

HEADQUARTERS, MARINE CORPS BASE  
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA

Date 29 Aug 80

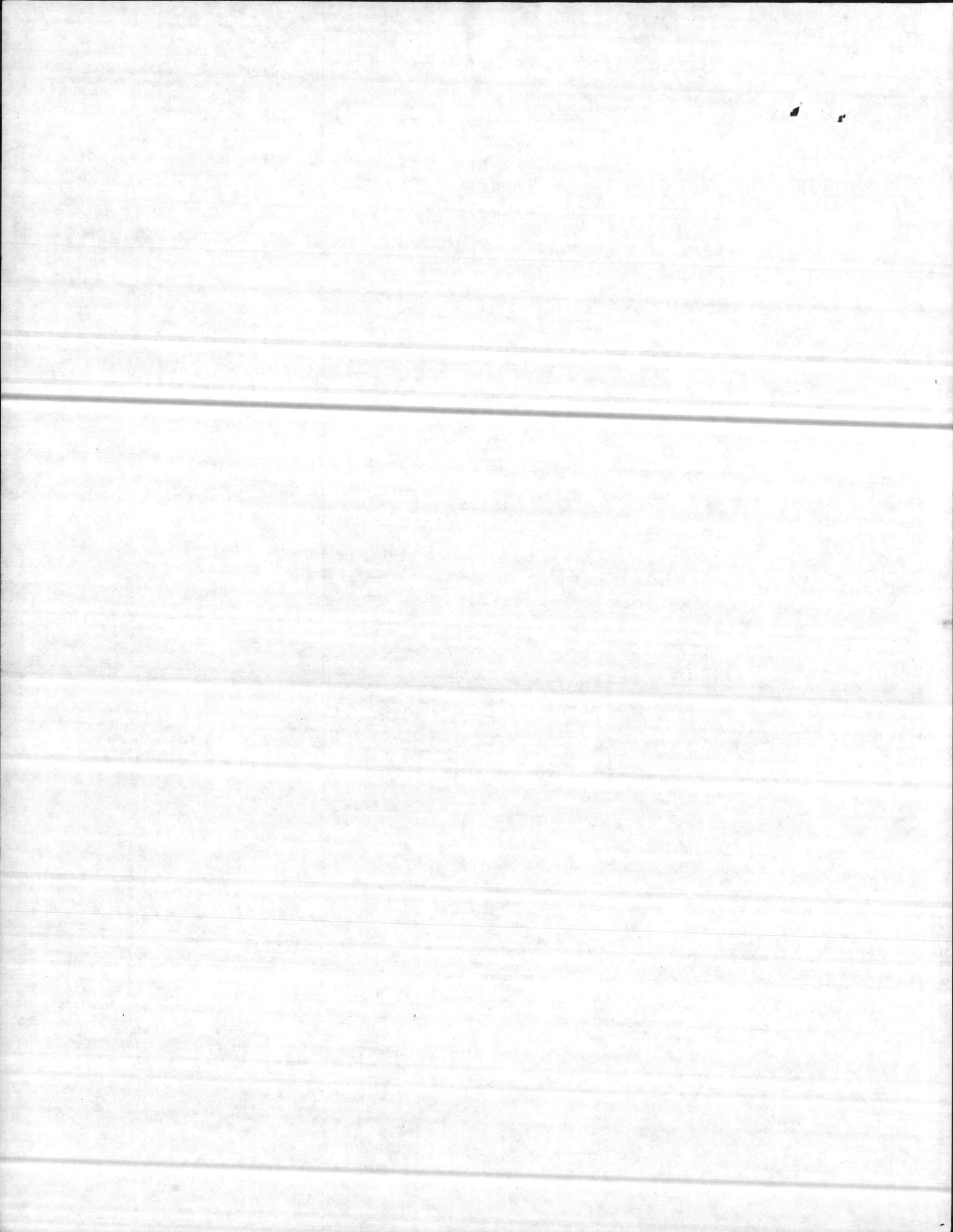
From: Assistant Chief of Staff Facilities

To: Base Maint Officer

Subj: Oil spill

1. The attached memo is provided for your information.
2. If the comments concerning Mr Wooten's statement are correct, I expect that he should come forth with some recommendations on how he can obtain enforcement authority or what the command must do to become effective in these matters. How could we have prevented this spill?
3. This memo has gone to the MBCL 1757 C/S and he is asking what action we are taking.

KPM



OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE  
Marine Corps Base  
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542

SJA/NIR/jms  
6280  
27 Aug 1980

MEMORANDUM

From: Military Affairs Officer  
To: Staff Judge Advocate

Subj: Oil Spill Report Symbol MC 6280-1, spill at Courthouse Bay on  
21 August 1980

1. This spill is a serious one which has potential to harm marine resources in New River. It is a violation of the oil spill prevention countermeasure regulations and the Clean Air Act. This spill, as others, resulted from a total lack of regard for the laws and regulations and as a result of dereliction on the part of persons responsible. For example, Mr. Wooten of Base Maintenance was told by a Lieutenant at the scene that he had better things to do than worry about oil being spilled on the ground. This spill was not the result of an accident, but resulted from inadequate procedures to prevent the occurrence.

2. The Coast Guard was on the scene and took a statement from Mr. Wooten as a witness, and also collected samples of New River. The Coast Guard has indicated that several local fishermen have made reports to the state regarding oil from the Base in New River polluting shell fish. Last Friday, Mr. Wakild of the Wilmington Regional Office of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development indicated he was preparing a letter to the Base <sup>to clarify</sup> ~~granting~~ North Carolina authority to inspect and cite violators of oil spills. Therefore, we can expect some enforcement action. Violation can result in civil and criminal charges.

3. MCB Department of Natural Resources is not receiving the necessary cooperation to enforce the Base's Oil Spill Countermeasure Plan. Mr. Wooten believes he lacks direct enforcement authority and therefore cannot enforce the regulation without command support.

4. Recommendation: I recommend MCB convene an investigation under the Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities, with input from Natural Resources, to determine responsibility for this incident and possible disciplinary action. Prior efforts to obtain cooperation from units of 2d Marine Division appear to be unsuccessful.

*Neal T. Rountree*  
NEAL T. ROUNTREE

