



Environmental Assessment Addressing Repair of the 3rd Battalion Pond Causeway at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina

The Proposed Action

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address repair of the 3rd Battalion Pond Causeway at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island. Repair entails rehabilitation of the roadway on top of the causeway and construction of two channels to replace the existing reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) culverts.

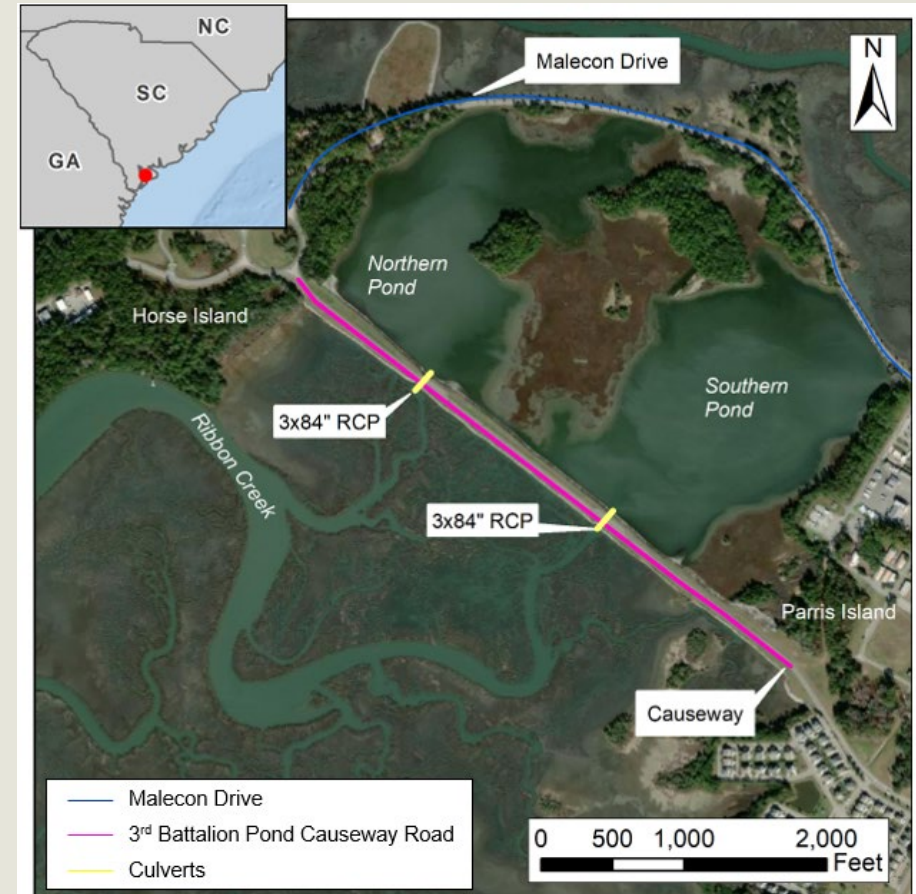
Roadway Rehabilitation. The 4,500-foot-long road on top of the causeway would be resurfaced. Areas requiring further repair would receive full depth replacement of the sub-base. These repairs would provide a pavement service life of 25 years or more.

Culvert Replacement. The six, 84-inch-diameter, RCPs that compose the two existing culverts (i.e., three RCPs per culvert) would be replaced with two, 33-foot-wide, open channels. The open channels would be designed to eliminate the opportunity for water intrusion to create sinkholes beneath the roadway and cause further roadway settlement, prevent exposure of potentially contaminated fill material that composes the causeway, protect against slope erosion, and ensure the current water storage capacity and water quality of the ponds is maintained. A flat slab bridge would be constructed to span each channel.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure public safety and structural standards of the 3rd Battalion Pond Causeway and to maintain redundant vehicle access to MCRD Parris Island.

The Proposed Action is needed because the 3rd Battalion Pond Causeway is one of only two access roads onto MCRD Parris Island and the causeway is deteriorating to the point that it will no longer meet structural standards and will require closure to ensure public safety. Closure of the causeway would eliminate redundant access to MCRD Parris Island and require all traffic to use Malecon Drive.



Location of the 3rd Battalion Pond Causeway



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Construction Timing and Special Considerations

Construction is anticipated to begin during spring 2023 and conclude in summer 2024. The road atop the 3rd Battalion Pond Causeway would be closed to all traffic during this period. All traffic would be directed to Malecon Drive to enter and exit MCRD Parris Island during the construction period.

A temporary sheet pile wall system would be constructed around both ends of the existing culverts to create a cofferdam to establish a dry working environment. The 3rd Battalion Ponds would not be drained, but there would be no tidal exchange while the cofferdam is in place.

Overhead electric lines run along the causeway and would be temporarily relocated underground at the two existing culverts to allow access for construction equipment. Underground communication lines in the vicinity of the two existing culverts would be permanently repositioned.

The causeway was constructed using layers of solid waste, fill dirt, and other debris and currently is regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act as "OU 3 (Causeway Landfill)." The remedy for OU 3 is maintenance of a remedial cover (e.g., the asphalt roadway atop the causeway) over the fill material, land use controls, site inspection and maintenance, and groundwater monitoring. A project-specific Waste Management Plan would be developed and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control because contaminated soil, sediment, and groundwater could be encountered during demolition of the existing RCP culverts, introduction of the new sheet piles, construction of bridge pile foundations, and relocation of underground utilities.

The two existing culverts being demolished and replaced under the Proposed Action were constructed in 1975 and are not considered to be historic structures. All other proposed work (e.g., road repaving) would be in-kind repair and replacement.

Alternatives

The alternatives being considered in the EA are the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. For the No Action Alternative, the 3rd Battalion Pond Causeway would not be repaired, and the existing infrastructure would continue to deteriorate, possibly exposing contaminated fill material and potentially resulting in closure of the causeway.

Scope of the 3rd Battalion Pond Causeway EA

The EA will present existing conditions at the 3rd Battalion Pond Causeway and evaluate the potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative on the natural and human environment. Specifically, the EA will assess potential impacts of the Proposed Action on Biological Resources, Water Resources, Land Use, Hazardous Materials and Wastes, Cultural Resources, Utilities and Transportation, Air Quality, and Noise. No significant impact on any resource area is anticipated from the Proposed Action.

USMC is consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding potential effects on protected species and habitat, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control for a federal coastal consistency negative determination, and the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer and relevant Native American tribal governments regarding potential effects on historic and tribal properties. USMC will also obtain a Section 404 of the Clean Water Act permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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