



Focused Environmental Assessment for Pier Replacement at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina

Proposed Action

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort is preparing a focused Environmental Assessment (EA) to replace an existing pier at MCAS Beaufort.

The new pier would be constructed prior to the demolition of the existing pier. Use of the existing pier would be maintained during the entire term of the project with the exception of a brief period of weeks where utility switch overs would occur. Access to the existing Boat Dock would be maintained throughout construction.

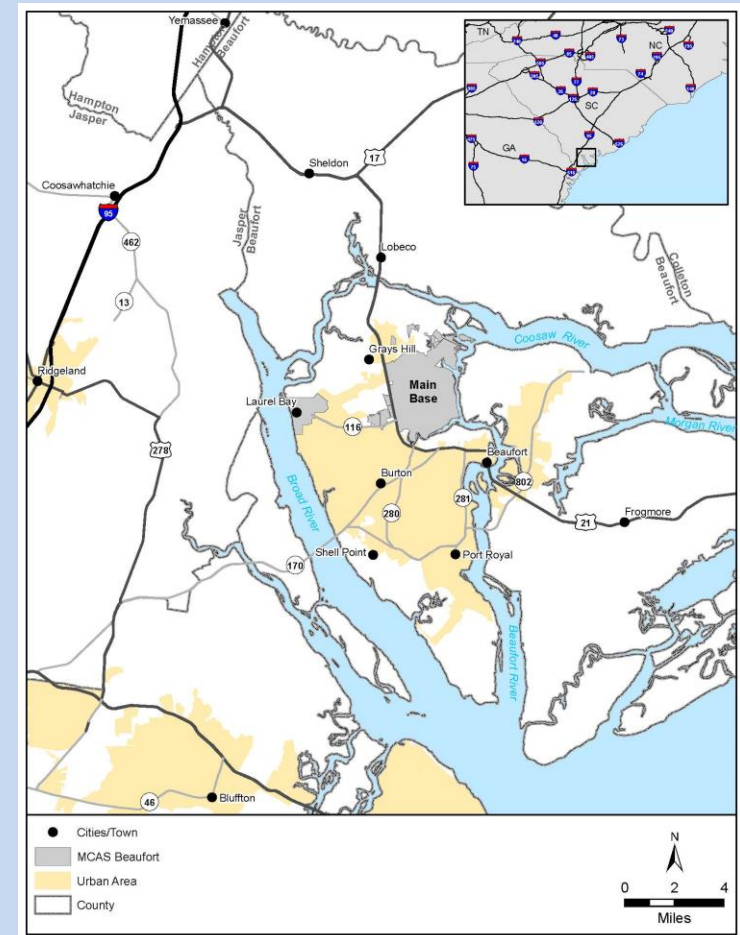
Support activities would include new utility connections (lighting, power, piping, and potable water lines), minor site civil work (riprap and fill), and site demolition. Site demolition would include removing the existing decking, beams, vertical pilings when necessary, utility lines, piping, and mooring dolphins. Existing equipment would be reused if available and in good condition.

This project would provide Antiterrorism/ Force Protection (AT/FP) features and comply with AT/FP regulations and physical security mitigation in accordance with Unified Facilities Criteria 4-020-01 Department of Defense Security Engineering Facilities Planning Manual.

Purpose and Need for Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide a functional, efficient, and safe means of ship to shore operations to support training and readiness at MCAS Beaufort.

The Proposed Action is needed because the pier currently in use, and built in 1957 with an upgrade in 1999, was recently evaluated and received an undesirable engineering assessment. Advanced deterioration and overstressing observed on widespread portions of the structure has resulted in a downgraded capacity. This means the pier cannot support utilities for proper operation. Increased sustainment costs and eventual failure of the pier have been determined to be unacceptable.



Regional Location of MCAS Beaufort



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Action Alternatives

Under Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative), the Marine Corps would replace all of the existing pier at MCAS Beaufort. The existing Boat Dock would be kept and connected to the new pier. The existing pier would be demolished using demolition jaws to cut/crush concrete. Existing pilings would be left in place and cut below the mud line where possible. Pilings that require removal would be demolished by the direct pull method. Demolition and construction under Alternative 1 would take approximately 36 months. The new pier would have an expected life cycle of 50-75 years if properly maintained.

Under Alternative 2, the Marine Corps would replace portions of the existing pier at MCAS Beaufort. This would require demolition and replacement of a majority of the piling caps (those not replaced in 2015) and all of the prestressed deck beams and deck overlay. In addition, the portions of the north side of the pier that are currently not used would be demolished and not replaced. Finally, the piping from the shore as well as any other features that are not used would be demolished. Any pilings that are not reused as part of the repair would be demolished. Pilings being demolished would be left in place and cut below the mud line where possible or removed by the direct pull method. Access to the Boat Dock on the south end of the pier would be maintained throughout construction. Access would be achieved by launching another vessel from the boat ramp located on the southern end of MCAS Beaufort and transiting to the south end of the pier, or by having the contractor provide safe access through the construction site. Demolition and construction under Alternative 2 would take approximately 36 months. The repaired pier would have an expected life cycle of 30-50 years with a more frequent maintenance effort than that needed for the new pier.

Scope of the MCAS Beaufort Pier Replacement Focused EA

The focused EA will present existing conditions at the proposed project site at MCAS Beaufort and evaluate the potential consequences of the Proposed Action on the natural and human environment. Specifically, the EA will assess potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the following resource areas: biological resources, water resources, and health and safety. No significant impact to any resource area is anticipated from implementing the Proposed Action.

The U.S. Marine Corps has coordinated or consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and the South Carolina State Clearinghouse regarding the Preferred Alternative.

For more information on the Proposed Action, please contact:

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