentation**

**Appendix A.6**  
**Newspaper Articles**

***Second Scoping Period***

This page left blank intentionally.

[Print This Article](#)

By Mike Riddle  
Correspondent

## Bombing range buffer worries Long officials

State gets 6,900 acres for Townsend WA

The state recently acquired land in Long County for increased wildlife conservation and to provide a buffer around the Townsend Bombing Range. According to a Sept. 29 news release from Gov. Sonny Perdue, Georgia recently bought 6,911 acres in Long County as part of the Townsend Wildlife Management Area. The property is in the lower Altamaha River floodplain and, according to the release, is one of the most valuable ecological corridors in the state.

The parcel, which runs along a 10-mile stretch adjacent to the Altamaha River, will serve as an environmental buffer around the bombing range.

State officials have said the buffer is necessary, but many Long County representatives and residents think the land acquisition is the first of many that will hurt the county. A proposed expansion of the bombing range's training area has drawn a surge of opposition from government entities and citizens.

Long County Tax Assessor Beverly Johnson said the estimated annual revenue the county will lose as a result of the 6,911-acre purchase will be around \$42,950.

That estimate concerns County Commissioner Wallace Shaw. "It's just another take-away for Long County," he said. "I don't know what the state and the federal governments are doing, but if they keep taking land, they're going to put us out of business."

Commission Chairman Bobby Walker is worried taxpayers will suffer if the expansion goes through. "The current acreage that has already been lost cost you, as the taxpayers, over \$300,000 per year. And all we get is timber tax from Fort Stewart for the 24,000 acres that were taken from Long County. Now the federal government is proposing to take in excess of another 30,000 acres for the expansion of the TBR," he said.

Currently, there are five possible proposals for expanding the range. Depending on the proposal, the additional acreage in question varies from 11,948 acres to as high as 51,580 acres in Long and McIntosh counties.

Recently, the Long County Board of Education, the chamber of commerce and the county commission addressed the expansion during their respective meetings. The three entities oppose the project because of the negative financial impact officials believe it will have on the county.

"If they are going to continue taking land from us, we should get some manner of reasonable compensation," Shaw said.

Walker encouraged area residents to make their feelings about the expansion known. "Citizens of Long County, please get out and voice your opinion. Contact your congressman and senator, who, I feel, are two of the best at their jobs that we could possibly hope for," he said.

According to information provided by Marine Corps Air Station-Public Affairs Officer Chad McMeen, the Townsend Bombing Range expansion is necessary to meet modern training requirements and to insure the safety of the community.

McMeen said a study is being conducted to identify and evaluate the project's potential negative effects on the environment and the community. After the results are released next fall, the PAO officer said, there will be a series of public meetings and community members will be invited to offer feedback.

<http://www.coastalcourier.com/news/article/24939/>

## **Townsend comment period extended**

A problem with a post office box prompted Marine Corps officials to reopen the public comment period on a proposed land acquisition that would expand the Townsend Bombing Range, owned by Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.

The Navy might purchase as much as 45,000 acres near the 5,183-acre range in McIntosh County, Ga., according to a notice published in the Federal Register.

A problem with a post office box caused some public comments received by mail to arrive after the Sept. 7 deadline, according to a news release Friday.

The public comment period will now end Nov. 8, the release said.

Information: Go to [www.townsendbombingrangeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeis.com) or call Lt. Sharon Hyland at 843-228-7201.

## Letters to the editor Monday

Created 2010-10-31 00:19

### Bombing range could blow Long County away

As a Long County native, I was shocked to see the planned land acquisition by the U.S. Marine Corps for the expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range on the Long-McIntosh county line, about 50 miles south of Savannah.

This acquisition will increase a 6,000-acre facility nearly tenfold encompassing, to over 50,000 acres of pristine South Georgia timberland and river estuary.

The Marines want the additional land for the use of precision guided munitions by its proposed east coast basing of the Joint Strike Fighter at Beaufort MCAS. The recent announcement by the USMC of the proposed basing of up to five squadrons of the JSF at Beaufort was seen as a great thing by all of Savannah's media outlets.

It will be a huge economic boom for the Beaufort area and bring jobs, construction, civilian contractors, service support contractors and billions of federal dollars to the area.

Unfortunately, that boom will never reach across the Savannah River that far and will certainly never touch Long County. The 37,000 acres that the Marines will get will not pay any more money into the county digest nor will one single local job be created. It is off the books and the remaining 40 percent of Long County's land area that remains privately owned will shoulder the burden of running the county's government and school system.

I say 40 percent, because Ft. Stewart owns 30,000 acres in the north part of the county, and the state of Georgia owns large tracts along the Altamaha River as wildlife management areas. None of these contribute a nickel of tax revenue to the county. Long has seen a 200 percent population growth from the expansion of Ft. Stewart, but due to the proximity of Hinesville, the commercial growth has not followed and that sales tax revenue goes to Liberty County.

Hence, if this range is approved and goes through, Long County may not be financially solvent and may have to be absorbed back into Liberty and McIntosh counties, as it was cut from them back in 1920.

I support our military and support the missions that Beaufort MCAS conducts with marine air. I also support the mission of the Townsend Range, but not at the expense of my and my neighbors' way of life. We have the largest military facility east of the Mississippi right here in our own back yard and less than 10 miles away from the Townsend facility. Ft Stewart is big enough

that pretty much anything short of an atomic weapon can be fired or dropped on its expansive artillery impact area. We are in an era in our military where joint operations are paramount. What better way for the services to demonstrate joint operations than for the Marines to use an Army facility to drop live PGMs instead of buying more land they really don't need for inert (dummy) munitions?

Roger W. Houston is a civil and environmental engineer, living in Ludowici.

## **Appendix B**

# **Public Scoping Meeting Materials**

This page left blank intentionally.



# WELCOME

## TO THE MARINE CORPS PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

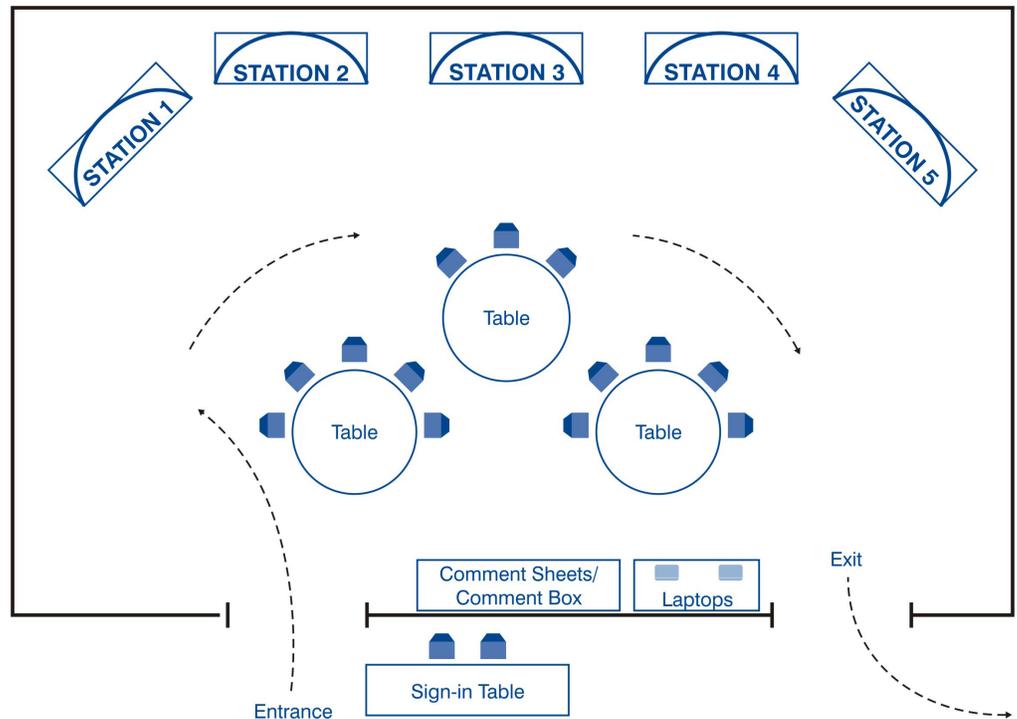
### Fact Sheet Index

- 2 National Environmental Policy Act and Public Involvement
- 3 Comments, Meeting Dates, and Locations
- 4 History and Mission
- 5 Proposed Action
- 6 Weapon Danger Zones
- 7 Alternatives
- 8 Environmental Analysis

Today's open information session is for the United States Marine Corps (USMC) to gather information for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) at Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), McIntosh County, Georgia. The EIS will evaluate the potential environmental effects of acquiring additional property and constructing the necessary infrastructure to allow the use of precision-guided weapons at TBR. Through the use of precision-guided weapons 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 purpose of this scoping meeting is to inform you of the Proposed Action, to explain the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the associated environmental impact analysis, and to get your input and concerns related to the scope of the EIS.

USMC representatives are available to explain the Proposed Action and alternatives, answer your questions, and describe the environmental impact analysis process and related schedule. 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 scoping period ends on September 7, 2010. Please submit your comments by that date to ensure they are considered in the EIS analysis.

For future updates, please visit the project Web site at:  
[www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://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.

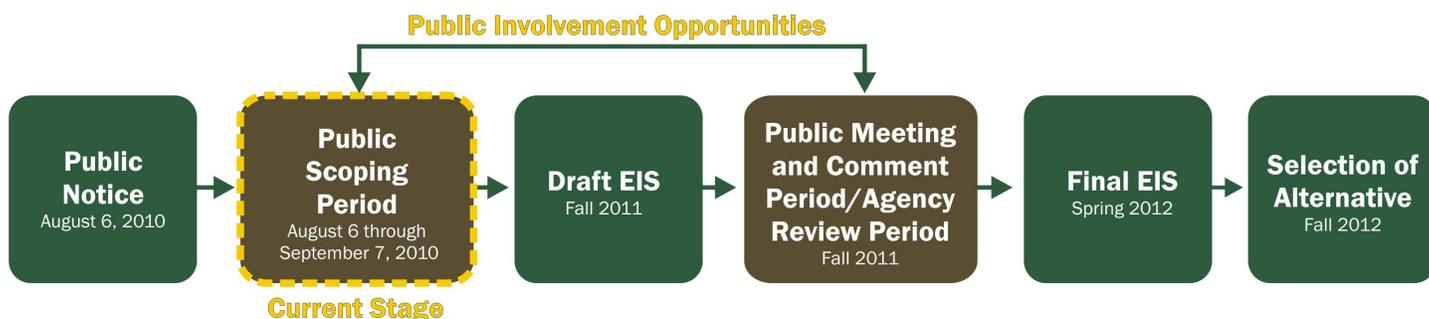
#### **Environmental Impact Statement**

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' EIS for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of TBR will include 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;
- 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; and
- Presentation of measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any impacts.

**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 scoping meeting
2. Online at: [www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://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](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com)

**The public scoping period ends on September 7, 2010.**



## Scoping Meeting Dates and Locations

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location Address</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> August 24, 2010	<b>City of Ludowici Meeting Room</b> City Hall 469 North Macon Street Ludowici, GA 31316
<b>Thursday</b> August 26, 2010	<b>Haynes Auditorium</b> Ida Hilton Public Library 1105 Northway Darien, GA 31305

# History and Mission

## History

TBR is a 5,183-acre facility located in McIntosh County, Georgia. The Range is under the jurisdiction of 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 Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, SC.

## Mission

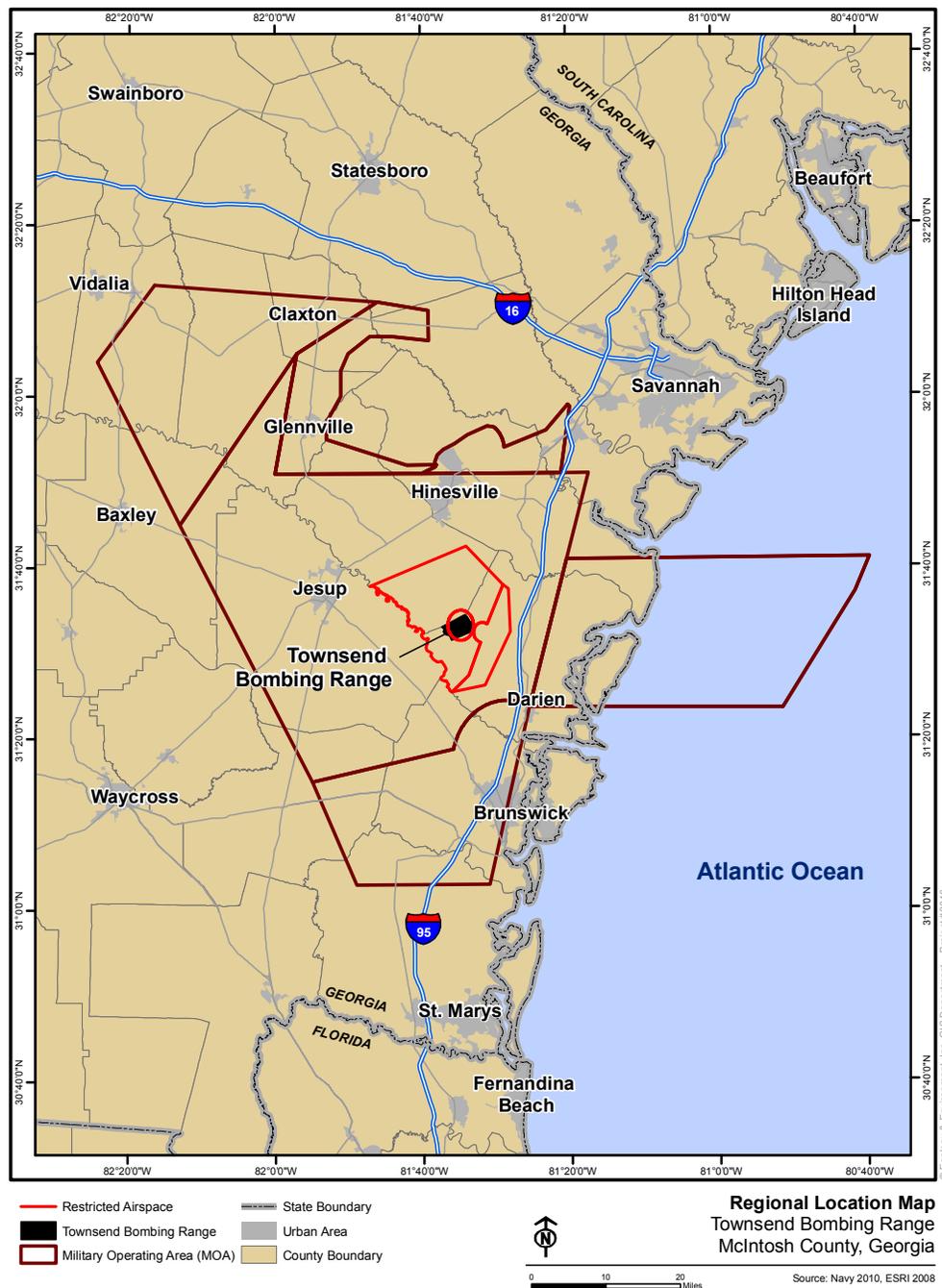
TBR's mission is to provide a realistic target and hostile threat environment to train combat aircrews from all services; to provide an environment for ground forces to conduct training; and to facilitate command and control, information, surveillance and reconnaissance training.

## Types of training that accomplish TBR's mission are:

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

## Training and Tactics Evolution

- **1970s and 1980s**
  - Low Altitude
  - Non-guided Weapons
- **1990s to Present:**
  - High Altitude
  - Precision-guided Weapons



# Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

## Proposed Action

The Marine Corps proposes to modernize and expand TBR in order to improve training and accommodate the use of non-explosive (inert, with a spotting charge) precision-guided weapons. In order to accomplish the Proposed Action, the Marine Corps proposes to:

- Acquire enough land adjacent to the existing Range to fully contain the safety zones resulting from the proposed training (discussed on page 6).
- Construct required facilities; and
- Improve available training opportunities at TBR in order to meet air-to-ground training requirements.

## Purpose

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide an air-to-ground training range capable of accommodating a wider variety of air-to-ground operations, including use of non-explosive precision-guided weapons, to meet training requirements.

Precision-guided weapons training capability at TBR would enhance mission effectiveness for MAG 31 and other TBR users. The increase in the Range's boundaries would insure the safety of adjacent communities.

## Need

The need for the Proposed Action is to more efficiently meet current training requirements for Marine Corps pilots by significantly increasing air-to-ground training capabilities at TBR. Presently, squadrons from MCAS Beaufort must use West Coast training ranges to satisfy precision-guided weapons training requirements. Having a nearby range available for this training would result in greater training efficiency.

## Infrastructure Construction

- Up to 10 new target areas total. Target locations will be determined based on the results of the environmental analysis.
- Additional facilities (e.g., scoring nodes and observation tower).
- Roads, fencing, and access points to target areas.

## Training Improvements

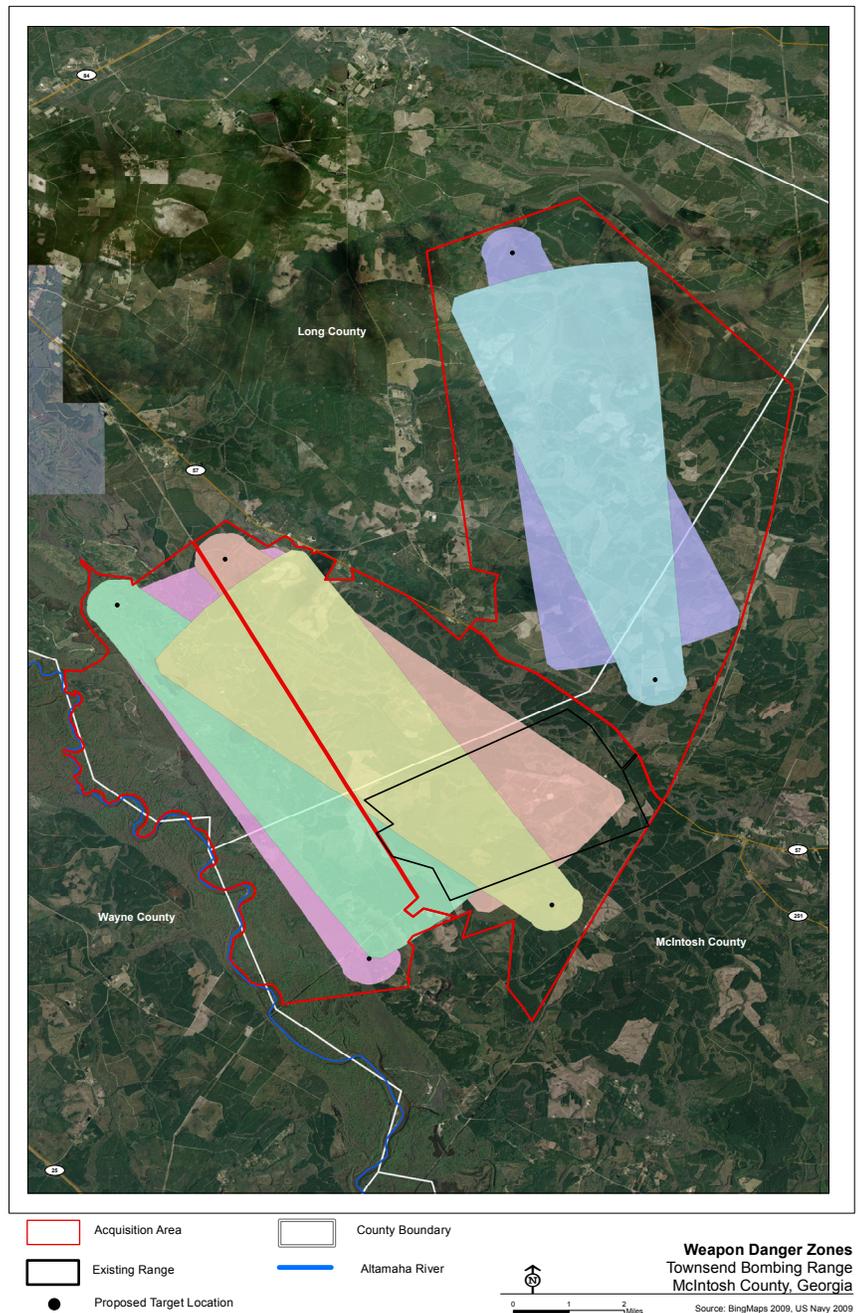
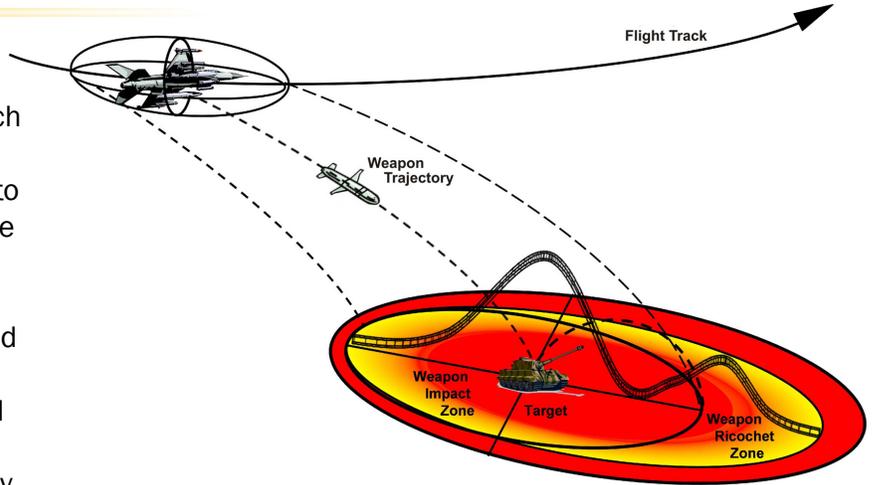
- Marines must train as they fight. Realistic training prepares Marines to succeed in their mission and helps bring them home safely from combat.
- Currently, Marine Corps pilots can accomplish less than half of the air-to-ground training requirements at TBR.
- The Proposed Action would allow Marine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



# Safety Zones

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

Precision-guided weapons are released from higher altitudes and greater range from the target than non-guided weapons. Though precision-guided weapons are more accurate, the safety zone requirements are much larger because it must contain the area in which the weapon may impact the ground should the guidance system fail.

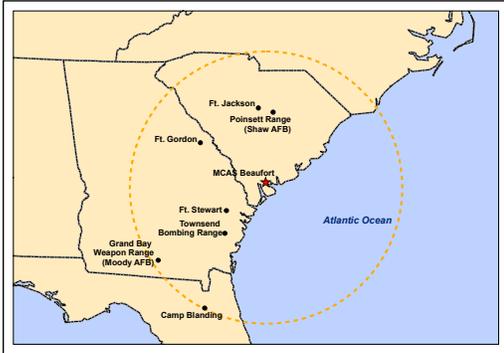


# Alternatives

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

- Must be within 165 nautical miles of MCAS Beaufort.
- Must not currently host conflicting uses.
- Must have available restricted airspace.
- Must have the capability to meet the air-to-ground training requirements.

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

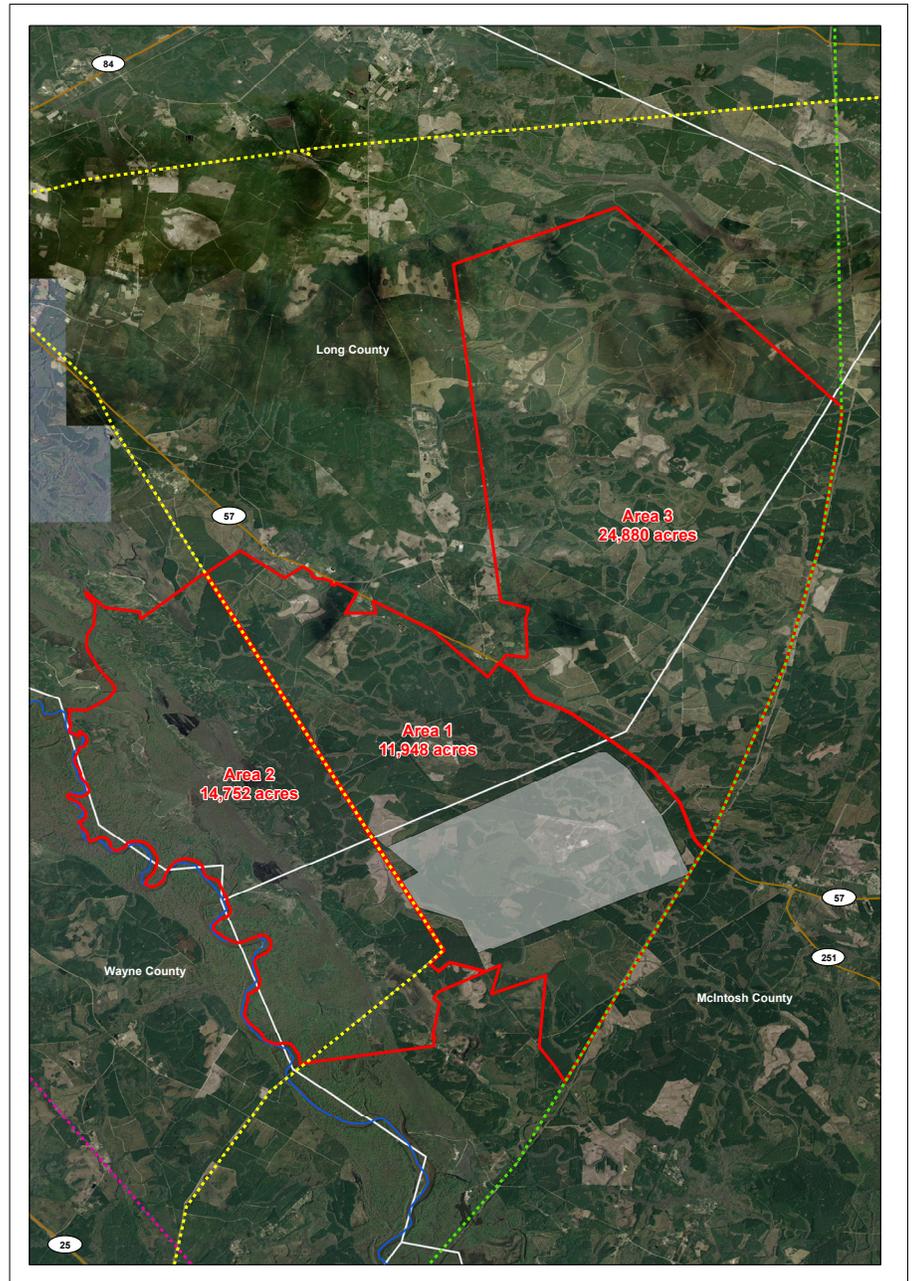


MCAS Beaufort 165 Nautical Mile Radius  
**Modernization and Expansion Alternatives within 165 Nautical Miles of MCAS Beaufort**

The Marine Corps will consider the following land acquisition alternatives:

Alternative	Area	Acreage
1	1	11,948
2	1 + 3	36,828
3	3	24,880
4	1 + 2	26,700
5	1 + 2 + 3	51,580

The Environmental Impact Statement will also evaluate a No Action Alternative that proposes no land expansion and no changes to operations at TBR



- Existing Range
- Acquisition Area
- Counties
- Natural Gas Line
- Power Line
- Shared Power Line & Natural Gas ROW
- Altamaha River



**Land Expansion Areas**  
 Townsend Bombing Range  
 McIntosh County, Georgia  
 Source: BingMaps 2009, US Navy 2009

# Environmental Analysis

## Environmental Compliance

The EIS Process will involve permitting and consultation, such as:

- National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106)
- Government-to-government with federally recognized Native American Indian tribes
- Endangered Species Act (Section 7)
- Federal and State of Georgia Clean Water Acts
- State of Georgia Coastal Consistency Determination

## Examining Potential Impacts

The EIS will evaluate potential effects on the environment and the local community that are associated with the Proposed Action.

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Safety             | • Air Quality           |
| • Socioeconomics     | • Water Resources       |
| • Recreation         | • Cultural Resources    |
| • Natural Resources  | • Land Use              |
| • Forestry Resources | • Environmental Justice |
| • Noise              | • Airspace/Air Traffic  |

### Natural Resources

- Approximately 38% of the potential expansion area is classified as wetlands.
- Rare, threatened, and, endangered species are known to occur on TBR and in the proposed expansion area.

### Recreation

Recreational use of land will possibly be affected.

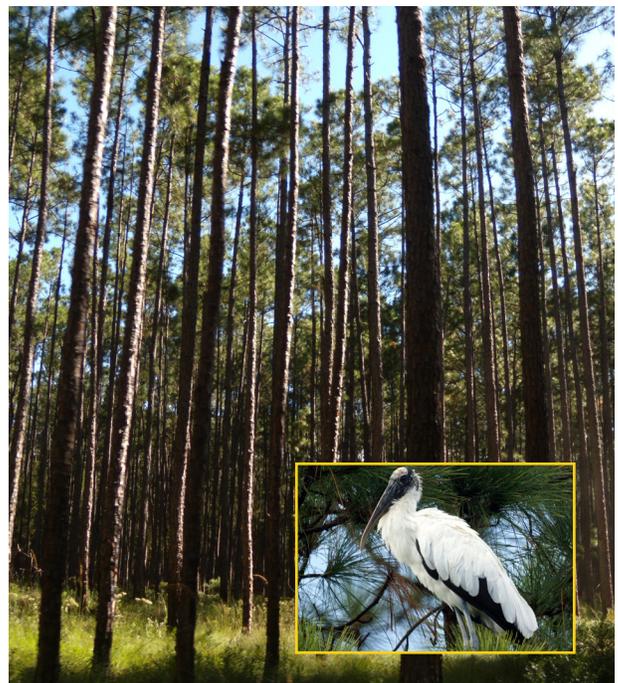
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Camping

### Land Use

- Some land may be converted from forest land to target area.

### Socioeconomics

- The EIS will study and evaluate potential changes in employment and economic activity.



02:002846.NW03\_04Scoping Materials\Fact sheet\TBR\_Factsheet.indd-08/19/10

**Thank you for your participation in today's scoping meeting. The public scoping period ends on September 7, 2010. Please submit your comments by that date to ensure they are considered in the EIS analysis.**



## 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 scoping meeting
2. Online at [www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://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](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com)

The public scoping period ends on September 7, 2010. Please submit your comments by that date to ensure they are considered in the EIS analysis.

**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.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com)**



# Townsend Bombing Range

# History and Mission

## History



Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), formerly known as Glyco 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 Glyco. The Marine Corps 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

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



## Mission



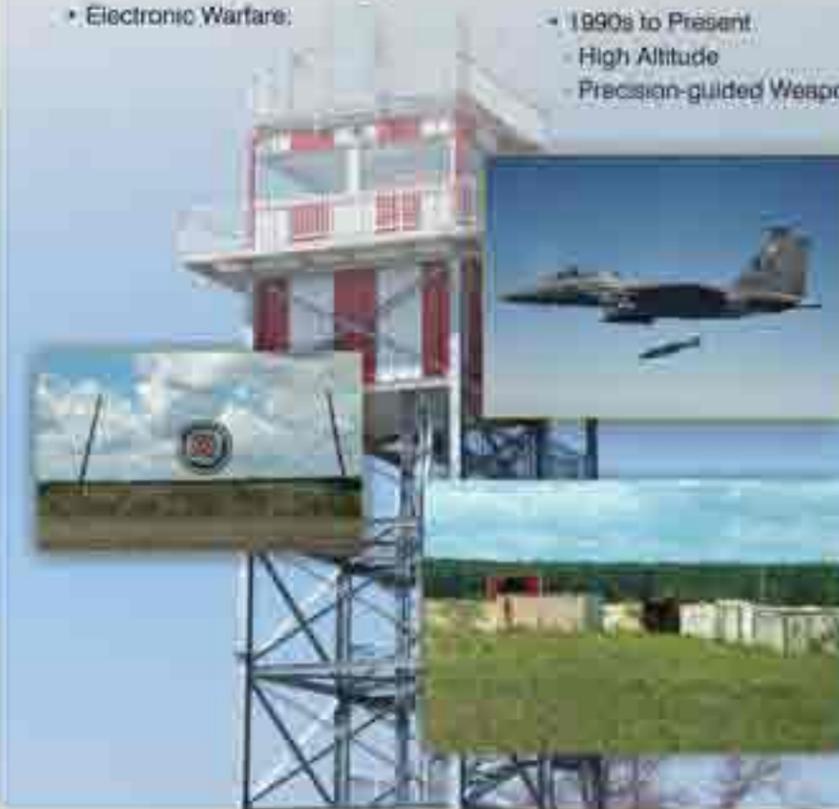
TBR's mission is to provide a realistic target and hostile threat environment to train combat aircrews from all services; to provide an environment for ground forces to conduct training; and to facilitate command and control, information, surveillance and reconnaissance training.

### Types of training that accomplish TBR's mission are:

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

### Training and Tactics Evolution

- 1970s and 1980s
  - Low Altitude
  - Non-guided Weapons
- 1990s to Present
  - High Altitude
  - Precision-guided Weapons



**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](http://www.townsendbombingrangeis.com)**





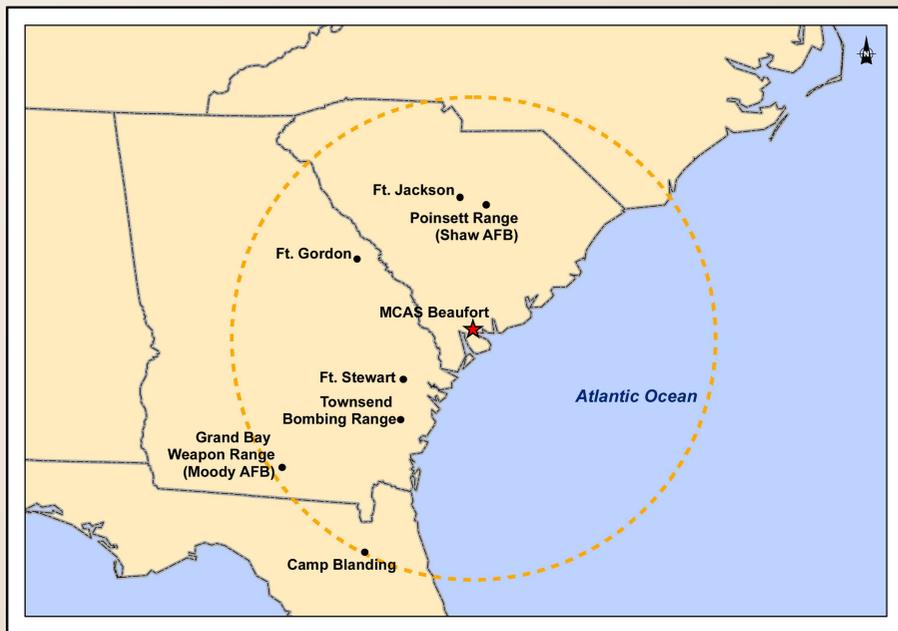
# Townsend Bombing Range Alternatives

## Site Selection Criteria

Before selecting Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), the Marine Corps considered several possible locations based on the following criteria:

- Must be within 165 nautical miles of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.
- Must not currently host conflicting uses.
- Must have available restricted airspace.
- Must have the capability to meet the air-to-ground training requirements.

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



MCAS Beaufort 165 Nautical Mile Radius  
 Modernization and Expansion Alternatives within 165 Nautical Miles of MCAS Beaufort  
 Townsend Bombing Range  
 McIntosh County, Georgia  
 Source: ESRI 2008



## Townsend Bombing Range

Expansion Alternatives Identified for Study

Alternative	Area	Acreage
<b>1</b>	1	11,948
<b>2</b>	1 and 3	36,828
<b>3</b>	3	24,880
<b>4</b>	1 and 2	26,700
<b>5</b>	1, 2, and 3	51,580

The Environmental Impact Statement will also evaluate a No Action Alternative that proposes no land expansion and no changes to operations at TBR.



Land Expansion Areas  
 Townsend Bombing Range  
 McIntosh County, Georgia  
 Source: BingMaps 2009, US Navy 2009

**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](http://www.townsendbombingrangeis.com)**



## Townsend Bombing Range

# Environmental Analysis

### Environmental Compliance

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process will involve permitting and consultation, such as:

- National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106)
- Government-to-government consultation with federally recognized Native American Indian tribes
- Endangered Species Act (Section 7)
- Federal and State of Georgia Clean Water Acts
- State of Georgia Coastal Consistency Determination



### Examining Potential Impacts

The EIS will evaluate potential effects on the environment and the local community that are associated with the Proposed Action.

- Safety
- Socioeconomics
- Recreation
- Natural Resources
- Forestry Resources
- Noise
- Air Quality
- Water Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Land Use
- Environmental Justice
- Airspace/Air Traffic

#### Natural Resources

Approximately 38% of the potential expansion area is classified as wetlands.



Rare, threatened, and endangered species are known to occur on Townsend Bombing Range and in the proposed expansion area.



#### Recreation

Recreational use of land will possibly be affected.

- Hunting
- Fishing
- Camping

#### Land Use

Some land may be converted from forest area to target area.



#### Socioeconomics

The EIS will study and evaluate potential changes in tax and timber revenue.



**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.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com)**

This page left blank intentionally.

## **Appendix C**

# **Cooperating Agency Letters**

- C.1 Georgia Air National Guard**
- C.2 Federal Aviation Administration**
- C.3 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District**

This page left blank intentionally.

**Appendix C**  
**Cooperating Agency Letters**

**Appendix C.1**  
**Georgia Air National Guard**

This page left blank intentionally.



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

5090.12  
IFE  
Aug 17, 2010

Lieutenant Colonel David Eaddy  
Georgia Air National Guard  
1401 Robert B. Miller Drive  
Gardern City, GA 31408

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Eaddy:

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) is pleased to announce it is initiating preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to modernize and expand Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) for the use of inert Precision Guided Munitions (PGMs) with larger delivery parameters in order to improve individual aircrew training. To accomplish this, the USMC proposes to acquire lands in the vicinity of TBR and create new target areas to allow for a greater variety of training activities. Presently, squadrons from Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort deploy to West Coast training ranges to satisfy PGM training requirements.

We request the Georgia Air National Guard's (GA ANG) formal participation as a cooperating agency during preparation of this EIS as prescribed in the President's Council on Environmental Quality National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations, 40 CFR 1501.6, *Cooperating Agencies*. TBR is owned by the USMC and operated by the GA ANG through a joint services agreement. Through this agreement, the GA ANG has obtained unique knowledge and experience pertinent to the completion of this NEPA process.

As a cooperating agency, we request your participation in the following activities:

- a. Making staff support available to enhance interdisciplinary analysis and review;
- b. Participating in the public involvement process;
- c. Assuming responsibility, upon request, for developing information and preparing analysis on topics for which the GA ANG has special expertise;
- d. Assuming responsibility for coordinating with the Federal Aviation Administration if it is determined that Restricted Airspace R-3007C requires modification; and

5090.12  
IFE  
Aug 17, 2010

e. Responding, in writing, to this request.

We look forward to working with the GA ANG to produce an EIS that meets the needs of all parties involved. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Alice Howard, MCAS Beaufort, at (843) 228-7558.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. A. EULTON', written over the typed name.

G. A. EULTON  
Captain, CEC, USN

By direction  
of the Commanding General



## DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

16 November 2010

Colonel Todd A. Freeseemann  
Commander  
Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center  
1401 Robert B. Miller Jr. Drive  
Garden City, GA 31408-9001

Captain C. A. Fulton, USN  
Marine Corps Installations East  
PSC Box 20005  
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542-0005

Dear Captain Fulton

I refer to your letter of August 17, 2010, requesting the Georgia Air National Guard's formal participation as a cooperating agency during preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to modernize and expand Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) for the use of inert Precision Guided Munitions (PGMs) with larger delivery parameters in order to improve individual aircrew training. Our participation would be as prescribed in NEPA regulations, 40 CFR 1501.6, *Cooperating Agencies*.

I am pleased to agree to your request, and my staff and I look forward to working with our Marine Corps partners to produce a well-prepared EIS. Our points of contact include Lt Col Lawrence Eaddy, Acting Environmental Manager, at (912) 966-8468 and Lt Col Stewart Strickland, Townsend Bombing Range OIC, at (912) 963-3001.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Todd Freeseemann".

TODD A. FREESEMANN, Colonel, GA ANG  
Commander

This page left blank intentionally.

**Appendix C**  
**Cooperating Agency Letters**

**Appendix C.2**  
**Federal Aviation Administration**

This page left blank intentionally.



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

5090.12  
IFE  
Aug 17, 2010

Regional Administrator Douglas Murphy  
FAA Southern Regional Office  
P.O. Box 20636  
Atlanta, GA 30320

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) is initiating preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to modernize and expand Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) for the use of inert Precision Guided Munitions (PGMs) with larger delivery parameters in order to improve individual aircrew training. To accomplish this, the USMC proposes to acquire lands in the vicinity of TBR and create new target areas to allow for a greater variety of training activities. Presently, squadrons from Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort deploy to West Coast training ranges to satisfy PGM training requirements.

We request the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) formal participation as a cooperating agency during preparation of this EIS as prescribed in the President's Council on Environmental Quality National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations, 40 CFR 1501.6, *Cooperating Agencies*. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) participation in the NEPA process is necessary because this proposed action may require modification to an existing Restricted Area, R-3007C, from the surface to 100 feet (currently only includes from 100 to 12,999 feet).

As a cooperating agency, we request your participation in the following activities:

- a. Making staff support available to enhance interdisciplinary analysis and review;
- b. Participating in and utilizing the public involvement process for any necessary FAA public involvement related to potential Restricted Airspace modification;
- c. Assuming responsibility, upon request, for developing information and preparing analysis on topics for which the FAA has special expertise;

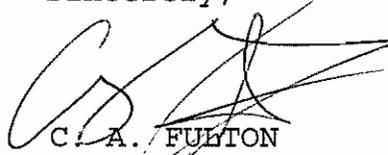
5090.12  
IFE  
Aug 17, 2010

d. Signing or adopting the EIS if it is determined that Restricted Airspace R-3007C requires modification; and

e. Responding, in writing, to this request.

We look forward to working with the FAA to produce an EIS that meets the needs of all parties involved. My point of contact for this matter is Lt. Col Stuart Strickland, Officer in Charge, Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia Air National Guard, at (912) 963-3007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. A. FULTON', written over a horizontal line.

C. A. FULTON

Captain, CEC, USN

By direction

of the Commanding General



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

APR 8 2011

Lt. Col. Stuart Strickland  
Officer in Charge  
Townsend Bombing Range  
Georgia Air National Guard  
9177 Georgia Highway 57  
Townsend, GA 31331

Dear Lt. Col. Strickland:

Thank you for your letter requesting the Federal Aviation Administration participate as a cooperating agency in the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range located near Townsend, Georgia.

The FAA is pleased to participate in the EIS process in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended, and its implementing regulations. Since the proposal could involve special use airspace (SUA), the FAA will cooperate following the guidelines described in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the FAA and the Department of Defense Concerning SUA Environmental Actions, dated October 4, 2005.

Modification of the SUA resides under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Service Center, Operations Support Group, College Park, Georgia. The Eastern Service Center is the primary focal point for both airspace and environmental matters. Mark D. Ward is the Manager of the Operations Support Group. FAA Order 7400.2, Chapter 32, indicates the airspace and environmental processes should be conducted in tandem as much as possible, however, they are separate processes. Approval of either the aeronautical process or the environmental process does not automatically indicate approval of the entire proposal. I have attached Appendix 2, 3, and 4 of FAA Order 7400.2 and the aforementioned MOU that provide additional details on processing SUA actions.

A copy of the incoming correspondence and this response is being forwarded to Mr. Ward of the Eastern Service Center, Operations Support Group. You may contact Mr. Ward at (404) 305-5571 for further processing of your proposal.

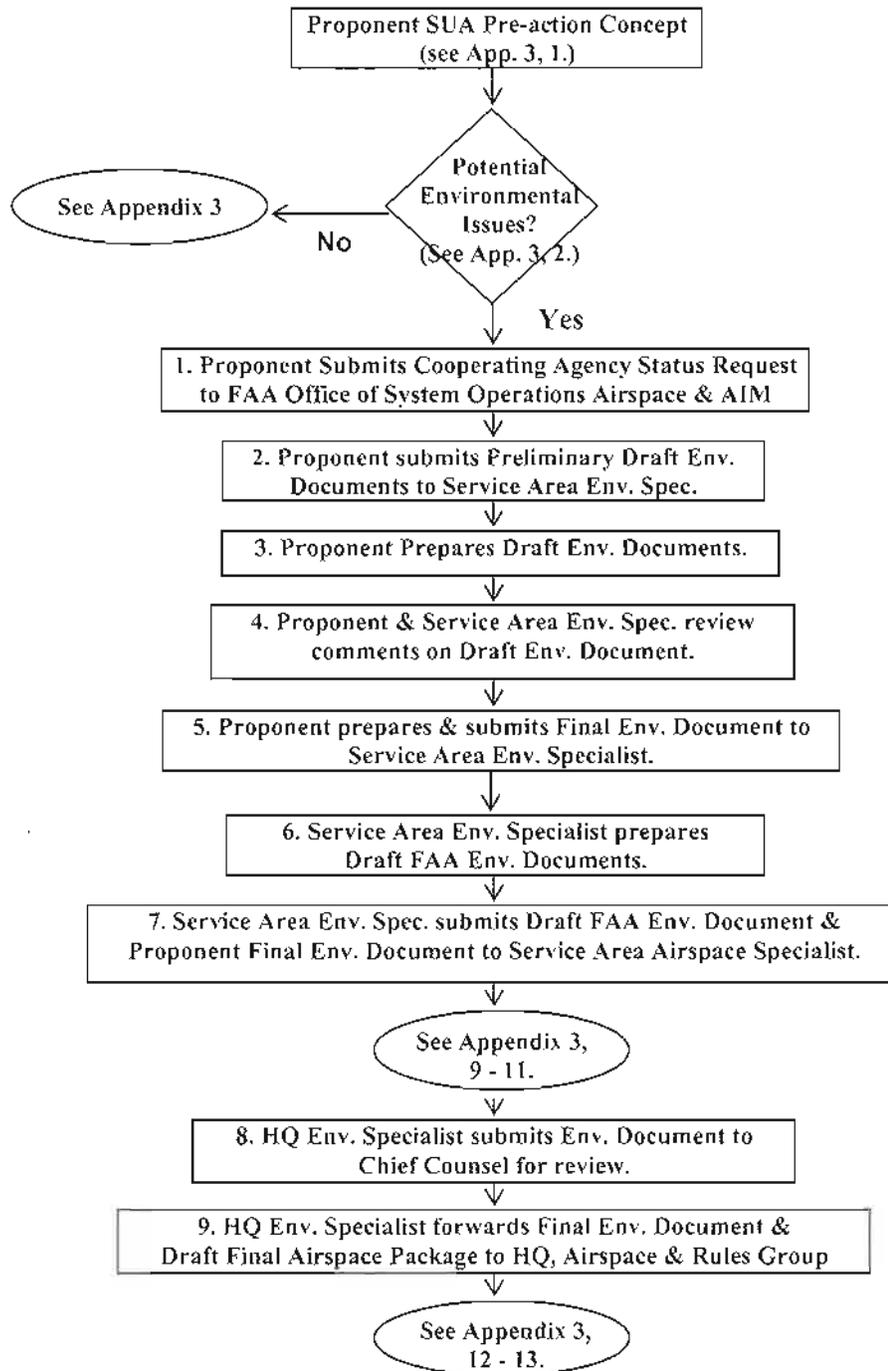
Sincerely,

Dennis E. Roberts  
Director, Airspace Services  
Air Traffic Organization

4 Enclosures

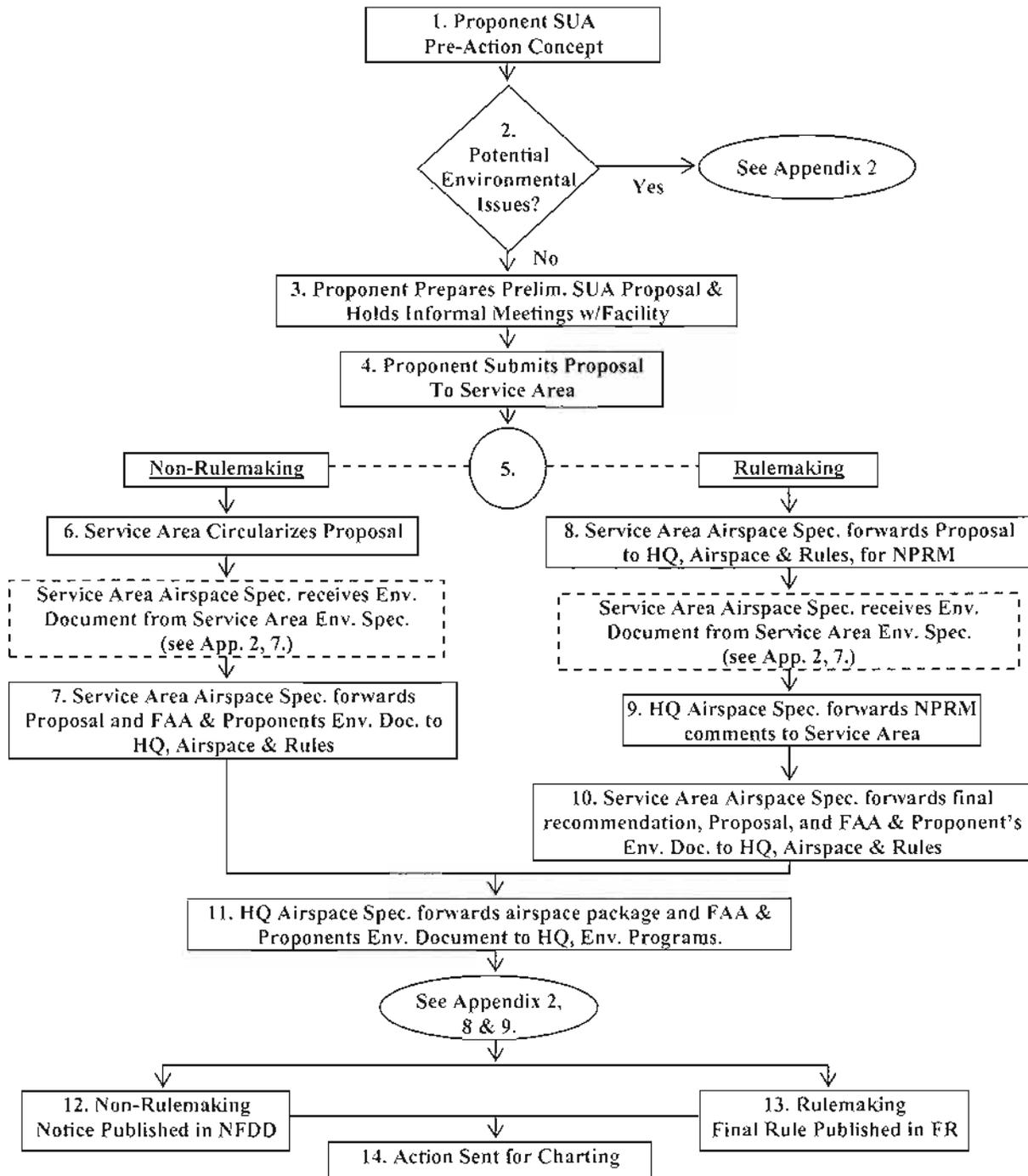
## Appendix 2. Procedures For Processing SUA Actions Environmental Process Flow Chart

(This Chart is for use with Appendix 4 and the numbers correlate to the numbers in the Environmental column of that table.)



### Appendix 3. Procedures For Processing SUA Actions Aeronautical Process Flow Chart

(This Appendix is for use with Appendix 4 and the numbers correlate to the numbers in the Aeronautical column of that table.)



## Appendix 4. FAA Procedures for Processing SUA Actions Aeronautical and Environmental Summary Table

(The aeronautical and environmental processes may not always occur in parallel.)

(This Appendix is for use with Appendix 2 and Appendix 3, and the numbers correlate to numbers on those charts.)

(See note below.)

AERONAUTICAL	ENVIRONMENTAL
<p>1. Proponent shall present to the Facility a Pre-draft concept (i.e., new/ revisions to SUA needed or required).</p>	<p>1. Proponent shall discuss with the Service Area, at the earliest time, the potential for environmental impacts associated with the proposal.</p>
	<p>2. If there is the potential for environmental impacts, Proponent shall make a request to the FAA for a Cooperating Agency (CA) status when Proponent decides to initiate the environmental process. Proponent shall forward the request to the Director of the System Operations Airspace and AIM. The Director will transmit the request to the Environmental Programs Group who prepares and forwards the response to Proponent. The Environmental Programs Group will send a courtesy copy of the response to the responsible Service Area. The Service Area environmental specialist works as the FAA point of contact throughout the process in development of any required environmental documentation.</p>
	<p>3. Proponent submits a Preliminary Draft EA or EIS to the Service Area environmental specialist.</p> <p>The Service Area environmental specialist shall provide comments, in consultation with the airspace specialist and the Environmental Programs Group, back to Proponent.</p>

<p>2. Proponent forwards the aeronautical proposal to the FAA Service Area for review and processing by the airspace specialist.</p>	<p>4. Proponent prepares a Draft EA or EIS with a 45-day public comment period. As the FAA CA point of contact, the Service Area environmental specialist reviews the associated draft environmental documentation to ensure that the Proponent addressed adequately all environmental concerns submitted on the Preliminary Draft. If required, the Service Area environmental specialist forwards the draft environmental documentation to the Environmental Programs Group for review and comment by the headquarters environmental specialist and the Office of Chief Counsel.</p>
<p>3. The Service Area airspace specialist, in accordance with this order, determines the type of airspace action(s) necessary, either Non-Rulemaking or Rulemaking. FAA Service Area and Proponent determine if informal Airspace Meetings are required.</p>	
<p><b>For Non-Rulemaking:</b></p>	
<p>4. The Service Area airspace specialist sends out a circularization with a 45-day public comment period. The Service Area airspace specialist reviews and prepares, in consultation with the Proponent, responses to the aeronautical comments from the study and circularization in accordance with Chapter 21 of this order.</p>	<p>5. The Proponent reviews comments received on their Draft EA/FONSI or EIS and prepares their responses to the comments, in consultation with the FAA and other cooperating agencies, if necessary, and in accordance with Chapter 32 of this order.</p>
	<p>6. Proponent prepares and submits their Final EA/FONSI or EIS/ROD to the Service Area environmental specialist.</p>
	<p>7. The Service Area environmental specialist prepares a Draft FAA FONSI/ROD or Draft FAA Adoption Document/ROD.</p>
	<p>8. The Service Area environmental specialist submits the Draft FAA FONSI/ROD or Draft FAA Adoption Document/ROD and the Proponent's Final EA/FONSI or EIS/ROD to the Service Area airspace specialist for inclusion with the airspace proposal package.</p>
<p>5. The Service Area airspace specialist then sends the completed package containing the aeronautical proposal, response to comments, Proponent's Final EA/FONSI, and the Draft FAA FONSI/ROD to the Headquarters Airspace and Rules Group with their recommendation.</p>	

<b>For Rulemaking:</b>	
<p>6. The Service Area airspace specialist sends the proposal to the Airspace and Rules Group who prepares a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). The Headquarters Airspace and Rules Group submits the NPRM for publication in the Federal Register with a 45-day comment period in accordance with Chapter 2 of this order.</p>	
<p>7. The Headquarters airspace specialist sends comments received on the NPRM to the Service Area airspace specialist for resolution.</p>	
<p>8. The Service Area airspace specialist then sends the completed package containing the response to comments, final service area recommendation, the proposal, Proponent's Final EA/FONSI or EIS/ROD, and the Draft FAA FONSI/ROD or Draft FAA Adoption Document/ROD to the Headquarters Airspace and Rules Group for preparation of the Final Rule.</p>	
<p>9. The Headquarters airspace specialist forwards the draft final rule package or draft non-rulemaking case summary (NRCS) with all supporting documentation to the Headquarters Environmental Programs Group for review (after all aeronautical comments have been resolved).</p>	<p>9. The Headquarters environmental specialist reviews the package for environmental technical accuracy; then submits the environmental documentation to the Office of the Chief Counsel, Airports and Environmental Law Division, for legal sufficiency review (having collaborated throughout the process).</p>
	<p>10. The Chief Counsel's environmental attorney's comments are incorporated into the final FAA environmental decision and signed by Headquarters Environmental Programs Group Manager.</p> <p>The package is then returned to the Headquarters Airspace and Rules Group.</p>
<p>10. For Non-rulemaking: The non-rulemaking action is published in the National Flight Data Digest.</p> <p>11. For Rulemaking: The Final Rule is published in the Federal Register. The Final Rule will contain a reference to the decision rendered and location of documentation for the associated environmental process.</p>	

Consult the following documents throughout the process for further information:

- Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508
- FAA Order 1050.1E, "Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures"
- FAA Order 7400.2, "Procedures for Handling Airspace Matters," Part 5
- FAA Order 7400.2, Chapter 32, "Environmental Matters" and the associated appendixes (for specific SUA environmental direction)

**NOTE:** The time periods below are for a non-controversial aeronautical proposal and its associated environmental process. The time periods are for FAA review/processing only. Times for proponent and/or environmental contract support processing must be added.

**ENVIRONMENTAL:** The estimated time of completion for EA processing is 12 to 18 months or, for EIS processing, 18 to 36 months.

**AERONAUTICAL (Non-Rulemaking):** A minimum 4 months is required from submission of the Formal Airspace Proposal by the Proponent to the Service Area through completion of the circularization process. Additionally, a minimum of 6 months is required from submission of the Formal Airspace Proposal by the Service Area to Headquarters through completion of the charting process.

**AERONAUTICAL (Rulemaking):** A minimum 6 weeks for Service Area processing, and a minimum of 9 months to complete rulemaking once the formal package is received at Headquarters.

## APPENDIX 7. FAA/DoD MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE Concerning Environmental Review of Special Use Airspace Actions

#### I. Purpose and Scope.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to describe the guidelines for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) without unnecessary duplication of effort by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Department of Defense (DoD). This MOU promotes early coordination between FAA and DoD during the environmental review process associated with the establishment, designation, and modification of Special Use Airspace (SUA); permits the application of "lead agency" and "cooperating agency" procedures to environmental assessments (EA) and findings of no significant impact as well as to environmental impact statements (EIS); and provides for the issuance of environmental documents for the development, designation, modification, and use of SUA.

#### II. Definitions.

The definitions contained in the CEQ Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), FAA Orders, and relevant DoD and/or Service guidance are applicable to this MOU.

#### III. Designation of Lead and Cooperating Agency.

A. Introduction: The actions taken by DoD and FAA in the establishment, designation, or modification of SUA are subject to environmental impact evaluation pursuant to NEPA, as implemented by the CEQ regulations. The CEQ regulations encourage a lead agency be designated where related actions by several Federal agencies are involved.

The lead agency, in such instances, is responsible for consultation with other agencies, for coordination of appropriate environmental studies and evaluations, and for preparation of any NEPA-related determinations or documents in cooperation with other Federal agencies. Each agency recognizes the need to eliminate duplication. The cooperating agency assumes responsibility to independently review the environmental documents prepared by the lead agency and to assess whether the environmental documents meet the standards for adequacy under NEPA.

The DoD and the FAA will ensure appropriate consideration of all actions and impacts, including cumulative impacts. The resultant environmental documents of the lead agency are accepted and used in decisions and planning by all agencies involved with the proposed action.

B. Designation of lead agency. When the DoD proposes that the FAA establish, designate, or modify SUA, the DoD shall serve as the lead agency for the evaluation of environmental impacts and the preparation and processing of environmental documents. However, when the FAA proposes the establishment, designation, or modification of SUA affecting DoD, the FAA shall serve as the lead agency for the evaluation of environmental impacts and the preparation and processing of environmental documents.

C. Designation of cooperating agency. When the DoD proposes that the FAA establish, designate, or modify SUA, the FAA shall act as a cooperating agency for the evaluation of environmental impacts. However, when the FAA proposes the establishment, designation, or modification of SUA affecting DoD, the DoD shall act as a cooperating agency for the evaluation of environmental impacts.

#### IV. Level of Environmental Documentation

A. General. Environmental documentation will be processed in accordance with applicable FAA orders, and DoD and/or Service directives.

B. Categorical Exclusions. Where the actions of one agency are subject to a categorical exclusion (CATEX), and the actions of the other agency, with respect to the same SUA request, require an EA, the agency requiring the EA will prepare the appropriate environmental documentation. The applicability of a CATEX to parts of the actions of one of the agencies will be noted in the environmental document. The background information in support of CATEXs, identified by either DoD or FAA, shall be forwarded to the agency requiring preparation of the EA and may be used by either agency, as allowed by their respective regulations/directives. When the categorical exclusion of the proponent is not listed in FAA Order 1050.1E, Chapter 3, which would require FAA to prepare the environmental documentation, FAA budget constraints may delay processing and implementation of a proponent's proposal.

#### V. General Guidance

A. Scheduling. Whenever an action under this MOU requires cooperation or coordination between the FAA and DoD, the two agencies shall agree on a schedule to ensure that required actions are taken on a timely basis. Each agency will notify the other of any difficulty with meeting scheduled deadlines or any need to revise the schedule.

B. Resolution of disagreements. If the FAA and DoD fail to reach agreement at the normal working level on any issue relating to environmental processing of SUA proposals, the matter will be referred, in ascending order, as outlined in the table below.

At any time, the FAA's Office of the Chief Counsel and the Office of the General Counsel of the Service Department involved shall be consulted for assistance with legal issues.

Equivalent Levels of Responsibility for Resolution of Disagreements	
FAA Administrator	Service Secretary
Vice President, System Operations Services	Policy Board on Federal Aviation (PBFA) Principal Member
Director, System Operations & Safety	PBFA Alternate Principal Member
Manager, System Operations & Safety, Environmental Programs	PBFA Working Group Member

VI. Effective Date This MOU shall become effective on the last signature date below and shall remain in effect until otherwise rescinded or modified by both signatory parties. If either party determines that it is necessary to amend this MOU, the other party shall be notified in writing of the specific change(s) desired, with proposed language and the reason(s) for the amendment. The proposed amendment shall become effective upon written agreement of both parties.

SIGNED:

DATE: OCT - 4 2005

  
 Department of Defense

  
 Federal Aviation Administration

**Appendix C  
Cooperating Agency Letters**

**Appendix C.3  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District**

This page left blank intentionally.



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

IN REPLY REFER TO  
5090  
NREAO/165  
Dec 17, 2010

Ms. Kimberly Garvey  
Acting Chief Coastal Section  
USACE Savannah District  
P.O. Box 889  
Savannah, GA 31402-0889

Dear Ms. Garvey:

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to modernize and expand Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) for the use of inert Precision Guided Munitions (PGMs) with larger delivery parameters in order to improve individual aircrew training. To accomplish this, the USMC proposes to acquire lands in the vicinity of TBR and create new target areas to allow for a greater variety of training activities. Presently, squadrons from Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort deploy to West Coast training ranges to satisfy PGM training requirements.

We request the United States Corps of Engineers (USACE) Savannah District's participation as a non-signatory, cooperating agency during the preparation of this EIS as prescribed in the President's Council on Environmental Quality National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) regulations, 40 CFR 1501.6, *Cooperating Agencies*. USACE Savannah District's participation in the NEPA process is necessary because of its jurisdiction by law and special expertise, and this proposed action may have a potential impact on wetlands.

As a cooperating agency, we request your participation in the following activities:

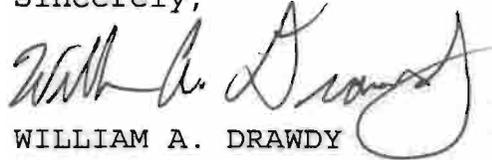
- a. Making staff support available to enhance interdisciplinary analysis and review;
- b. Participating in and utilizing the public involvement process for any necessary USACE public involvement related to potential impact on wetlands;
- c. Assuming responsibility, upon request, for developing information and preparing analysis on topics for which the USACE Savannah District has special expertise;
- d. Responding, in writing to this request to:

Commanding Officer  
Marine Corps Air Station  
Headquarters, Bldg. 601

Attn: CPLO  
P.O. Box 55001  
Beaufort, SC 29904-5001

We look forward to working with the USACE Savannah District to produce an EIS that meets the needs of all parties involved. The point of contact for this matter is Ms. Alice Howard, Director, Community Plans and Liaison MCAS Beaufort at (843) 228-7558.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM A. DRAWDY  
Natural Resources and  
Environmental Affairs Officer



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3640

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

MAY 26 2011

Regulatory Division  
SAS-2010-01120

United States Marine Corps  
Air Station Beaufort  
Attn: NREA0-Mr. William Drawdy  
Post Office Box 55001  
Beaufort, South Carolina 29904-5001

Dear Mr. Drawdy:

I refer to your letter dated December 17, 2010, concerning preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the United States Marine Corps (USMC) for the proposed modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), located in McIntosh County, Georgia. This project has been assigned file number SAS-2010-01120. It is important that you refer to the assigned number in all communication concerning this matter.

As the lead federal agency, the USMC has requested the US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Regulatory Division (USACE) to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the above referenced TBR modernization and expansion EIS. As a cooperating agency, the USACE will review and comment on USMC prepared draft documents with regard to activities that may impact streams, wetlands or other waters of the United States subject to jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). We will also provide information and make recommendations on EIS preparation pursuant to USACE procedural requirements for analysis of project alternatives in accordance with the Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA. However, the USACE is currently not planning to be a signatory to the final EIS or Record of Decision.

Provided you are in agreement with the above described level of participation by the USACE, we will participate as a cooperating agency in preparation of an EIS for the modernization and expansion of TBR. We look forward to assisting you in the development of this document.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mark J. Padgett of the Regulatory Branch at 912-652-5052.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey K. King".

Jeffrey K. King  
Acting Chief, Coastal Branch

This page left blank intentionally.

## Appendix D

# Comments Received During Public Scoping Periods

### D.1 First Scoping Period

*Written Comments at Scoping Meetings*

*Mailed Comments*

*Emailed Comments*

*Web Site Comment*

### D.2 Second Scoping Period <sup>(a)</sup>

*Mailed Comments*

*Emailed Comments*

*Web Site Comments*

(a) Scoping meetings were not held during the second scoping period.

---

This page left blank intentionally.

**Appendix D**  
**Comments Received During Public Scoping Periods**

**Appendix D.1**  
**First Scoping Period**

***Written Comments at Scoping Meetings***

This page left blank intentionally.

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Ludowici, GA • August 24, 2010



NAME (Please Print): Bobby M. Denison

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: self

ADDRESS: 3590 Waycross Hwy Jesup GA 31545

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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS:

Hi. My concern over area 3 is were I been raised, hunting, fishing, + camping. I've been camping with friends + family over past 20 years, I firmly believe if u keep your children in this type of environment it will keep them off drugs. Instead of them saying I'm bored, no one is bored at river or oxbow lakes. Thanks for taking time to read.

Bobby M. Denison 8-24-10.

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Ludowici, GA • August 24, 2010



NAME (Please Print): ROGER W HUSTON

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: ~~1547~~ 1547 ELIM CH RD 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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS: Why not lease, instead  
of purchase?  
Especially buffer areas

How do we make up the  
lost tax revenue for  
Federal land ownership?

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Ludowici, GA • August 24, 2010



NAME (Please Print): ROBERT T. COOK

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: SELF

ADDRESS: 4016 TIBETS HAY SE  
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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.**

COMMENTS: NO! NO! NO!

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Ludowici, GA • August 24, 2010



NAME (Please Print):

Charlie Ainson III

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION:

ADDRESS:

4200 U.S. HWY 341 S,  
JESUP GA 31546

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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS:

I WAS ASKING WHAT YOUR INTENTIONS WERE ABOUT LETTING PEOPLE HUNT AND FISH NOT ONLY THE RIVER BUT HOW FAR IN THE RIVER SWAMP, THE LAKES, SLEWS AND OTHER LITTLE HOLES, GENERATIONS HAVE ENJOYED HUNTING AND FISHING THIS LAND, I WOULD LIKE FOR IT TO WORK FOR EVERYBODY IF POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE RIVER AND THE ADJOINING SWAMP, WHATEVER DISTANCE COULD BE WORKED OUT. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOU DO FOR OUR NATION, I AM NOT OPPOSED TO ENLARGING THE BOMBING RANGE. I WOULD JUST ASK YOU TO LOOK AND CONSIDER GENERATIONS BEHIND AND THE ONES AHEAD ABOUT THIS.

GOD BLESS YOU  
AND THANK YOU SO MUCH

P.S. I AM BLESSED TO HAVE A COUPLE OF PLACES ACROSS THE RIVER FROM THE RANGE, THIS BEING A REASON FOR ASKING

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010



NAME (Please Print): Edward Stelle

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: PRIVATE CITIZEN

ADDRESS: 4097 Julianon dr NE  
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 September 7, 2010.

Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS: the activity of the range is  
A intrusion of sorts, I do not believe it  
has any adverse impact on our community.  
Training facilities are absolutely necessary  
to our national defense and I believe this  
facility is being planned in the best manner  
possible  
I can't comment on the alternatives, they  
all seem reasonable.  
The hearing was excellent, staff polite and  
informative - very good.

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010



NAME (Please Print): MARILYN MOORE

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: Interested party

ADDRESS: 106 Wesley Ave DC SST

*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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.*

COMMENTS: I Am concerned about the impact of increased Ave traffic in terms of noise + fumes (z). Also about additional equipment PDR mobilization being transported on local "country" roads.

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010



NAME (Please Print): LINDA LAMB

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: COASTAL WILDSAPES

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1106 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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.*

COMMENTS: My concerns center around the preservation of the wetlands and protection of the rare and endangered species which depend on the integrity of the habitats found in the proposed areas.

Townsend EIS project manager

My questions are -

1. How much will my property be devalued?
2. How often will # 57 highway be closed?
3. How much increase in activity, resulting in noise, for landowner near the range will be detected by landowners?
4. What chemicals will be used in the explosives?
5. How much will my property taxes be raised if all this proposed activity is included in the range?

Thank you for your consideration

Wendy L. Davis

PO Box 2007

Dallas, TX 75205

I own 125 acres, 25 miles from the  
Meyers Ranch

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010



NAME (Please Print): Sandra Cawley

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: Concerned citizen

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 142  
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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS: I am concerned about the fact that they are considering expansion less than a mile and a half away from homes. Is there consideration for buying us out? There are several young children, my 6 year old included, who already have, to an extent, problems with noise. He is used to it now, but if it gets closer, then we may be forced to move, something we CANNOT afford, as there is no income in our household. If you are moving that close why not buy the community out at fair market values?

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010



NAME (Please Print): Daniel A. Tucker

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: Portal Hunting Club (Jones Rd, McIntosh County)

ADDRESS: (Personal Address) - 330 Gleason Avenue, Pooler, GA 31322

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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS: As a member of Portal Hunting Club, I attended this meeting to obtain information regarding land acquisition that may affect our club's property, which we lease from the timber companies. Our club may lose 3000-4000 acres if Area 3 is chosen as the final option. Portal Hunting Club has hunted the same property in Long, Liberty, & McIntosh Counties since the 1890's. Our primary concern outside of losing acreage is access down the Townsend Road (Frank Townsend Road or CE Road) as well as the County Line Road, South of Jones Road. Another concern is retrieval of hunting dogs that may venture onto the new Bombyng Range Property.

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010



NAME (Please Print):

Clay Davis

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION:

ADDRESS:

Po Box 2580

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 September 7, 2010.*

*Your comments will become part of the EIS.*

COMMENTS: I am very concerned about the impact that will be outside of the boundaries of the bombing range such as increased air traffic. I am not sure that the long term interests of a developing county such as McIntosh will be considered in this decision.

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**



~~Ludowick, GA~~ • August 24, 2010  
DARIEN, GA 36

NAME (Please Print): Frank B. Williams, Jr.

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: Private taxpayer (Tree Farmer)

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 99  
Meridian, GA 31819

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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS: 1- Losing this large acreage will place  
a larger burden on the remaining taxpayers.  
2- This would make the adjoining  
properties worthless. No development possible.  
3- Enlarging the restricted air space  
around this acquisition would practically  
kill any air travel in or to McIntosh County.  
4- Will highway 57 be closed during  
training? It is our main escape route  
now during emergencies.  
5- Will the Altamaha River be closed  
to ~~water~~ travel and recreation? Also  
commercial fishing and boat tours.

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010



NAME (Please Print): Don Melton

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: Landowner + caretaker

ADDRESS: Tidwell-Ford Rd. Long County  
total 300 Acres at Northern  
part of Area 3  
mail: Po Box 646 Allenhurst, 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 September 7, 2010.

Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS: FYI - A longstanding hunting club "Bobtown"  
disbanded this year. The majority of their  
land is contained in Area 3 so you do  
not need to worry about the effect  
on hunters in that part of Long County.

I would much rather have the Bombing Range  
as a neighbor than the hunting club.

Area 3 comes within 1,100 feet of our  
property & I have no problem with  
having the bombing range that close.

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010



NAME (Please Print): Cary A. Wicker

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: Local Resident

ADDRESS: 1481 Parson Rd. 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 September 7, 2010.

Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS: Area (1) will take away my  
hunting Club. so I am against Area  
#1

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010



NAME (Please Print): Gilbert R. Smith

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: 1299 Black Rd. EXT., S.E.  
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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS: I feel increasing the Bombing range  
acreage by Ten fold is NOT needed for Precision  
guided bombs or missiles, I am opposed to  
Placing more Prime hunting land under federal  
control & out of hunter access.

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010



NAME (Please Print): MARK A. WERNER

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: Hunter on lease land adjacent to  
Bombing range

ADDRESS: 1819 OCEAN DR S.  
JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL 32250

**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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.**

COMMENTS: On land potentially taken can  
we lease ~~to~~ the land for  
hunting from the military?

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010



NAME (Please Print): D. L. SEALS

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: CLEARIE DAVIS HUNTING CLUB

ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 1534  
PONTEVEDRA, FL 32004

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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS:

AFTER THE SELECTION OF  
ALTERNATIVES IN FALL 2012,  
WHAT ARE THE FOLLOW ON  
STEPS AND WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED  
TIME FRAME.

FINALLY WHAT IS A "GOOD GUESS"  
AS WHEN THE PROCESS WILL BE  
FINISHED AND THE SELECTED  
LAND ACQUIRED.

D SEALS

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010



NAME (Please Print): WALLY ORNEL

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: Davie-McIntosh County Chamber of Commerce  
President: Ex. Director of MC Industrial Dev. Authority

ADDRESS: ~~80~~ ~~PO Box 896~~ PO Box 896  
Davie, 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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS: ① Concern about the land being taken off the tax rolls causing a current & future hardship on residents

② Concern about sound & disturbance to area residents that include evenings & weekends.

③ Lack of land dev. without adding jobs locally.

**Appendix D**  
**Comments Received During Public Scoping Periods**

**Appendix D.1**  
**First Scoping Period**

***Mailed Comments***

This page left blank intentionally.



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

IN REPLY REFER TO  
5090  
NREAO/111  
04 AUG 2010

RECEIVED AUG 09 2010

Mr. George Wickliffe  
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee  
P.O. Box 746  
Tahlequah, OK 74464

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma has no objection to the referenced project. However, if any remains, artifacts or other items are inadvertently discovered, please cease construction immediately and contact us at 918-456-6533 or by letter.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Date 8-11-10

Dear Mr. Wickliffe:

Lisa C. Stopp, Tribal NAGPRA POC

Pursuant to 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), Department of the Navy (Navy) NEPA regulations (32 CFR Part 775), and United States Marine Corps (USMC) NEPA directives (Marine Corps Order P5090.2A, changes 1 and 2), the Navy intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and conduct public scoping meetings for proposed land acquisitions that would expand Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) located in McIntosh County, Georgia, for the use of inert (with spotting charge) precision-guided munitions (PGMs) to support USMC aviation training and readiness proficiency for air-to-ground operations.

TBR is under USMC jurisdiction, owned by the federal government, and is operated by the Georgia Air National Guard (GA ANG). Expanding TBR by acquiring lands in the vicinity of the current range and accommodating PGM training would significantly enhance air-to-ground training capabilities at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina. Presently, TBR can accommodate only 43% of the training requirements. Implementation of the proposed project would allow USMC aviators to meet up to 93% of their training requirements at TBR.

The preparation of an EIS is necessary to support the proposed land acquisition and modernization. The study will analyze land in the vicinity of the Range for possible acquisition to support achieving USMC training objectives. The potential environmental effects associated with the proposed project will be evaluated in the EIS. The EIS process will begin with public scoping, which commences upon publication of the Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* on August 6, 2010.

The USMC is initiating the scoping process to identify community concerns and local issues to be addressed in the

EIS. Federal, state, and local agencies and interested persons are encouraged to provide comments to the USMC to help identify specific issues or topics of environmental concern that should be addressed in the EIS. To obtain this input, the USMC will host two open-house public scoping meetings. During these meetings, the public will be provided an opportunity to view project-related displays, speak with USMC and GA ANG representatives, and submit comments on the proposed project. The public scoping meetings will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates and at the following locations in Georgia:

- 1) Tuesday, August 24, 2010, City of Ludowici Meeting Room, City Hall, 469 North Macon Street, Ludowici, GA 31316.
- 2) Thursday, August 26, 2010, Haynes Auditorium - Ida Hilton Public Library, 1105 Northway, Darien, GA 31305.

At this time, the USMC is requesting that your Tribe identify any specific information, issues, or concerns that should be included in the EIS that would facilitate the decision-making process. Please note that this letter is for NEPA scoping purposes only, and that the USMC shall initiate consultation under separate cover with your Tribe in the near future regarding this undertaking, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and implementing regulations 36 CFR 800.

Additional information concerning the meetings and the proposed project are available on the EIS Web site at: <http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com>. Notices for the public scoping meetings will be published in the following local newspapers: *The Darien News*, *The Press-Sentinel*, and the *Savannah Morning News*. Comments or questions should be directed to Townsend EIS Project Manager, Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, FL 32318; email: [townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com). All written comments must be postmarked no later than September 7, 2010.

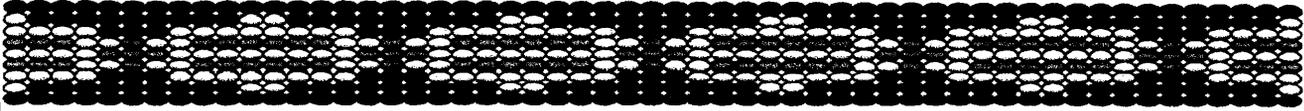
Sincerely,



J.R. SNIDER  
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer

Catawba Indian Nation  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
1536 Tom Steven Road  
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730

Office 803-328-2427  
Fax 803-328-5791



August 27, 2010

Attention: J. R. Snider  
United States Marine Corps  
Marine Corps Air Station  
Beaufort, SC 29904-5001

Re. THPO #	TCNS #	Project Description
2010-54-3		Expand Townsend Bombing Range located in McIntosh Co., GA

Dear Mr. Snider,

Our comments are as follows:

We require all information be in hard copy. We need further information on sites that you are considering acquiring. We also need photographs of the project area facing north, south, east and west. We also need a copy of any archaeological surveys done of the project area.

If you have questions please contact Caitlin Totherow at 803-328-2427 ext. 226, or e-mail [caitlinh@ccppcrafts.com](mailto:caitlinh@ccppcrafts.com).

Sincerely,

  
Wenonah G. Haire  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

This page left blank intentionally.

**Appendix D**  
**Comments Received During Public Scoping Periods**

**Appendix D.1**  
**First Scoping Period**

***Emailed Comments***

This page left blank intentionally.

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

To whomever this will hopefully concern,  
I have doubts about this being anyone; I for one do not want to see the Townsend Bombing Range expansion for reasons listed below.

#1 There is more than enough noise from the jets that already use this Bombing Range expansion will not only mean more jets but also possibly larger jets which will increase noise by levels known by God and possibly the Government.

#2 The Bombing Range has already took land that I hunted when I was younger, and now the proposed land on south side of Blues Reach Road has recently become a Wildlife Management Area which I enjoy hunting and fishing on and have all of my life. I Do Not want to lose this right for my children, my friends, nor myself! (Getting a chance to be drawn for a two day archery or a two day firearm hunt doesn't compare to a season of possibilities.) Even without the hunting and fishing .A lot of this land (area 2 ) is Altamaha River Swamp ,swamp land in this area has practically all been drained and replaced by pine trees, therefore making this a sight to be preserved, seen, and shared. The Nature Conservancy recognized this and purchased this land giving public access through the State Wildlife Management System.

#3 I have heard rumors of how much it would save the Government to have this facility compared to training on the West Coast. A price cannot be put on nature and enjoyment. Based on the amount of Taxes coming out of my payroll checks this should not be a problem, if you don't use the money there you'll find another way to throw it away. The taxpayers will never see any savings anyway.

#4 You already have a facility on the West Coast in use I suggest you use it and let us use the Townsend Wildlife Management Area.

Ivy Rozier  
1875 Old Townsend Road N.W.  
Townsend Georgia 31331

**From:** Andrew Burt [mailto:aburt@iwpnews.com]

**Posted At:** Tuesday, August 10, 2010 11:08 AM

**Posted To:** Comments

**Conversation:** Interview Request on TBR EIS

**Subject:** Interview Request on TBR EIS

I'm contacting you regarding the Notice of Intent for the EIS on the modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range. I would like to schedule a brief interview with a public affairs officer on the proposed project. I am on deadline for tomorrow at COB. Please let me know who I can contact to follow-up on this request.

Thanks for your help.

Regards,

Andrew Burt | Inside the Navy | InsideDefense.com

Tel.: 202.570.4410 | aburt@iwpnews.com

**From:** Kramer, Tom [mailto:Tom.Kramer@aopa.org]

**Posted At:** Wednesday, August 11, 2010 12:28 PM

**Posted To:** Comments

**Conversation:** NOI EIS Townsend Bombing Range

**Subject:** NOI EIS Townsend Bombing Range

Ms. Howard,

I am interested in getting some additional information on the recent Federal Register announcement regarding the notice of intent to prepare an EIS for the modernization and expansion of the Townsend bombing range in McIntosh county, GA. Specifically, I am interested in finding out if there are any plans to expand or otherwise modify the special use airspace (military operations area or restricted airspace) in response to the proposal. Please feel free to email me or call me at 301-695-2064. Thank you!

**From:** Wally T. Orrel [mailto:wally@McIntoshCounty.com]  
**Posted At:** Friday, August 20, 2010 10:52 AM  
**Posted To:** Comments  
**Conversation:** a few questions  
**Subject:** a few questions

*As the president of the Chamber of Commerce I have been contacted by several of our citizens about the proposed expansion project at TBR. I would appreciate answers to the following questions:*

- 1. Concern that the land being acquired will be permanently taken off the counties tax rolls?*
- 2. How many permanent jobs will be created, how many are currently assigned?*
- 3. What are the benefits to McIntosh County and to the residents?*
- 4. People that live over in this area will negatively impacted in their quality of life and home values so how is this being addressed?*
- 5. In J.R. Snider's August 4, 2010 letter to me, it was stated that MCAS at Beaufort currently acquire 43% of the training requirements at TBR and that with this expansion will increase that number to 93%, where does the 7% additional training take place?*
- 6. What environmental issues will need to be addressed before this expansion can move forward?*

## **Wally**

### **Wally T. Orrel**

McIntosh County Development Authority &  
Darien-McIntosh County Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 896  
Darien, Georgia 31305  
(912) 437-6659 or (912) 437-6684  
[wally@McIntoshCounty.com](mailto:wally@McIntoshCounty.com)

committed to economic growth, creating jobs and representing the business  
community

## Proposed Townsend Bombing Range Expansion

To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to any expansion of the existing Townsend Bombing Range. Expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range will have a long term detrimental impact on the quality of life in Long County and a devastating financial impact on its citizens. The tax digest of Long County has already lost thousands of acres to governmental agencies and non-profit organizations. The Fort Stewart installation occupies approximately **24,000 acres in Long County**. In recent years, if you include the Griffin Ridge WMA, The Georgia Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy have worked together to purchase over **17,000 acres**. Even though these acres have and will come off of the tax digest, they do provide recreational opportunities for hunters and fishermen throughout the region. If the bombing range is expanded these recreational opportunities will be severely restricted or lost all together. The Georgia Department of Transportation has purchased between **3,000-4,000 acres** of the old Altamaha Hunting Club tract have it set aside for wetland mitigation.

If the Townsend Bombing Range is expanded North of Highway 57 as proposed, an additional **20,000+ acres** would be removed from the tax digest in Long County, bringing the total non-taxable acreage to approximately **65,000**. Not to mention the loss of potential development and diminished quality of life for residents of the Tibet, Townsend, Cox and Jones communities. These citizens already endure almost daily disruption to their lives due to noise exposure.

Expanding the bombing range into Long County will severely limit economic development and almost certainly guarantee that one of Georgia's fastest growing counties will be relegated to bedroom community status forever or until it is absorbed back into Liberty and McIntosh counties.

We all recognize and value the presence of our military and its impact on this region. Fort Stewart provides jobs for thousands of civilians and is an irreplaceable part of our community. Make no mistake, we all love our Soldiers! The proposed expansion of the bombing range will have the complete opposite effect..... Very few if any new jobs, loss of tax revenue, limited development and diminished quality of life for our residents.

I have no idea what plan 'B' is, but the residents of Long and McIntosh counties can't afford plan 'A'. Please NO EXPANSION!

Mike McGowan

Long County Resident

**From:** PtrcPhil@aol.com [mailto:PtrcPhil@aol.com]  
**Posted At:** Sunday, August 15, 2010 3:11 AM  
**Posted To:** Comments  
**Conversation:** Private Property Owners that will be affected  
**Subject:** Private Property Owners that will be affected

The map and area that you provide is lacking in a lot of detail. As a property owner, I need to know if my property is going to be affected. The map looks as if I may or may not be affected. Can you provide information as to the decision if my property at :

1486 Parnell Road SW  
Townsend, GA 31331

is included in the property to be acquired?  
I would appreciate this as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

James W Phillips

[JWP1927@aol.com](mailto:JWP1927@aol.com)

Mailing address: PO Box 309  
Darien, GA 31305

**From:** Mike and Terri [mailto:mcgowan53@windstream.net]  
**Posted At:** Friday, September 03, 2010 10:41 PM  
**Posted To:** Comments  
**Conversation:** Proposed Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range  
**Subject:** Proposed Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range

Attached are my comments on the proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range. I would be interested in reviewing any public comments that have been submitted to date. Can you please provide access to this information? The "open house" format of the Public Scoping Meeting was inappropriate and did not provide the proper forum for the citizens of Long County to express their concerns.

Terri McGowan

## Proposed Townsend Bombing Range Expansion

To Whom It May Concern:

Any expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range will have a long term detrimental impact on Long County and its citizens. The tax digest of Long County has already lost thousands of acres to governmental agencies and non-profit organizations. The Fort Stewart installation occupies approximately **24,000 acres in Long County**. There is a project underway by Fort Stewart, The Nature Conservancy and a group of county officials that would create a buffer zone around the installation preventing any development. The portion in Long County would extend from the existing boundary south across Highway 196, potentially eliminating thousands of acres of land from ever being developed.

The Nature Conservancy, Fort Stewart and the governmental group mentioned are attempting to create this buffer zone through both land purchase and/or conservation easements.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources owns over **4,000 acres** at the Griffin Ridge Wildlife Management Area. Last year The Nature Conservancy and the Georgia DNR purchased the Wesley Lake tract which lies in both McIntosh and Long Counties. The Long County portion of this purchase was approximately **4,000 acres**. This year, these same two groups purchased the remainder of the Long County Rod and Gun Club which joins the Wesley Lake tract eliminating another **4,000 acres** from the tax digest of Long County.

Several years ago, the Georgia Department of Transportation purchased a portion of the old Altamaha Hunting Club tract which eliminated another **3,000-4,000 acres** from the digest.

In 2006 The Nature Conservancy purchased over 26,000 acres in Georgia; approximately **5,000** of those acres are in Long County and were removed from the tax digest.

The proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range would remove an additional **20,000-25,000 acres** from the Long County tax digest.

If the expansion of the Bombing Range is approved, the grand total of non-taxable land would be approximately **70,000 acres**. This does not include the acres lost to the Fort Stewart buffer zone or any of the land directly adjacent to this expansion which would **never** be developed, further devastating our tax base.

When "Googling" the Townsend Bombing Range website, I found a presentation by the Marine Corp acknowledging that Long County was one of the **fastest growing counties in Georgia from 1990-2000, growing at a rate of 66%**. The Bombing Range expansion would essentially put a halt to this growth and create an even heavier burden on existing tax payers in Long County. During these depressed economic times, how does the government justify expanding a bombing range into "one of the fastest growing" counties in the state? Use this link to view the Power Point presentation prepared by a USMC employee

appropriately entitled "ENCROACHMENT PARTNERING".

<http://www.p2pays.org/ref/41/40570.pdf>

As you can clearly see from the above acquisitions by the Department of Natural Resources, the Nature Conservancy, the Department of Transportation and Fort Stewart there is very little developable land in Long County. Expansion of the Bombing Range would compound this problem.

Another factor to consider is the increased air traffic that will have a significant impact on the residents of the Tibet community. These citizens are currently exposed to excessive noise on a routine basis which is above the legal decibel level. They frequently have to contact the Bombing Range and request that the aircraft not "buzz" their homes. This excessive environmental noise exposure will directly and adversely impact any new growth and development in this community.

At the Public Scoping Meeting held in Ludowici, Marine Corp officials were asked why Fort Stewart could not be considered a viable training location for this expansion? The military official responded, "not possible due to the risk of troops training on the ground. In the event a bomb goes off course we cannot risk the lives of the soldiers training below." As a citizen I have a problem with the reasoning, we can't endanger our soldiers who may be training on 280,000 acres at Fort Stewart, but we can endanger the lives of citizens living in rural sections of Long and McIntosh counties. I find it hard to believe that an established military defense base which has some of the best logistical control of its land to be found anywhere is not a better choice for a bombing range than two of the fastest growing counties in Georgia.

When trying to post comments or question to the website given at the public meeting, an error message occurs which does not allow citizens to post questions or comments for review. As a result of this technical problem with the TBR website, I would respectfully request an extension of the public comment period for an additional thirty days.

**From:** Richard Gaddis [mailto:rmgaddis@darientel.net]  
**Posted At:** Friday, August 27, 2010 9:35 AM  
**Posted To:** Comments  
**Conversation:** Comments on Proposed action at Townsend Bombing Range  
**Subject:** Comments on Proposed action at Townsend Bombing Range

August 27, 2010

TO: Townsend EIS Project Manager

FROM: Marshall Gaddis     rmgaddis@darientel.net

SUBJECT: Comments on the proposed Modernization and Expansion of TBR

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Marine Corps Public Scoping meeting on August 26, 2010 in Darien, GA. The fact sheet, Marine personnel and consultants were very helpful.

First a general comment relative to "Alternatives" (page 7). It would be nice to see three additional criteria:

- .....No net loss of revenue to state, county or city governments
- .....No net loss of recreational opportunities to citizens
- .....Positive economic impact to surrounding area

Second a specific concern is the following. Area 2 is approximately 50% Altamaha River floodplain. No Altamaha River floodplain should be considered for alteration, fencing or interference with the natural work of this critical system.

Third my recommendation would be the following. Alternative 2 (Area 1 & 3) should be selected. The development of the expanded TBR should be carried forward ONLY after the items listed in EIS (page 8) are considered and a plan developed to:

- (1) Increase employment and economic activity for McIntosh County and Long County
- (2) Create NO net loss of hunting, fishing, boating, canoeing, wildlife viewing and camping activities
- (3) Increase opportunities for tourism
- (4) Protect ecologically sensitive area within the TBR

In summary my comments are:

- .....NO impact on Altamaha River floodplain
- .....NO net loss of revenue or recreation
- .....POSITIVE changes in employment and economic activity in McIntosh County and Long County

Sincerely yours,

Marshall Gaddis

From: Peyton and Sissy Lingle [<mailto:marshrat@dariantel.net>]  
Posted At: Friday, August 27, 2010 8:30 AM Posted To: Comments  
Conversation: Townsend Bombing Range  
Subject: Townsend Bombing Range

If the expansion of the bombing range is necessary for honing the skills of our military, I am for it. The comment made about noise is irrelevant as the range is in use often already. We are located over 20 miles away from the range and we know when missions are being flown and I cannot see how enlarging it will increase the level of noise. Perhaps the frequency of use might be affected but we can live with that.

Peyton Lingle  
2317 Julienton Dr NE  
Townsend, GA 31331-5021  
912-832-2340

**From:** Joel Feldman [mailto:feldmanjoel@bellsouth.net]

**Posted At:** Sunday, August 29, 2010 12:31 AM

**Posted To:** Comments

**Conversation:** townsendbombingrange

**Subject:** townsendbombingrange

based on the information provided it appears that the request should be granted in the interest of National Defense as it will also save money: obviating the necessity for these pilots to fly to California (and the costs associated therewith) for necessary training vice Townsend.

**From:** James Holland [mailto:riverkeeper99@hotmail.com]  
**Posted At:** Monday, August 30, 2010 5:05 PM  
**Posted To:** Comments  
**Conversation:** COMMENTS  
**Subject:** COMMENTS

Good Afternoon,

My names is James Holland and I reside at 232 Buck Swamp Road, Brunswick, Georgia 31523. I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to make comment(s) on the possible expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range in McIntosh County, Georgia.

I am a U.S. Marine veteran of nine years (1958-1967). I whole heartedly support our armed forces and the very dangerous missions they take on. We may need to expand the Townsend Bombing Range boundaries, however, I can only support the alternative #2. I am trying to protect the citizens rights to be able to have unhampered access to the newly purchased Murf Tract by the State of Georgia. The Murf Tract is the home of many prehistoric cypress, sweet gum(s), tupelo gums with the cypress reaching more than 44 feet in circumference as measured at chest height at the buttress. The Murf Tract is home for the largest cypress in the southeast with the exceptions of Mississippi and Louisiana.

There is at least one Mississippi Tupelo Gum on this site when measured in the same manner as above came in at 30 feet and 1 inch. There is at least one sweet gum on this site that measures 17 feet and 8 inches measured in the same manner as the other trees above.

The cypress on this site were harvested about 100 years ago and the old tow (tram) road still has the hollow cypress beneath it that were used as culverts when crossing the sloughs in this Altamaha River floodplain.

It is still to be determined as to the richness in diversity of species on this site which includes wildlife, tree's and the many other species of plant life. I am 69 years old and never have I had the opportunity to behold the wonders of nature that the Murf Tract provides for all those that choose to go and see that have that desire. It is my desire to protect this area for all that would like to visit this site and all that could end if any alternative other than alternative two were chosen.

The military would surely desire to keep the civilian population out of harms way and the only way to acheive that would be to deny access to this area.

Another excellent reason for choosing alternative two is the fact that the Murf Tract is located on the Altamaha River and Miller Lake. Thousands of folks fish this area each year including myself. I discovered these prehistoric trees while fishing the back waters of the Altamaha River when it was flooded. This is another very important reason for choosing alternative two for the bombing range expansion.

Once again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to make comment on this very important issue. Please take into consideration my request that alternative two be chosen for this site if in the end it is decided to expand the Townsend Bombing Range.

James Holland, Altamaha Riverkeeper® (Retired)

**From:** Roger Houston [mailto:Roger\_Houston@emc-eng.com]

**Posted At:** Tuesday, August 31, 2010 11:37 AM

**Posted To:** Comments

**Conversation:** Additional comments on Townsend Range Expansion

**Subject:** Additional comments on Townsend Range Expansion

- 1) In the hearing on the JSF basing proposal back in June, it was clearly stated by the same folks who were present at the hearing last week on the range expansion, that there were no plans to make any changes to Townsend Range, other than frequency of use by the Marines. Surely, between June and August, it was not suddenly decided that the Marines needed additional area to train . Why was this expansion proposal not presented as part of the JSF basing EIS hearing?
- 2) A draft copy of the EIS was available at the JSF hearing for public inspection. Why was there not one available at the Townsend Range expansion?

3)Tract 3 seems to be the optimum acreage that the Marines want for this range expansion. This acreage along with the tract 1 property and the current range property would give the Marines a sizable training area.

4)This combined acreage would give the Marines a usable target area and SDZ that would be second only to Avon Park Range in Florida, which is the largest active tactical(non test) range on the east coast. Avon Park, operated by the USAF, is 106,000 acres total and incorporates, not only a range, but a forward assault airfield and a sizable recreation area for the McDill military community. The Florida National Guard can even shoot the MLRS at Avon. The acreage requested by the Marines, far exceeds the need for aerial targeting and associated safety zones. This is sized for more for ground maneuver space and the conducting of CALFEX (Combined arms live fire exercises).

5)Within 10 miles of the proposed expansion area northern border lies the largest military reservation east of the Mississippi River. Fort Stewart encompasses 250,000 acres and can accommodate every weapon system in the US inventory short of nuclear . Ft Stewart has an artillery impact area that can accept LIVE ordinance from artillery and aerial delivery. Why cant the Marines work out an agreement with the army and use FT Stewart for the PGM . Joint use and joint operations (purple) was supposed to the IN thing at the Pentagon. Here is a great opportunity to make this work. In addition, sharing FT Stewart can save the taxpayer a great deal of cost and strengthen the security of an important asset here in Coastal Georgia.

Roger W. Houston  
1547 Elim Church Rd  
Ludowici,GA 31316  
912-545-8857 HOME  
912-266-0005 CELL

From: Paul Griffin  
Sent: Wednesday, September 01, 2010 18:38  
To: Howard CIV Alice G  
Cc: David.Stevens@dtctel.com  
Subject: Townsend Bombing Range

Ms. Howard

Hi Alice,

As a private citizen, my recommendations to McIntosh County include four initiatives. Each is based on the understanding that McIntosh County is a poor county, with all of the educational and developmental problems of poor counties, without any commercially valuable property in the interior part of the county.

1. Negotiate financial compensation based on share-the-savings vice payment to replace lost taxes. Conceptually the payment would be based on current-use values for the USMC vice updated 2010 fair market values.
2. Eliminate the most environmentally sensitive area (Area 2) early in the negotiations to allow significant negotiations in the other areas.
3. Establish a long-term agreement. Long term? I don't know, but 25 years or more.
4. Establish an exit strategy that benefits McIntosh County. There are a lot of options, but as a point of departure I suggest that after the USMC has no use for the land it reverts back to McIntosh County (Development Authority?) vice exceded through the BRAC process.

Obviously, each of these ideas is balanced with the others and they need to be identified and negotiated as a package. There is a lot of give-and-take.

Hope this helps.

Paul

2 Sep 10

## Comments on Proposed Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range

By: Thomas V. Maulden  
317 Old Macon Darien Rd SE  
Ludowici, Ga. 31316

1. While the brochure states that larger safety zones are required for inert, non-explosive precision-guided weapons, there is no definitive explanation or technical data included to justify such a large expansion. Nor is any explanation given so to why these specific land tracts were chosen.
2. Long County has recently lost over 16,400 acres of property tax base to State of Georgia in Wildlife Management Areas. This caused an increase tax burden on Long County citizens. The loss of another 36,000 acres will exacerbate the tax burden on the citizens. Is the Marine Corps willing and able to enter a long term financial agreement to offset the loss of tax base?
3. Another lost to Long County will be the timber taxes paid at time of timber cutting. Is the Marine Corp willing to waive federal sovereignty ?
4. While not pertinent to the EIS, what is the range of land cost?
5. The Range now has a problem with insuring that aircraft stay within altitude restrictions, especially the lower limits. It is very disconcerting to people and animals when aircraft engage their after-burners at tree top level. My home is 10.8 mile from the tower and still the aircraft seem to clip the tops out of trees! What additional precautions will Marine Corps institute to eliminate this issue?

3 Sep 10

Addendum to 9/2/10 comments on

## Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range

By: Thomas V. Maulden  
317 Old Macon Darien Rd SE  
Ludowici, Ga. 31316

6. How was the 165 nautical mile from MCAS Beaufort established as a criterion?

There are other Federal installations within Florida, South Carolina and Alabama within 260 nautical miles that may better fit the criteria within negatively impacting:

- a) the Socioeconomics of the local community by reduction of tax base,
- b) Natural Resources by uncontrolled intrusion into the wetlands by errant weapons and retrieval attempts; also, by intrusion into endangered and threatened species habitats, not all are acceptable to relocation,
- c) Recreation by removal of the land from public use for hunting and fishing,
- d) Land Use by reducing the oxygen producing forest land and introducing more carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides into the local ecological system.

7. Not addressed in the brochure was the periodic flooding of this area when the Altamaha River overflows it banks and completely floods this area to the point that Ga Highway 57 had to be closed from the Clary Davis hill to the town of Townsend. This has occurred once within the last 15 years and more in the past. What happens to the disturbed earthen areas and any residue explosive material?

**From:** Ron Popiel [mailto:popiel.ron@gmail.com]  
**Posted At:** Sunday, September 05, 2010 3:19 PM  
**Posted To:** Comments  
**Conversation:** bombing range proposed expansion  
**Subject:** bombing range proposed expansion

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We the public have been asked to voice any comments as part of your scoping meeting procedure. My wife and I attended the scoping meeting in Darien on Aug. 26, 2010. Our home and 44 acre farm are located 3 miles from the proposed expansion boundary. Being in such close proximity we already experience the noise pollution and cannot imagine it being any worse than it already is. We had no idea that the range was so close when we used most of our life savings to purchase our "Little piece of retirement heaven", complete with horses, greenhouse barn, grape vines, etc. I finally had a good reason to buy that tractor and bushhog I had always wanted.

We all know that life is full of unexpected surprises and sure enough at age 64 I encountered a heart condition known as "Arterial Fibrillation", when your heartbeat becomes irregular. It is currently controlled by medication and maybe surgery. Bottom line is we are going to have to sell this farm as I do not have the energy as I did before.

As if the current economic recession and real estate crisis were not enough, now we have to deal with this bombing range expansion and the obvious effect on property values in this immediate area, in our case only 3 miles.

I would venture to say if approved this proposed expansion will either reduce our property value by 50% or make the resale prospects practically impossible. So much for life savings and so much for the economic survival of my wife after I'm gone.

At least with property being condemned by imminent domain one can receive a fair price for the property and move on. Here we are just left to suffer while you drop your munitions and we sit on property that we cannot sell.

Word will get out as it already has and prospective buyers will look elsewhere. Good or bad the buying public will be adversely influenced by the prospect of such an expansion. Please imagine informing a prospective buyer that only 3 miles away is a military bombing range with a specific target just over the restricted area.

Maybe you guys will consider buying this farm as a staging area or some other purpose. God knows I'm scared as can be about selling it to someone else.

God bless America and our military heroes.

--

Ron Popiel  
5690 Cox R.D., S.W.  
Townsend, Ga. 31331  
(912) 270-2189  
(912-437-4137)

---

**From:** kathleen russell [mailto:kathleen@thedariennews.net]

**Posted At:** Sunday, September 05, 2010 10:24 AM

**Posted To:** Comments

**Conversation:** Townsend Bombing Range story and editorial

**Subject:** Townsend Bombing Range story and editorial

Please find attached the news story and editorial that was published in The Darien News Sept. 2 Issue.

Kathleen W. Russell

Editor and Publisher

The Darien news

# What about the Townsend Bombing Range expansion?

If approximately 20 percent of McIntosh County property were not already owned by the state and federal governments, concern may not be so fierce when considering the loss of more property as the military looks at expanding the Townsend Bombing Range. It is estimated that the fair market value of the taxable portions of the expanded bombing range within McIntosh County is about \$16,000,000.

Already the government owns most of this county's valuable properties, including the barrier islands of Blackbeard (federal) and Sapelo (state), as well as Harris Neck Wildlife Refuge (federal). Then, too, a major portion of the Altamaha River corridor in McIntosh County is owned by the state government.

Money paid to the county in lieu of property taxes for the property owned by the federal government in 2009 was \$167,059 and, in 2010, \$215,819. Georgia Department of Natural Resources paid the county, in lieu of taxes for Sapelo Island in 2009 and 2010, \$100,000 each year. These funds are just a drop in the county's revenue bucket as compared to the taxes paid, if the land were privately owned.

McIntosh is a poor county. As the state and federal governments continue to take our valuable and beautiful land, there are fewer taxpayers in this county who are then left with a huge tax burden that we cannot afford!

Providing an expanded area for the Townsend Bombing Range so that our military can be trained to fight for our country is something that the majority of the people in McIntosh County support.

As the military has proposed three possible areas to expand, *The Darien News* is concerned about the acquisition of Area 2, 14,753 acres along the Altamaha River that encompasses a majority of the Townsend Wildlife Management Area, which is comprised of 11,200 acres already owned by Georgia DNR. Officials say that if Area 2 were to become part of the Townsend Bombing Range, the Altamaha River would not be closed. But, where would the line be drawn to limit access to areas of wonderful beauty, hunting and fishing? What will be done to protect the rare, threatened and endangered species that live in the area?

We ask the Department of the Navy to eliminate the consideration of Area 2 for the expansion. We have been told it is the military's position that the expansion would be accomplished with the least amount of land. Areas 1 and 3 seem to be more feasible.

Another thought process concerning the subject is that of Paul Griffin, who serves as chairman of the McIntosh County tax Assessor's board. He points out that by the Marine Corps expanding the bombing range and not having to resort to sending pilots out west to complete their training, there will be a huge savings involved. McIntosh County should be able to share in the financial benefits and work with the Marine Corps to enhance the management of the property in a win-win situation.

Second, the county and Marine Corps need to establish a stabilized agreement on a long term basis. And finally, both should agree on an exit strategy, when the land becomes no longer valuable to the Marine Corps, and can revert back to county ownership.

McIntosh Countians: Submit your comments by Sept. 7 online at [www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com); by email, [townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com); or by mail, Townsend EIS Project Manager, P.O. Box 1800458, Tallahassee, FL 32318.

Scoping

# Questions asked about Townsend Bombing Range expansion at scoping meeting

“Let’s don’t get the cart before the horse,” said GySgt. Chad McMeen at the Marine Corps scoping meeting concerning the proposed modernization and expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range held in Darien last Thursday. “This meeting is just the first step of a very lengthy and thorough process.”

The United States Marine Corps, which opened the range in 1981 as a training facility for Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., is gathering information until Sept. 7 for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the expansion of the bombing range.

The current size of the range is insufficient for Marines to train as they fight with precision-guided munitions. Only 43 percent of their training can be completed at Townsend. If the range is not expanded, training will have to be accomplished in California.

Therefore, the military is proposing five possible alternatives. It has identified three areas. If all three areas were included, it would encompass 51,580 acres, with the majority of that land being in Long County, primarily

owned by timber companies Rayonier and Goodwood.

Area 1 includes 11,948 acres and is adjacent to the east and west of the current 5,183-acre range.

Area 2 includes 14,752 acres to the south and west of the present range and included a majority of the Townsend Wildlife Management Area. This area, though not specifically defined, runs along the Altamaha River, and includes such areas at Miller Lake. It does not include Plum Orchard Cemetery.

Area 3 has 24,800 acres and is located to the north and west of the present range.

The Marine Corps is considering including Alternative 1: Area 1; Alternative 2, Area 1+3; Alternative, Area 3; Alternative Areas 1+2; or Alternative, Areas 1+2+3. And there is one other option: no land expansion and no changes to the operations to the present bombing range.

Thirty minutes before the three-hour meeting was to begin on Aug. 26, the room was filled with local citizens asking such questions as to whether Hwy. 57 would be closed; if fishing and hunting on the Altamaha River would be allowed; how much taxes to the county would be lost; how much the noise level would increase; will rare and endangered species would be harmed; would there be increased air space; and more.

Some of those questions were answered outright; many will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement that will take a year to complete.

Criteria to be considered concerning possible locations

for a training range for the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort is that: it must be located within 165 nautical miles of the base; it must not currently host conflicting uses; must have available restricted airspace; and must have the capability to meet the air-to-ground training requirements. The Townsend Bombing Range is the only location able to meet all of the criteria.

Military personnel explained that there would be no increase in the restricted airspace or the already large military operating area.

Utilizing non-explosive precision-guided weapons for training, the weapons are released from higher altitudes and a greater range for the target is required than are non-guided weapons. It was explained that though these weapons are more accurate, but the safety zone requirements are much larger because of having to contain the area in which the weapon may impact the ground should the guidance system fail.

In the Environmental Impact Analysis, a multitude of issues must be addressed by Fall 2011. These will include safety, noise, socio-economics, recreation, natural resources, forestry resources, air quality, water resources, cultural resources, land use environmental justice and airspace/air traffic.

If the expansion included all three proposed areas, it would include 38 percent wetlands. The current area and proposed area of expansion include rare, threatened and endangered species: the flatwoods salamander, bald eagle, gopher tortoise and wood stork.

Area 2 includes a large portion of the Townsend Wildlife Management Area along the Altamaha River that provides hunting, fishing and camping. If the area becomes part of the of the bombing range, it would be closed except for possible lottery hunts.

Concerning land use, officials stated that some of the land may be converted from forest and to target area.

According to Alice Howard, director of Community Plans and Liaison, the land would not be clear cut. There would possibly be four to five each of 500-acre areas that would be clearer similar to the 500 acres cleared at the present bombing range location.

Howard also stated that the plans as they exist would not close Hwy. 57 or the Altamaha River.

She explained that the initial plan with the five alternatives did not consider environmental issues. These will be addressed during the Environmental Impact Study. The study should reveal how the project can be accomplished with the least amount of land.

Military officials could not answer exactly how many acres of property would be affected in McIntosh County, though the vast majority of the land expansion would be in Long County.

According to Paul Griffin, chairman of the McIntosh County Tax Assessors Board, an estimate of the fair market value of the taxable portions of the expanded Townsend Bombing Range within McIntosh County is about \$16,000,000.

Currently, approximately 20 percent of the property in McIntosh County is owned either by the state or federal government. Taking more land for government ownership, puts more burden of taxes on McIntosh property owners which was a primary concern of those from McIntosh County who attended last Thursday's scoping meeting.

Emily Davis of Darien who owns 125 acres of land located .2 miles from the proposed Area 2 property, attended the meeting. She stated, "I actively oppose the proposal. It will have a devastating effect on people who own property near the area."

Davis questions exactly how much her property will be devalued. Her family utilizes the property for recreation where they go hunting, fishing and spend the night.

"The noise is horrendous," was her description of the jets flying in at a very low altitude as they approach the bombing range targets.

Other property in that area adjacent to the proposed expansion includes approximately 1,000 acres owned by Edgar Davis, Jr.

Plum Orchard Cemetery, adjacent to Emily Davis's property, is located near the proposed expansion.

James Holland, retired Altamaha Riverkeeper, said that he is opposed to the closing of Area 2 along the Altamaha River. The Altamaha provides so much eco-tourism. He described the huge cypress trees in Miller Lake that must be preserved.

Frank Williams, Jr., attended the meeting and sent his comments in concerning the loss of property taxes in this poor community and land devaluation. His son, Frank Williams, III, has spent hours studying the loss of tax dollars to this community.

State Representative Roger Lane of Darien attended the scoping meeting in Darien, as well as the one held in Ludowici on Aug. 24.

“The biggest concern is what effect the expansion will have on the property taxes in each county (with Long County losing the most.)”

Lane said the military has said that they will look at alternatives in which the counties could benefit monetarily for the losses, such as payments from timber sales or funds paid in lieu of taxes as the federal government and state pay for their properties in McIntosh County.

Lane indicated that he was satisfied that the noise factor would not increase with precision-guided munitions, which will fly at a higher altitude and drop inert munitions.

Wally Orrel, Chamber president, expressed concern about the proposed expansion, in that it could have a negative effect on potential businesses that would possibly open in those areas. He expressed concern to officials about the expansion prohibiting the city’s proposed airport on Hwy. 17, and marine officials assured that that airspace would not be affected.

“The expansion does not do anything to improve job growth

in McIntosh County at this point,” Orrel said.

Members of the historic Portal Hunting Club at Jones lease 13,000 acres of land in McIntosh, Long and Liberty counties. Numerous members of the club attended the meetings. Angus McLeod, a club member, said he and other members oppose the expansion that would eliminate much of their hunting territory.

Jim Morrison of Meridian and former executive director of the Georgia Wildlife Federation, opposed the inclusion of Area 2 that runs adjacent to the Altamaha River, where hunting and fishing would cease. “Put it in the piney woods in Area 3, where it won’t hurt anything.”

Kathy Davidson attended the meeting and expressed her concern of having restricted access to the new Townsend Wildlife Management Area. “There are very few WMAs available. It would take a lot of meat off the tables for a bunch of families here. In these economic times, it helps right now to hunt and fish in that area.” She also expressed concern over the loss of property taxes.

**Public comment concerning this proposal may be made by Tuesday, Sept. 7: online at [www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com); by mail to Townsend EIS Project Manager, P.O. Box 180458, Tallahassee, FL 32318;**

**or by email to  
townsendbombingrange  
eis@ene.com.**

The timeline after the end of the public scoping period allows for a year to complete the draft Environmental Impact Statement. Then by Fall 2011, the public will have opportunities to meet with military officials and comment, during which time there will be an agency review. The Final EIS will be presented Spring 2012. The Secretary of the Navy will make the final decision.

-----Original Message-----

From: Deborah [<mailto:debshep@dorientel.net>] Posted At: Tuesday, September 07, 2010 5:27 PM Posted To: Comments  
Conversation: Comments on Townsend Bombing Range  
Subject: Comments on Townsend Bombing Range

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding the proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range. Let me begin by thanking the dedicated professionals who came to McIntosh and Long County for the public scoping sessions to explain the proposal and seek public input. Every contact I had with numerous members of the team was professional and pleasant and it was a pleasure to work with each of them.

The Altamaha Riverkeeper has serious concerns about the proposed expansion. Many of our members have spoken strongly about their concerns with the impact on the river, river access, habitat destruction, loss of property taxes to the local governments and many other issues.

Our organization shares these concerns and emphasizes the concerns about even including area 2 in the proposed plan. To include this area of the river swamp in your proposal shows a lack of understanding of the resource and the people who use it and makes us wonder if it was included to draw attention away from the other proposed areas. This lack of effort to understand the impact of this proposal does not speak well for how the military has conducted the analysis that led to this proposal.

ARK requests more information about the alternatives analysis and the process that led to the conclusion that this was a suitable site. While we all support adequate and proper training for our military forces, it does not appear that a true alternatives analysis was conducted on the proposal you have put forth to our communities.

Other organizations and individuals have articulated their concerns about the the potential degradation or destruction of critical habitats in an area that has become known for its world class resources. ARK shares those concerns and again questions how and why the decisions to include these areas in the proposed expansion were made.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments for your consideration. This proposal lacks an understanding of or solution for both the complex environments and the delicate economic realities of these rural Georgia Counties. We urge you to reconsider your plan to expand the Townsend Bombing Range.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Sheppard, Executive Director  
Altamaha Riverkeeper

Coastal Office  
428 Bull Street  
Savannah, GA 31401  
tel 912.447.5910  
fax 912.447.0704  
coast@gaconservancy.org  
georgiaconservancy.org

PRESIDENT  
Pierre Howard

CHAIRMAN  
Bailey Izard, Atlanta\*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Deborah Baker, Atlanta  
John W. Bembrly, Hawkinsville\*  
Keith Bentley, Smyrna  
Dameron Black IV, Atlanta  
Edward Callaway, Pine Mountain  
Margaret Campbell, Atlanta\*  
Michael Chang, Peachtree City  
Frank Garrard, Madison  
Timothy J. Gunter, Atlanta  
Jim Hartzfeld, Marietta  
Sharon Getties Johnson, Powder Springs  
Ben Jordan, Decatur  
Genna Keller, Atlanta\*  
Charlotte King, Stockbridge  
Wesley Langdale III, Valdosta\*  
Lacey Lewis, Atlanta\*  
Marty McLendon, Leary  
Mike Owens, Alpharetta  
Ira Pearl, Atlanta\*  
Eugene M. Rackley IV, Atlanta  
David E. Radcliffe, Athens  
Conchita W. Robinson, Atlanta\*  
John D. Rogers, Atlanta\*  
Jason S. Rooks, Avondale Estates\*  
John A. Sibley III, Atlanta\*  
Floyd W. Smith, Newnan  
Markham Smith, Atlanta  
Blake Sullivan, Macon  
William E. Underwood III, Atlanta\*  
Jennifer Wellborn, Columbus  
Chris Womack, Atlanta

ADVISORY BOARD

Ray C. Anderson, Atlanta  
Stephen T. Butler, Columbus  
Joel Cowan, Peachtree City  
Bradley Currey Jr., Atlanta  
Ann Q. Curry, Atlanta  
Douglas R. Hooker, Atlanta  
Ed Jenkins, Jasper  
E. Cody Laird Jr., Atlanta  
Elliott Levitas, Atlanta  
Clay C. Long, Atlanta  
Joe Montgomery, Rome  
Laura Turner Seydel, Atlanta  
Arnold Tenenbaum, Savannah

\*Executive Committee Member

September 7, 2010

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL to townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com**

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

**Re: Townsend Bombing Range Environmental Impact Statement**

To Whom It May Concern:

On August 4, 2010, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) notified the Georgia Conservancy of their intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and conduct public scoping meetings for proposed land acquisitions that would expand the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) located in McIntosh County, Georgia, for the use of inert precision-guided munitions to support training operations. The USMC in its Expansion Proposal has identified five land acquisition scenarios for expansion to meet training requirements. The five scenarios feature three designated land areas in and around the current TBR (Area 1, Area 2 and Area 3). The EIS will consider different configurations of these areas and possibly others. 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 for consideration in the EIS process. In particular, the Georgia Conservancy submits these comments to express its concern with the effects that the proposed USMC project may have on existing protected areas.

In Scenarios 4 and 5 of the Expansion Proposal, "Area 2" is included in the proposed land acquisition. Area 2 includes 14,752 acres of land located in Long and McIntosh counties with frontage on the Altamaha River and containing important habitat and wildlife. Additionally, Area 2 includes the Townsend Wildlife Management Area (WMA), currently protected by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The Townsend WMA is open to the public year round. This WMA currently allows the public access to unspoiled habitats along the Altamaha River. Additionally, this WMA contains an ancient swamp habitat with trees estimated to be more than 1,000 years old and the largest cypress tree in Georgia.

While the Georgia Conservancy appreciates that expansion is needed in order to fulfill the USMC's training requirements, we strongly urge the removal of Area 2

from the proposed scenarios. The loss of Townsend WMA would be devastating to the community, the region and the state. Because this loss would have such a great impact, we would like to suggest that the EIS study the following items:

**The EIS should study the possibility of the TBR expanding to the north and east using Areas 1 and 3 only.** This option does not impact the Townsend WMA.

**The EIS should study the possibility that both recreationists and the USMC could share access to the Townsend WMA.** A co-use alternative should be studied so that the area will not be completely removed from the public domain.

**The EIS should assess the increased law enforcement costs to state and local jurisdictions with respect to enforcing trespass on private property and other areas where travel is not allowed.** Many of the Townsend WMA recreationists that will be misplaced by the closure of the WMA will look for other areas to recreate in and may be confused as to which WMAs in the area are still operating. Until proper signage is in place in state and local areas, law enforcement will need to be increased.

**The EIS should assess the economic impact the loss of the WMA will have on the local community.** While a large number of the people who recreate in the Townsend WMA do not live there, they stimulate the local economy with their purchases of gas, groceries, and miscellaneous supplies.

**The EIS should assess the economic impact that the loss of the Townsend WMA would have on the larger region.** Many users of the Townsend WMA live in neighboring counties and other parts of the state. The closure of the Townsend WMA would preclude all scientific and recreational opportunities currently enjoyed by many in the region and around the state.

**The EIS should study the possibility of purchasing privately-owned property to replace the lost recreational opportunities of the Townsend WMA.** This study should look not only at areas in McIntosh and Long counties, but the surrounding counties as well.

**The EIS should incorporate a plan that returns the Townsend WMA to public use once it has fulfilled its usefulness to the USMC.** In all likelihood the USMC will not need to use this property for training indefinitely. When no longer needed by the USMC, the USMC should be required to restore the area and return it to public use.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Blalock  
Coastal Land Conservation Program Manager  
The Georgia Conservancy

**From:** janisse & raven [mailto:wildfire1491@yahoo.com]  
**Posted At:** Tuesday, September 07, 2010 3:02 PM  
**Posted To:** Comments  
**Conversation:** Bombing Range Expansion is a Bad Idea  
**Subject:** Bombing Range Expansion is a Bad Idea

Sept. 7, 2010

United States Marine Corps:

I would like to add my comments regarding the proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range in McIntosh County, Ga.

As a naturalist, nature writer, and environmental activist, I have deep and abiding concerns about the bombing-range proposal. For many decades national and regional environmental organizations have been involved in protecting a wild corridor along the Altamaha River, an undammed waterway and one of the last great wild places, according to The Nature Conservancy. It is a conservation priority. Conservationists and investors have worked hard to save, to date, more than 80,000 acres of wild and scenic land along this river.

Some of this land is one-of-a-kind. I have now visited an adjacent property, the Murff Tract, a protected land along the Altamaha River, a number of times. In this tract are unheard-of sights no longer to be found anywhere in the South, including a small forest of very old-growth cypress and tupelo. When I say "old-growth" I mean trees that are over 500 years old and as much as 1,000 years old. This is an unbelievable resource for Georgia. Additionally, there are endangered species and incredible cultural resources, which I could enumerate if you needed a list.

I think expansion of the range will adversely affect the wildlife and landscape of this very wild place. A bombing range expansion would ruin the unique and economically advantageous natural resources of this area.

This proposal raises a red flag among many of us who care about the environment, spend our dollars in support of it, as well as recreating and vacationing in it, and who exert our political power on its behalf. This project is on the radar for being unnecessary and for being backward-thinking when we need to be forward-thinking.

Do you think we want to be canoeing on the Altamaha while bombers in training fly overhead? Do you think we want to be seeking refuge and solace in an old-growth forest while bombs fall? Must you destroy all the most beautiful places on earth? When is enough enough?

We have enough bombing ranges. The MCAS Yuma, Ariz. or MCAS Miramar, Calif. bombing ranges already accomplish what the Marine Corps wishes to do. Flying the soldiers to AZ or CA is a routine procedure that can easily continue.

The time has come to reevaluate military spending. We are in the middle of a mammoth recession. Why is the military still spending unnecessary money? Why are we training soldiers for operations that have no purpose useful in maintaining or even spreading democracy, that end in utter failure, and that bankrupt our nation?

Let's use some good judgment in this decision. Leave Townsend Bombing Range as it is.

Thank you.

Janisse Ray  
895 Catherine T. Sanders Road  
Reidsville, GA 30453  
912.557.1053  
wildfire1491@yahoo.com

**From:** shan.leeann.87@hotmail.com [mailto:shan.leeann.87@hotmail.com]

**Posted At:** Tuesday, September 07, 2010 3:35 PM

**Posted To:** Comments

**Conversation:** I'm against it

**Subject:** I'm against it

I for one am against it my husband loves hunting and I think it's crazy. I say let them go to California. I've read the paper and I agree with what property owners and hunters are saying.

September 7, 2010

SUBMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO [townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com)  
AND VIA U.S. MAIL TO:

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

Re: Proposed Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range

Dear EIS Project Manager:

The Nature Conservancy (the Conservancy) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR). Since 2005, we have worked very closely with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR), the Navy and the United States Marine Corps (USMC) to protect land in the vicinity of TBR to conserve the incredible natural resources in this area as well as to buffer TBR from incompatible development. We greatly value our partnership with USMC, as it has allowed us to increase the size and scale of our land protection efforts along the Altamaha River. We understand the importance of this range as a training facility for all branches of the military, and the need to expand the range to accommodate advanced training techniques.

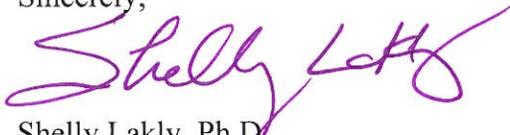
Area Two on the proposed expansion map (14,752 acres) has been a conservation priority for the Conservancy since the mid-1990's when it was identified through a watershed-wide ecological inventory. It has very high conservation values, providing habitat for numerous rare species such as the gopher tortoise, eastern indigo snake and Radford's dicerandra (a rare mint known from only two locations in the world). A large percentage of Area Two is bottomland hardwood forests unsuitable for training but critical for water quality and public recreation. Area Two also contains sand ridges in the floodplain of the Altamaha River that become islands when the river floods. These sand ridges contain rare habitats such as inland maritime forest that are only found in a few locations. GDNR and the Conservancy have worked together for many years to develop a long-term vision for Area 2 (now owned and managed by GDNR as part of Townsend Wildlife Management Area). That vision includes restoring longleaf pine and prescribed fire to the uplands, protecting the rare species on these critical conservation lands, and

preserving the bottomland hardwood forests that contribute to regional water quality. The Conservancy has helped raise both public and private funds to protect these lands, and is committed to seeing this vision carried out.

The Conservancy understands USMC is considering five scenarios for the potential expansion. Given its ecological significance and our work with the State of Georgia in protecting the Altamaha River corridor, the Conservancy opposes any scenario in which the USMC would acquire Area 2.

We value our partnership with the USMC and appreciate the opportunity to provide input into this process. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Cable, Director of Protection (404-253-7213). Thank you in advance for taking our concerns into consideration, and please contact me if you have any questions about our comments, or if we can provide you with ecological data to help the USMC better understand the critical conservation features of these lands.

Sincerely,



Shelly Lakly, Ph.D.  
Georgia State Director

CC: Ms. Michelle Cable  
Joannie Dwoskin, Esq.  
Mr. Thomas Farmer  
Ms. Alice Howard  
Ms. Alison McGee  
Mr. Jim Omans  
Mr. Paul Stewart

**From:** Wilkinson, Billy [mailto: Billy.Wilkinson@weyerhaeuser.com]

**Posted At:** Tuesday, September 07, 2010 1:17 PM

**Posted To:** Comments

**Conversation:** PROPOSED TBR EXPANSION

**Subject:** PROPOSED TBR EXPANSION

My Name: Billy Wilkinson

I am a lifelong resident of McIntosh County

Address: 2231 Steve Nelson Road, NE

Townsend, GA 31331

912-832-5240

First and foremost, let me thank all Military Personnel for your service and dedication to our Country allowing us the freedom to enjoy the areas in question and life in general. I can assure you in the south Georgia area there is a strong support for our Military.

However, I most strongly object to this proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range, and by copy of this response, I ask our Local, State, and Federal Legislators, as well as all local citizens, to actively oppose. The following are bullet points for my opposition and I will be happy to further discuss upon request;

- McIntosh County (and I suspect Long County as well) is a rural county that can ill afford more losses to the tax base. Research will show State and Federal Government Agencies already own a huge portion of county acreage. This would put additional financial burdens on our sparse and relatively low income, population.
- Area 1 Alternative encompasses acreage which is part of the Altamaha River Basin drainage system, including many natural lakes and streams. This area is pristine river swamp terrain that has been used for hunting, fishing, and recreation by ourselves, our ancestors, and our children. Other than logging of timber, this land is pretty much the same as it has always been. Access should never be hindered or denied.
- Even though a rural county with relatively low population, the residents in and around the acquisition areas should not be subjected to additional noise and inconveniences this would bring. This is where they live!
- Fort Stewart Military Base is the largest base east of the Mississippi River, covering 280,000 acres. That is almost five and one half (5 ½) times more land than all of your proposed alternatives combined! My goodness, with some much land already a Military installation, with impact areas already established, no additional environmental or community impact, and within the 165 miles of Beaufort, you do not need any acquisition of additional land around the TBR. As a matter of fact, you do not need the existing acreage!
- Government representatives in the meeting said the previous bullet point (Fort Stewart) would not work because being different branches of the Military, scheduling would be almost impossible, and the Army would not be able to train while Marine pilot training was ongoing. I find this to be an unacceptable excuse for several reasons; One- This is a management issue that surely our competent officers of the various branches can overcome. With 280,000 acres there should be room for everyone to train at the same time, and at the very least, ability to schedule separately. Seems to me practicing attacking and defending an existing Military base would be better training than attacking trees & rivers. Two- In private industry, if two department leaders said they could not work/ schedule together, they would be managed to do so or be replaced. I cannot imagine our Military branches not working together and still be efficient in defending our country. I know there is a General somewhere, that all branches report to, that can easily and

swiftly resolve training coordination and cooperation. Multiple branches already use the existing site for goodness sakes!

- Our Government already owns enough land and through proper & efficient utilization of these lands, more would not be needed. Governments should not be in the land acquisition business and with our astronomical deficits are already so huge, nothing needs to be done to increase the problem.
- More time should be given for comments. Citizens need more time to study and research the proposals so informed positions can be garnered. This timeline has the appearance of rushing through so minimum comments will be received. I ask for an extension of the comment period an additional 30 days.

In summary, The “right answer” is to immediately discontinue the acquisition process, which will mitigate my first three (3) bullet points. An added bonus to our financially burdened county, would be to return the existing acreage to the private sector via bullet points four and five (4 & 5). In addition, I have no problem supporting continued use of the west coast facilities for training instead of these proposed acquisitions. The last two (2) bullet points speak for themselves.

Again, thanks to our Military folks for your service and thank you for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to this acquisition process ceasing and concerns eliminated. However, should this acquisition process continue, I ask that you please notify me of any proceedings going forward as these comments will not be the end of my opposition or actions in this matter.

Billy Wilkinson

Copy: All McIntosh County Commissioners;

Boyd Gault  
Nathaniel Grovenor  
Charles Jordan  
Mark Douglas  
David Stevens

Georgia Congress & Senators;

Jeff Chapman  
Roger Lane

Federal representatives & Senators;

Jack Kingston  
Saxby Chambliss  
Johnny Isakson

Note: If I have misspelled names, I apologize.

**Appendix D**  
**Comments Received During Public Scoping Periods**

**Appendix D.1**  
**First Scoping Period**

***Web Site Comments***

This page left blank intentionally.

James Williams  
141 Sunset Blvd

Beaufort, 29907

I fully support the proposed expansion of the Townsend range area. As a retired USMC aviator I am fully aware of the importance of having adequate training facilities on the east coast. When squadrons have to deploy to the west coast in order to practice with PGM's it increases the cost of training significantly - probably a hundred times over - due to the movement of manpower and equipment necessary to support aircraft operations away from home base. It also decreases the opportunity for such training due to that additional expense. East coast based squadrons of all Service branches need a range where this training can be accomplished safely and economically. Since these "smart" weapons are launched from higher altitudes and require less dynamic maneuvering by the pilot/aircraft, local residents around the range will probably never be aware of the PGM training. In any case PGM training will certainly be less intrusive than the current dive bombing training which has been on-going at Townsend for the past 20 plus years. The proposed range expansion will insure an adequate safety buffer zone around the actual impact area in the event of any malfunctions; that is why this expansion is so critical. In my opinion the more area that is included in the property acquisition, the safer it will be for all concerned. Since most of this property is currently owned by the Timber Industry and will continue to support that industry, this could be a real "win-win" for the local communities and the military.

Wayne Owens  
1078 Live Oak Cove NE

Townend, 31331

please publish a chart showing the impact on airspace around the range and Eagle Neck Subdivision. We cannot evaluate the impact on our life and property without knowing if we can still use our runway.

Richard Marsh  
2441 Coopers Point Dr

Townsend, 31331

I believe that the expansion of the Townsend range is a great plan. Being a former pilot , keeping the air crews heavy ordance proficiency is a must. Question- if this Townsend expansion progam is approved , there are attack air wings located at MCAS Cherry Point NC and NAS Oceana VA. Will these group's use the Townsend range in the future? With the F 35 replacement program coming on line , lots of qualification is needed Best of luck with this program Richard Marsh

Roger Houston  
1547 Elim Church Rd

Ludowici, 31316

1) If this acquisition is for increasing safety buffer, as the press releases state, would it be more feasible to negotiate a long term lease agreement versus direct acquisition? 2) Will the new acquisition be just for air dropped ordinance or will there be artillery, ground maneuver used as well, like they do down at Avon Park? 3) Will GA 57 or the Altamaha River or the Tibet Rd have to be closed to public traffic when the range is "hot". 4) How will Long County be compensated to make up the difference for the potential loss of 20000+ acres from its tax digest once the Federal Government assumes ownership?

James Phillips  
16 1486 Parnell Road  
PO Box 309, Darien (mailing ad)  
Townsend, 31331

I have looked at everything I could on the Internet and newspapers. I only found the map that you provided on this site as to the area you are planning to acquire. I am a Veteran of 13 years service and am 84 years old. I am still very active, but I have a disabled daughter to plan for besides myself. Before continuing to prepare the land I now have, I need to know if my property is in that part of land that you will be acquiring. How and when would I know if my property is in the area? Whom would I speak with? How quick can I expect an answer? I know that 2012 seems like a long time to some, but it is not to me. With my situation, time is very important. I will need a good deal of time to prepare, find somewhere that will meet our needs to go, and pack. I still work a full 40 hour week and my daughter can only do so much and my grandson is in college. I NEED to know if my property is in the area you are considering as soon as possible. The address of the property is: 1486 Parnell Road Townsend, GA 31331 My Mailing address is: PO Box 309 Darien, GA 31305 My Phone number is: 912-437-8766 Alternate number is: 912-638-6163 My email address is: JWP1927@aol.com I respectfully request an answer as soon as possible. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, James W Phillips

James Phillips  
16 1486 Parnell Road  
PO Box 309, Darien (mailing ad)  
Townsend, 31331

I have looked at everything I could on the Internet and newspapers. I only found the map that you provided on this site as to the area you are planning to acquire and it is not detailed enough to show the exact locations. I am a Veteran of 13 years service and am 84 years old. I am still very active, but I have a disabled daughter to plan for besides myself. Before continuing to prepare the land I now have, I need to know if my property is in that part of land that you will be acquiring. How and when would I know if my property is in the area? Whom would I speak with? How quick can I expect an answer? I know that 2012 seems like a long time to some, but it is not to me. With my situation, time is very important. I will need a good deal of time to prepare, find somewhere that will meet our needs to go, and pack. I still work a full 40 hour week and my daughter can only do so much and my grandson is in college. I NEED to know if my property is in the area you are considering as soon as possible. The address of the property is: 1486 Parnell Road Townsend, GA 31331 My Mailing address is: PO Box 309 Darien, GA 31305 My Phone number is: 912-437-8766 Alternate number is: 912-638-6163 My email address is: JWP1927@aol.com I respectfully request an answer as soon as possible. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, James W Phillips

Thomas Wright  
710 Bradley Point Rd

Savannah, 31410

The proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range fills a very important need. We should not have to send Pilots away from their home airfield to train for deployment. Training expenses should be direct, and not increased by transportation and temporary duty costs. Expanding the range has no environmental issues. This is a simple, clear positive step to improve training and reduce overall costs. The EIS should be processed in a single cycle. It is expensive and unjustified to spend two years analyzing a simple decision.

Thomas McCay  
207 Atkinson Ave.

Savannah, 31404

I would like to express my support of the proposal to enlarge the Townsend Bombing Range to accommodate training of our Marine Corps pilots and crew with the advance weapons systems on the F35 aircraft. I appeal to the patriotism and continued support of our military by the Macintosh County officials. The advantages of this expansion of the bombing range seem to far outweigh any perceived negative effects. Our Marines would not have to conduct their training so far away from their home base. The cost savings should be substantial and they will be able to spend more time with their families prior to deployment. Approval seems to be a "no-brainer" to me.

Joel Feldman  
9785 Laview Circle

Roswell, 30075

IN THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL DEFENSE APPROVE THIS COST SAVING  
PROPOSAL

joe parker jr  
259 Old Gun Rd

Midway, 31320

I request to be added to the mailing list for Townsend Bombing Range matters. I request to be considered as local media for the purpose of notices regarding the Townsend Bombing Range expansion matters. Please & thanks.

Terri McGowan  
91 Mike Herbert Place NE

Ludowici, 31316

24 August 2010 Proposed Townsend Bombing Range Expansion To Whom It May Concern: Any expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range will have a long term detrimental impact on Long County and its citizens. The tax digest of Long County has already lost thousands of acres to governmental agencies and non-profit organizations. The Fort Stewart installation occupies approximately 24,000 acres in Long County. There is a project underway by Fort Stewart, The Nature Conservancy and a group of county officials that would create a buffer zone around the installation preventing any development. The portion in Long County would extend from the existing boundary south across Highway 196, potentially eliminating thousands of acres of land from ever being developed. The Nature Conservancy, Fort Stewart and the governmental group mentioned are attempting to create this buffer zone through both land purchase and/or conservation easements. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources owns over 4,000 acres at the Griffin Ridge Wildlife Management Area. Last year The Nature Conservancy and the Georgia DNR purchased the Wesley Lake tract which lies in both McIntosh and Long Counties. The Long County portion of this purchase was approximately 4,000 acres. This year, these same two groups purchased the remainder of the Long County Rod and Gun Club which joins the Wesley Lake tract eliminating another 4,000 acres from the tax digest of Long County. Several years ago, the Georgia Department of Transportation purchased a portion of the old Altamaha Hunting Club tract which eliminated another 3,000-4,000 acres from the digest. In 2006 The Nature Conservancy purchased over 26,000 acres in Georgia; approximately 5,000 of those acres are in Long County and were removed from the tax digest. The proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range would remove an additional 20,000-25,000 acres from the Long County tax digest. If the expansion of the Bombing Range is approved, the grand total of non-taxable land would be approximately 70,000 acres. This does not include the acres lost to the Fort Stewart buffer zone or any of the land directly adjacent to this expansion which would never be developed, further devastating our tax base. When "Googling" the Townsend Bombing Range website, I found a presentation by the Marine Corp acknowledging that Long County was one of the fastest growing counties in Georgia from 1990-2000, growing at a rate of 66%. The Bombing Range expansion would essentially put a halt to this growth and create an even heavier burden on existing tax payers in Long County. During these depressed economic times, how does the government justify expanding a bombing range into "one of the fastest growing" counties in the state? Use this link to view the Power Point presentation prepared by a USMC employee appropriately entitled "ENCROACHMENT PARTNERING". <http://www.p2pays.org/ref/41/40570.pdf> As you can clearly see from the above acquisitions by the Department of Natural Resources, the Nature Conservancy, the Department of Transportation and Fort Stewart there is very little developable land in Long County. Expansion of the Bombing Range would compound this problem. Another factor to consider is the increased air traffic that will have a significant impact on the residents of the Tibet community. These citizens are currently exposed to excessive noise on a routine basis which is above the legal decibel level. They frequently have to contact the Bombing Range and request that the aircraft not "buzz" their homes. This

excessive environmental noise exposure will directly and adversely impact any new growth and development in this community. At the Public Scoping Meeting held in Ludowici, Marine Corp officials were asked why Fort Stewart could not be considered a viable training location for this expansion? The military official responded, "not possible due to the risk of troops training on the ground. In the event a bomb goes off course we cannot risk the lives of the soldiers training below." As a citizen I have a problem with the reasoning, we can't endanger our soldiers who may be training on 280,000 acres at Fort Stewart, but we can endanger the lives of citizens living in rural sections of Long and McIntosh counties. I find it hard to believe that an established military defense base which has some of the best logistical control of its land to be found anywhere is not a better choice for a bombing range than two of the fastest growing counties in Georgia. When trying to post comments or question to the website given at the public meeting, an error message occurs which does not allow citizens to post questions or comments for review. As a result of this technical problem with the TBR website, I would respectfully request an extension of the public comment period for an additional thirty days.

Janet Yeager  
1175 Julienton Rd NE

Townsend, 31331

Please include a map showing the proposed flight paths of aircraft. Each proposed alternative should have a corresponding flight path diagram. Thanks

Jeffrey Spratt  
PO Box 662

Darien, 31305

My questions regarding environmental impact of the TBR expansion are in regard to three items. First, if both Areas 1&2 are acquired will the power line that serves as the boundary need to be moved to facilitate TBR's mission. If it does need to be moved what will be the economic and environmental (invasive species and wetland alteration) ramifications. Will the power line be moved outside the TBR boundary? Secondly, if my calculations are correct, 30 square miles of wetlands will be added to the TBR boundary. What are the plans for ditching and culvert piping to facilitate the mission. How will sheet flow of water through the wetlands be impacted. What will be the hydrological impact of upstream (wetland) properties if access roads, target zones and crash roads are added? Will there be a fire maintenance regime for the uplands and what type of rotational schedule be addressed. Thank you in advance for addressing these issues.

Cheryl Popiel  
5690 Cox Rd., SW

Townsend, 31331

I share the concerns of most of McIntosh County residents regarding the effects of the proposed expansion on our environment, our property values, our taxes, our peace and tranquility, and our safety. I have horses and ride on my property and although it has not yet happened I don't think that I want to be on horseback when a jet comes over at treetop level. Not to mention the increase risk of miss fires and crashes. At the local meeting we were told that there would not be an increase in air traffic. If the training that is now taking place is only 43% of the total training needed and expansion will allow approximately 90% of the training to be done at TBR, how can there not be a substantial increase in air traffic? I am also concerned about the effects of increased air pollution on local crops and gardens, and especially for those of us who practice organic and sustainable gardening methods.

Deonne Rozier Cave  
801 Stonewall Jackson Place

Waycross, 31503

I and my brothers and sister own a 40+ acre tract of land known as Rozier Island, aka Dicks Island in McIntosh County on the Altamaha River Tax account #1R Map Number 0001 0002 McIntosh County Tax Office Miller Lake is just east of Rozier Island, across the Altamaha River. We are concerned about the impact this would have on our use of this family property. Sincerely, The Preston Rozier Family

Chris Crouse  
P.O. Box 477

Darien, 31305

To whom it may concern, I wish to express my strong opposition to this proposal. While there may be no sonic booms, that doesn't allay the problem of screaming jets. This intrusion into an impoverished community will degrade the economic, cultural, and environmental fabric of this area. It is impossible to envisage. Furthermore, I have just returned from a trip to Vieques, PR. and saw 1st hand the powerlessness of being a neighbor with a bombing range! 7,100 of the 9,100 people who live on the island are current petitioners in a legal case against the Navy. Nor has the Navy, as the responsible party, honored its superfund mandate of cleaning up the site. While I am aware that the Townsend proposal does not include the use of live ammunition (unlike Vieques) it is a clear and continuing example of broken trust and damage to a community. I hope that the desert continues to be the location of choice. Sincerely, Chris Crouse

Erin Crouse  
P.O. Box 477

Darien, 31305

To whom it may concern, I am strongly opposed to the proposed expansion of the bombing range. This can't be good for our community, property values, and wildlife. Our area's greatest assets are the pristine natural habitat and the peace and quiet that inspired me to move here- I see this proposal as a threat to what I hold dear. Sincerely,  
Erin Crouse

Steven Wright  
Atlanta Federal Center  
100 Alabama Street, SW  
Atlanta, 30303

The Southeast Region of the National Park Service has no comments regarding the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Townsend Bombing Range Modernization and Expansion Project. Steven M. Wright National Park Service Southeast Regional Office Planning & Compliance Division (404) 507-5710 (404) 562-3257 fax

Kevin Kiernan  
1316 Oak Street

Saint Simons Island, 31522

I am opposed to expansion, because of the potential for harmful effects on the Lower Altamaha River system and the further destruction of archaeological sites. It is not clear why more land is needed for precision bombing.

sheryl schooley  
91 screven st

darien, 31305

I moved to McIntosh County to secure peace and quiet, and enjoy natural tranquility and beauty. With aircraft flying over and destroying the property below, this will be too stressful. Our property values will be ruined. I will have to move and not spend any more of my income in this County.

This page left blank intentionally.

**Appendix D**  
**Comments Received During Public Scoping Periods**

**Appendix D.2**  
**Second Scoping Period**

***Mailed Comments***

This page left blank intentionally.

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

To whomever this will hopefully concern, I have doubts about this being anyone; I for one do not want to see the Townsend Bombing Range expansion for reasons listed below.

#1 There is more than enough noise from the jets that already use this Bombing Range expansion will not only mean more jets but also possibly larger jets which will increase noise by levels known by God and possibly the Government.

#2 The Bombing Range has already took land that I hunted when I was younger, and now the proposed land on south side of Blues Reach Road has recently become a Wildlife Management Area which I enjoy hunting and fishing on and have all of my life. I Do Not want to lose this right for my children, my friends, nor myself! (Getting a chance to be drawn for a two day archery or a two day firearm hunt doesn't compare to a season of possibilities.) Even without the hunting and fishing .A lot of this land (area 2 ) is Altamaha River Swamp ,swamp land in this area has practically all been drained and replaced by pine trees, therefore making this a sight to be preserved, seen, and shared. The Nature Conservancy recognized this and purchased this land giving public access through the State Wildlife Management System.

#3 I have heard rumors of how much it would save the Government to have this facility compared to training on the West Coast. A price cannot be put on nature and enjoyment. Based on the amount of Taxes coming out of my payroll checks this should not be a problem, if you don't use the money there you'll find another way to throw it away. The taxpayers will never see any savings anyway.

#4 You already have a facility on the West Coast in use I suggest you use it and let us use and enjoy the Townsend Wildlife Management Area. Regardless of environmental impact findings, if you take the land it will be useless to us.

Ivy Rozier  
1875 Old Townsend Road N.W.  
Townsend Georgia 31331

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Ludowici, GA • August 24, 2010



NAME (Please Print): THOMAS D. HOUSTON, REP, CHMM

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: Long County Resident and Landowner

ADDRESS: 1702 Elim Church Road, NE  
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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.*

COMMENTS:

See Attached Comments:

## COMMENTS

### PROPOSED MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE (TBR)

1. **GENERAL:** It is recognized that the Public Scoping Period is to solicit information and sample general public reaction to the proposed action, and by necessity is very brief. What seems to be inconsistent is that one of the USMC Representatives at the Ludowici Meeting was overheard to say that the draft EA had been prepared, and it was over 300 pages long. If so, why wasn't the EIA available for public viewing at the scoping meeting? Many questions could have possibly been answered if the document had been available. True, this is the next step in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation process, but if the people most affected by the action are being denied access to what is presently available, then the validity of the documentation is suspect.
2. The Fact Sheet Handout generally describes the mission and purpose/need for the action. I would have been in better position to judge the environmental impact if I could have seen more detail. For example, it appears the thrust of this public scoping mission seems to be the employment of precision guided weapons in the training that requires as much as 51,580 acres of additional surface danger zone (SDZ). From the press releases by DOD, some of the precision aerial weapons can take out an enemy in one room of a house and leave others unharmed. This is inconsistent with what is explained on Page 6 of the Fact Sheet. Yet, in the previous meeting held at the Long County High Lunch Room, the F-35 was the only system addressed. If the two are related, why wasn't the precision weapons issue brought up then? Apparently the 300+ Page EIA was developed or in the process of development at that time. In any environmental issue public transparency is a "must" if there is to be acceptance.
3. The proposed "take" represents some of the most pristine ecosystems in this country, The Environmental Analysis synopsis on Page 8 to the Fact Sheet should have been more comprehensive for even public scoping. For

instance: (1) No mention was made of the toxic and hazardous waste that will be generated by the operation of the range. Although the Fact Sheet makes note that the ammunition is "inert" there are numerous heavy metals(TCLP) that will be introduced into the pristine environments. (2) No mention was made with regard to airspace restrictions for TBR. It is inconceivable to believe that the USMC will acquire thousands of additional SDZ acres, and will not impose additional airspace restrictions. The airspace issue is a problem with the present TBR Mission. The Georgia Forestry Commission uses light aircraft to detect forest fires, and the entire lower end of Long County is denied this coverage due to airspace restrictions. It is true that the Georgia Air Guard, and possibly the Dept. of Navy had provided some assistance to pay salary of a part time GFC Tower Operator at Long Tower, but additional tower manning is needed especially in fire season. The negative impact on corporate and private forestry land owners will be much greater with the proposed action. (3) It is inconceivable that the USMC would acquire all of that land, (50 K+Acres) for only aerial weaponry training and not give any consideration to use the area for ground weapons firing. It is likewise inconceivable that with all of the available impact areas on Fort Stewart, that they would acquire and contaminate pristine ecosystems with toxic substances, unexploded ordnance (UXO), noise, and deny public access to some of the finest hunting and fishing in the state if not the whole country. None of these are addressed in the Fact Sheet. (4) The map shown on Page 6 of the Fact Sheet essentially closes several vital roads, and in some instances isolates private owned lands, precluding timber removal, hunting access, and conservation practices. How will the landowners be compensated for these damages. Denial of access was not addressed as an impact on Page 8. (5) The extensive area 1,2,& 3 contains numerous colonies of the Endangered Red Cockaded Woodpecker, in some of the "old stand" forests. There are several ponds that are habitat for the flatwoods salamander, and there are numerous dry sand hills that are home to the gopher tortoise, whose burrows are shared by the Eastern Indigo Snake, all are either threatened or endangered species named in Section 7 of the ESA.

#### 4. Socioeconomic Impacts:

- a. The forest industry in addition to national defense is the economic lifeblood of Long County. Taking almost 35% of the county land area is going to place an untold burden on the taxpayers. What does the USMC plan to do about the loss of tax revenue to the county? Long County is a "Bedroom Community" for Fort Stewart, and each new residence in the county places a much greater demand for government services than the huge forestry acreage in the proposed action. Timberlands do not demand education, refuse collection-disposal, welfare, roads, utilities, or other county expenses as residences and sub divisions. The forestry land revenue source will be lost to Long County if the proposed action is consummated.
- b. Accessibility to forested lands of the various remaining hunting clubs will be lost if the proposed action is consummated. What is the USMC's intention to provide access to private lands, where existing roads are block by the TBR SDZ's ?
- c. Long County derives considerable revenue from ad-valorum tax on sale of standing timber. Obviously, the USMC is not planning to harvest the area 1,2,&3 (Page 7) so a total of over 50,000 Acres revenue will be lost for the foreseeable future. I would like to know what acreage is involved in "some land" that may be converted from forest to target area. It is true that if DOD elements cut timber from federal lands, a portion of the proceeds (after expense) go to the county in which the harvest occurs. But, it could be years before the county realizes one cent from this source. After timber is contaminated with "inert" ammo, it is hardly merchantable.
- d. What will happen to the private cemeteries located in the demised areas? For those of us that remain, will we be allowed to visit our deceased relatives and friends' graves? What protection will be afforded the monuments, fences and other particulars of the cemeteries?
- e. The Areas 1,2,&3 are where the premier hunting clubs in the state are located, and this recreational opportunity will be lost to sportsmen not only in Long County but all of South Georgia and North Florida. The many

members of the local hunting clubs that are not residents of Long County but enjoy our pristine wilderness, contribute substantially to the economy of the County. With the USMC taking 50,000+ Acres, the State of Georgia and Nature Conservancy 30-50K Acres, this precious resource (wild land) will be forever lost to this and subsequent generations of Long Countians. The loss of this acreage will definitely detract from the quality of life of our citizens, and will be a serious blow to the tourism industry in the county.

- f. From the brief information presented there is no indication that the proposed action will produce one new job to Long County Citizens. All of the personnel associated with the range operation are military, and Contract operational tasks would be extremely limited if not non-existent.

I trust that the USMC will make a copy of the Environmental Assessment(EA), Environmental Impact Statement(EIA) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to all interested parties for review and comment.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Thomas D. Houston, \*REP, CHMM  
Long County Resident and Landowner

\*Registered Environmental Professional and Certified Hazardous Materials Manager

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Ludowici, GA • August 24, 2010



NAME (Please Print):

Beverly A. Johnson

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION:

Long County Assessors

ADDRESS:

PO Box 642, 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 September 7, 2010.

Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS:

I have had questions from people that own property near the TBR. "What is the value of my property going to drop to?" and "Well, I won't have to pay much taxes cause my property won't be worth nothing!" What should I tell them? This will lower their value, which means more burden is put on other landowners. It is not a good idea to put the TBR in Long County. Our small county will go under. Government agencies keep taking and taking, pretty soon all the blood of Long County will be gone and we will just die away.

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Ludowici, GA • August 24, 2010



NAME (Please Print): Beverly A. Johnson

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: Long County Tax Assessor

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 642

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 September 7, 2010.*

*Your comments will become part of the EIS.*

COMMENTS: Government Agencies currently own over 36,500 acres  
in Long County and are in the process of purchasing some 8-10,000  
acres along the Altamaha River. It looks as if there are approximately  
40,000 acres of the TBR in Long County. If valued at an average  
of 500 dollars per acre, the county would lose \$248,592.<sup>00</sup> this  
year using current millage rate. Long County cannot afford to lose  
more land and the tax revenue that goes along with it.  
The home owners + land owners will have to make up the  
difference in revenue, and we just cannot afford it.  
Also the timber tax we receive at time of harvest is very  
important to Long County.

August 27, 2010

TO: Townsend EIS Project Manager

FROM: Marshall Gaddis     rmgaddis@dariantel.net

SUBJECT: Comments on the proposed Modernization and Expansion of TBR

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Marine Corps Public Scoping meeting on August 26, 2010 in Darien, GA. The fact sheet, Marine personnel and consultants were very helpful.

First a general comment relative to "Alternatives" (page 7). It would be nice to see three additional criteria:

- .....No net loss of revenue to state, county or city governments
- .....No net loss of recreational opportunities to citizens
- .....Positive economic impact to surrounding area

Second a specific concern is the following. Area 2 is approximately 50% Altamaha River floodplain. No Altamaha River floodplain should be considered for alteration, fencing or interference with the natural work of this critical system.

Third my recommendation would be the following. Alternative 2 (Area 1 & 3) should be selected. The development of the expanded TBR should be carried forward ONLY after the items listed in EIS (page 8) are considered and a plan developed to:

- (1) Increase employment and economic activity for McIntosh County and Long County
- (2) Create NO net loss of hunting, fishing, boating, canoeing, wildlife viewing and camping activities
- (3) Increase opportunities for tourism
- (4) Protect ecologically sensitive area with in the TBR

In summary my comments are:

- .....NO impact on Altamaha River floodplain
- .....NO net loss of revenue or recreation
- .....POSITIVE changes in employment and economic activity in McIntosh County and Long County

Sincerely yours,

*Marshall Gaddis*  
Marshall Gaddis

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010



NAME (Please Print): ARTHUR F. MORGAN CAPT, USNR Ret, NAVAL AVIATOR

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: NAVY League + Assn. of US NAVY

ADDRESS: 6455 Saddlebridge Court  
Cumming, GA 30040

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 September 7, 2010.

Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS: IT would appear to me that the extension  
of the Townsend Range for Bombing would be a good  
thing to increase the safety factor. My thought is  
that it would save the expense of having to go to  
a distant area to complete training necessary to deploy,  
and to avoid family separations (morale).  
To gain the above with no significant impact  
on the environment should make this a easy decision!

Sincerely,

*Arthur Morgan*

# City of Darien



G E O R G I A

Mayor Kelly Spratt  
Mayor Pro-Temp Joel Williams  
Councilwoman Eunice Moore  
Councilman Joe Malbasa  
Councilwoman Karen Clark

August 30, 2010

C. Brett Cook, City Manager  
Colleen Jolley, Clerk & Treasurer  
Gary Moore, City Attorney  
Frank Feild, Comm. Dev. Director  
Art Crews, Building Inspector

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

Dear Sir:

The Staff of the City of Darien would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the members of the United States military for their service to our country. Those service members present for the public Scoping Meeting for the proposed expansion of the Townsend Range were outstanding representatives and their conduct was exemplary. They were knowledgeable and the presentation exhibits were clear and concise.

The Staff of the City of Darien supports the proposed expansion of the Townsend Range. As we discussed with the Marine and Air Force representatives at the Scoping Meeting we are in the very final stages of developing plans for a new open-to-the-public airport and believe that our plans compliment and perhaps enhance the expansion of the Townsend Range. When completed our airport will include a 5,000 ft. runway, full parallel taxiway, aircraft apron, aviation gasoline and jet fueling facility, and sites for large hangars. With the demand for civil aviation facilities in our area, we expect to rapidly grow with the compliment of aviation services that are expected for a civil airport of our size.

From the discussions at the Scoping Meeting we understand that there is interest in the development of our new airport. My staff, our consultant, Campbell & Paris Engineers, and I will be glad to meet with you at your convenience to brief you on the details of our work.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time for additional information on any of the above. Once again, your service to our country is appreciated.

Sincerely,

C. Brett Cook  
City Manager



Julius ROZIER  
1364 Church of God Rd  
TOWNSEND, MA 01469

TO WHO IT MAY CONCERN

THE DARIEN NEWS STATED I COULD COMPLAIN  
TO YOU ABOUT ENLARGING THE TOWNSEND BOMBING  
RANGE. "I'M COMPLAINING"

MY HOME IS NOT IN THE PRESENT PROPOSED  
ZONE. "BUT CLOSE" THE PLANES HAS BAZED IT MANY  
TIMES AT TREE TOP LEVEL. IN THE PAST

"AS I SEE IT" THIS WILL MUCH MORE NOISE  
POLLUTION FOR EVERYONE BETWEEN I 95 + HWY 84  
IN MCINTOSH CO., LONG CO., LIBERTY CO., & WAYNE CO.

ALSO TAXPAYERS IN MCINTOSH CO. & LONG CO.  
WILL HAVE TO MAKE UP THE LOST PROPERTY TAX ON  
PROPERTY TAKEN.

HWY. 57 COULD BE CLOSED. EVEN IF TEMPORARY  
IT WOULD BE PROBLEM FOR PEOPLE IN A BIG PART  
OF MA.

TO PEOPLE WHO LOSE THEIR HOME & SLEEPING  
UNDER A BRIDGE IT WOULDN'T MATTER IF A FOREIGN  
COUNTRY TOOK THEIR HOME RATHER THAN THEIR  
OWN COUNTRY.

THIS LOOKS LIKE A GENERAL IS TRYING  
TO MAKE ANOTHER STAR OR A BIRD COP. IS TRYING  
TO MAKE A STAR.

I THINK I'S UNCALLED FOR "MY OPINION"

THANK YOU  
Julius Rozier

Meridian GA

09-01-2010

Sir:

This is in reference to the proposed additional acreage being added to the Townsend Bombing Range.

As a lifelong resident of McIntosh County, I see no benefit to anyone locally. It will take acreage off the books that the county and taxpayers need.

I understand the Government's position, but don't agree with it.

I'd like to go on the record as opposing this.

Thank you,  
Thomas Corb

September 2, 2010

Mr. Gene Stillman  
Townsend EIS Project Manager  
PO Box 180458  
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Dear Mr. Stillman:

On behalf of the Coastal Regional Commission, I would like to comment on the Townsend Bombing Range for Expansion Marine Air Corps Station Beaufort in McIntosh and Long Counties.

We consider the proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range an important undertaking for the Department of Defense and the several branches of the Armed Forces that utilize the facility. We also take into consideration the needs and impacts that our local governments may experience. Both of the affected counties have large expanses of rural landscape with little to no economic industry sectors outside of timber production and hunting leases. We would like to express interest in discussing possible alternatives or mitigation measures that may lessen the amount of negative economic impact these counties experience.

If we can be of service in any way please feel free to contact Planning Director, Tricia Reynolds at 912.262.2870 or via email at [treynolds@crc.ga.gov](mailto:treynolds@crc.ga.gov).

Sincerely,



Allen Burns  
Executive Director



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Sonny Perdue  
Governor

Chris Clark  
Commissioner

September 2, 2010

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

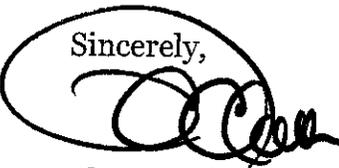
Dear EIS Project Manager:

The Department of Natural Resources appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range. We understand the importance of this range as a training facility for all branches of the military. Over the past five years, we have worked very closely with the Navy and USMC to buffer this range from incompatible development. The partnership we have forged with the USMC has been very productive for all of us and we are grateful for your support.

Area Two on the proposed expansion map is 14,752 acres, of which 11,200 acres are owned by the Department in fee and we hold a conservation easement that allows public access over an additional 2,830 acres. This area has very high conservation values and numerous rare species as the attached map shows. A large percentage of the tract is bottomland hardwood forests unsuitable for training but critical for water quality and public recreation. The uplands provide habitat for numerous rare plants and animals, one plant that is only known from two places in the world. Another factor to consider is this area was protected through multiple federal and private grants, so any acquisition by the USMC would require extensive consultation with those funders. The Department is open to exploring options with the USMC, but as you can see, Area Two presents many obstacles.

We understand this decision will take time and we are prepared to provide any information you request from us. Once again, we value the partnership and know that you will take our concerns into consideration. Any questions you have of the Department can be addressed to Steve Friedman, our Chief of Real Estate, at 404-656-9173. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and participate in this process.

Sincerely,



Chris Clark

Cc: Steve Friedman, Dan Forster

# TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE MODERNIZATION

McIntosh and Long Counties



**Rare Species Locations**  
From GA-DNR, Nongame Conservation Section Databases  
August 2010

- DC - *Drymarchon couperi*
- EF - *Elanoides forficatus*
- GP - *Gopherus polyphemus*
- LE - *Litsea aestivalis*
- MP - *Matelea pubiflora*
- - Recent Records
- - Older less precise records

Townsend WMA  
conservation easement

**Area 3**

**Area 2**

**Area 1**

**Bombing Range**

Townsend WMA  
fee-simple

USMC Conservation Easement

DNR-owned acreage within Area 2 = 11,200 ac.

To U.S. Marine Corps

Attached is copy of  
letter I submitted for  
EIS process — for  
your request of contract  
J

3 September 2010

To: Townsend EIS Project Manager  
PO Box 180458  
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Re: The Townsend Bombing Range

I, among other individuals living in this area, to include retired military personnel, are concerned that once the Townsend Bombing Range is completed, that the Navy and other military services along the eastern seaboard and in Florida will be given permission to use the range to also complete the same aerial training with precision guided bombs.

The current aircraft noise level with their gatlin gun fire can be heard county wide and as described by a resident near proposed area 2, "The noise is horrendous".

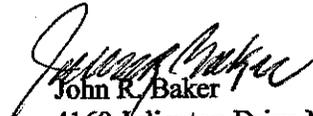
Allowing other military services to use the modified range, in addition to those marines stationed at Beaufort, SC, will only worsen the noise level on a regular basis.

Currently you have informed the citizens of this county that the range will be utilized by marines stationed at Beaufort, SC. In view of the foregoing, you need to make this very clear, not only to our citizens, but also in documents submitted to Congress for the funding of construction and the purchase of land utilized in this project.

John Baker, SR.

CF: County Commission Office

CF: The Darien News

  
John R. Baker  
4169 Julienton Drive NE  
Townsend, GA 31331

3 September 2010

To: Townsend EIS Project Manager  
PO Box 180458  
Tallahassee, FL 32318

Re: The Townsend Bombing Range

I, among other individuals living in this area, to include retired military personnel, are concerned that once the Townsend Bombing Range is completed, that the Navy and other military services along the eastern seaboard and in Florida will be given permission to use the range to also complete the same aerial training with precision guided bombs.

The current aircraft noise level with their gatlin gun fire can be heard county wide and as described by a resident near proposed area 2, "The noise is horrendous".

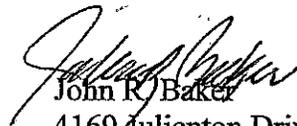
Allowing other military services to use the modified range, in addition to those marines stationed at Beaufort, SC, will only worsen the noise level on a regular basis.

Currently you have informed the citizens of this county that the range will be utilized by marines stationed at Beaufort, SC. In view of the foregoing, you need to make this very clear, not only to our citizens, but also in documents submitted to Congress for the funding of construction and the purchase of land utilized in this project.

John Baker, SR.

CF: County Commission Office

CF: The Darien News



John R. Baker  
4169 Julienton Drive NE  
Townsend, GA 31331

OPPOSED Esp. to Area 2



**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010

NAME (Please Print):

Kathy H. Davidson

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION:

Resident 4 generations McIntosh County

ADDRESS: 1814 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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS: I came to meetings.

- I and my family hunt, fish, and camp, use recreational vehicles, do nature walks and photography, boating activities, etc. in this area.
- Our Coastal Heritage and land/water preservation are extremely important to us.
- We are very concerned about All the Environmental Impacts you have listed on the back of your brochure.
- The MDA area encompasses most of our county-land+water.
- We don't want to be fenced out of the Altamaha River access points. Nor fenced out / fazed out of the new wildlife refuge of Townsend WMA.
- Neither do we want to wait on a lotto system to hunt or fish in these proposed areas. There are too many people doing hunting etc in these areas to only do it once or twice a year, which would put hunters in danger of too high a concentration or neglect about of Peoples rights to hunt at all.

\* You proposing A MOA of All of our waterways in almost All the County. I do not like what I see when I look at my river/sound and for you "30 mile out and 30 mile up" Area. This is all of our recreation and commercial fishing Area and Natural Resources Area of waters.

COMMENTS: We don't need to lose any more timber harvest tax base. This would impact our property taxes even greater than the strain on us now as many residents are on fixed incomes and are already losing their property (see local newspapers for tax sales)

\* We are concerned about the total impact the TBR would have on raising our families in this area.

Conf. <sup>impacts</sup> Safety, Recreation, Natural Resources, Noise, Air Quality, Water Resources, Land Use, Wetland Demolition, Against hunting, fishing, camping. The Altamaha River basin is a huge lifeline through our county, we need to preserve it from any further damage, we have very little public land use in this area now, and it will drastically cut that if not remove most of it with expansion.

\* Am very concerned about further impact on Native Wildlife

\* What would be wrong with doing training over air space over Ft. Stewart land area, ~~the~~ Hunter Army Air Field, Beaufort Base where there is already secured military land, etc. It's all within range! Also NAS Jax and Kings Bay Naval Station, <sup>and Mayport, FLA.</sup> We think the military has enough base space surrounding us as it is! Ft. Jackson, Ft. Gordon, Camp Blending.

\* A lot of residents here use these rivers and woods to put food on their families tables throughout the year and our unemployment rate is very high - we have to rely on those resources to survive.

\* In summary please avoid or minimize any expansion of the TBR. Please don't close our precious waters to recreation and commercial fishing with your MOA.

\* How much restricted access would you have with any expansion? How often would these Areas be totally restricted? Land and Air? - River/Ocean/Sounds?

\* We don't need Hwy 57 or 251 restricted or closed ever for anything.

OPPOSED ESP TO AREA 2



**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010

NAME (Please Print): Mark Davidson

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION: McIntosh County Res. for 20 years

ADDRESS: 1814 Bond Rd S.E.  
Darien, Georgia 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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS:

How much Training Per-day + Per Night do you plan for if land deal goes through - For How long as in hours per wk.

I want All Roads + River Access that exist now and would like to see Improvements on the existing Sites - Miller Lake - Barrington Park - Buffalo Swamp. and the W.M.A. land.

How much revenue is the County going to loose on timber rights on Paper Co land. This means NO money for timber or higher taxes to Residents of All Affected counties. - is the military going to PAY for losses? This county can't they are Taxing us off our land And out of the County

COMMENTS: Most of the land that is trying to be  
took over is W.M.A. land and are you  
going to let the hunters & fishermen still  
use the land + Roads.

When will we be notified of Range Closure  
and when we can use the land for Rec.  
reason's hunting fishing camping hiking ect.

Will it be fenced off - thus changing trails  
and crossing for wild game.

Are you aware that all land on the border  
of the area you want to take is private  
or leased land! I for I can't join a club  
to get hunting rights or fishing rights -  
also am disabled so I don't go far to  
fish or hunt. my wife goes along also she to  
is disabled on a very tight income and all  
game + fish help feed my family.

There a A number of Bases that are with  
in the 165 mile Bad. of Beauford that has land  
that is already cleared for such a training exp.  
and how many hours is 93% of training Both  
day + night.

Will Boundry on River Remain open year  
around

(Cont) pg. ③



**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010

NAME (Please Print):

Mark Davidson

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION:

ADDRESS:

1814 Bond Rd SE.

Darien, Georgia 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 September 7, 2010.  
Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS:

1. How much training in ~~the~~ this area is in the day And how much is at night
2. Your proposed "Lotto" Hunt is how many times per year And will it be a Free Lotto as in no cost to hunt! I hunt areas hard so 2-3 day is not a good hunt I also hunt All-hunting Season's - Both Small game + Big game
- 3.

September 7, 2010

SUBMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO [townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com)  
AND VIA U.S. MAIL TO:

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

Re: Proposed Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range

Dear EIS Project Manager:

The Nature Conservancy (the Conservancy) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR). Since 2005, we have worked very closely with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR), the Navy and the United States Marine Corps (USMC) to protect land in the vicinity of TBR to conserve the incredible natural resources in this area as well as to buffer TBR from incompatible development. We greatly value our partnership with USMC, as it has allowed us to increase the size and scale of our land protection efforts along the Altamaha River. We understand the importance of this range as a training facility for all branches of the military, and the need to expand the range to accommodate advanced training techniques.

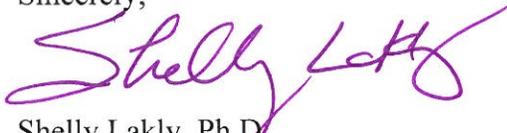
Area Two on the proposed expansion map (14,752 acres) has been a conservation priority for the Conservancy since the mid-1990's when it was identified through a watershed-wide ecological inventory. It has very high conservation values, providing habitat for numerous rare species such as the gopher tortoise, eastern indigo snake and Radford's dicerandra (a rare mint known from only two locations in the world). A large percentage of Area Two is bottomland hardwood forests unsuitable for training but critical for water quality and public recreation. Area Two also contains sand ridges in the floodplain of the Altamaha River that become islands when the river floods. These sand ridges contain rare habitats such as inland maritime forest that are only found in a few locations. GDNR and the Conservancy have worked together for many years to develop a long-term vision for Area 2 (now owned and managed by GDNR as part of Townsend Wildlife Management Area). That vision includes restoring longleaf pine and prescribed fire to the uplands, protecting the rare species on these critical conservation lands, and

preserving the bottomland hardwood forests that contribute to regional water quality. The Conservancy has helped raise both public and private funds to protect these lands, and is committed to seeing this vision carried out.

The Conservancy understands USMC is considering five scenarios for the potential expansion. Given its ecological significance and our work with the State of Georgia in protecting the Altamaha River corridor, the Conservancy opposes any scenario in which the USMC would acquire Area 2.

We value our partnership with the USMC and appreciate the opportunity to provide input into this process. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Cable, Director of Protection (404-253-7213). Thank you in advance for taking our concerns into consideration, and please contact me if you have any questions about our comments, or if we can provide you with ecological data to help the USMC better understand the critical conservation features of these lands.

Sincerely,



Shelly Lakly, Ph.D.  
Georgia State Director

CC: Ms. Michelle Cable  
Joannie Dwoskin, Esq.  
Mr. Thomas Farmer  
Ms. Alice Howard  
Ms. Alison McGee  
Mr. Jim Omans  
Mr. Paul Stewart

August 27, 2010

TO: Townsend EIS Project Manager

FROM: Marshall Gaddis      rmgaddis@dariantel.net

SUBJECT: Comments on the proposed Modernization and Expansion of TBR

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Marine Corps Public Scoping meeting on August 26, 2010 in Darien, GA. The fact sheet, Marine personnel and consultants were very helpful.

First a general comment relative to "Alternatives" (page 7). It would be nice to see three additional criteria:

- .....No net loss of revenue to state, county or city governments
- .....No net loss of recreational opportunities to citizens
- .....Positive economic impact to surrounding area

Second a specific concern is the following. Area 2 is approximately 50% Altamaha River floodplain. No Altamaha River floodplain should be considered for alteration, fencing or interference with the natural work of this critical system.

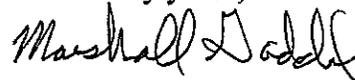
Third my recommendation would be the following. Alternative 2 (Area 1 & 3) should be selected. The development of the expanded TBR should be carried forward ONLY after the items listed in EIS (page 8) are considered and a plan developed to:

- (1) Increase employment and economic activity for McIntosh County and Long County
- (2) Create NO net loss of hunting, fishing, boating, canoeing, wildlife viewing and camping activities
- (3) Increase opportunities for tourism
- (4) Protect ecologically sensitive area within the TBR

In summary my comments are:

- .....NO impact on Altamaha River floodplain
- .....NO net loss of revenue or recreation
- .....POSITIVE changes in employment and economic activity in McIntosh County and Long County

Sincerely yours,



Marshall Gaddis



## OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET

Sonny Perdue  
Governor

Debbie Dlugolenski  
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: October 13, 2010

SUBJECT: REOPENING OF COMMENT PERIOD REGARDING...  
Scoping letter for comments relating to EIS  
Proposed land acquisitions to expand Townsend Bombing Range (McIntosh  
County, GA) [5090 NREA0/111]

We received your correspondence on October 12, 2010, regarding the postal problems that were experienced. The enclosed letter from us was indeed returned to the Georgia State Clearinghouse (about 2 weeks ago); therefore, we have resent.

I have forwarded a copy of your letter explaining the situation to several of our reviewing agencies in case they did submit any previous comments to you.

/bj  
Encl.



## OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET

Sonny Perdue  
Governor

Debbie Dlugolenski  
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 <sup>BA</sup>  
Georgia State Clearinghouse

DATE: August 6, 2010

SUBJECT: Scoping letter for comments relating to EIS  
Proposed land acquisitions to expand Townsend Bombing Range (McIntosh  
County, GA [5090 NREAO/111])

I received your request concerning the above-referenced on August 6, 2010. However, Georgia State Clearinghouse itself does not have the knowledge or expertise to provide input concerning environmental issues. Our primary function will be to coordinate processing of this project once you are ready to submit the EIS to us. Once ready, please submit one cover letter/memo, 1 hard copy, and 5 CDs.

I have taken the initiative to make copies of the material you sent to forward to several of our reviewing agencies, asking them to respond to you directly. However, I must inform you that some agencies may opt to wait and review the EIS itself through Clearinghouse's intergovernmental review process.

/bj

**CITY OF LUDOWICI**  
**"THE FRIENDLY CITY"**



MYRTICE L. WARREN,  
MAYOR  
TARA R. MANNING,  
CLERK  
JOSEPH KITCHINGS,  
ATTORNEY  
PHONE: (912) 545-2732  
FAX: (912) 545-9848

**P.O. BOX 800**  
**LUDOWICI, GA.**  
**31316-0800**

ALDERMAN  
A.A. BILLINGS  
JOHNNY MANNING  
JIM FULLER  
GWENDOLYN DAVIS  
FRANK MCCLELLAND, JR.

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

Dear Sirs:

Recently I received a letter from your agency, dated October 6, 2010, in reference to the extension of time for public comments about the proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range. I will ensure that my constituents are informed of this extension and solicit comments about the expansion.

I can inform you that from speaking with many of the local residents that most are opposed to the expansion for a variety of reasons. One of the most frequent comments is the loss of additional lands to the federal government. The citizens of Long County feel that they have given more than their fair share in supporting our military. There is probably not a more loyal and supportive group for the military than the citizens of Long County and the City of Ludowici. Saying that then I must also say that erosion of our land by eminent domain destroys the character of our community. We are a rural community, built on rural values. Removing another 2% of taxable and recreational area from Long County land mass on top of the 6,000 plus acres the State of Georgia has purchased as a buffer from the bombing range is detrimental to the future growth of this community. Concerns about increased noise from fighter jets flying low over the city have been mentioned also.

We understand the need for realistic training for the military, but we do ask that serious consideration be given to the citizens concerns about this proposed expansion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Myrtice Warren".

Myrtice Warren  
Mayor

# Long County Board of Education Resolution

## Title: Opposition to the Bombing Range Expansion

WHEREAS, The Long County Board of Education acknowledges and values the presence of our military and its impact on this region; and

WHEREAS, The Long County Board of Education is opposed to the expansion of the Military Bombing Range; and

WHEREAS, The proposed bombing range expansion will have a negative impact on county revenue and the environment; and

WHEREAS, The Southern region of the county would endure a higher level of noise, and

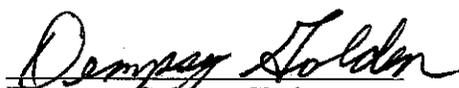
WHEREAS, Long County has previously lost taxable acres to eminent domain, and the proposed expansion could take up to an additional 37,000 acres; and

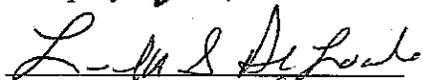
WHEREAS, It has been estimated that Long County could lose more than \$250,000 of revenue annually if the expansion goes through; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the military release the final details of the proposed expansion to Long County's government and citizens for input and be it further

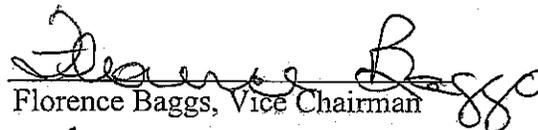
RESOLVED, That the military consider other options which do not have a negative economic and environmental impact on Long County.

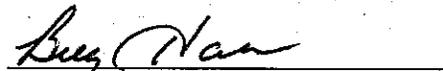
Sincerely submitted,

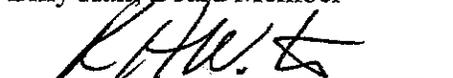
  
Dempsey Golden, Chairman

  
Linda DeLoach, Board Member

  
Emma Strickland, Board Member

  
Florence Baggs, Vice Chairman

  
Billy Hall, Board Member

  
Dr. Robert Waters, Superintendent

Dated October 18, 2010

**COMMENT SHEET — Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting**

Darien, GA • August 26, 2010



NAME (Please Print):

*Diane Cronin*

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION:

*U.S. Citizen*

ADDRESS:

*4703 Cox 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 September 7, 2010.

Your comments will become part of the EIS.

COMMENTS:

*If the training can now be divided/shared between Georgia and California, it can continue to be done this way. You are asking too much for so small a portion of our military. The effects on the surrounding area — economic, ecological, and on communities — are too profoundly adverse to justify any acquisition.*

*Abandon the Project.*

*Diane Cronin*



**LONG COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**CECIL NOBLES, SHERIFF**

**LONG COUNTY, LUDOWICI, GA 31316  
(912) 545-2118 . FAX (912) 545-2120**

20 October 2010

Townsend EIS  
Attention: Project Manager  
P.O. Box 180458  
Tallahassee, FL32318

Re: Comments on Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) EIS

Dear Sir:

As Chief Law Enforcement Officer of Long County Georgia, 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.

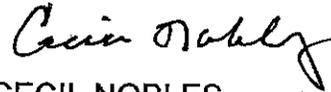
1. The proposed condemnation of over 51,000 acres of Long and McIntosh County private owned land will have a most adverse environmental effect upon the citizens of this county. We are one of the smallest and poorest counties in the State of Georgia. Literally, the "take" of private lands and removal 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 over 50% 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 "shoestring" budget now, and with a growing, service demanding population, we will not be able to survive as a local government entity. Senator Graham of South Carolina recently 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 the 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 expand the Poinsett Range in Sumter County South Carolina, since it is mostly on public land, and condemn 50,000+ acres in that county to provide the required area. The burden of this take will be on those who derive the most economic benefit.

2. I have a mounting concern about the noise of these new jets using the TBR. I was at a funeral at Middleton Memorial Church near TBR some time ago and the gunnery training by USMC Jets was so loud, and annoying, that I had to use the police radio network to get in touch with the controllers, in Savannah so the funeral could proceed. 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.
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 surface 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 social, economic sector that is so 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.

Sincerely Yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cecil Nobles". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

CECIL NOBLES

**From:** Mail Delivery Subsystem <MAILER-DAEMON@rly16h.srv.mailcontrol.com>  
**To:** rge5040 <rge5040@aol.com>  
**Subject:** Returned mail: see transcript for details  
**Date:** Sat, Oct 23, 2010 7:50 am  
**Attachments:** Attachment (425)

The original message was received at Sat, 23 Oct 2010 12:49:25 +0100 from imr-ma05.mx.aol.com [64.12.100.31]

----- The following addresses had permanent fatal errors -----  
 <townsendbombingrangreeis@ene.com>  
 (reason: 550 5.1.1 User unknown)

*Email Returned?*

----- Transcript of session follows -----  
 ... while talking to bufex3.ene.com.:  
 >>> DATA  
 <<< 550 5.1.1 User unknown  
 550 5.1.1 <townsendbombingrangreeis@ene.com>... User unknown  
 <<< 503 5.5.2 Need Rcpt command.

Attached Message

**From:** rge5040@aol.com  
**To:** townsendbombingrangreeis@ene.com  
**Subject:** TBR Expansion  
**Date:** Sat, 23 Oct 2010 07:49:15 -0400 (EDT)

Greetings,

We two Townsend residents whole heartedly support expansion of the TBR for training purposes. It is important to continue all the training options available as well as plan for future needs. Moreover, it seems our pilots are best served by having a good East Coast resource versus having to train elsewhere with attendant extra costs.

To mitigate the impact on local county tax bases, we would hope there would be some amount of payment in lieu of taxes if possible. If not, then the TBR should still be expanded.

We live in an area where the planes often fly over. We are proud and thrilled to hear and see them!

Robert G Emerson III  
 Glenda Ann Emerson  
 1001 River Plantation PL  
 Townsend, GA 31331

912 832 5420

*Robert G Emerson III*

[Click here to report this email as spam.](#)

# Georgia Department of Natural Resources

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E., Suite 1154, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Chris Clark, Commissioner  
Environmental Protection Division  
F. Allen Barnes, Director  
404/656-2833

November 4, 2010

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

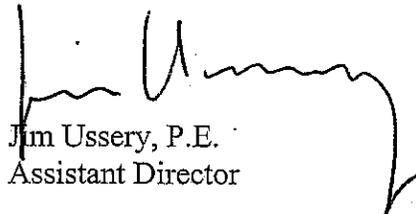
RE: Proposed Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range  
Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide preliminary comments on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range. We have no preliminary comments. We look forward to reviewing and commenting on the EIS.

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, NEPA

S:\RDRIVE\AMY\DoD Unit\NEPA\Navy\no prelim comments TBR.doc



Salter  
1185 Stewart Hodges Loop NE  
Ludowici, GA 31316-7015

11/04/2010

As Long County residences, my wife and I oppose the U.S. Marine Corps' land acquisition of the Townsend Bombing Range on the Long/McIntosh County line.

Not only would we lose taxes, but our GA. timberland and river access would be lost, as well, for good.

Use Fort Stewarts' bombing Range, it sits ready today. No work or land expansion is needed.

In 2007, all farmers saw a gigantic leap in property taxes, from 375% - 700% re assessment values. We can't afford, in Long County, to lose this tax base, currently in discussion, for the U.S.M.C. Range. This will end our county, people will leave for a lower tax base, in the next county.

We vote ~~X~~ No to the Range in Long Cty,

Ray Salter  
Penny Salter

Sincerely,

Ray & Penny Salter  
1185 Stewart Hodges Loop N.E.  
Ludowici, GA. 31316

Powensend 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 on fixed incomes implore 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 Powensend Bombing Range. There is Arriely 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

payers of Long County have to pay. This would only add to the tremendous burden and hardship 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 Sands Lane NE  
Lawdowici, Ga 31316

**Anthony L. Wilson** BIN 10240  
Vice President 241 Ralph McGill Boulevard NE  
Transmission Atlanta, GA 30308-3374

Tel 404.506.1659  
Fax 404.506.2717



November 8, 2010  
**CERTIFIED MAIL**

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

**Re:** Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed  
Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range

Dear Project Manager,

Georgia Power Company ("Georgia Power") did not receive the August 26, 2010 Federal Register Notice nor did it have the opportunity to attend the public meetings. However, we have since reviewed the notice and, as an affected party, submit the following comments to be considered in drafting the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range in McIntosh County, Georgia.

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. One or both of these lines and the Townsend electrical substation would likely be included in any expansion of the bombing range; see Attachment 1.
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.
3. Loss or disruption in service of the other transmission line (a 115 kV line) could have detrimental service impacts on many communities and businesses in southeast Georgia.
4. 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 Marine Corps.

Project Manager, Townsend EIS

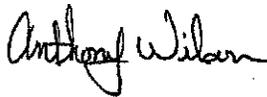
Page 2

November 8, 2010

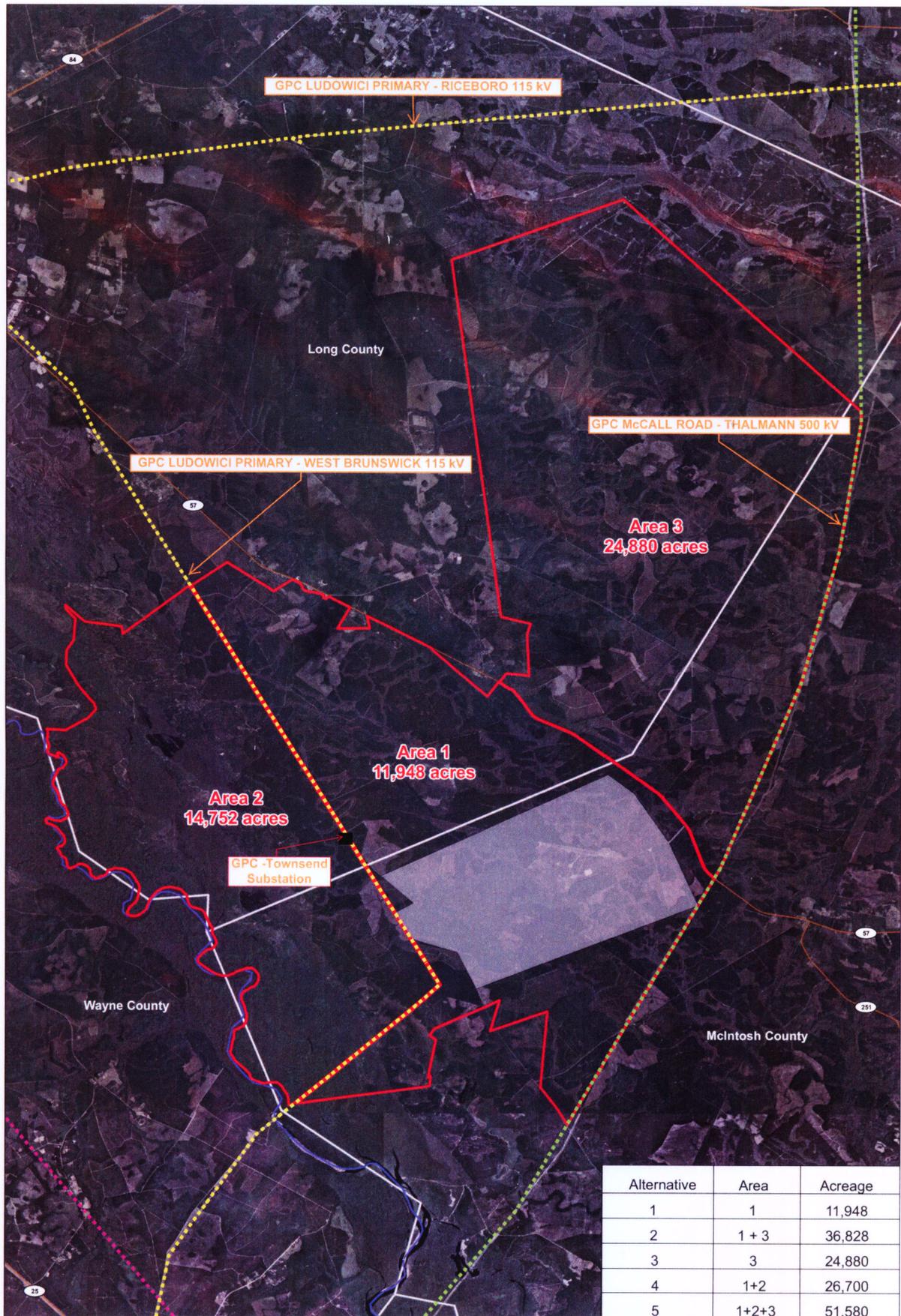
Georgia Power believes it is necessary to consider the above impacts when assessing the total environmental impact of the proposed project. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and offer our technical assistance in any matters relating to electrical transmission and distribution facilities.

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](mailto:sthodges@southernco.com).

Sincerely,

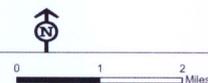


Anthony L. Wilson



Alternative	Area	Acreage
1	1	11,948
2	1 + 3	36,828
3	3	24,880
4	1+2	26,700
5	1+2+3	51,580

- Existing Range
- Acquisition Area
- Counties
- Natural Gas Line
- Power Line
- Shared Power Line & Natural Gas ROW
- Altamaha River



**Land Expansion Areas**  
Townsend Bombing Range  
McIntosh County, Georgia

Source: BingMaps 2009, US Navy 2009

This page left blank intentionally.

**Appendix D**  
**Comments Received During Public Scoping Periods**

**Appendix D.2**  
**Second Scoping Period**

***Emailed Comments***

This page left blank intentionally.

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

To whomever this will hopefully concern, I have doubts about this being anyone; I for one do not want to see the Townsend Bombing Range expansion for reasons listed below.

#1 There is more than enough noise from the jets that already use this Bombing Range expansion will not only mean more jets but also possibly larger jets which will increase noise by levels known by God and possibly the Government.

#2 The Bombing Range has already took land that I hunted when I was younger, and now the proposed land on south side of Blues Reach Road has recently become a Wildlife Management Area which I enjoy hunting and fishing on and have all of my life. I Do Not want to lose this right for my children, my friends, nor myself! (Getting a chance to be drawn for a two day archery or a two day firearm hunt doesn't compare to a season of possibilities.) Even without the hunting and fishing .A lot of this land (area 2 ) is Altamaha River Swamp ,swamp land in this area has practically all been drained and replaced by pine trees, therefore making this a sight to be preserved, seen, and shared. The Nature Conservancy recognized this and purchased this land giving public access through the State Wildlife Management System.

#3 I have heard rumors of how much it would save the Government to have this facility compared to training on the West Coast. A price cannot be put on nature and enjoyment. Based on the amount of Taxes coming out of my payroll checks this should not be a problem, if you don't use the money there you'll find another way to throw it away. The taxpayers will never see any savings anyway.

#4 You already have a facility on the West Coast in use I suggest you use it and let us use and enjoy the Townsend Wildlife Management Area. Regardless of environmental impact findings, if you take the land it will be useless to us.

Ivy Rozier  
1875 Old Townsend Road N.W.  
Townsend Georgia 31331

---

**From:** Thomas D. Houston [houstontd@windstream.net]

**Posted At:** Tuesday, September 28, 2010 7:12 AM

**Conversation:** Comments on TBR Expansion

**Subject:** Comments on TBR Expansion

I submitted written comments to address shown on Page 3 of Fact Sheet and it was returned by USPO as "No such Address". A friend of mine tried to submit comments by email, and it was rejected. The Public Scoping Period Ended 7 Sept 2010. What is the reasons here?

V/R  
Thomas D. Houston

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

---

**From:** Frank Feild [ddadirector@darietel.net]  
**Posted At:** Friday, October 08, 2010 2:01 PM  
**Conversation:** Comments  
**Subject:** Comments

Dear Colonel Snider,

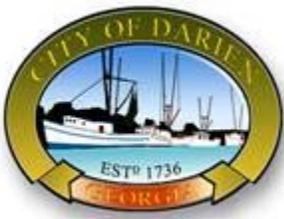
Thank you for your letter of October 6, 2010 explaining the unfortunate misplacement of letters submitted as part of the EIS process on the expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range.

Attached is a copy of the City of Darien Staff comments submitted on August 30, 2010; just in case the U.S. Post Office "Cookie Crushing Machine" ate our letter as well.

In our opinion, this is a good project that should proceed. We do not share the hysteria generated by political opportunists in McIntosh County on the eve of a contentious local election; but instead believe this project is in our national interests and will ultimately have a positive impact on the regional and local economy.

Thank you for your service to our nation.

**Frank E. Feild**  
**Community Development Director**  
106 Washington St.  
P.O Box 452  
Darien, GA 31305  
912.437.6686  
912.437.2208 (fax)  
[www.cityofdarienga.com](http://www.cityofdarienga.com)



**Office of Community Development**

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

August 30, 2010

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

Dear Sir:

The Staff of the City of Darien would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the members of the United States military for their service to our country. Those service members present for the public Scoping Meeting for the proposed expansion of the Townsend Range were outstanding representatives and their conduct was exemplary. They were knowledgeable and the presentation exhibits were clear and concise.

The Staff of the City of Darien supports the proposed expansion of the Townsend Range. As we discussed with the Marine and Air Force representatives at the Scoping Meeting we are in the very final stages of developing plans for a new open-to-the-public airport and believe that our plans compliment and perhaps enhance the expansion of the Townsend Range. When completed our airport will include a 5,000 ft. runway, full parallel taxiway, aircraft apron, aviation gasoline and jet fueling facility, and sites for large hangars. With the demand for civil aviation facilities in our area, we expect to rapidly grow with the compliment of aviation services that are expected for a civil airport of our size.

From the discussions at the Scoping Meeting we understand that there is interest in the development of our new airport. My staff, our consultant, Campbell & Paris Engineers, and I will be glad to meet with you at your convenience to brief you on the details of our work.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time for additional information on any of the above. Once again, your service to our country is appreciated.

Sincerely,

C. Brett Cook  
City Manager

---

**From:** Colette Edmisten [CEdmisten@flygairports.com]  
**Posted At:** Monday, October 11, 2010 7:46 AM  
**Conversation:** EIS Comments  
**Subject:** FW: EIS Comments



Colette W. Edmisten, A.A.E.  
Operations Manager  
Glynn County Airport Commission  
(912) 265-2070, Ext. 115

**From:** Colette Edmisten  
**Sent:** Friday, October 08, 2010 4:00 PM  
**To:** 'townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com'  
**Subject:** EIS Comments

To Whom it May Concern-

The Glynn County Airport Commission received a letter stating the comment period for the possible expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range has been reopened due to an issue with the EIS project's Post Office Box. Please find the attached copy of our comments in case our original which was sent via U.S. mail had been lost.

Thank you,



Colette W. Edmisten, A.A.E.  
Operations Manager  
Glynn County Airport Commission  
(912) 265-2070, Ext. 115

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.





## Glynn County Airport Commission

September 1, 2010

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

Reference: Townsend EIS – Comments

The Glynn County Airport Commission, operator of the Brunswick Golden Isles Airport and McKinnon St. Simons Island Airport, attended the Townsend EIS Scoping Meeting on August 26, 2010 in Darien, GA. Steve Brian, Executive Director, and Colette Edmisten, Operations Manager also met with Townsend Airspace Commander Stu Strickland, along with other representatives of Townsend, the Marine Corps, and McIntosh County.

The primary responsibility and concern for the Airport Commission is to protect the Glynn County Airports. Currently, the airports mentioned above are within close proximity to Military Operating Areas (MOA), specifically Coastal 4 and Coastal 1 West. Any expansion of these MOAs due to the land expansion of Townsend Bombing Range would greatly affect air traffic and aircraft operations at the Commission's airports.

In addition, expansion of existing MOAs could greatly impact the southeast region's network of airports. The airports are a tremendous economic impact to local communities and any conditions that could affect aircraft operations could be costly to a community. Aircraft operators sometimes think twice about going to an airport if it is within an active MOA. The Commission understands, as it was confirmed to us, that the MOAs will not be affected by the expansion of Townsend.

Lastly, the Commission was told that the Regional Location Map contained within the Fact Sheet packet (page 4) and on display was incorrect. The MOA extending out from the coastline into and over the Atlantic Ocean does not exist and is not depicted on a current FAA Sectional Map. The Commission was told there is a corridor or military transition route through that area but a MOA does not exist as the map so indicates. The map should be revised to reflect the correct MOAs. (See attached map).

Thank you for your consideration regarding these comments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Airport Commission Office at (912) 265-2070.

Sincerely,



Colette W. Edmisten, A.A.E.  
Operations Manager

Cc: Carol Comer-GDOT, Aviation Program Manager  
Greg Kelly-Savannah Int'l Airport, Assistant Airport Director

# History and Mission

## History

TBR is a 5,183-acre facility located in McIntosh County, Georgia. The Range is under the jurisdiction of 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 Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, SC.

## Mission

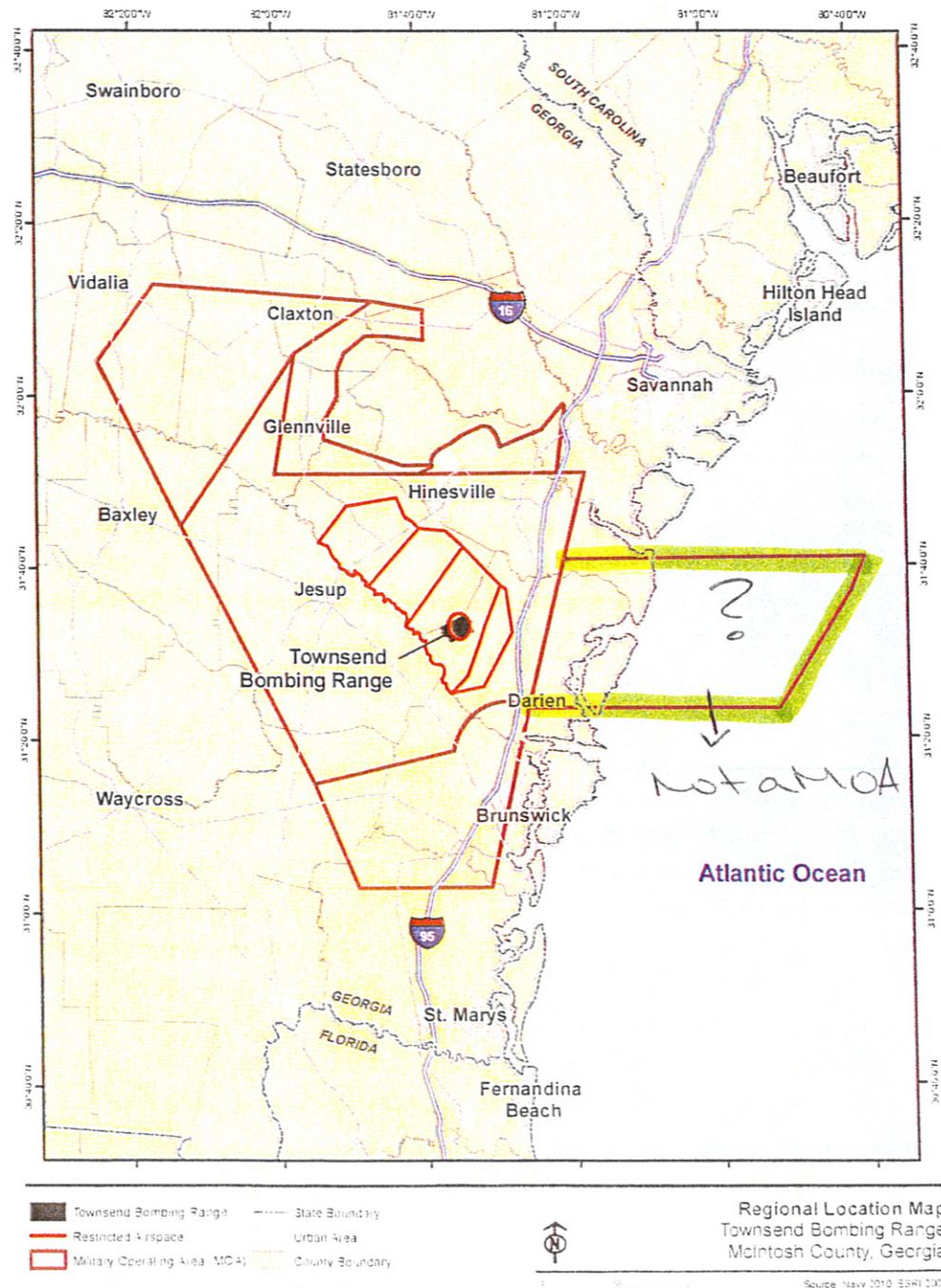
TBR's mission is to provide a realistic target and hostile threat environment to train combat aircrews from all services; to provide an environment for ground forces to conduct training; and to facilitate command and control, information, surveillance and reconnaissance training.

## Types of training that accomplish TBR's mission are:

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

## Training and Tactics Evolution

- **1970s and 1980s**
  - Low Altitude
  - Non-guided Weapons
- **1990s to Present:**
  - High Altitude
  - Precision-guided Weapons



---

**From:** Thomas Maulden [vmaulden@gmail.com]

**Posted At:** Monday, October 11, 2010 12:48 PM

**Conversation:** Comments on Public Scoping of EIS

**Subject:** Comments on Public Scoping of EIS

I am in receipt of your letter of October 6, 2010 extending the public scoping period. I had previously commented but believe it prudent to resend those comments and a few additional ones in the attached Word document.

Should you have any problems, please do not hesitate to contact me,

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

thanks,  
Vic Maulden  
912 545 9207  
317 Old Macon Darien Rd SE  
Ludowici, Ga 31316

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

11 Oct 10

## Comments on Proposed Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range

By: Thomas V. Maulden  
317 Old Macon Darien Rd SE  
Ludowici, Ga. 31316

1. While the brochure states that larger safety zones are required for inert, non-explosive precision-guided weapons, there is no definitive explanation or technical data included to justify such a large expansion. Nor is any explanation given as to why these specific land tracts were chosen.
2. Long County has recently lost over 16,400 acres of property tax base to State of Georgia in Wildlife Management Areas. This caused an increase tax burden on Long County citizens. The loss of another 36,000 acres will exacerbate the tax burden on the citizens. Is the Marine Corps willing and able to enter a long-term financial agreement to offset the loss of tax base?
3. Another loss to Long County will be the timber taxes paid at time of timber cutting. Is the Marine Corp willing to waive federal sovereignty?
4. While not pertinent to the EIS, what is the range of land cost?
5. The Range now has a problem with insuring that aircraft stay within altitude restrictions, especially the lower limits. It is very disconcerting to people and animals when aircraft engage their after-burners at tree top level. My home is 10.8 mile from the tower and still the aircraft seem to clip the tops out of trees! What additional precautions will Marine Corps institute to eliminate this issue?
6. How was the 165 nautical mile from MCAS Beaufort established as a criterion? There are other Federal installations within Florida, South Carolina and Alabama within 260 nautical miles that may better fit the criteria within negatively impacting:
  - a) The Socioeconomics of the local community by reduction of tax base,
  - b) Natural Resources by uncontrolled intrusion into the wetlands by errant weapons and retrieval attempts; also, by intrusion into endangered and threatened species habitats, not all are acceptable to relocation,
  - c) Recreation by removal of the land from public use for hunting and fishing,
  - d) Land Use by reducing the oxygen producing forestland and introducing more carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides into the local ecological system.
7. Not addressed in the brochure was the periodic flooding of this area when the Altamaha River overflows it banks and completely floods this area to the point that Georgia Highway 57 had to be closed from the Clary Davis hill to the town of Townsend. This has occurred

# Comments on Proposed Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range

11 Oct 10

By: Thomas V. Maulden  
317 Old Macon Darien Rd SE  
Ludowici, Ga. 31316

once within the last 15 years and more in the past. What happens to the disturbed earthen areas and any residual explosive material?

8. Does inclusion of Area3 in Alternatives 2, 3, and 5 include any permanent or temporary closure of Georgia Highway 57? This highway is thoroughfare for both private and commercial connection from the inward counties to Interstate 95.
9. The six different areas shown on page 6 of the brochure identify the target locations to be close to the proposed boundaries. What about to "short-fall" weapons?
10. What was the exact methodology in determining the Alternatives? The analysis is not delineated in the brochure; only the four criteria have been identified. Three of the four are fairly straightforward but as stated above in comment 6, there is no justification for the 165 nautical mile criterion. Nor is there any logical methodology linking the criteria and the alternatives.

---

**From:** HJamesMorrison@aol.com

**Posted At:** Sunday, October 17, 2010 4:50 PM

**Conversation:** Comment on Townsend Bombing Range

**Subject:** Comment on Townsend Bombing Range

COMMENT ON PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE,  
McINTOSH COUNTY, GEORGIA

My name is Jim Morrison. I am the former director of the Georgia Wildlife Federation, the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. I have been a resident of McIntosh County for 23 years, and have personally hunted and fished in the Altamaha River area adjacent to the Townsend Bombing Range for 47 years.

Speaking for myself and my fellow sportsmen in McIntosh County, I wish to strongly oppose expansion of the Range into Area 2 in particular, because this is one of the prime wildlife habitat areas in the hardwood bottomlands of the Altamaha.

This area also includes the 10,876 acre Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Townsend Wildlife Management Area, one of the better public hunting areas for deer, wild hogs, turkey, and ducks, in a county where much of the land is tied up in privately owned timberland leased to private hunting clubs at exorbitant rates to out of state hunters.

In addition, Area 2 also contains the prime fishing lakes of Miller Lake and Middleton Lake, which are flooded by the Altamaha River each year, restocking them with warmouth, bream, crappie, catfish, and bass. When the river recedes back in its banks, these fish are trapped in the lake, providing exceptionally good fishing until the heat of summer.

I would also oppose acquisition of Area 1, since this would impede access to Area 2 lands by the public, and apparently would not provide enough area for your operations by itself with the existing range if I understood your presentation in Darien August 20 correctly.

I would however support the acquisition of Area 3, which would not impact wildlife habitat and public use of Areas 1 and 2. Since Area 3 is primarily industrially owned pine monoculture, wildlife habitat and populations might actually be enhanced in this area if a scientific program of controlled burning and modern wildlife management techniques were applied to it under federal ownership and opportunities provided for public hunting as possible.

Sincerely,

Jim Morrison

1995 Seabreeze Dr. SE

Darien, GA 31305

912 437-6808

hjamesmorrison@aol.com

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

---

**From:** emmett patterson [erauto@windstream.net]

**Posted At:** Thursday, October 21, 2010 11:12 AM

**Conversation:** Long Co./ Military/ VS Bombing range

**Subject:** Long Co./ Military/ VS Bombing range

I am in support of any training that equips and establishes a safer environment for our military troops that fight for our freedom and our allies, but it seems our allies are fewer and fewer, and depend on us more and more !! I am worried about the environmental impact and the local taxable impact this will be (pro or con) for Long County ! We are one of the lowest economy counties in Georgia and are paying some premium taxes with little or no help from our government. I am as concerned as all good citizens of Long County as to what this will end up COSTING us now and in the long run!!!!

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

---

**From:** Wilkinson, Billy [Billy.Wilkinson@weyerhaeuser.com]  
**Posted At:** Friday, October 22, 2010 10:57 AM  
**Conversation:** PROPOSED TBR EXPANSION  
**Subject:** RE: PROPOSED TBR EXPANSION

Per notifications received, I am resending in case first one did not get through.

---

**From:** Wilkinson, Billy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 07, 2010 1:17 PM  
**To:** townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com  
**Subject:** PROPOSED TBR EXPANSION

My Name: Billy Wilkinson  
I am a lifelong resident of McIntosh County  
Address: 2231 Steve Nelson Road, NE  
Townsend, GA 31331  
912-832-5240

First and foremost, let me thank all Military Personnel for your service and dedication to our Country allowing us the freedom to enjoy the areas in question and life in general. I can assure you in the south Georgia area there is a strong support for our Military.

However, I most strongly object to this proposed expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range, and by copy of this response, I ask our Local, State, and Federal Legislators, as well as all local citizens, to actively oppose. The following are bullet points for my opposition and I will be happy to further discuss upon request;

- McIntosh County (and I suspect Long County as well) is a rural county that can ill afford more losses to the tax base. Research will show State and Federal Government Agencies already own a huge portion of county acreage. This would put additional financial burdens on our sparse and relatively low income, population.
- Area 1 Alternative encompasses acreage which is part of the Altamaha River Basin drainage system, including many natural lakes and streams. This area is pristine river swamp terrain that has been used for hunting, fishing, and recreation by ourselves, our ancestors, and our children. Other than logging of timber, this land is pretty much the same as it has always been. Access should never be hindered or denied.
- Even though a rural county with relatively low population, the residents in and around the acquisition areas should not be subjected to additional noise and inconveniences this would bring. This is where they live!
- Fort Stewart Military Base is the largest base east of the Mississippi River, covering 280,000 acres. That is almost five and one half (5 ½) times more land than all of your proposed alternatives combined! My goodness, with some much land already a Military installation, with impact areas already established, no additional environmental or community impact, and within the 165 miles of Beaufort, you do not need any acquisition of additional land around the TBR. As a matter of fact, you do not need the existing acreage!
- Government representatives in the meeting said the previous bullet point (Fort Stewart) would not work because being different branches of the Military, scheduling would be almost impossible, and the Army would not be able to train while Marine pilot training was ongoing. I find this to be an unacceptable excuse for several reasons; One- This is a management issue that surely our competent officers of the various branches can overcome. With 280,000 acres there should be room for everyone to train at the same time, and at the very least, ability to schedule separately. Seems to me practicing attacking and defending an existing Military base would be better training than attacking trees & rivers. Two- In private industry, if two

department leaders said they could not work/ schedule together, they would be managed to do so or be replaced. I cannot imagine our Military branches not working together and still be efficient in defending our country. I know there is a General somewhere, that all branches report to, that can easily and swiftly resolve training coordination and cooperation. Multiple branches already use the existing site for goodness sakes!

- Our Government already owns enough land and through proper & efficient utilization of these lands, more would not be needed. Governments should not be in the land acquisition business and with our astronomical deficits are already so huge, nothing needs to be done to increase the problem.
- More time should be given for comments. Citizens need more time to study and research the proposals so informed positions can be garnered. This timeline has the appearance of rushing through so minimum comments will be received. I ask for an extension of the comment period an additional 30 days.

In summary, The “right answer” is to immediately discontinue the acquisition process, which will mitigate my first three (3) bullet points. An added bonus to our financially burdened county, would be to return the existing acreage to the private sector via bullet points four and five (4 & 5). In addition, I have no problem supporting continued use of the west coast facilities for training instead of these proposed acquisitions. The last two (2) bullet points speak for themselves.

Again, thanks to our Military folks for your service and thank you for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to this acquisition process ceasing and concerns eliminated. However, should this acquisition process continue, I ask that you please notify me of any proceedings going forward as these comments will not be the end of my opposition or actions in this matter.

Billy Wilkinson

Copy: All McIntosh County Commissioners;

Boyd Gault  
Nathaniel Grovenor  
Charles Jordan  
Mark Douglas  
David Stevens

Georgia Congress & Senators;

Jeff Chapman  
Roger Lane

Federal representatives & Senators;

Jack Kingston  
Saxby Chambliss  
Johnny Isakson

Note: If I have misspelled names, I apologize.

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

---

**From:** Kathy Walter [KWalter@long.k12.ga.us]

**Posted At:** Friday, November 05, 2010 12:58 PM

**Conversation:** Resolution

**Subject:** Resolution

Please find attached a resolution from Long County Board of Education in opposition to the bombing range expansion. The original will follow in the mail.

If you have any questions please call Dr. Robert Waters, Superintendent of Long County Schools, at 912-545-2367.

Kathy Walter  
Payroll Supervisor  
Long County Board of Education  
(912)545-2367

The information contained in this message, including attachments, may contain privileged or confidential information that is intended to be delivered only to the person identified above. If you are not the intended recipient, or the person responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, the Long County School District requests that you immediately notify the sender and asks that you do not read the message or its attachments, and that you delete them without copying or sending them to anyone else.

Kathy Walter  
Payroll Supervisor  
Long County Board of Education  
(912)545-2367

The information contained in this message, including attachments, may contain

privileged or confidential information that is intended to be delivered only to the person identified above. If you are not the intended recipient, or the person responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, the Long County School District requests that you immediately notify the sender and asks that you do not read the message or its attachments, and that you delete them without copying or sending them to anyone else.

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

# Long County Board of Education Resolution

## Title: Opposition to the Bombing Range Expansion

WHEREAS, The Long County Board of Education acknowledges and values the presence of our military and its impact on this region; and

WHEREAS, The Long County Board of Education is opposed to the expansion of the Military Bombing Range; and

WHEREAS, The proposed bombing range expansion will have a negative impact on county revenue and the environment; and

WHEREAS, The Southern region of the county would endure a higher level of noise, and

WHEREAS, Long County has previously lost taxable acres to eminent domain, and the proposed expansion could take up to an additional 37,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, It has been estimated that Long County could lose more than \$250,000 of revenue annually if the expansion goes through; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the military release the final details of the proposed expansion to Long County's government and citizens for input and be it further

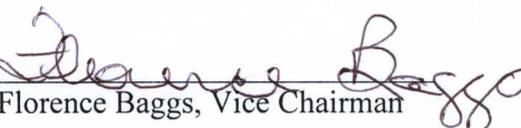
RESOLVED, That the military consider other options which do not have a negative economic and environmental impact on Long County.

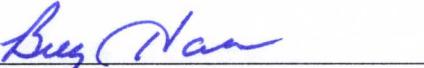
Sincerely submitted,

  
Dempsey Golden, Chairman

  
Linda DeLoach, Board Member

  
Emma Strickland, Board Member

  
Florence Baggs, Vice Chairman

  
Billy Hall, Board Member

  
Dr. Robert Waters, Superintendent

Dated October 18, 2010

---

**From:** punkie1965@comcast.net [mailto:punkie1965@comcast.net]

**Posted At:** Saturday, November 06, 2010 2:20 PM

**Posted To:** Comments

**Conversation:** Opposition to expansion

**Subject:** Opposition to expansion

I have been a resident of Long County for the past 5 years. In that time I have seen our population increase due to Fort Stewart expansion. I'm all for that, but the problem is there has been no expansion in business or industry for us. Without that, the residents have had to shoulder the increase cost of providing utility and infrastructure for the new residents. If the land in question is given to the military and we lose more of our tax base, how can we survive as a county. My city and county taxes for 2009 increased nearly \$600.00. Most of us live on fixed incomes and are not able to withstand another large increase like that any time soon. If the land is acquired by the federal government, then they should have to compensate the Long County for the loss of tax revenue. Thank you for the chance to comment on this important issue in Long County.

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

---

**From:** Elliott York [mailto:ElliottYork@semtribe.com]  
**Posted At:** Monday, November 15, 2010 4:36 PM  
**Posted To:** Comments  
**Conversation:** Townsend Bombing Range EIS  
**Subject:** Townsend Bombing Range EIS

To Whom It May Concern,

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (STOF-THPO) has reviewed the correspondence associated with the aforementioned project. The STOF-THPO would like to request a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement for review prior to making any comments on possible effects to cultural resources within the project's APE. The STOF-THPO appreciates the opportunity to comment and looks forward to working with you in the future.

Thank You,

Elliott York  
Compliance Review  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Seminole Tribe of Florida  
34725 West Boundary Road  
Clewiston, FL 33440  
Phone: 863-983-6549 ext: 12216  
Fax: 863-902-1117

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

**Appendix D**  
**Comments Received During Public Scoping Periods**

**Appendix D.2**  
**Second Scoping Period**

***Web Site Comments***

This page left blank intentionally.

Bruce Rozier  
148 Java LN

Hortense, 31543

We do not want and extension of the Bombing Range at Townsend Ga. The state just aquired this land and as hunters we having more and more took from us. Go somewhere else

Kenny Nobles  
9512 Cecil Nobles Hwy

Ludowici, 31316

The citizens of Long county does want any more of their land taken up by the Gov. for training. I realize that the training is vital to toward protection of our country. Long Co. is a poor county that does not have any industry to tax. The tax base comes from home and land owners. The Government does not pay tax. Also as a hunter and fisherman we will lose alot of acres that will be closed to the public most of the time. I say no to the land annex.

Kerry Hunt  
113 Wilson St SW  
PO Box 144  
Ludowici, 31316

Bombing Range Expansion is detrimental to our county Tax Base. I OPPOSE the expansion of the Townsend Bombing Range. Respectfully, Kerry L. Hunt

LINDA HALL  
144 CHRISTIAN LANE, NE

LUDOWICI, 31316

LONG COUNTY PROPERTY OWNERS CAN NOT STAND ANY MORE PROPERTY TO COME OFF THE TAX DIGEST. IT IS ALL WE CAN DO NOW TO PAY OUR TAXES. WE DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING HERE THAT WOULD PUT BACK REVENUE INTO THE COUNTY. MAKE THEM TAKE LAND FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE.

Ava Reddish  
1006 Reddish Rd. NE

Ludowici, 31316

I'm glad this web site has been set up for the Environment Impact of this decision, unfortunately no one seems to care about the human impact of this decision. Long County is a small, poor county. We have no industrial and minimal business input to the tax base. The vast majority of property taxes falls on the small land owners, of which my husband is one. He is now retired from Ft. Stewart and we're living on a fixed income. The same can be said of his brother and many, many others in this county. We simply cannot afford the increase in property taxes that would result from the addition grab of land by the Federal or State government. If these additional acres are removed from the tax base, the only solution I see is the dissolution of Long County. In these economic times the last thing the people here need is and increase in property taxes which would be inevitable. Some claim there could be a payment to Long Co. by the Federal Government in lieu of taxes, the last time I looked, the Fed. Gov. also receives it's money from the taxpayers. Also any payment in lieu of taxes would vary according to the whims of whatever political party weilds power over the Federal budget in any given year. The people of Long County simply cannot afford it.

David Repass  
501 Riverside Avenue  
Suite 901  
Jacksonville, 32202

I am not in favor of this contemplated expansion. My uncle, R. Lee Smith, owns approximately 350 acres just north of the Townsend Bombing Range. Our family spends much of the year on this property including holidays. Additionally, I lease over 5000 acres adjacent and to the north of the Townsend Bombing Range. We have enjoyed hunting, forestry and other recreational activities. My family, lease members and guests contribute to the local economy by using local contractors, service people, shopping, etc. This expansion will of course preclude us and many others from coming to McIntosh and Long County in the future, and it will also take away from our family and friends our recreational property that we have spent so much time, money and effort making a success. Further, I have felt my automobile shake on a number of occasions while traveling down HWY 57 when the planes are flying and dropping bombs. I do not think it is in the public's interest, from a health and safety standpoint, to have a further expanded bombing range so close to residential areas, HWY 57 and I95. It seems that the most ideal and practical place for an active bombing range would be in the rural western states with very little impact on residents and tourism.

Peyton Lingle  
2317 Julienton Dr NE

Townsend, 31331

I am 100 percent in favor of providing our combat pilots with whatever training they need. If enlarging the bombing range is needed to do that, I endorse it. The amount of noise is negligible when our combat readiness and proficiency is needed. When the bombing range in Puerto Rico was closed, the Townsend Bombing Range became even more important to the defensive and offensive skills needed for our National Defense.

ROGER HOUSTON  
1547 ELIM CHURCH RD

LUDOWICI, 31316

This plan will essentially cause Long County to cease to exist. The wholesale removal of up to 50,000 acres from the County's digest will cripple the County's ability to have an effective local government and school system. The remaining land in the County under private ownership cannot cover the digest through taxation, especially with the State's millage ceiling in place. Why does the Marine Corps need that much land for a PGM target anyway? If it is for safety buffer, why not just set up a lease agreement with the affected landowners. Better yet, in this era of "Joint Operations", it seems that the Marines could establish a memoranda of understanding with the Army and use Ft Stewart . The area is large enough that one could use live munitions out there . In the big picture, this planned land acquisition makes little sense with us just coming off of another round of BRAC. Are the Marines really willing to destroy the poorest community in Georgia(Long County) in order to boost the richest in South Carolina(Beaufort)?