

Dated: December 10, 2007.

**T.M. Cruz,**

*Lieutenant, Judge Advocate General's Corps,  
U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*  
[FR Doc. E7-24214 Filed 12-13-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### **Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the U.S. Marine Corps Grow the Force Initiative (or GTF) at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station New River, and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy; DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section (102)(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations parts 1500-1508) and U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) NEPA implementing regulations in Marine Corps Order P5090.2A, the USMC announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences that may result from the permanent assignment of approximately 9,900 additional Marines and support service personnel at three installations in North Carolina: Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (MCBCL) and Marine Corps Air Station New River (MCASNR) in Jacksonville and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (MCASCP) in Havelock.

The proposed action includes incremental permanent personnel increases at existing USMC installations. By Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 MCBCL, MCASNR, and MCASCP personnel (military and civilian) increases are expected to be approximately 7,700 (MCBCL), 1,400 (MCASNR), and 800 (MCASCP). Alternatives to be examined in the EIS may consist of alternative siting locations on these installations for new facility construction, renovation and use of existing facilities, or a combination of both new and existing facilities. The no-action alternative, of not permanently basing these Marines and associated personnel, will also be examined.

The USMC is initiating the scoping process with this notice of intent. Scoping assists the USMC in identifying community concerns and local issues related to the proposed action.

**DATES:** Three open house scoping meetings will be held in the Jacksonville and Havelock regional area from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the following dates and locations:

(1) Tuesday, January 29, 2008, Havelock Tourist and Event Center, 201 Tourist Center Drive, Havelock, NC.

(2) Wednesday, January 30, 2008, Coastal Carolina Community College, 444 Western Boulevard, Jacksonville, NC.

(3) Thursday, January 31, 2008, Dixon High School, 160 Dixon School Road, Holly Ridge, NC.

**ADDRESSES:** Federal, state, and local agencies, and interested groups and persons are encouraged to attend the scoping open house meetings. All are encouraged to provide comments on the proposed action either at the scoping meetings or by mail, postmarked no later than February 3, 2008 to ensure proper consideration in the EIS to the following address: Mr. Michael H. Jones, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic, Code BMEV31 Building C, Room 3012, 6506 Hampton Blvd, Norfolk, VA 23508-1278.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Michael H. Jones, 757-322-4942. Please submit requests for special assistance, sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired or other auxiliary aids at the public meeting to Mr. Jones by January 8, 2008.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In January 2007, the President of the United States, on the recommendation of the Secretary of Defense, announced that the Marine Corps would increase its end strength from approximately 180,000 to 202,000 by 2011. This increase is needed to provide adequate time to recover between deployments, train to meet combat readiness, and prepare for redeployment. The purpose of the proposed action is to ensure that Marines are properly prepared and trained for existing combat and homeland protection missions and future conflicts.

The Marine Corps uses the Total Force Structure Process (TFSP) to transform strategic guidance, policy constraints, and commander-generated recommendations into the integrated capabilities required to execute Marine Corps missions. The TFSP relies on a detailed, integrated examination of doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership, personnel, and facilities, ensuring that no aspect of the enterprise is ignored when new requirements for the Corps are identified. In order to meet the purpose and need, the proposed action of increasing the Marine Corps must be

expedited while not compromising the current Marine Corps missions. Existing force structure and organization would be maintained in order to not further complicate, retard, or jeopardize the Marine Corps mission. The proposed action accomplishes this by augmenting existing units with Marines possessing the appropriate skill sets. These existing units are already established at current Marine Corps bases. Consequently, alternative bed-down locations to the proposed action are not feasible because they would not meet the purpose and need of the proposed action.

Specifically, the EIS will evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed action at the three installations on the following resources: Land; water resources (e.g., wetlands and coastal zones); natural resources, including threatened and endangered species; air; earth resources (e.g., soils and geology); visual resources, and cultural resources. Issues and activities that will be addressed include: Hazardous materials and hazardous waste; noise; recreation; transportation; socioeconomics; and environmental justice. Other resources, activities, and issues as identified through the scoping process will be included in the EIS and the analysis will evaluate both direct and indirect impacts, and account for cumulative impacts from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in the Jacksonville and Havelock, NC regional area.

The USMC values the good relationship between its three installations in eastern NC and the surrounding communities, and will work closely with community stakeholders to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on traffic and other transportation issues; stormwater and other environmental concerns; population increases and the related concerns with respect to schools, child care, and other quality of life issues; and other potential impacts that may be identified.

Dated: December 10, 2007.

**T.M. Cruz,**

*Lieutenant, Office of the Judge Advocate General, U.S. Navy, Administrative Law Division, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. E7-24234 Filed 12-13-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### **Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**SUMMARY:** The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST  
PSC BOX 20065  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0005

N REPLY REFER TO:  
5090.11.2  
IF&E  
FEB 13 2008

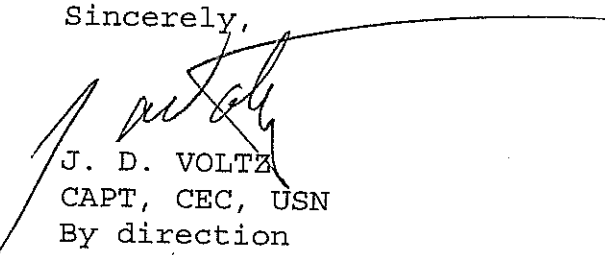
From: Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations East  
To: Commander, United States Army, Corps of Engineers,  
Wilmington District, Post Office Box 1890,  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-1890  
Subj: REQUEST FOR U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PARTICIPATION IN  
202K ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) PREPARATION  
Encl: (1) Notice of Intent to Prepare EIS

1. Marine Corps Installations East (MCIEAST) requests your formal participation in preparation of an EIS to address the permanent assignment of approximately 9,900 additional Marines and support service personnel at three installations in North Carolina: Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (MCBCL) and Marine Corps Air Station New River (MCASNR) in Jacksonville and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (MCASCP) in Havelock.

2. As a cooperating agency, MCIEAST requests that you participate in EIS development as may be required. This includes: (a) participating in the document development process, including review of internal draft documents (b) ensuring that the final EIS provides the required information, for your NEPA documentation, throughout subsequent permitting processes (c) making staff support available, to enhance interdisciplinary review capability, and (d) responding in writing to this request.

3. Our point of contact is Mr. Scott Brewer, MCIEAST Installations, Facilities, and Environment Department; he can be contacted at 910.451.7019 or [scott.a.brewer@usmc.mil](mailto:scott.a.brewer@usmc.mil).

Sincerely,

  
J. D. VOLTZ  
CAPT, CEC, USN  
By direction

Copy to:  
NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic (Attn: Mr Mike Jones / admin record)



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

CESAW-RG (1145b)

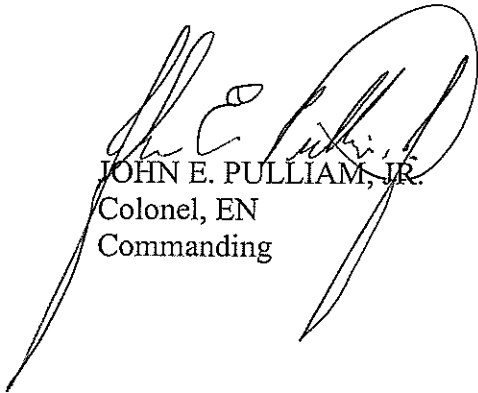
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 1890  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28402-1890

10 March 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations East. ATTN: Mr. Scott Brewer

SUBJECT: Request for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Participation in 202K Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation

1. Reference Memorandum, MCIEAST Commanding General, Wilmington Engineering District Commander, 13 February 2008, SAB
2. On 19 February 2008, the above referenced memorandum was received requesting the Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS for the U.S. Marine Corps Grow the Force Initiative at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station New River, and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina.
3. The Wilmington District will be pleased to serve as a cooperating agency in the development of the EIS. It is our intent to formally adopt the EIS, in whole or in part, provided it meets our requirements relative to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 at the conclusion of your NEPA process. Please note that other program commitments will preclude the funding or writing of any portion of the subject document. However, it is our intention to fully participate in the development of the EIS throughout the NEPA process by providing comments and input within our area of regulatory authority and expertise as early as possible. This should result in substantial time savings during the review process for any required Department of the Army permits.
4. My points of contact, should you have any questions, are Mr. Ken Jolly, Regulatory Division Chief, at (910) 251-4630, and Mr. Richard Spencer, Regulatory Project Manager, at (910) 251-4172.



JOHN E. PULLIAM, JR.  
Colonel, EN  
Commanding



The *U.S. Marine Corps* is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Grow the Force initiative at MCB Camp Lejeune, MCAS New River, and MCAS Cherry Point, NC. By Fiscal Year 2011, the Marine Corps plans to permanently increase its end force (military and civilian) by about 9,900 personnel across the three installations.

The *Marine Corps* is holding *open house scoping meetings* at the locations below and invites your participation. All meetings will be held in an open house format, and your participation will assist Marine Corps representatives identify issues and concerns associated with the Grow the Force initiative and define the scope of analysis for the EIS. During the open house, the Marine Corps will be available to describe the proposed action and alternatives, define the process involved in preparing the EIS, outline the opportunities for public involvement in the process, and answer questions relevant to the proposal the public might have. All **open house meetings will begin at 4:00 p.m. and last until 7:00 p.m.** and be held at the following locations:

<i>City/Town</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Havelock	Tuesday, January 29	Havelock Tourist & Event Center, Room B, 201 Tourist Center Drive
Jacksonville	Wednesday, January 30	Coastal Carolina Community College, James S. Melton Vocation Skills Bldg., Room 104, 444 Western Boulevard,
Holly Ridge	Thursday, January 31	Dixon High School, Cafeteria, 160 Dixon School Road,

If you are unable to attend one of these open house meetings you may visit our website at [www.GrowTheForceNC.com](http://www.GrowTheForceNC.com) and obtain the information disseminated at the meetings and to provide any comments you might have or you may submit written comments to:

Mr. Michael H. Jones  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic, Code BMEV31  
Building C, Room 3012, 6506 Hampton Blvd  
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278

Although we will accept comments throughout the process, we recommend that your scoping comments be sent by February 3, 2008, to ensure equitable consideration in the draft EIS.



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST  
PSC BOX 20005  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0005

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090.12  
IF&E

APR 16 2008

Mr. Tom Augspurger  
United States Fish & Wildlife Service  
Raleigh Field Office  
P.O. Box 33726  
Raleigh, NC 27636

Dear Mr. Augspurger,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the United States Marine Corps (USMC) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences that may result from the permanent assignment of approximately 9,900 additional Marines and support service personnel at three installations in North Carolina: Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (MCBCL) and Marine Corps Air Station New River (MCASNR) in Jacksonville and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (MCASCP) in Havelock. This EIS will evaluate the environmental effects to numerous resources that include, but are not limited to: water resources (e.g., stormwater, coastal consistency, and wetlands); air quality; biological resources, including threatened and endangered marine and terrestrial species; land use; socioeconomic resources; infrastructure; and cultural resources.

The purpose of the proposed action is to ensure the Marine Corps training system provides the means to attain an exacting level of combat readiness across the entire spectrum of military operations. Reduction of time available to train unnecessarily complicates the Marine Corps' ability to provide combat-ready units training in the war fighting capabilities across the spectrum of conflict. To avoid these negative impacts to readiness, training, mission, and quality of life (QOL), the Secretary of Defense established an improved deployment-to-dwell ratio (the time a Marine is deployed versus the time stationed at home) from 1:1 to 1:2 for all active component forces. The increased dwell time for Marines would provide an opportunity to alleviate the strain on units abroad, provide better QOL, and allow for the proper training environments necessary to conduct expeditionary operations across the spectrum of crises and conflicts.

Focused growth, coupled with improved deployment-to-dwell ratio, would provide the opportunity to enhance the irregular warfare capabilities and contingency missions training, and increase the available training time for most units. The result would be a Marine Corps, prepared as a "total force," to meet the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing world and emerging threats.

The scope of the EIS includes the proposed action, and alternatives to be examined in the EIS may consist of alternative siting locations on these installations for new facility construction, renovation and use of existing facilities, or a combination of both new and existing facilities. The no-action alternative, of not permanently basing these Marines and associated personnel at these three installations, will also be examined.

When combined with the previously announced increases of the two US Navy F/A-18 squadrons at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point and the MARSOC increases at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, the additional 9,900 Marines, sailors and civilians will make the overall active-duty and civilian employee increases nearly 11,500 at the three eastern North Carolina USMC bases by the end of FY 2011. Many of those additional personnel will have dependents, making the overall growth even larger. The cumulative effects of these previously announced increases along with all the associated dependents at all three installations will be addressed in the EIS.

Please call Mr. Michael H. Jones at (757) 322-4942 if you have any questions. You may submit written comments by April 25, 2008 to: Mr. Michael H. Jones, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic, Code BMEV31 Building C, Room 3012, 6506 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23508-1278. Comments can also be submitted by visiting our website at: [www.GrowTheForceNC.com](http://www.GrowTheForceNC.com).

Sincerely,



F. E. Cone  
By direction of  
the Commanding General

Copy to: NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic (Attn: Mike Jones / Admin record)



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST  
PSC BOX 20005  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0005

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090.12  
IF&E

APR 16 2008

Ms. Coleen Sullins  
Division of Water Quality  
North Carolina Department of  
Environment and Natural Resources  
1617 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Ms. Sullins,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the United States Marine Corps (USMC) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences that may result from the permanent assignment of approximately 9,900 additional Marines and support service personnel at three installations in North Carolina: Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (MCBCL) and Marine Corps Air Station New River (MCASNR) in Jacksonville and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (MCASCP) in Havelock. This EIS will evaluate the environmental effects to numerous resources that include, but are not limited to: water resources (e.g., stormwater, coastal consistency, and wetlands); air quality; biological resources, including threatened and endangered marine and terrestrial species; land use; socioeconomic resources; infrastructure; and cultural resources.

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Sincerely,



F. E. Cone  
By direction of  
the Commanding General

Copy to: NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic (Attn: Mike Jones / Admin record)





## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST  
PSC BOX 20005  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0005

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090.12  
IF&E

APR 16 2008

Mr. Cameron Weaver  
Wilmington Regional Office  
North Carolina Department of  
Environment and Natural Resources  
127 Cardinal Drive Extension  
Wilmington, NC 28405

Dear Mr. Weaver,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the United States Marine Corps (USMC) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences that may result from the permanent assignment of approximately 9,900 additional Marines and support service personnel at three installations in North Carolina: Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (MCBCL) and Marine Corps Air Station New River (MCASNR) in Jacksonville and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (MCASCP) in Havelock. This EIS will evaluate the environmental effects to numerous resources that include, but are not limited to: water resources (e.g., stormwater, coastal consistency, and wetlands); air quality; biological resources, including threatened and endangered marine and terrestrial species; land use; socioeconomic resources; infrastructure; and cultural resources.

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Please call Mr. Michael H. Jones at (757) 322-4942 if you have any questions. You may submit written comments by April 25, 2008 to: Mr. Michael H. Jones, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic, Code BMEV31 Building C, Room 3012, 6506 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23508-1278. Comments can also be submitted by visiting our website at: [www.GrowTheForceNC.com](http://www.GrowTheForceNC.com).

Sincerely,



F. E. Cone  
By direction of  
the Commanding General

Copy to: NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic (Attn: Mike Jones / Admin record)



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST  
PSC BOX 20005  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0005

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090.12  
IF&E

APR 16 2000

Ms. Deborah Walker  
District Ranger  
United States Forest Service  
Croatan National Forest  
141 E. Fisher Avenue  
New Bern, NC 28560

Dear Ms. Walker,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the United States Marine Corps (USMC) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences that may result from the permanent assignment of approximately 9,900 additional Marines and support service personnel at three installations in North Carolina: Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (MCBCL) and Marine Corps Air Station New River (MCASNR) in Jacksonville and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (MCASCP) in Havelock. This EIS will evaluate the environmental effects to numerous resources that include, but are not limited to: water resources (e.g., stormwater, coastal consistency, and wetlands); air quality; biological resources, including threatened and endangered marine and terrestrial species; land use; socioeconomic resources; infrastructure; and cultural resources.

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F. E. Cone  
By direction of  
the Commanding General

Copy to: NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic (Attn: Mike Jones / Admin record)



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST  
PSC BOX 20005  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0005

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090.12  
IF&E

APR 16 2008

Dr. Jeffrey Crow  
State Historic Preservation Office  
4610 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Dr. Crow,

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Sincerely,



F. E. Cone  
By direction of  
the Commanding General

Copy to: NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic (Attn: Mike Jones / Admin record)



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST  
PSC BOX 20005  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0005

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090.12  
IF&E

APR 16 2008

Mr. Keith B. Overcash, P.E.  
Division of Air Quality  
North Carolina Department of  
Environment and Natural Resources  
1641 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Mr. Overcash,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the United States Marine Corps (USMC) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences that may result from the permanent assignment of approximately 9,900 additional Marines and support service personnel at three installations in North Carolina: Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (MCBCL) and Marine Corps Air Station New River (MCASNR) in Jacksonville and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (MCASCP) in Havelock. This EIS will evaluate the environmental effects to numerous resources that include, but are not limited to: water resources (e.g., stormwater, coastal consistency, and wetlands); air quality; biological resources, including threatened and endangered marine and terrestrial species; land use; socioeconomic resources; infrastructure; and cultural resources.

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Sincerely,



F. E. Cone  
By direction of  
the Commanding General

Copy to: NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic (Attn: Mike Jones / Admin record)





## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST  
PSC BOX 20005  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0005

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090.12  
IF&E

APR 16 2008

Mr. Randy McElveen  
Hazardous Waste Section  
North Carolina Department of  
Environment and Natural Resources  
1646 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear Mr. McElveen,

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PSC BOX 20005  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0005

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090.12  
IF&E

APR 16 2008

Ms. Sandy Gordan  
Washington Regional Office  
North Carolina Department of  
Environment and Natural Resources  
943 Washington Square Mall  
Washington, NC 27889

Dear Ms. Gordan,

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F. E. Cone  
By direction of  
the Commanding General

Copy to: NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic (Attn: Mike Jones / Admin record)



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST  
PSC BOX 20005  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0005

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090.12  
IF&E

APR 16 2008

Mr. Steve Everhart  
Regional Office, Division of  
Coastal Management  
North Carolina Department of  
Environment and Natural Resources  
127 Cardinal Drive Extension  
Wilmington, NC 28405

Dear Mr. Everhart,

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Sincerely,



F. E. Cone  
By direction of  
the Commanding General

Copy to: NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic (Attn: Mike Jones / Admin record)



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST  
PSC BOX 20005  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0005

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090.12  
IF&E

APR 16 2008

Mr. Steve Underwood  
Division of Coastal Management  
North Carolina Department of  
Environment and Natural Resources  
1638 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 28557

Dear Mr. Underwood,

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Copy to: NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic (Attn: Mike Jones / Admin record)





## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST  
PSC BOX 20005  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0005

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090.12  
IF&E

APR 16 2008

Ms. Tere Barrett  
Division of Coastal Management  
North Carolina Department of  
Environment and Natural Resources  
400 Commerce Avenue  
Morehead City, NC 28557

Dear Ms. Barrett,

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Sincerely,



F. E. Cone  
By direction of  
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Copy to: NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic (Attn: Mike Jones / Admin record)



## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST  
PSC BOX 20005  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0005

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090.12  
IF&E

APR 16 2008

Dr. Willie R. Taylor  
U. S. Department of Interior  
Office of Environmental Policy  
and Compliance  
1849 C Street NW  
Mailstop 2340  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Dr. Taylor,

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F. E. Cone  
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Copy to: NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic (Attn: Mike Jones / Admin record)



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MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST  
PSC BOX 20005  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0005

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APR 16 2008

Mr. Jimmy Palmer  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region IV  
61 Forsyth Street SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

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F. E. Cone  
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## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

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PSC BOX 20005  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542-0005

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APR 16 2008

Dr. Roy Crabtree  
Regional Administrator, Southeast  
U. S. Department of Commerce  
9721 Executive Center Drive North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

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F. E. Cone  
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KC 29 April 08  
MHJ

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**Division of Coastal Management**

Michael F. Easley, Governor

**James H. Gregson, Director**

William G. Ross Jr., Secretary

April 25, 2008

Michael H. Jones  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Mid-Atlantic  
Code BMEV31 Building C, Room 3012  
6506 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk, VA 23508-1278

**SUBJECT:** Scoping Comments on the Proposed Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement Regarding the Assignment of Additional Personnel to Camp Lejeune, New River Air Station, and Cherry Point Air Station; Onslow and Craven Counties, North Carolina (DCM#20080051)

Dear Mr. Jones:

The Marine Corps is proposing to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate the environmental effects resulting from the assignment of approximately 9,900 additional Marines and support personnel to Camp Lejeune, New River Air Station, and the Cherry Point Air Station. As part of the EIS preparation process the Marine Corps is soliciting comments from the public on the environmental and regulatory issues that the proposed EIS would be expected to consider and evaluate. The scoping solicitation correctly notes that the proposed EIS will need to evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed action to numerous resources such as water resources, air quality, biological resources, land use, socioeconomic resources, infrastructure, and cultural resources. Below are the comments of the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (DCM) concerning the environmental and regulatory issues that should be considered by the Marine Corps in the preparation of the proposed EIS.

- The scoping notice correctly notes that the proposed action will require that the Marine Corps submit to DCM a consistency determination as required by the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). Pursuant to 15 CFR 930.37, the Marine Corps may use the proposed EIS "as a vehicle" for its consistency determination provided that the proposed EIS meets the requirements of 15 CFR 930.39. DCM recommends that the Marine Corps include in the proposed EIS a section devoted to analyzing the consistency of the proposed action with North Carolina's coastal management program.
- The proposed EIS must contain a cumulative impact analysis that meets the requirements of 40 CFR 1508.7 to evaluate "the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions." The Marine Corps and the Navy have been proposing a variety of activities such as, but not limited to, a) a proposed outlying landing field, b) an underwater sonar

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training range, and c) Atlantic Fleet active sonar training. Additionally, there is a potential for offshore oil and gas drilling activity off the Atlantic coast. We assume that all these potential activities, because they will “*compete*” for resources and space, will be interrelated in some manner. We request that the cumulative incremental impact of these anticipated military and non-military proposals be evaluated to determine if these proposed projects would result in a significant adverse effect to the environment.

- The proposed action may potentially use the resources of nearby non-military facilities in North Carolina such as the State Harbor located in Morehead City. The proposed increase in personnel could lead to increased use of state highways (such as US 17 and SR 24). As the scoping notice observed, the additional personnel will create additional demands for water, sewer, power, and community facilities. DCM recommends that the EIS evaluate the effect of the increased personnel on the infrastructure located within the project area.
- The proposed influx of personnel, by implication, will mean increased training activity at these facilities to assure combat readiness. Increased levels of training activity raise the question of the impact of the training activities on the bases themselves and in areas proximal to the bases. For example State Route 172 was recently closed to public travel through Camp Lejeune, which is an adverse impact to public transportation. The proposed increase in population and increased training activity may result in the following potential public access effects: increases in restricted air space, the closure of public roads, and/or the closure of coastal waters to (recreational/commercial) public use.

The increase in personnel will result in increased “urbanization” of the three bases affected by this proposal. Increased urbanization will result from the need to provide housing, workspace, roads, training areas, and other infrastructure for the additional personnel. This will mean the clearing of habitat, increased habitat fragmentation, increased impervious surfaces, and other activities that may be incompatible with ecosystem preservation. For example, the Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC) consistency determination notes: “*When completed, the entire proposed MARSOC complex, including the fences area and community facilities will encompass approximately 300 acres, of which approximately 200 acres will be within a more intensely developed footprint.*” Increased urbanization, even if managed with the habitat in mind, can still result, over the long-term, in incremental cumulative environmental degradation. DCM recommends the EIS to evaluate how the effects of continued and increasing urbanization and habitat fragmentation can first be avoided and if not, how it can be mitigated.

- As part of the environmental analysis, DCM recommends that the proposed EIS contain graphics of the existing resources in the affected environment section. In the environmental consequences section of the proposed EIS DCM recommends that the graphics of the existing resources be overlain with the proposed development footprint. Specific graphics recommended by DCM, at a minimum, include the identification of Areas of Environmental Concern, Primary Nursery Areas, Outstanding Resource Waters, beds of submerged aquatic vegetation, designated natural resource area, shellfish areas (open/closed), sea turtle nesting areas, colonial bird nesting areas, and cultural resource areas. The preceding list is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of resources that need to be identified; there will be other resources that should be reviewed.
- Certain activities, such as dredging and construction, in some cases are constrained by moratorium periods. For example, the shorebird moratorium for dredging activity in the vicinity of North Topsail Beach is from April 1<sup>st</sup> through July 15<sup>th</sup> of any year. The nesting sea turtle moratorium is from May 1<sup>st</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup> of any year. Additionally, migratory birds and nesting turtles are affected by artificial lighting. DCM recommends that the proposed EIS evaluate how the proposed

activities at the bases would be affected by these moratorium periods and how to mitigate for the adverse effects of artificial lighting.

- In terms of potential mitigation options. The Navy recently discontinued the establishment of an outlying landing field (OLF) in Washington County North Carolina. It is our understanding that the Navy has already acquired some of the property that would have been necessary for this proposed facility. One of the issues of concern with this proposed OLF had been migratory waterfowl. The Marine Corps could use this “surplus” property or other potential properties as a possible mitigation bank to offset long-term cumulative incremental habitat losses (including habitat fragmentation) that may occur in the affected bases as a result of the influx of the increase personnel. Section 15A NCAC 07M .0701 of North Carolina’s Administrative Code, a part of the State’s coastal management program, states: “Coastal ecosystems shall be protected and maintained as complete and functional systems by mitigating the adverse impacts of development as much as feasible and enhancing, creating, or restoring areas with the goal of improving or maintaining ecosystem function.” DCM recommends that the EIS evaluate a wide range of mitigation options to assure the maintenance of habitat values.
- The proposed increase in the number of personnel at the three bases may result in the disposal of a wide variety of training materials into the environment. Fore example, the Draft Overseas Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Statement for the “Undersea Warfare Training Range” (page S-8) noted that: “Materials expended during the launch, operation, and recovery of exercised torpedoes (such as control wires, air launch accessories, flex hose, and ballast), expended devices (expendable bathythermographs [XBTs] sonobuoys, and acoustic device countermeasures [ADCs], and expendable mobile ASW training targets [EMATTs]) will be left in place.” The continual incremental accumulation of debris, from proposed training exercises along with other activities, could over the long term adversely affect terrestrial and marine habitat. In addition, uncollected debris could allow the release of toxins that may eventually find their way into the water column. DCM recommends that the proposed EIS contain measures for the retrieval of equipment and debris that may discharged into the environment
- DCM recommends that the EIS contain a specific section that summarizes all the mitigation measures proposed. Some environmental impact statements, in the past, have not centralized the mitigation proposals into one discrete section, which has made it difficult for the reader to know the full range of mitigation measures being proposed.

Our comments above are not exhaustive, we trust that the Marine Corps will carefully research the environmental concerns raised by this proposed action and include appropriate analysis in the EIS. Thank you for your consideration of the North Carolina Coastal Management Program

Sincerely,



Stephen Rynas, AICP  
Federal Consistency Coordinator

cc: Jim Gregson, Division of Coastal Management  
Doug Huggett, Division of Coastal Management  
Anne Deaton, NC Division of Marine Fisheries  
Molly Ellwood, NC Wildlife Resources Commission  
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