

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

August 7, 2012

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

August 9, 2012

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

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