



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

IN REPLY REFER TO  
5090  
NREAO/111  
04 AUG 2010

Mr. Len Hauss  
Altamaha River Keepers  
P.O. Box 2642  
Darien, GA 31305

Dear Mr. Hauss:

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.

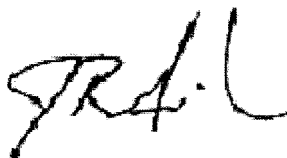
The USMC is initiating the scoping process to identify community concerns and local issues to be addressed in the

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.

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