

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
2D MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542

501/10/100  
5214  
7 June 1982

From: Commanding General  
To: Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune

Subj: Tactical Driving Range; submission of Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment

Ref: (a) BO 11000.IA

1. It is requested that a Tactical Maneuver Driving Range be developed in the HA and HC training areas. A preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment is hereby submitted in accordance with reference (a).

a. Action/Project Description

(1) The Marine Corps is increasingly interested in preparing for mechanized warfare in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. On these battlefields the MAGTF may have to maneuver across generally open terrain (fields of observation and fire generally exceeding 1000m) against threat forces employing direct fire weapons effective out to 5000m. Armored vehicle and mechanized infantry unit leaders must be able to move their units across open terrain without unacceptable casualties. The objective of establishing a tactical driving range is to provide an area in which company level unit leaders can develop the necessary skills to successfully maneuver over open terrain.

(2) If this proposed driving range is not established Camp Lejeune can not offer essential open terrain training for company level armored vehicle and mechanized infantry units. This could result in vehicle commanders and unit leaders not effectively developing their skills in the full range of terrain driving such as movement to contact and assault techniques which may be essential for future battlefields. Mechanized vehicles are presently restricted to trails and landing zones. Generally, training in immediate reaction drills, long range fire direction and mechanized maneuvering suffer in the highly restrictive wooded training areas at Camp Lejeune.

(3) No permanent facilities are required; however hardened creek crossing points and sediment traps may be desirable.

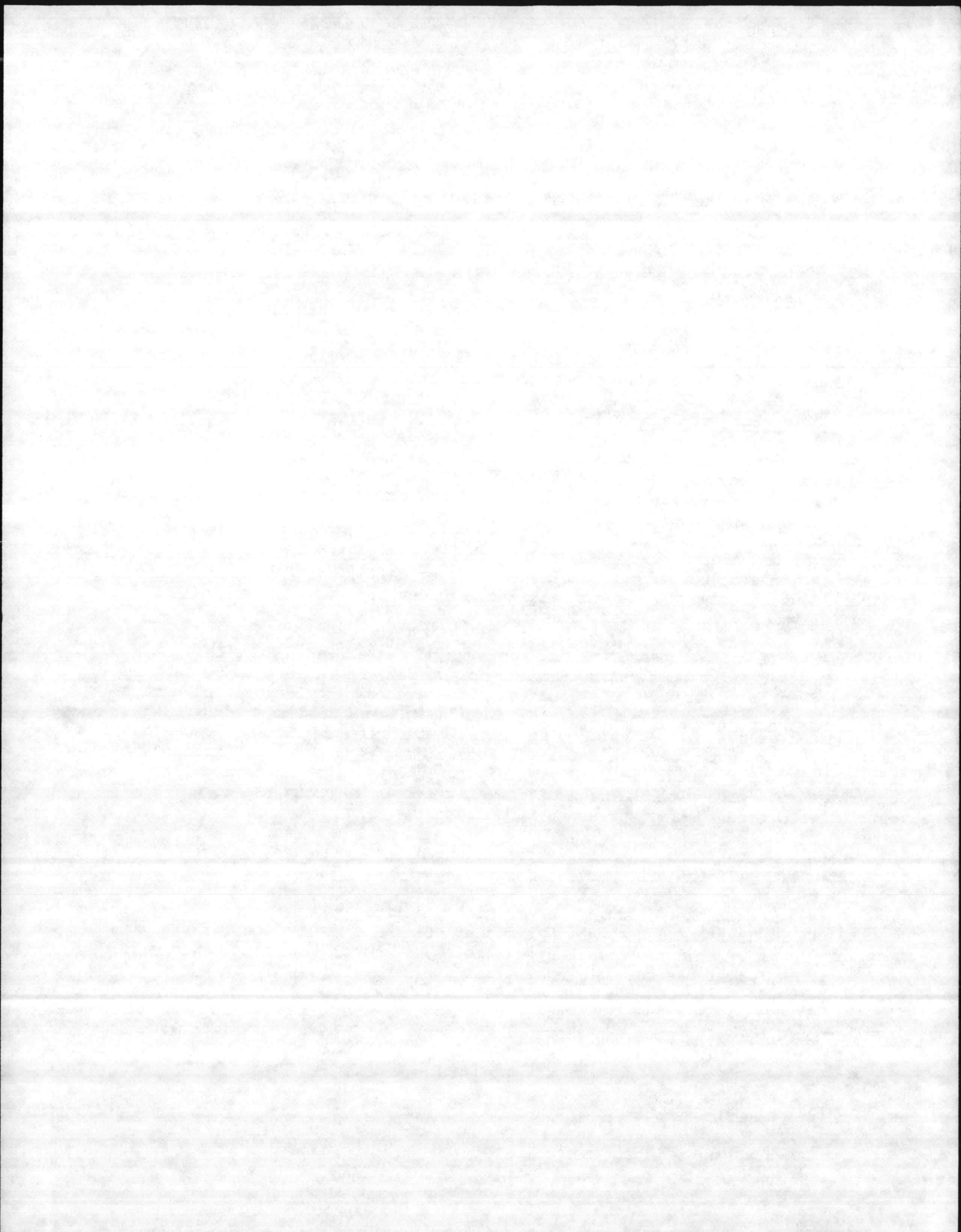
(4) Long range fields of observation and fire (greater than 1000m) can be created and maintained throughout training areas HA and HC to offer the necessary training environment. The vegetation height must be kept to no more than knee high after the current large trees are harvested.

(5) These areas would be used as a tactical driving range for company level armored vehicle units and tactical movement for dismounted infantry units.

b. Consideration of Alternatives

(1) Alternatives

a. Keep existing areas as they are and increase mechanized training time at 29 Palms and Fort Pickett.



1. 29 Palms: A Large Marine Corps desert training area in California.
2. Ft Pickett: An Army training area with rolling hills and intermittent woods in Southern Virginia.

b. Develop other training areas, such as HB, HE, HF, HG, and HI which are flat, heavily wooded areas at Camp Lejeune with satisfactory trainability.

(2) Training areas HA and HC are more suitable than 29 Palms or Ft Pickett because these training areas are on board Camp Lejeune and are accessible to many more units on a regular basis. Also, company level units using HA and HC can concentrate solely on their own training objectives instead of a BLP's training schedule. Training areas HA and HC are preferable to training areas HB, HE, HF, HG, and HI because the other training areas have more featureless terrain which limits vital training in tactical driving. Also, training areas HB, HE, HF, HG, and HI are endangered species habitat areas while training areas HA and HC are not. The terrain in training areas HA and HC offer the most valuable opportunity for tactical terrain driving.

c. Compliance with federal, state, and local environmental regulations and guidelines.

(1) Endangered Species Act. There are no endangered species in training areas HA and HC.

(2) Clean Water Act. The only possibility of water pollution stems from soil erosion. Base ecology personnel have suggested several methods to prevent soil erosion. These include:

1. Growing cover vegetation as the trees are harvested.
2. Leaving a 100m wide barrier of trees standing around the creek estuaries.
3. Constructing hardened creek crossing points and sediment traps.
4. Limiting the number of training days that tracked vehicles may use training areas HA and HC to 15/month.

(3) Clean Air Act. Not applicable. No significant discharge of air pollutants is expected.

(4) Coastal Zone Management. There is no direct impact on beaches or salt marshes. Implementation of the erosion prevention measures suggested by Base ecology personnel will prevent indirect damage which might be caused by sedimentation.

(5) Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act. There are no known sites of historical importance in training areas HA and HC.

(6) North Carolina Erosion & Sedimentation Regulations. Erosion and sedimentation can be maintained at normal levels by the use of methods mentioned in C(2) above.



(7) Hazardous Materials and Waste Disposal. Not applicable.

(8) Protection of Wetlands. Executive Order 11990. The provision to leave a 100m wide barrier of trees standing around each creek area should provide adequate protection of wetlands.

(9) Sanitary Waste and Refuse Disposal. The using unit will be required to police up and remove its own trash. Minimum standards are expected.

(10) Other Regulations Applicable. The proposed action does not involve any environmental regulations other than those discussed above.

(11) Permit Requirements. None

(12) Site Map. See training areas HA and HC on Camp Lajeune special map.

d. How does the proposed action impact on other Base functions and missions.

(1) No impact. Training areas HA and HC contain no restricted areas and are not covered by any range fan.

(2) Consistency with Base Master Plan. Initial discussion with the Commanding Officer of Base Maintenance indicates that the proposed modifications are within the constraints of the Base Master Plan.

F. C. LEWIS  
By direction

