

the study. Also, the Feasibility Study will not introduce new impacts to Camp Lejeune habitats, or to species associated with Camp Lejeune or their habitats. Artillery firing which has impacts similar to NGF is already ongoing at Camp Lejeune. Thus, there would be no significant impacts to threatened and endangered species.

The Feasibility Study will result in a minor disruption of vehicle and boat traffic through two one-hour closures of NC Highway 172, Lyman Road, and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW). The AIWW is presently closed about 20 times per year for current Marine Corps training operations. Closing of NC 172 has been less frequent, but has occurred in support of training exercises. Roadblocks will be put in place barring motor traffic on NC 172 and Lyman Road. Range Control boats will be placed on the AIWW to prevent entry into the surface danger zone. Existing warning signs for both facilities will be modified as necessary. The USMC will publish a Notice to Mariners for the date and time of the Feasibility Study.

The location in Onslow Bay from which Naval ships will fire is greater than 10 miles (16 kilometers) from the closest populated or public areas. Based on the 145-decibel level observed at 3,700 feet above sea level (1,128 meters) and the closest land-to-ship distance (greater than 37,000 feet [11,278 meters]), the noise levels on land resulting from NGF are expected to be in the 90-120 decibel range. These levels are considered as low risk of disturbing the public.

In accordance with Camp Lejeune's existing artillery firing procedures, naval guns will not fire at an angle of less than 15 degrees during the Feasibility Study. At 15 degrees or greater, NGF has a higher trajectory and falls at a steeper angle than currently authorized artillery operations. The steeper angle of fall results in an even lower probability of skipping a round. Therefore, firing NGF rounds into the G-10 Impact Area has no greater chance of producing a skipped round than currently authorized and routinely conducted artillery fire into G-10.

Based on information gathered during preparation of the EA, the Marine Corps and the Atlantic Fleet find that implementing the proposed action, the Shore Fire Control Party Feasibility Study, will not significantly impact the human environment. The EA addressing this action is on file and may be reviewed by interested parties at: Commanding General, Consolidated Public Affairs Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542-0004, Telephone: (910) 451-7440.

SEP 14 2001

Date

D. Mize

D. M. Mize
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General
Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune

24 SEP 2001

Date

M. P. Nowakowski

M.P. Nowakowski
Rear Admiral, USN
Director, Shore Activities Readiness
U. S. Atlantic Fleet
(See attached Addendum)