



**State of Vermont**  
**Office of the Adjutant General**  
789 Vermont National Guard Road  
Colchester, VT 05446-3099

April 17, 2009

Ms. Christine Murphy, Town Administrator  
Town of Underhill  
P.O. Box 32  
Underhill Center, VT 05490

Re: Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs  
EAFR Urban Assault Course and Shoot House

Dear Ms. Murphy:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Vermont Army National Guard (VTARNG) is writing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Ethan Allen Firing Range (EAFR) in Jericho, Vermont. The EA will assess the potential environmental impacts of two new construction projects, an Urban Assault Course and a new Shoothouse. A project description is enclosed for your use.

In accordance with Executive Order 12372, Inter-governmental Review of Federal Programs, the VTARNG is requesting input from other federal, State and local agencies. We appreciate your early input toward this activity. Please respond to:

Vermont Army National Guard  
ATTN: VT-FE-EV (Mike O'Hara)  
Building #5 Camp Johnson  
Colchester, VT 05446-3004

Your Assistance in providing information is strongly encouraged and your continued support in the NEPA process is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the proposed action, do not hesitate to call me at 802.338.3316 or email me at:  
[mohara@vt.ngb.army.mil](mailto:mohara@vt.ngb.army.mil).

Sincerely,

*Michael O'Hara*  
MSM

Michael O'Hara  
Natural Resource Administrator

Enclosures

*Draft in 30 days  
Then out for public  
comment*

## EAFR – URBAN ASSULT COURSE AND SHOOTHOUSE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

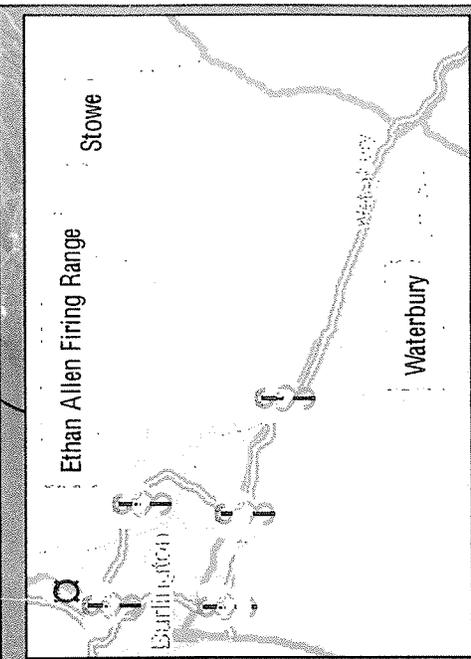
**BACKGROUND:** The Ethan Allen Firing Range (EAFR) is a National Guard installation located on 11,218 acres of Federal Property leased to the National Guard Bureau (NGB). It is recognized by the NGB as a Maneuver Training Center – Light, and is used by the Vermont National Guard (VTARNG) soldiers as well as other national Guard soldiers throughout New England. Other active duty soldiers throughout the Armed Service Branches also use the facility. It is recognized as one of the most valuable training assets in New England. Given the number of long-term operations the Army is engaged in, and the trend of increasing Reserve Component involvement and responsibility, it can be expected that EAFR training requirements will remain an important part of the Army’s mission.

**LOCATION:** EAFR is located in northwestern region of the state of Vermont, on the eastern fringe of the Champlain Valley. It is located on Lee River Road, three miles from the town of Jericho. The property encompasses parts of the towns of Bolton, Jericho, and Underhill in Chittenden County. The general vicinity of EAFR is approximately 20 miles west of Burlington, Vermont. EAFR is home to the Army Mountain Warfare School, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 172<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 86<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team Command Post 1, and the Training Site Detachment.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The Vermont Army National Guard (VTARNG) is to undertake 2 construction projects at the EAFR in the towns of Underhill and Jericho, Vermont. These projects include one new Urban Assault Course and a fully enclosed Shoot House. These projects are needed to meet changes in mission at the VTARNG, as part of the Nationwide Modularization of Army National Guard Forces. There is currently no adequate UAC or Shoothouse at the EAFR. Soldiers must go elsewhere to be qualified for these tasks.

**Urban Assault Course** – This course consists of an urban developed scenario with building fronts, roads, drywells, and tunnels and is a facility that needs to be capable of firing 5.56mm up to 40 mm blank ammunition. There will be one live firing position as part of this range that will use an existing range area. This project will be constructed in five stations at three locations within the EAFR, Stations 1, 2 and 4 will be located within a 3.6 acre area in the southwestern portion of the site, known as Firing Point 4. Station 5 will be located in a .36-acre portion of the EAFR, also in the southwestern portion of the EAFR, and Station 3 will be located in a 1.3 acre site within an existing firing range, in the southern, mid-portion of the EAFR in an area known as 4-2. Station 3 is the one station that will utilize live fire. The facility will include an operations/storage building and a latrine, located within the Station 1,2 and 4 complex.

**Shoot House** – This project is a multi-story, indoor live fire facility. Its purpose is to simulate breaching, entering and clearing a building. Construction will be located in a 6.4-acre portion of the site in the northern section of the EAFR, in an area known as 6-5. The facility will include an operations/storage building, a latrine and a classroom facility.



STOWE

# Ethan Allen Firing Range

EAFR Property Boundary and  
Nearby Populations Centers

Scale= 1:63360  
March 23, 2009

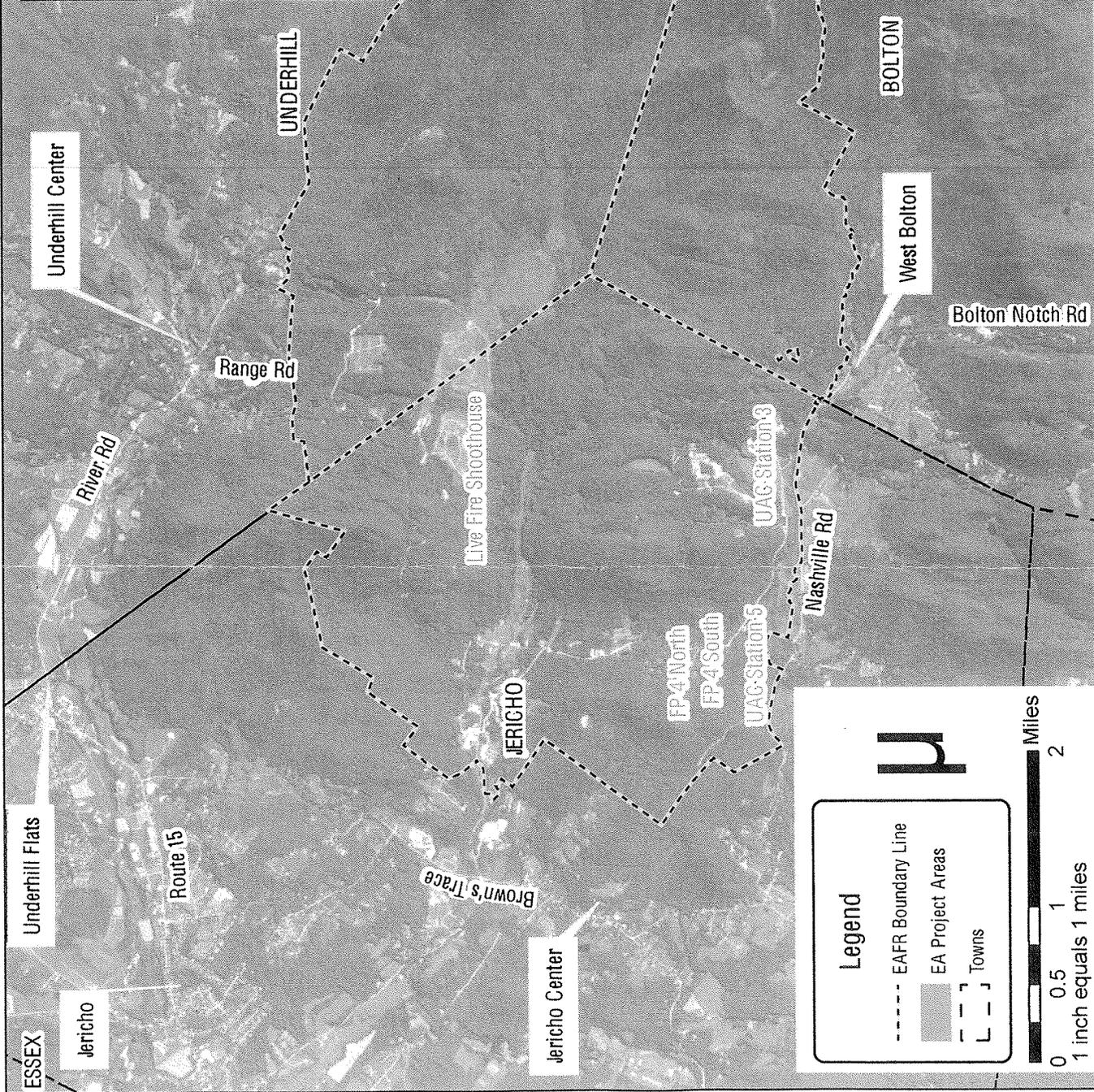
Elizabeth S. McLoughlin, LLC- Lead Consultant  
NEPA Environmental Services

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Environmental Management  
Devine Environmental Management, LLC

Elise Manning-Sterling - Cultural Resources  
Hartgen Archeology Associates, Inc.

Michael J. Barboza, P.E. - Noise Consulting  
Air Quality and Noise Consulting



**Legend**

- EAFR Boundary Line
- EA Project Areas
- Towns

Miles  
0 0.5 1 2  
1 inch equals 1 miles

ESSEX

Jericho

Route 15

Range Rd

UNDERHILL

Brown's Trace

JERICHO

Live Fire Shoothouse

FP-4 North  
FP-4 South

UAG-Station-5

UAG-Station-3

Nashville Rd

BOLTON

West Bolton

Bolton Notch Rd

Underhill Center

River Rd

Stowe

Waterbury

Jericho Center