RANGE AND TRAINING AREA OPERATIONS AT MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, JACKSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

January 2026

Marine Corps Installations East-Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJ) proposes to continue its current, existing range and training operations and incorporate new and emerging range and training operations, systems, and real property improvements to sustain and enhance current military training on Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune and the command's proposed implementation of installation and logistics support requirements for supporting Force Design 2030 initiatives. Pursuant to 15 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) section 930.33(a)(3)(i), MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJ reviewed its range and training operations and the proposed activities and determined that the limited activities within the coastal zone would be de minimis. Pursuant to 15 CFR section 930.33(a)(3)(ii), de minimis activities are expected to have "insignificant direct or indirect (cumulative and secondary) coastal effects and with the State agency concurs are de minimis."

MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJ now requests that the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management agree that the proposed activities within the coastal zone are de minimis activities and can be excluded from subsequent review.

1.0 PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of MCB Camp Lejeune is to support the II Marine Expeditionary Force's Marine Air-Ground Task Force elements and other tenant commands and elements of the Navy and the United States Coast Guard. The installation supports Marine Corps, Navy, and other joint force tactical training for combat readiness by providing realistic training, which is essential to preparing and protecting military personnel deployed around the world.

MCB Camp Lejeune is located along the southern coast of eastern North Carolina adjacent to the City of Jacksonville, with 20.4 kilometers (km), (11 nautical miles [nm]) of Atlantic Ocean coastline. However, installation is excluded from the coastal zone, as the term, "coastal zone," is defined in federal law. 16 United States Code section 1453(1). The Proposed Action encompasses all assets of the MCB Camp Lejeune Range Training Area (RTA) Complex on and near the installation, including training operations conducted in land ranges, water ranges, and special use airspace (SUA). The proposed new range and training operations, systems, and real property improvements pertain to air combat training in restricted airspace; land-based training, such as infantry ground maneuvers in training areas and weapons firing on ranges; and water-based training on the New River, Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, and Onslow Bay. Please see Table 1 below for a list of the new or modified existing activities and activities covered under an existing consistency concurrence within the proposed action. MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJ remains prepared to consult with the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management to ensure each new activity within the Proposed Action would be conducted in a manner consistent with the enforceable policies of the state's coastal management program. 15 CFR section 930.34(d).

Table 1. New Training Activities and Modifications to Current Training Activities under the Preferred Alternative			
Activity/Operation	***Description***	***Current Frequency/Use***	***Proposed Use***
New Range Activities and Operations			
Redesignation of the existing temporary impact area to dedicated impact area within GSRA	Redesignate the temporary impact area to a "dedicated" impact area within the Greater Sandy Run Area (GSRA). The GSRA dedicated impact area would be permanently designated within the training complex and used indefinitely to place targets and contain fired, placed, dropped, thrown, or launched ammunition and explosives (AE) and the resulting fragments, debris, and components. The impact area would be an approximately 4 km by 4 km non-cleared area in northern GSRA with a 2 km by 2 km area in the center cleared of trees for target placement. This impact area would be bounded and accessible by existing roads. However, new roads (and possibly fire breaks) would need to be cut to enable wildfire prevention, response, and control.	N/A	The dedicated impact area would contain impacts of non-sensitive, non-high hazard munitions including inert and/or training practice High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) munitions, mortars, rockets, and potentially unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).
High Mobility Artillery Rocket System training	Proposed live-fire training for HIMARS on MCB Camp Lejeune would consist of firing an inert rocket into the new GSRA Impact Area or an existing impact area. Three firing locations would be developed on the installation.	N/A	Maximum of 350 rounds fired per year
Amphibious vehicle maneuver corridors	Increase tactical vehicle operations to further the Combined Arms Amphibious Assault Course aboard the base. Tactical Vehicle usage associated with increased Combined Arms Amphibious Assault training would include the use of light armored vehicles (LAVs), amphibious assault vehicles (AAVs), and landing craft air cushioned (LCAC) hovercrafts. Create cleared areas for tactical vehicles that would generally parallel existing tank trails but allow for realistic off-road training scenarios. Off-road routes would avoid important environmental features to the maximum extent practicable.	N/A	N/A - Would increase the amount of cleared area within the range to accommodate the newly cleared maneuver corridor. No digging, filling grading or construction would occur.

Joint Logistics Over the Shore (JLOTS) fuel transfer training	JLOTS operations would consist of loading and off-loading ships in unimproved areas and allow training related to fuel transfers in or over water. Conducting this training at MCB Camp Lejeune was previously discussed in NEPA analysis completed by the Navy, except for fuel transfers in or over water.	N/A	One to two times per year
Firing of ground-to-surface and surface-to-ground Missiles into the G-10 Impact Area[1]	Firing anti-ship missiles from shore into the W-122 airspace, which is located above the N-1/BT-3 Impact Area, that ultimately land in the G-10 Impact Area. The Navy would also fire guided missiles from vessels at sea into the W-122 airspace and ultimately into the G-10 Impact Area.	N/A	Maximum of 16 fired per year
Creation of a demolition firing point within GSRA	The demolition firing point would support demolition training for units within the GSRA to increase training opportunities for units heavily scheduled in that area. Demolition activities would consist of wall breaching, cutting charges, and charges on bare earth. The firing point would also provide an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) response location for munitions within the GSRA without transporting them across publicly trafficked roads. Net Explosive Weight (NEW) anticipated to be less than 30 pounds. The firing point would require a cleared area approximately 200 meters square and avoid protected species areas and minimize wetland impacts. EOD response for emergency destruct procedures would be mission based, and the maximum NEW for these instances would be based on access control, mitigation of collateral damage, and public safety. The exact location of the demolition firing point and the maximum NEW would be determined through Range Design and Range safety standards and located in a place most conducive to training but as far as possible from inhabited areas.	N/A	Demolition activities between 5-50 pounds of NEW per charge would occur 15 times per year. Demolition shots of under 5 pounds of NEW would occur 100 times per year.
Waterborne surface to shore	There is an emergent requirement to fire weapons systems from boats and amphibious vehicles from the water to the	N/A	20-30 times per year

firing from the New River into the K-2 Impact Area	shore. This training would support current vessel requirements and emerging operations within the littoral spaces. Targets would be located on the shoreline and floating in the water. The waterborne targets would be existing target systems and be predominantly inflatable and recoverable. The area under consideration is adjacent to Stone Bay and would not require closure of the main channel. Approximately 200,000 small caliber rounds and 10,000 medium caliber rounds would be fired annually during this training.		
Surface Vessel training[1]	Vessels range from 12 inches to 174 feet in length and weigh up to 1,100 tons. Vessels would be equipped with commercially available electric motors and outboard engines that have a maximum speed of 2 to 45 knots. Both manned and unmanned surface vessels would be operated in the inshore waters of MCB Camp Lejeune and in the Atlantic Ocean. Both are likely to make amphibious landings on Onslow Beach. Vessels may be equipped with weapon systems, radar, and other unmanned surface vessels and/or unmanned aircraft systems. The unmanned vessels operate in conjunction with a contact vessel and a control station.	N/A	1624 vessel trips/year
Modifications to Existing Range Activities and Operations			
Increase in UAS training and operations[1]	Each unit would receive a UAS conduct UAS training delivering supplies and flying loads of up to 1,000 pounds. This would lead to an expected 50 percent increase in UAS operations/sorties annually. Current UAS training occurs in any of the UAS Restricted Operating Zones within restricted airspace and is scheduled through Range Control. UAS training would include launch/recovery, flight, maneuvering, providing surveillance, observation, and fire direction, emitting laser energy, and launching ordnance, and in the case of armed loitering and swarming munitions would include target engagement with the systems.	24,000 annually	50 percent increase in annual UAS operations over baseline levels for a Total of 36,000 operations annually

Increase in Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV) training and operations	Conduct UUV training in the inshore waterways of Camp Lejeune including the New River, Mile Hammock Bay, and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW). During these training events, the AIWW would be closed for up to four hours a day. UUV size ranges from 2 to 15 feet in overall length. Maximum speeds of the UUV are estimated from 0 to 20 knots. Vessels would be unmanned. Typical training would include launch and recovery, operation to conduct underwater detection, surveys, surveillance, and the potential for simulated anti-ship engagement and would involve the use of *de minimis* sonar sources. *De minimis* sonar sources are defined as having the following parameters: Low source levels, narrow beams, downward directed transmission, short pulse lengths, frequencies outside known marine mammal hearing ranges, or some combination of these factors. The unmanned vessels would operate in conjunction with a contact vessel and a control station.	Limited and in coordination with U.S. Navy exercises	Maximum of 75 operations per year
Increase in annual munitions firing levels	Increase firing levels from current baseline levels by 20 percent, in addition to new range activities. This would apply to all weapons categories utilized at the MCB Camp Lejeune RTA Range Complex. Firing of large caliber 155 mm, 120 mm, and 5-inch naval guns would remain at current levels.		20 percent increase above current firing levels
Increase in Anti-Personnel Obstacle Breaching System (APOBS) training	A 50 percent to 100 percent increase in the frequency of APOBS training as the system is being issued for more troops, and APOBS training is authorized in more training areas than in the past. APOBS is used for obstacle breaching, clearing a lane 50 meters long. The system has a net explosives weight of 51 pounds. A man-packed rocket with detonation chord and high explosive charges is launched into an area that contains obstacles (i.e., concertina wire, mines, etc.), or simulated obstacles, and then is detonated to clear the obstacles.	100 to 115 annually	50 percent-100 percent increase over baseline levels for a total of 150-200 operations annually

Modification of the training beach boundary	Expand the existing area of the amphibious training beach south so that the area aligns with the training area boundary.		N/A
Use of new Enhanced Performance Round (EPR) rounds on training military ranges	The U.S. Marine Corps is changing the ammunitions it uses to a new Enhanced Performance Round (EPR). This change is planned to occur gradually as units expire all their stores of current ammunition. The new rounds are 5.56mm ball ammunition for use in the M4, M249, M27, and M16A4. The EPR has a copper-jacketed steel core with a copper plug (some early variants have a tin/bismuth alloy plug), differing from the previous M855 round which has a lead plug. This round has increased penetration but is more environmentally friendly because of the lack of lead. The new round would travel farther than current ammunition; thus, requiring larger surface danger zones (SDZs).	None	All rounds would eventually be replaced.
Transition from AAV to Amphibious Combat Vehicle (ACV)	The U.S. Marine Corps is conducting a one-for-one replacement of legacy AAVs with the new ACV. The ACV has four variants: personnel, command and control, 30mm, and recovery. Fielding of the ACVs at MCB Camp Lejeune is expected to be complete in 2028. As part of the fielding, training with a new vehicle-mounted 30mm gun.	N/A	Training type and tempo would not change.
Addition of new infantry weapons to ranges throughout the MCB Camp Lejeune range and training area (RTA) Range Complex	Add new infantry weapons to units stationed at MCB Camp Lejeune. Changes would include adding .338 cal. rifles to augment and/or replace 7.62mm rifles, adding 6.5mm and/or 6.8mm rifles to augment and/or replace 5.56mm, and adding the Gustav 84 mm rocket to replace some MK153 Shoulder Launched Multipurpose Assault Weapons.	N/A	New weapons would be in the same munition category and would not increase overall ordnance use at MCB Camp Lejeune.
Range Maintenance Activities	Conduct the following range maintenance activities at the MCB Camp Lejeune RTA Complex:	N/A	N/A

	• Landing zone (LZ)/artillery position grading and hole filling • Minor SDZ modifications to range fans • Beaverdam removal • Ditch maintenance • Lead abatement at shoot houses and berms • Targetry maintenance • Pest control • Calcium chloride application to tank trails for dust control • Selective tree clearing and vegetation management to improve visibility from existing Observation Posts in the GSRA to observe munitions impacts into the new dedicated impact area.		
Activities included for analysis in Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Supplemental EIS[2]			
High-energy laser training	The Marine Corps is currently fielding a high energy laser that is used for anti-UAS operations. Activities would consist of targeting and engaging a small UAS airborne out to sea over the N-1/BT-3 Impact Area. Approximately 25 to 50 pieces of military expended material (MEM) comprising one drone, would fall in an area approximately 100 meters in diameter of the Atlantic Ocean during each event. Pieces can be up to 10 inches in diameter and typically float and are recovered by Navy Boat Crews or wash ashore.	N/A	50 drones per year
Firing of large caliber artillery into N-1/BT-3 Impact Area	Conduct training with large caliber artillery with firing from land gun positions into N-1/BT-3 Impact Area. Rounds would be set to airburst before landing in the ocean.	N/A	80 fired per year
Firing of ground-to-surface missiles into N-1/BT-3 Impact Area	Fire ground-to-surface missiles and medium caliber munitions into the N-1/BT-3 Impact Area. This training would involve firing the missiles from shore at floating targets in the N-1/BT-3 Impact Area.	N/A	50 fired per year

Littoral Explosive Ordnance Neutralization (LEON)	Use of UUV with side-scan sonar to assist EOD personnel in location and neutralization of underwater explosives in very shallow water (15 feet or less). The NEW would be less than 20 pounds per event.	N/A	42 events per year
Increase in surface-to-air missile firing	Surface-to-air missiles and small caliber munitions are primarily at drone targets above designated impact areas. Missiles and drone targets explode in air and enter water as debris. Projectiles from small caliber munitions would also enter the water. Anticipate 10 events per year with 20 missiles and 20 drones used in each event.	50 per year	200 per year
Launching Armed UAS into N-1/BT-3 Impact Area	Launching armed UAS into the N-1/BT-3 Impact Area. This training would involve launching the UAS from shore or small boats at floating targets in the N-1/BT-3 Impact Area.	N/A	Four per year
High Mobility Artillery Rocket System training	To supplement the HIMARS training described above, units would fire inert rockets into the Atlantic Ocean instead of into an impact area.	N/A	Maximum of 36 rounds fired per year

Notes: [1] The in-water impacts of these activities in the Atlantic Ocean are analyzed as part of the AFTT Supplemental EIS Consistency Determination.

[2] Activities included in the AFTT Supplemental EIS Consistency Determination have in-water components analyzed as part of that NEPA document and associated consultations. Activities that include weapon firing from land are included in the noise analysis for this EA.

The MCB Camp Lejeune RTA Complex land range assets include live-fire ranges, training and maneuver areas, impact areas, and various training facilities. The approximately 95,659 acres of usable training areas are typically densely vegetated with pine forest and undergrowth, dotted with pocosin swamps and wetlands. The vegetation, climate, growing season, and high-water table characteristics of these land range assets supply an excellent setting for military maneuver, live-fire, amphibious operations, and tactical training and present several unique training, safety, and environmental challenges. The water ranges within the MCB Camp Lejeune RTA Complex generally surround land range assets and include: the New River, the AIWW, Onslow Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean. Water ranges are designated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers as prohibited areas (existing danger zones [water]) and water restricted areas. Prohibited areas may be closed to the public on a full-time or intermittent basis because they are routinely used for target practice, bombing, rocket-firing, or other especially hazardous operations. Water restricted areas prohibit or limit public access to provide security for Government property and/or protection to the public from the risks of damage or injury arising from the Government's use of that area. The Commanding General, MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJ, exercises the authority to control access to these navigable waters. Nautical charts show prohibited areas and restricted areas where vessels may not loiter or anchor per 33 Code of Federal Regulations Part 334, Danger Zones and Restricted Area Regulations. The proximity of water ranges to land range assets and their prohibited and restricted designations provides ideal conditions for fording operations, amphibious operations, and small craft training.

The 200 square miles of SUA within the MCB Camp Lejeune RTA Complex includes several segments of restricted airspace (R-5306D, R-5306E, R-5303 A/B/C, and R-5304 A/B/C) and a military operations area (Hatteras F Military Operations Area). The configuration of these SUA segments in relation to land and water ranges within the RTA Complex provides an exceptional environment for aircraft operations, pilot training, and troop movement.

The activities comprising the Proposed Action would collectivly support and enhance the MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJ mission to maintain combat-ready units for expeditionary deployment and to provide the Marine Corps the capability to sustain a state of military readiness. Almost all of the listed activites would be conducted on and over the installation within existing land ranges, water ranges, and SUA within the RTA Complex. Under the Proposed Action, current training activities and operations would continue. The new activities include High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Battalion training, Joint Logistics Over the Shore (JLOTS) fuel transfer over water training, firing of ground-to-surface and surface-to-ground Missiles into the G-10 Impact Area, waterborne surface to shore firing from the New River into the K-2 Impact Area, and inshore surface vessel training. Range modification activities would include development of an expanded range area, redesignating an impact area, and increasing vehicle maneuver areas.

While MCB Camp Lejeune, including Onslow Beach, is not included in the state coastal zone, portions of the state coastal zone that may potentially be affected by the Proposed Action include the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, the coastal Atlantic Ocean (within 6 km [3 nm]) adjacent to Onslow Beach, and the New River.

2.0 NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT ACT

In 1972, Congress passed the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), which encouraged states to keep the coasts healthy by establishing programs to manage, protect, and promote the country’s fragile coastal resources. Two years later, the North Carolina General Assembly passed the landmark Coastal Area Management Act. The CZMA established the Coastal Resources Commission, required local land use planning in 20 coastal counties, and provided for a program for regulating development. The North

Carolina Coastal Management Program was federally approved in 1978 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

2.1 AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

North Carolina's coastal zone includes the 20 counties that are adjacent to, adjoining, intersected by, or bounded by the Atlantic Ocean or any coastal sound, including Onslow County. There are two tiers within this boundary. The first tier is comprised of Areas of Environmental Concern (AEC) designated by the state. The second tier includes land uses with the potential to affect coastal waters, even though they are not defined as AECs. The coastal zone extends seaward to the three nautical mile territorial sea.

An AEC is an area of natural importance, and its classification protects the area from uncontrolled development. The four categories of AECs are:

1. The Estuarine and Ocean System, which includes public trust areas, estuarine coastal waters, coastal shorelines, and coastal wetlands;
2. The Ocean Hazard System, which includes components of barrier island systems;
3. Public Water Supplies, which include certain small surface water supply watersheds and public water supply well fields; and
4. Natural and Cultural Resource Areas, which include coastal complex natural areas; areas providing habitat for federal or state designated rare, threatened, or endangered species; unique coastal geologic formations; or significant coastal archaeological or historic resources.

The following are results of an analysis of the applicability of policies designed to protect AECs and the proposed project's consistency with those policies, when applicable (Table 2). Policies that are not applicable are mentioned but not discussed in detail.

Table 2. NC Division of Coastal Management Policies and Applicability

15A NCAC Sections		Applicable / Consistent	Not Applicable
07H.0200 The Estuarine and Ocean System	.0203 Management Objective		X
	.0205 Coastal Wetlands	X	
	.0206 Estuarine Waters	X	
	.0207 Public Trust Areas	X	
	.0208 Use Standards		X
	.0209 Coastal Shorelines		X
07H.0300 Ocean Hazard Areas	.0306 General Use Standards		X
	.0308 Specific Use Standards		X
	.0309 Exceptions		X
	.0310 Inlet Hazard Areas		X
	.0311 Sand Fencing		X
	.0312 Beach Fill Standards		X

07H.0400 Public Water Supplies	.0403 Management		X
	.0405 Small Surface Watersheds		X
	.0406 Well Fields		X
07H.0500 Natural and Cultural Resource Areas	.0505 Remnant Species Areas		X
	.0506 Complex Natural Areas		X
	.0507 Unique Geologic Formations		X
	.0508 Use Standards		X
	.0509 Archaeological Resources		X
	.0510 Historic Archaeological Resources		X
07M General Coastal AreaPolicies[1]	.0200 Shoreline Erosion		X
	.0300 Shroeline Access		X
	.0400 Coastal Energy		X
	.0600 Floating Structures		X
	.0700 Mitigation Policy		X
	.0800 Coastal Water Quality		X
	.0900 Use of Coastal Airspace		X
	.1000 Policies on Water and Wetland-Based Target Areas for Military Training Areas		X
	.1100 Policies on Beneficial Use and Availability of Materials Resulting from the Excavation or Maintenance of Navigational Channels		X

1 – Policies “returned to the agency” October 5, 2023

15A North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC) 07H.0200 (Estuarine and Ocean Systems)

15A NCAC 07H .0205 (Coastal Wetlands) defines and establishes management objectives for coastal wetlands. The management objective of this policy is to conserve and manage these resources as an interrelated group so as to safeguard and perpetuate their biological, social, economic, and aesthetic values and to make certain that development occurring within AECs is compatible with natural characteristics so as to minimize the likelihood of substantial loss of private property and public resources. An additional objective is to protect present common-law and statutory public rights of access to the lands and waters of the coastal area.

The proposed action would not result in adverse impacts to coastal wetlands in the coastal zone. Within MCB Camp Lejeune, MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJ would continue to implement the wetland protection measures outlined in the *Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan* for MCB Camp Lejeune. Wetland protection measures include the following:

- Using Best Management Practices for all training-related activities.
- Recovering training areas not suited for training due to erosion.
- Reducing soil erosion and subsequent sedimentation in sensitive riparian habitats, streams, and estuaries.
- Enhancing vegetative recovery onsite by planting native warm season grasses where feasible.
- Using Best Management Practices for all training-related activities.
- Continue to delineate Waters of the U.S. and update MCB Camp Lejeune's Geographic Information Systems stream and wetland layer to provide location information for planning purposes.
- Minimizing impacts to streams and wetlands through early environmental planning with Environmental staff.
- Enforcing the MCB Camp Lejeune 50-foot wetland buffer requirement that minimizes ground disturbance and prevents impacts from construction.
- Coordinating with the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the North Carolina Division of Water Resources to acquire applicable permits for proposed actions on MCB Camp Lejeune.
- Implementing erosion control for training and maintenance activities near streams and wetlands.
- Performing annual inspections of the Greater Sandy Run Area wetland Mitigation Bank to maintain access to mitigation credits.

15A NCAC 07H .0206 (Estuarine Waters) defines and establishes management objectives for estuarine waters "to conserve and manage the important features of estuarine waters so as to safeguard and perpetuate their biological, social, aesthetic, and economic values; to coordinate and establish a management system capable of conserving and utilizing estuarine waters so as to maximize their benefits to man and the estuarine and ocean system." Limited activities within the Proposed Action would occur in or over the estuarine waters (e.g., firing weapons systems from boats and amphibious vehicles from the water to the shore) near MCB Camp Lejeune. However, under the Proposed Action, no construction of any permanent facilities or any new dredging would occur in estuarine waters.

15A NCAC 07H .0207 (Public Trust Areas) defines and establishes management objectives for public trust areas, in order "to protect public rights for navigation, recreation, and to conserve and manage public trust areas in a manner that safeguards and perpetuates their biological, economic, and aesthetic values." The activities within the Proposed Action would not change any existing public access rights in the waters near MCB Camp Lejeune for personal use and enjoyment.

15A NCAC 07H.0300 (Ocean Hazard Areas)

Ocean hazard areas are those areas along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline where, because of their special vulnerability to erosion or other adverse effects of sand, wind, and water, uncontrolled or incompatible development could unreasonably endanger life or property. Ocean hazard areas include beaches, frontal dunes, inlet lands, and other areas in which geologic, vegetative, and soil conditions indicate a substantial possibility of excessive erosion or flood damage. While some activities within the Proposed Action would occur in or over ocean hazard areas, no construction of any permanent facilities or any new dredging would occur.

15A NCAC 07H.0400 (Public Water Supplies)

This policy addresses valuable small surface water supply watersheds and public water supply well fields. These vulnerable, critical water supplies, if degraded, could adversely affect public health or require substantial monetary outlays by affected communities for alternative water source development. The management objective for this policy is to regulate development within critical water supply areas to protect and preserve public water supply well fields and surface water sources. The activities within the Proposed Action do not include development and would not affect areas where there are small surface water supply watersheds or public water supply well fields.

15A NCAC 07H.0500 (Natural and Cultural Resource Areas)

15A NCAC 07H.0507 (Unique Coastal Geologic Formations). Unique coastal geologic formations are defined as sites that contain geologic formations that are unique or otherwise significant components of coastal systems or that are especially notable examples of geologic formations or processes in the coastal area. The management objective for this policy is to preserve unique resources of more than local significance that function as key physical components of natural systems, as important scientific and educational sites, or as valuable scenic resources. No unique geological formations are located within the proposed project area. This policy is not applicable to the Proposed Action.

15A NCAC 07H.0509 (Significant Coastal Archaeological Resources). Significant coastal archaeological resources are defined as areas that contain archaeological remains (objects, features, and/or sites) that have more than local significance to history or prehistory. The management objective for this policy is to conserve coastal archaeological resources of more than local significance to history or prehistory that constitute important scientific sites, or are valuable educational, associative, or aesthetic resources. The activities within the Proposed Action do not include development and would not affect areas where there are significant coastal archaeological resources. Apart from this, MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJ manages a variety of historic and prehistoric cultural resources in accordance with its *Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan*. The plan provides guidance and establishes Standard Operating Procedures for managing cultural resources on MCB CAMLEJ.

2.2 GENERAL POLICY GUIDELINES

The North Carolina Coastal Area Management Act sets forth 11 General Policy Guidelines (two policies on use of coastal airspace and on water- and wetland-based target areas for military training areas are not enforceable), addressing:

- Shorefront access policies
- Coastal energy policies
- Post-disaster policies
- Floating structure policies
- Mitigation policies
- Policies on use of coastal airspace
- Policies on water- and wetland-based target areas for military training areas
- Policies on beneficial use and availability of materials resulting from the excavation or maintenance of navigational channels

The purpose of these rules is to establish generally applicable objectives and policies to be followed in the public and private use of land and water areas within the coastal area of North Carolina.

15A NCAC 07M.0300 (Shorefront Access Policies)

These policies indicate that North Carolina has a responsibility to provide continuous access to ocean beach and estuarine and public trust waters of the coastal region for recreational purposes. These access policies are not applicable to the activities within the Proposed Action because the general public is not allowed unescorted access on MCB Camp Lejeune.

15A NCAC 07M.0400 (Coastal Energy Development Policies)

These policies seek to balance the public benefits attached to necessary energy development against the need to protect valuable coastal resources, the development of energy facilities and energy resources shall avoid significant adverse impacts to coastal resources or uses, public trust areas, and public access rights. These policies are not applicable to the activities within the Proposed Action.

15A NCAC 07M.0500 (Post-Disaster Policies)

These policies require that all state agencies prepare for disasters and coordinate their activities in the event of a coastal disaster. These policies are not applicable to the activities within the Proposed Action. In addition, MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJ has several orders and procedures pertaining to contingency operation, including destructive weather. MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJ Order 3440.1D is the command's Order pertaining to Regional Destructive Weather Operations. The Order is available for review at:

https://www.mcieast.marines.mil/Portals/33/Documents/Adjutant/Orders/03000/MCIEAST-MCB%20CAMLEJO%203440.1D.pdf?ver=43UOLKhYTUr0F8xt3hfRCA%3d%3d

15A NCAC 07M.0600 (Floating Structure Policies)

These policies hold that the general welfare and public interest require that floating structures used for residential or commercial purposes not infringe upon the public trust rights nor discharge into the public trust waters of the coastal area of North Carolina. A structure will be considered a floating structure when it is inhabited or used for commercial purposes for more than 30 days in any one location. These policies are not applicable to the activities within the Proposed Action.

15A NCAC 07M.0700 (Mitigation Policy)

This policy states that coastal ecosystems shall be protected and maintained as complete and functional systems by mitigating the adverse impacts of development as much as feasible, by enhancing, creating, or restoring areas with the goal of improving or maintaining ecosystem function and areal proportion. Mitigation shall be used to enhance coastal resources and offset any potential losses occurring from approved and unauthorized development.

The activities within the Proposed Action do not include development. In addition, MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJ mitigates environmental impacts, in part, with the implementation of its *Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan* and the execution of its range control standing operating procedures, MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJO 3570.1B. The Order is available for review at:

https://www.mcieast.marines.mil/Portals/33/Documents/Adjutant/Orders/03000/MCIEAST-MCB%20CAMLEJO%203570.1B%20Ch%201.pdf?ver=aV1zzDmuJmGvd3ZNc5uRzQ%3d%3d

MCIEAST-MCB CAMLEJ completed several consultations for the Proposed Action and would implement all actions required by the consultations. The consultations include:

- Consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on the Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Services on the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act
- Concurrence from the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer on cultural resource effects findings

15A NCAC 07M.0900 (Policies on Use of Coastal Airspace)

These policies state that access corridors free of SUA designations shall be preserved along the length of the barrier islands and laterally at intervals not to exceed 25 miles to provide unobstructed access both along the coastline and from inland areas to the coast. Development of aviation related projects and associated airspace management practices shall, to the maximum extent practicable, facilitate the use of aircraft by local, state, and federal government agencies for purposes of resource management, law enforcement, and other activities related to public health, safety, and welfare. Access to restricted areas shall be provided on a periodic basis for routine enforcement flights and access shall be provided on an emergency basis when required to respond to an immediate threat to public health and safety. These policies are not applicable to the activities within the Proposed Action because no new SUA would be designated as part of the Proposed Action.

15A NCAC 07M.1000 (Policies on Water- and Wetland-Based Target Areas for Military Training Areas)

These policies state that the use of water and wetland-based target areas for military training purposes may result in adverse impacts on coastal resources and on the exercise of public trust rights. The public interest requires that, to the maximum extent practicable, use of such targets not infringe on public trust rights, cause damage to public trust resources, violate existing water quality standards or result in public safety hazards. The Proposed Action would include the use of floating targets for Waterborne surface to shore firing from the New River into the K-2 Impact Area. Targets would be located on the shoreline and floating in the water. The waterborne targets are existing target systems and are predominantly inflatable and recoverable. This additional activity would not infringe on public trust rights, cause damage to public trust

resources, violate existing water quality standards or result in public safety hazards. This sector of the river would be temporarily closed during this training according to 33 CFR, Part 334, and chase boats would be used to protect the public.

5A NCAC 07M.1100 (Policies on Beneficial Use and Availability of Materials Resulting from the Excavation or Maintenance of Navigational Channels)

This policy states that dredge material resulting from the excavation or maintenance of navigation channels should be used in a beneficial way wherever practicable. The policy is not applicable to the activities within the Proposed Action because new dredging is not part of the Proposed Action.

3.0 ONSLOW COUNTY LAND USE

The Coastal Area Management Act requires local governments in each of the 20 coastal counties in the state to prepare, implement, and enforce a land use plan and ordinances consistent with established state and federal policies. Specifically, local policy statements are required on resource protection; resource production and management; economic and community development; continuing public participation; and storm hazard mitigation, post-disaster recovery, and evacuation plans. Upon approval by the North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission, each plan becomes part of the *North Carolina Coastal Management Program*. Onslow County adopted its Land Use Plan in 2009, and most recently amended the plan in 2024 with the adoption of the Onslow County Comprehensive Plan. For reasons discussed in this request, the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management may find that the proposed activities within the coastal zone are generally excluded from the Onslow County Comprehensive Plan.