UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Range Control
Marine Corps Base
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542

6280
RCTL
24 Sep 1984

From: Range Control Officer
To: Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities

Subj: REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT; LANDING CRAFT LCM-8, ACCESS CHANNELS, NEW RIVER

Ref: (a) CG, MCB ltr 6280/1 over FAC of 21 Sep 84

1. As requested in the reference, the enclosure thereto has been reviewed, with negative input.

E. J. CIZERLE

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS BASE
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542

IN REPLY REFER TO
6280/1
FAC
21 SEP 1984

From: Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune

Subj: REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT; LANDING CRAFT LCM-8, ACCESS CHANNELS, NEW RIVER

Ref: (a) BO 11000.1B
(b) MCO P11000.8B

Encl: (1) Environmental Assessment (EA) submitted by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), request the enclosure be reviewed and written comments provided as to the conclusion and findings regarding the environmental impacts. Per reference (b), the proposed action requires that the EA be forwarded with a draft FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI) to HQMC (LFL) for review by the HQMC EIS Review Board.

2. Formal review of the enclosure is being completed in accordance with the Appendix to reference (a). The Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities will consolidate Environmental Review Board review comments and recommendations and, if unresolved significant issues remain, shall convene the Board prior to preparing the FNSI. If significant issues are not raised, a Board meeting will not be held per reference (a).

3. In order to expedite the review of this document by HQMC, request written comments be received no later than 1 October. Written negative reports are requested. Point of contact for this matter is Mr. Alexander, ext. 3034/3035.

B. W. ELSTON
By direction

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Ch, Occup/PrevMed, NavHosp

Lead Agency: Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

Title of Proposed Action: New River - Landing Craft (LCM-8) Access Channels, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

Affected Jurisdiction: State of North Carolina, Onslow County

Preparer:

Richard N. Jackson/SAWPD-E
U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington
PO Box 1890
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402
Phone: (919) 343-4745, FTS 671-4745

Document Designation: Environmental Assessment (EA)

Abstract: An access channel for LCM-8 landing craft crossing the New River between Rhodes and Weil Points is proposed to enhance the amphibious training capabilities at Camp Lejeune. The work to implement the proposed channel involves hydraulic pipeline dredging with disposal of the dredged material in diked upland disposal sites to be constructed for this project. Effluent from the disposal area will be controlled by a weir structure, piped through the containment dike, and then allowed to drain unconfined overland to the New River. Existing road and shore ramps at Rhodes and Weil Points will be used for land access to landing craft. Alternatives to the proposed plan include: alternate channel routes or locations; the proposed plan with the difference that the disposal area effluent would be piped to the New River; and no action. No significant long or short term adverse environmental effects are foreseen as resulting from the proposed action.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
NEW RIVER - LANDING CRAFT (LCM-8) ACCESS CHANNELS
MARINE CORPS BASE, CAMP LEJEUNE
NORTH CAROLINA

1.00 SUMMARY

1.01 Major Conclusions and Findings.

The proposed action, the establishment of an access channel for LCM-8 landi craft which crosses the New River between Rhodes and Weil Points, will n significantly affect the quality of the human environment. No adverse effec on fish and wildlife, threatened or endangered species, and archeological historic sites are expected to occur as a result of the proposed actio Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.

1.02 Relationship of the Proposed Action to Environmental Protection Statutes a Requirements.

Federal Policies	Relationship to Environ. Requirement
Preservation of Historical Archeological Data Act of 1974	Full Compliance
National Historical Preservation Act of 1966, as amended 1/	Full Compliance
Clean Water Act of 1977 2/	Full Compliance
Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972	Full Compliance when the N.C. Office of Coastal Management concurs with the consistency determination
Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended	Ongoing informal consultations
Estuary Protection Act	Full Compliance
Federal Water Project Recreation Act	N/A
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act	Full Compliance
Land and Water Conservation Fund Act	N/A
Marine Protection, Research & Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended	N/A

National Environmental Policy Act 3/	Full Compliance after preparation of EA, signing of FNSI, and making FNSI available to public
River and Harbor Act	Full Compliance
Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Act	Full Compliance
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act	N/A
Executive Orders	
Flood Plain Management (E.O. 11988) 24 May 1977	Full Compliance
Protection of Wetlands (E.O. 11990) 24 May 1977	Full Compliance
Environmental Effect Abroad of Major Federal Actions (E.O. 12114)	N/A
Analysis of Impacts on Prime & Unique Agricultural Lands in Implementing NEPA (CEQ Memorandum, 11 August 1980)	N/A
State Policies	
Coastal Area Management Act of 1974 2/	Full Compliance when the N.C. Office of Coastal Manangement. concurs with the consistency determination
NC Dredge and Fill Law G.S. 113-229	Full Compliance
Local Policies	
Land Use Plan, Onslow County	Full Compliance

NOTE: Terms Defined

a. Full Compliance. Having met all the requirements of the statute, E.O., or other environmental requirement for the current stage of planning.

b. Not Applicable (N/A). No requirements for the statute, E.O., or other environmental requirement for the current stage of planning.

1/ Section 404(b) - The discharge of effluent from diked areas is covered under a nationwide permit (33 CFR 330.5(a)(16)). Section 401 - Water Quality Certificate No. 1273 was issued on 10 November 1978 for effluent from upland diked disposal areas.

2/ A consistency determination has been furnished to the N. C. Office of Coastal Management for concurrence/nonconcurrence.

3/ An application for a federal permit under Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act has been furnished to the Department of Army, Corps of Engineers.

1.03 Unresolved Issues.

At the present stage of environmental review there are no major unresolved issues. The following, however, are tasks which are ongoing and must be completed/resolved before project construction can begin:

a. Endandered Species Act Coordination - Biological assessments which include determinations of no affect have been furnished to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for review and concurrence.

b. Cultural Resource Investigations - Archeological/historic investigations of the Weil Point disposal area are being conducted. Results of the survey will be coordinated with the N. C. Department of Cultural Resources.

c. Consistency Determination - A determination that the proposed project is consistent with the approved Coastal Management Program of the State of North Carolina has been furnished to the N. C. Office of Coastal Management. Concurrence must be recieved prior to project construction.

d. Department of the Army Permit - An application for a Section 10 (River and Harbor Act) permit has been furnished to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The permit request is currently undergoing public review.

2.00 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the proposed action, the establishment of an access channel for landing craft across the New River, is to provide additional amphibious training capabilities at the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The Marine Corps' amphibious mission requires prime movers of artillery pieces and various support vans and tracked vehicles be trained/proficient in loading and unloading operations on landing craft (specifically LCM-8 landing craft). Further, the proposed channel across the New River will facilitate tracked vehicle access to the western sector (on the west side of the New River) of Camp Lejeune's training facilities.

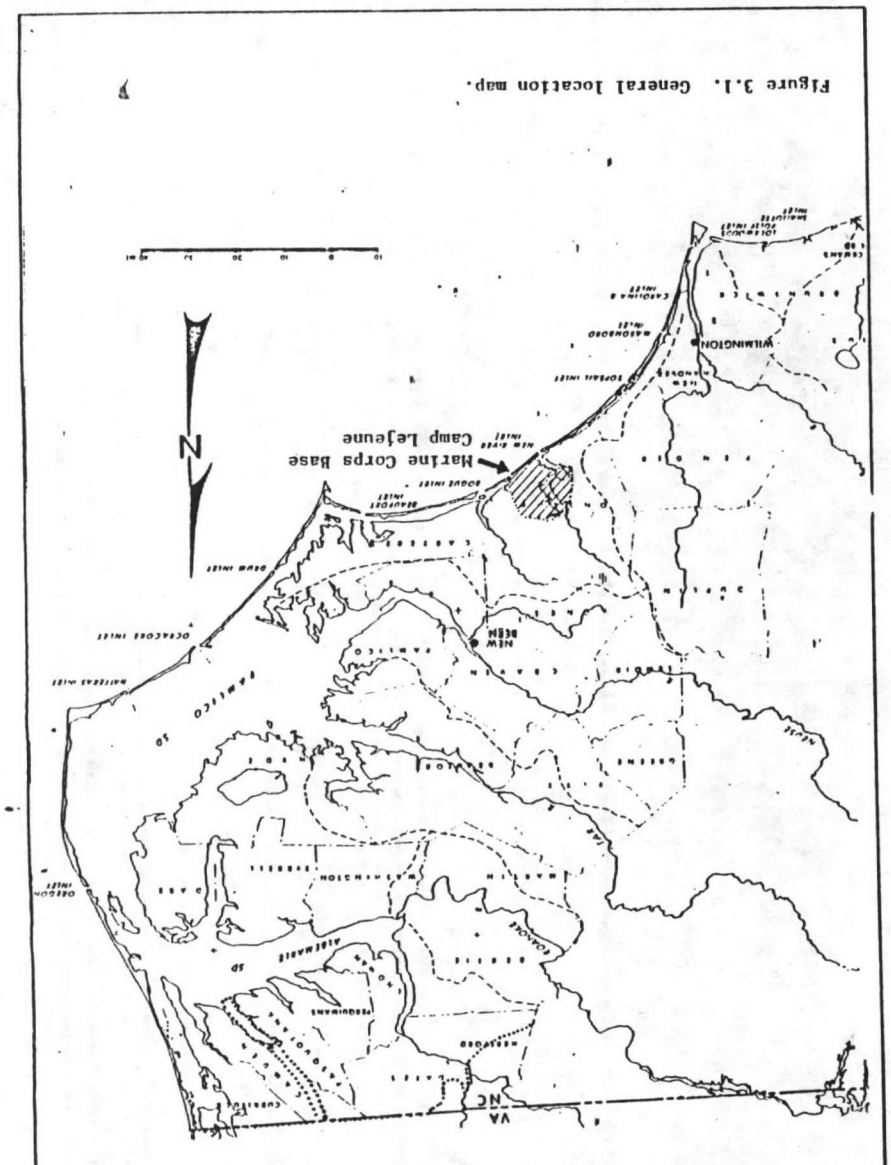

Figure 3.1. General location map.

Presently limited road and bridge capacities restrict tracked vehicle access to the western sectors. The increased emphasis on mechanized infantry operations combined with future mechanized equipment acquisitions necessitate maximum use of Camp Lejeune's training areas.

3.00 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action consists of the establishment of a landing craft access channel crossing the New River between Weil and Rhodes Points located within the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina (Onslow County) (figures 3.1 and 3.2). The bottom width of the proposed channel will be 100 feet, the project depth will be 6 feet below MLW (figure 3.3).

Construction of the proposed channel involves the removal by hydraulic pipeline dredge of fine sand, silt, and clay sediments (characteristics of material to be dredged based on U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (1976)) lying above the plane of 6 feet below MLW (plus two feet overdepth). Hydrographic surveys made during July, 1984, indicate that initial channel dredging will only be required immediate to the river shore. Specifically and as shown in figure 3.3, 2,200 feet of channel divided as 1,200 feet extending from Weil Point and 1,000 feet extending from Rhodes Point will be dredged to 6 feet below MLW (plus 2 feet overdepth). The dredged channel bank will have approximately a 3H:1V slope (figure 3.3). The estimated quantity of material to be dredged is 38,000 cubic yards, 27,000 cubic yards at the Weil Point side of the river and 11,000 cubic yards at the Rhodes Point side.

The dredged material will be disposed of in diked upland disposal areas. Two disposal areas, one being 4.0 acres on Weil Point and the other being 2.5 acres on Rhodes Point, are proposed and shown on figure 3.4. The Weil Point disposal area which is presently immature pine plantation will be cleared and grubbed. The proposed Rhodes Point disposal area is a field with scattered young pines. Accordingly, little clearing will be necessary in connection with the Rhodes Point site. The disposal area dikes, 4 feet high at Rhodes Point and 7 feet high at Weil Point will be built from materials pushed up from within the proposed disposal areas.

Effluent from the proposed disposal areas will be controlled by outlet weirs, piped through the containment dike, and then released to flow overland following existing natural drainage (as shown on figure 3.4) to the New River. A riprap, rock, or rubble splash area will be used at the terminal end of the effluent pipes to control erosion. The work is scheduled to begin in October 1984 and will require approximately 30 days to complete.

The frequency and the amount of dredging which will be required to maintain the proposed channel is not known, however, based on the history of maintenance dredging in the 10-foot by 90-foot Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway New River Side Channel to Jacksonville which crosses the project

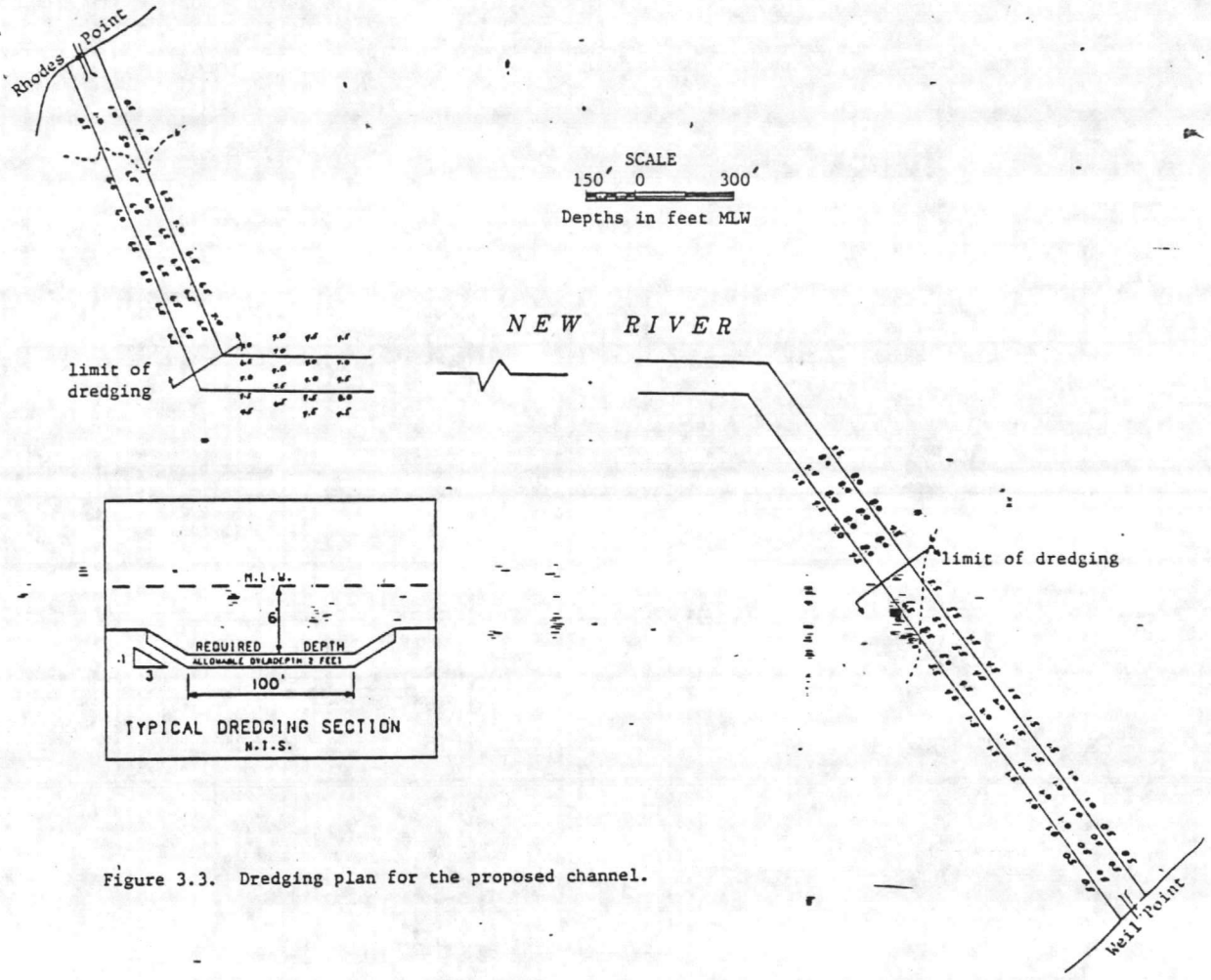

Figure 3.3. Dredging plan for the proposed channel.

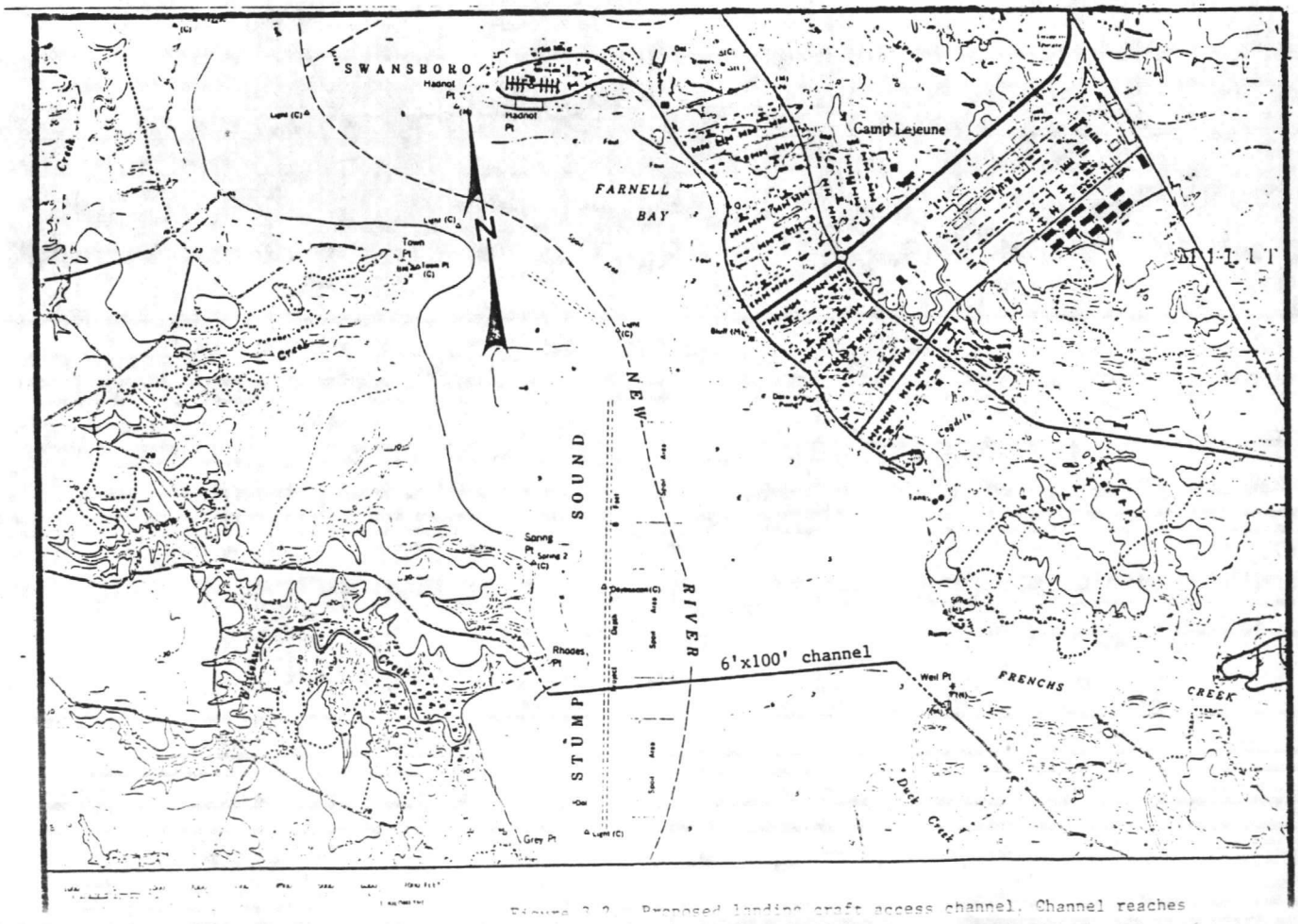

Figure 3.2. Proposed landing craft access channel. Channel reaches

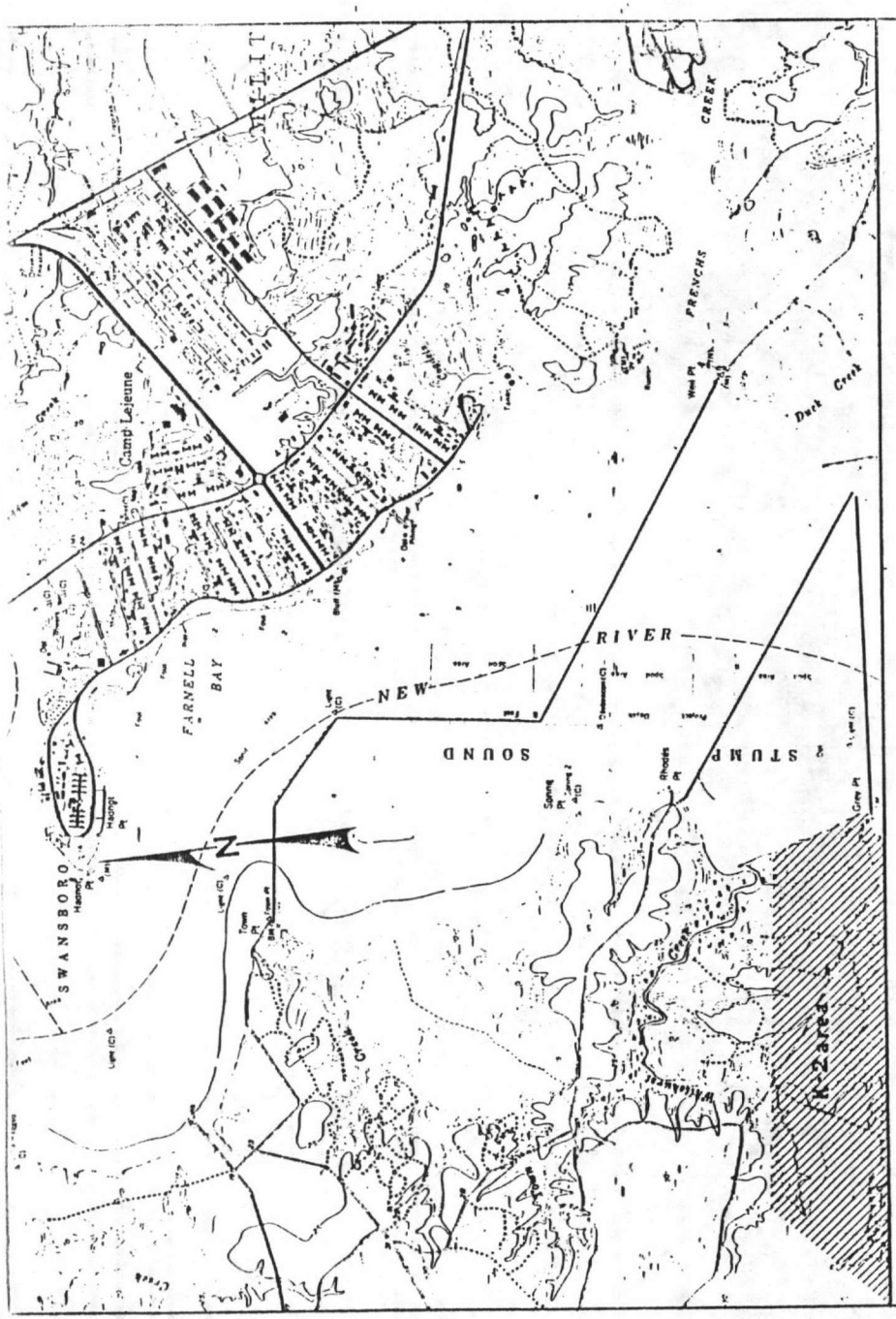

Figure 4.1. Alternative channel routes crossing the New River.

5.00 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

5.01 Estuarine Water Quality.

The waters of the New River in the vicinity of Rhodes and Weil Points are classified SC (suitable for any uses except shellfishing for market purposes and primary contact recreation) by the N. C. Division of Environmental Management.

The dredging operation will have direct effects on water quality parameters such as dissolved oxygen, nutrient concentrations, and most obviously, turbidity. These effects are expected to be localized to the dredge site and rapidly diluted by the river flows.

Weir controlled decant of effluent from the disposal areas and the proposed overland flow of that effluent through vegetated natural topographic drainages should not produce adverse water quality effects.

5.02 Estuarine Resources.

The benthic communities occurring in the areas to be dredged will be destroyed. Following the dredging, the channel areas will be available for recolonization, however, the resulting benthic habitat will be deeper than the natural conditions and a change of population or species composition may occur. The maintenance dredging, which is expected to be infrequent, will again tempoparily displace benthic communities in the areas to be dredged. For the proposed Weil to Rhodes Point channel, approximately 5 acres of estuarine bottom will be disturbed by dredging.

The impacts of the proposed dredging and diked upland disposal of dredged material on adult fish and shellfish (shrimp and crabs) are expected to be minimal. Due to the mobility of those organisms, it is unlikely that the physical action of the dredging itself will significantly impact them. The water quality impacts produced by the dredging and disposal are not expected to adversely affect adult fish and shellfish.

The passage of anadromous fish is not expected to be adversely affected by the proposed dredging or the channel produced.

Frenchs and Duck Creek (figure 3.2) have been designated as fish and shrimp nursery areas by the State of North Carolina (15 NCAC 3B.1400). The proposed dredging and discharge of effluent from the diked upland disposal areas should not effect larval or juvenile estuarine organisms in Duck or Frenchs Creeks or the passage of those organisms between the river and the nursery areas. The river currents and flows upon which the larval and juvenile estuarine organisms depend for transportation to and from the nursery areas should not be interrupted or reduced by the proposed action.

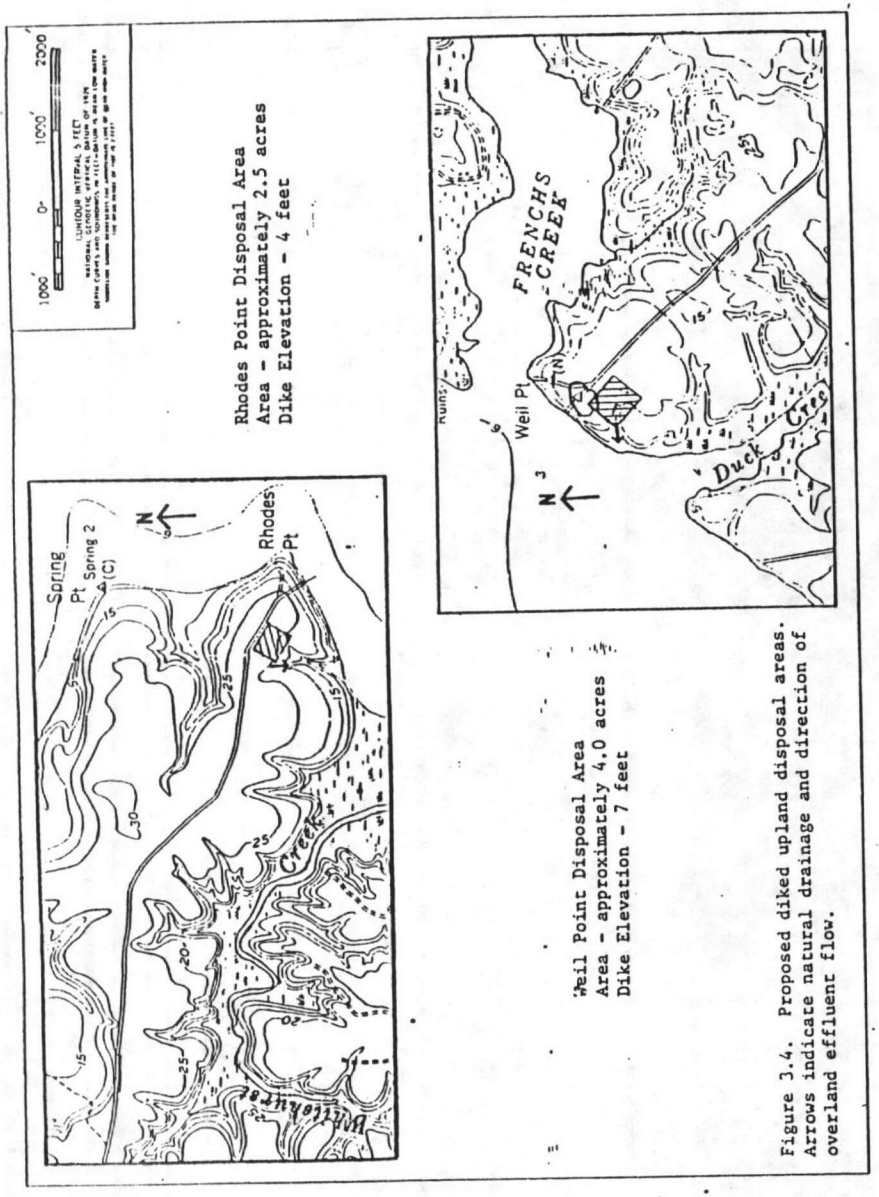

Figure 3.4. Proposed diked upland disposal areas. Arrows indicate natural drainage and direction of overland effluent flow.

frequent maintenance is not expected (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1976).

4.00 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Three alternatives to the proposed action are considered in this environmental assessment, the no action alternative, alternate routes or locations for the landing craft access channel, and a plan similar to the proposed plan except that the disposal area effluent would be piped to the New River.

The no action alternative is the continued operation of Camp Lejeune's amphibious training facilities as they presently exist. By taking no action, Camp Lejeune will not have a training facility on the New River for landing craft loading and unloading. The present limitations on tracked vehicle access to the western sector of Camp Lejeune would continue to restrict the use of that area for mechanized infantry training.

Alternate routes for the landing craft access channel were evaluated and subsequently eliminated from further consideration. The alternate channels considered basically extended from unnamed points south of Weil Point on the east side of the river to Hines, Grey, or Town Points on the west side of the river (figure 4.1). The following factors were included in the evaluations of the alternate channel routes:

a. On the western shore of New River, Hines and Grey Points lie within the K-2 impact area and therefore are unacceptable as shore termini for the channels. A channel to Town Point would be approximately twice as long as the proposed Rhodes to Weil Point channel.

b. On the eastern shore of the New River, a channel leading from the unnamed points south of Weil Point would require construction of shore ramps and roads leading to the water's edge.

The alternate channels did not offer environmental or economic advantages, relative to the proposed action, which would offset the impacts of additional ramp and road construction and/or additional channel length.

A plan to pipe the disposal area effluent to the New River would add considerably to the cost of the channel project. Approximately 900 feet of pipe, 700 feet at Rhodes Point and 200 feet at Weil Point, would be required to pipe the effluent to MLW in the river from the proposed disposal areas. Since the impacts of the disposal area operation without the effluent pipe extending into the river were not considered significant, the additional cost was not considered warranted.

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1976. Final Environmental Statement, Maintenance of Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Side Channels, North Carolina.

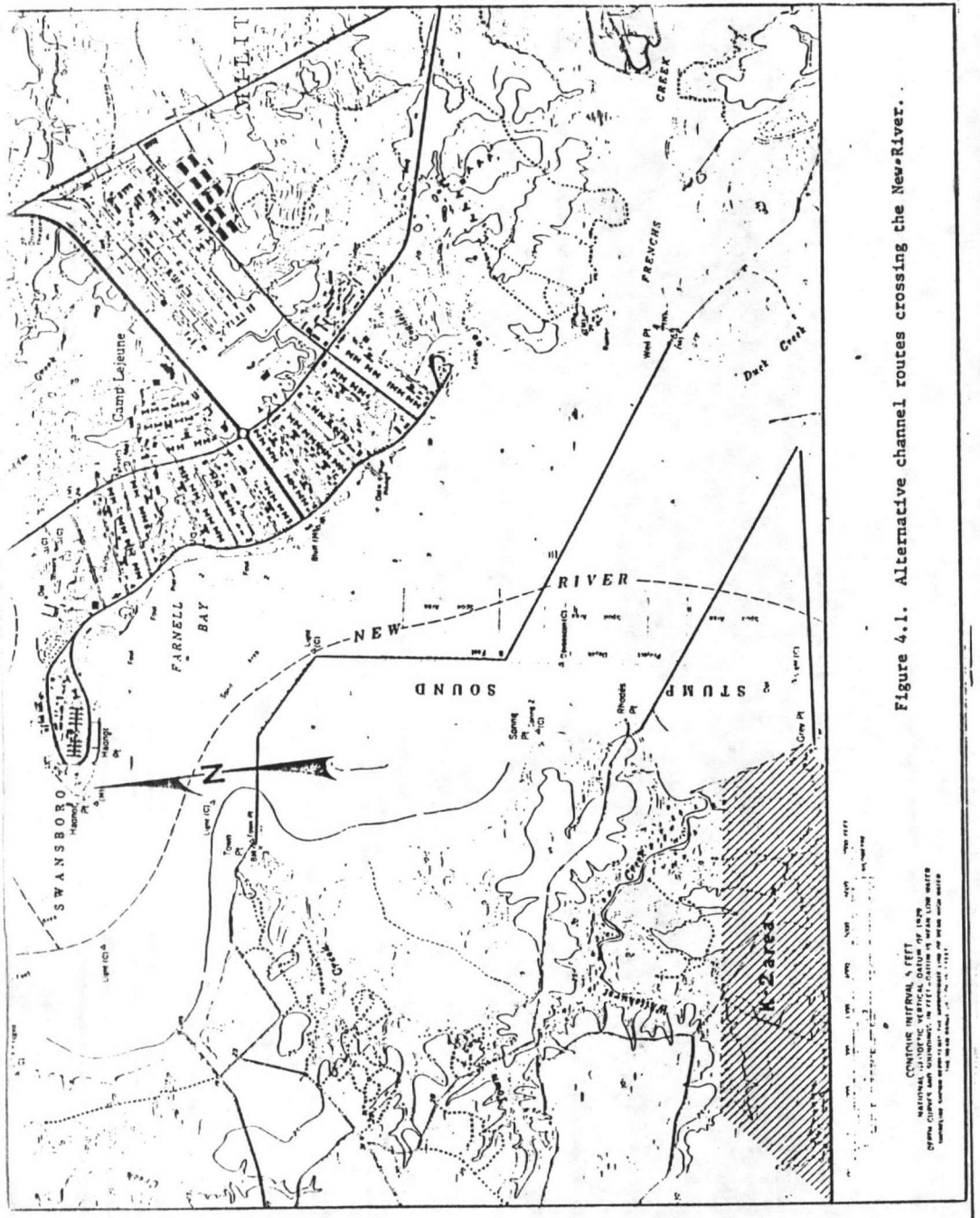

Figure 4.1. Alternative channel routes crossing the New River.

5.00 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

5.01 Estuarine Water Quality.

The waters of the New River in the vicinity of Rhodes and Weil Points are classified SC (suitable for any uses except shellfishing for market purposes and primary contact recreation) by the N. C. Division of Environmental Management.

The dredging operation will have direct effects on water quality parameters such as dissolved oxygen, nutrient concentrations, and most obviously, turbidity. These effects are expected to be localized to the dredge site and rapidly diluted by the river flows.

Weir controlled decant of effluent from the disposal areas and the proposed overland flow of that effluent through vegetated natural topographic drainages should not produce adverse water quality effects.

5.02 Estuarine Resources.

The benthic communities occurring in the areas to be dredged will be destroyed. Following the dredging, the channel areas will be available for recolonization, however, the resulting benthic habitat will be deeper than the natural conditions and a change of population or species composition may occur. The maintenance dredging, which is expected to be infrequent, will again tempoparily displace benthic communities in the areas to be dredged. For the proposed Weil to Rhodes Point channel, approximately 5 acres of estuarine bottom will be disturbed by dredging.

The impacts of the proposed dredging and diked upland disposal of dredged material on adult fish and shellfish (shrimp and crabs) are expected to be minimal. Due to the mobility of those organisms, it is unlikely that the physical action of the dredging itself will significantly impact them. The water quality impacts produced by the dredging and disposal are not expected to adversely affect adult fish and shellfish.

The passage of anadromous fish is not expected to be adversely affected by the proposed dredging or the channel produced.

Frenchs and Duck Creek (figure 3.2) have been designated as fish and shrimp nursery areas by the State of North Carolina (15 NCAC 3B.1400). The proposed dredging and dischrrge of effluent from the diked upland disposal areas should not effect larval or juvenile estuarine organisms in Duck or Frenchs Creeks or the passage of those organisms between the river and the nursery areas. The river currents and flows upon which the larval and juvenile estuarine organisms depend for transportation to and from the nursery areas should not be interrupted or reduced by the proposed action.

5.03 Terrestrial Resources.

The proposed Weil Point disposal area will require the clearing of approximately 4.0 acres of immature pine plantation. The Rhodes Point disposal area is situated within a cleared field (only widely scattered young pines). The affected pine forests are not high quality wildlife habitat. Therefore, the impacts of disposal area construction and use on wildlife are considered minor.

The proposed release of disposal area effluent as overland flow is expected to produce only minor effects on terrestrial resources. Damage to vegetation, including trees, may occur at both Rhodes and Weil Points as a result of the brackish nature of the effluent. This effect, if it occurs, will be confined within the topographically well defined, natural, drainage features proposed for the overland flow use. The small quantity of materia to be dredged and the expected infrequent maintenance dredging will limit the amount and duration of the overland flow. The overland discharge of disposal area effluent is not expected to cause land erosion. At the effluent pipe-end, a rock or rubble splash area will be used to prevent erosion. The vegetated length, 700 ft. and 200 ft. at Rhodes and Weil Points, respectively, and gradual slope to the New River of the proposed drainage routes should limit water velocities and thus limit erosion in those drains.

No significant impacts to wetland areas will occur as a result of the proposed actions.

Military training activities using the proposed landing craft access channel is not expected to produce additional impacts on terrestrial resources at Rhodes Point or Weil Point. The Rhodes Point and Weil Point areas contain ramp and road facilities which are currently used for military training exercises.

5.04 Cultural Resources.

The underwater portion of the proposed project is located in an area where there is little probability of encountering significant submerged cultural resources. In addition, the continued use of the area as a training facility for tracked amphibious vehicles has already severely disturbed the area of the proposed channels. The N. C. Department of Cultural Resources will be notified, however, if any submerged cultural materials are encountered during the dredging.

The terrestrial portions of the project area (the disposal areas) were surveyed by Loftfield (1981). Three sites were reported in areas adjacent to the proposed diked disposal areas. In the Rhodes Point area, an historic artifact scatter, identified as site On 291, was discovered. This site was not considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (Loftfield, 1981). The proposed diked disposal area will not impact this site. No further archeological work is recommended in the Rhodes Point area. Two archeological sites are located in the vicinity of the Weil Point disposal area. Prehistoric archeological site On 251, which Loftfield (1981) considered potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, is located outside the impact area of the proposed diked disposal area and no further investigations are recommended for this site prior to construction of the proposed project. Site On 265 (which may be part of On 251) is located along the shore line of Frenchs Creek immediately north of the proposed diked disposal area. Investigations are currently underway to determine the extent of site On 265 and the potential impacts of the proposed construction on the site. The results of these investigations will be coordinated with the N. C. Department of Cultural Resources.

5.05 Endangered Species.

Endangered or threatened species will not be adversely affected by the proposed activities at Camp Lejeune. These findings were reached through biological assessments which have been prepared and are currently being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended in 1978.

5.06 Means to Mitigate Adverse Environmental Effects.

Measures to mitigate adverse effects on estuarine water quality, estuarine river bottom and terrestrial habitats, and cultural resources have been incorporated into the proposed project design. Those mitigation measures are summarized in the following:

a. The amount of dredging required by the proposed channel will be minimized by aligning the channel to follow "best water". In other words, the channel will be positioned to make maximum use of water which is already 6 ft. or deeper.

b. The proposed upland diked disposal areas will be the minimum size necessary to accomodate the dredged material from the initial channel construction and the expected maintenance and still promote sedimentation. The proposed disposal areas will be positioned to minimize effects on terrestrial resources. For example, the disposal areas will be positioned within an immature pine plantation and an old field. Rubble or rock will be used at the discharge point of the disposal area effluent pipe to control erosion.

c. Using existing ramp and road facilities at Weil and Rhodes Points eliminates impacts which would be associated with the construction of those facilities at other sites.

d. Cultural resource sites adjacent to the Weil Point disposal area will be avoided during construction activities. The N. C. Department of

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Loftfield, T.C. 1981. Archeological and Historical Survey of U. S. Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune. Prepared for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Norfolk, Virginia.

Resources will be notified of any cultural materials are encountered during periodic inspections of the dredging operation by the Wilmington District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

5.07 Energy Requirements and Conservation Potential.

The major energy requirement for the proposed action is diesel fuel for the operation of the hydraulic pipeline dredge and the equipment necessary to construct the diked disposal sites. Diesel fuel is available locally. The use of alternative energy sources is not likely based on the predominance of diesel fuel use by the commercial dredging fleet.

Based on the limited scope of the proposed dredging and the expected infrequent maintenance requirement, the energy resource requirement of the proposed alternative (as compared to the no action alternative) is considered insignificant and not a factor for further consideration.

5.08 Effects on the Urban Environment.

Neither the proposed action nor the alternatives considered will adversely affect the urban environment. Camp Lejeune completely encompasses the New River shoreline in the vicinity of the proposed project area.

6.00 COORDINATION

A public notice describing the proposed activity was prepared by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District in association with Camp Lejeune's request for a Department of the Army permit to perform the required dredging and distributed to State and Federal agencies, environmental action groups, and concerned individuals. The recipients of the public notice were encouraged to furnish comments relative to the environmental acceptability of the proposed actions.

6280/1
FAC

From: Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (LFL)

Subj: REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT; LANDING CRAFT LCM-8, ACCESS CHANNELS, NEW RIVER

Ref: (a) MCO P11000.8B
(b) BO 11000.1B

Encl: (1) Environmental Assessment (EA) submitted by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
(2) Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact

1. In accordance with the provisions of reference (a), the proposed action requires that the EA be forwarded with a draft FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI) to HQMC (LFL) for review by the HQMC Environmental Impact Statement Review Board.

2. Formal review of the enclosure by the Marine Corps Base (MCB) Environmental Impact Review Board is concurrently being completed in accordance with the Appendix to reference (b) due to the scheduled construction in early October. The Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities will consolidate MCB Environmental Impact Review Board review comments and recommendations and, if unresolved significant issues remain, will convene the Board prior to publishing the FNSI.

3. Point of contact for this matter is Mr. Alexander, Facilities Department, AV: 484-3034/3035.

B. W. ELSTON
By direction

Blind Copy to: (w/o Encl [1])
AC/S, Trng
NREA

PROPOSED FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Lead Agency: Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

Title of Proposed Action: New River - Landing Craft (LCM-8) Access Channels, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

Affected Jurisdiction: State of North Carolina, Onslow County

Preparer:

Richard M. Jackson/SAWPD-E
U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington
PO Box 1890
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402
Phone: (919) 343-4745, FTS 671-4745

Document Designation: Environmental Assessment (EA)

Abstract: An access channel for LCM-8 landing craft crossing the New River between Rhodes and Weil Points is proposed to enhance the amphibious training capabilities at Camp Lejeune. The work to implement the proposed channel involves hydraulic pipeline dredging with disposal of the dredged material in diked upland disposal sites to be constructed for this project. Effluent from the disposal area will be controlled by a weir structure, piped through the containment dike, and then allowed to drain unconfined overland to the New River. Existing road and shore ramps at Rhodes and Weil Points will be used for land access to landing craft. Alternatives to the proposed plan include: alternate channel routes or locations; the proposed plan with the difference that the disposal area effluent would be piped to the New River; and no action. No significant long or short term adverse environmental effects are foreseen as resulting from the proposed action.