



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**  
**Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Modernization and**  
**Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range, Georgia**



Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508), the United States Marine Corps (USMC) announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the Proposed Modernization and Expansion of Townsend Bombing Range (TBR), Georgia.

The Final EIS was prepared to evaluate 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, stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina. The Preferred Alternative identified in the Final EIS includes: 1) the acquisition of 28,630 acres in McIntosh and Long counties as well as a 3,007-acre timber easement held by McIntosh County; 2) modification of existing airspace Restricted Area R-3007A by extending the current restricted area laterally to the proposed acquisition area boundary, eliminating the current gap from 100 feet above ground level down to the surface of the ground over Areas 1B and 3; and 3) construction of necessary infrastructure to support training, including six new target areas. Implementation of the Preferred Alternative would result in the improvement of air-to-ground training capabilities from 47% to 85%.

Copies of the Final EIS can be viewed or downloaded from the project Web site at [www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com), or at the following locations:

Library Locations			
Ida Hilton Public Library	1105 North Way	Darien, Georgia	31305
Long County Public Library	28 South Main Street	Ludowici, Georgia	31316
Hog Hammock Public Library	1023 Hillery Lane	Sapelo Island, Georgia	31327

Regulations provide for a 30-day waiting period after the Final EIS is published before the agency may take final action. During that period, in addition to the Marine Corps' own internal review, agencies and the public can comment on the Final EIS. Following this 30-day waiting period, the USMC will announce its Record of Decision which will be published in the *Federal Register* and local newspapers. All written comments must be postmarked or received by April 20, 2013, to ensure they become part of the official project record. Written comments may be submitted via the project Web site or mailed to:

**Mail: Townsend EIS Project Manager,**  
**Post Office Box 180458, Tallahassee, Florida 32318**  
**E-mail: [townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com](mailto:townsendbombingrangeeis@ene.com)**

For further information, please contact the EIS Project Manager at the address above or visit the project Web site at [www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com](http://www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com).