

# ONSLow COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION



April 15, 2015

The Honorable Walter Jones  
Congressman, North Carolina's 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Washington, DC Office  
2333 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

REF: USMC Training Needs – Mile Hammock Bay/New River Inlet

Dear Congressman Jones:

Thank you for your help recently in securing \$500,000 in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding to dredge the shallow draft inlet at New River here in Onslow County. As you recall, the New River Inlet had reached a critical stage, with some areas being less than two feet in depth. Following the efforts of your office, the Corps of Engineers immediately began a side-cast dredging operation that reopened the channel. We are very appreciative of both your efforts and those of the Corps of Engineers.

At the same time Onslow County reached out to your office for assistance, we also contacted Marine Corps Installations East. We informed the Marine Corps of the condition of the inlet and asked whether their training missions have been impacted. Attached is the response we have received from Mr. Assistant Chief of Staff William A. Meier. As you can see from the attached letter, Mile Hammock Bay and New River Inlet are assets which directly impact military training.

Congressman, it is our hope that you are able to use this information to secure long-term funding to maintain channels necessary for our nation's military training needs. As always, Onslow County Government stands ready to support you in any way.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey L. Hudson  
County Manager

CC: The Honorable Board of Onslow County Commissioners  
Mr. William A. Meier, MCI East, MCBCL  
Colonel Kevin P. Landers, USACE

Attachment: (1)



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS EAST-MARINE CORPS BASE  
PSC BOX 20005  
CAMP LEJEUNE NC 28542-0005

3100  
G-7

Mr. Jeffrey L. Hudson  
Onslow County Government  
234 NW Corridor Boulevard  
Jacksonville, North Carolina 28540

Dear Mr. Hudson,

In response to your email of 31 Jan 2015, inquiring as to whether the USMC or USCG are experiencing difficulties with water borne vehicles accessing Onslow Bay through the New River Inlet, the following response is provided:

Mile Hammock Bay (MHB) is a strategic asset for the purpose of providing II MEF units a secondary embarkation/debarkation site other than Morehead City/Wilmington Ports. Additionally, MHB and the New River Inlet often serves as II MEF's primary embark/debark site during amphibious training exercises in Onslow Bay. Therefore, it is vital that the New River Inlet remains passable to support said missions. To accommodate II MEF's operational needs through the inlet, the channel should be dredged to a depth not less than 10 feet and not less than 70 feet in width:

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact my Point of Contact, Mr. Joe Ramirez at (910)451-7645.

Very Respectfully,

*William A. Meier*  
WILLIAM A. MEIER

AC/S G-7

Marine Corps Installations East-  
Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

Copy to:  
Colonel Kevin P. Landers  
Commander, District Engineer  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Wilmington District  
69 Darlington Avenue  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403