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From: Commanding General, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point
To: Distribution List

Subj: STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR FIREFIGHTING
OPERATIONS AT PINEY ISLAND, BOMBING TARGET ELEVEN
(SHORT TITLE: SOP OPSMAN, BT-11 FIREFIGHTING)

Ref: (a) AirStaO P3570.2P
(b) OPNAVINST 3710.7R
(c) AirStaO 5090.3

Encl: (1) LOCATOR SHEET

1. Purpose. This Manual provides specific and pertinent information relative to fire mitigation and firefighting procedures within and around BT-11.
2. Information. Reference (a) governs the target facilities and operating areas for MCAS Cherry Point. Reference (b) is the NATOPS General Flight and Operating Instructions. Reference (c) is the Air Station's policy on environmental compliance.
3. Action. Initial point of contact for regarding fire fighting procedures and/or mitigation is the Officer in Charge, Aerial/Surface Targets Department, MCAS Cherry Point, at DSN 582-2956/3231 or commercial 252-466-2956/3231.
4. Certification. Reviewed and approved this date.

ANDREW KOWALSKI
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION: A

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Location: _____
(Indicate location(s) of copy(ies) of this Manual.)

SOP OPSMAN, BT-11 FIREFIGHTING

RECORD OF CHANGES

Log completed change action as indicated.

Change Number	Date of Change	Date Entered	Signature

SOP OPSMAN, BT-11 FIREFIGHTING

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CHAPTER 1

GENERAL INFORMATION

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CHAPTER 1

GENERAL INFORMATION

1000. PINEY ISLAND. Originally acquired by the Marine Corps in the early 1940's, the Piney Island range complex, henceforth referred to as Bombing Target 11 (BT-11) is one of two range complexes designed to support inter and joint-service air-to-ground gunnery and Close Air Support (CAS) missions. The 12,600 acre BT-11 range complex is located at 35 Deg 01'N 076 Deg 28'W or the 078 deg radial at 22 nautical miles from the MCAS Cherry Point, TACAN channel 75 (NKT) (Figure 1-1). The geography of BT-11 is somewhat unique in that the entire complex is located within and surrounded on three sides by Pamlico Sound, and on the fourth by public land, Wildlife Refuges and National Forest. By virtue of BT-11's location alone, it has been determined that in order to protect and preserve not only the physical property and facilities located on BT-11 as well as the public and private property surrounding the complex, detailed, specialized fire mitigation and firefighting procedures are required. This SOP will specifically address the aforementioned procedures to be employed by MCAS Cherry Point tenant activities in order to successfully mitigate the occurrence of fire on BT-11, and by extension protect both DoD and public/private assets on/or surrounding Piney Island.

1001. TECHNIQUES. Several techniques will be employed to mitigate the occurrence of and subsequently control fires on BT-11. First, prescribed/controlled burning of designated areas on Piney Island, and second, the promulgation of detailed firefighting procedures to be employed in the event a fire does occur.

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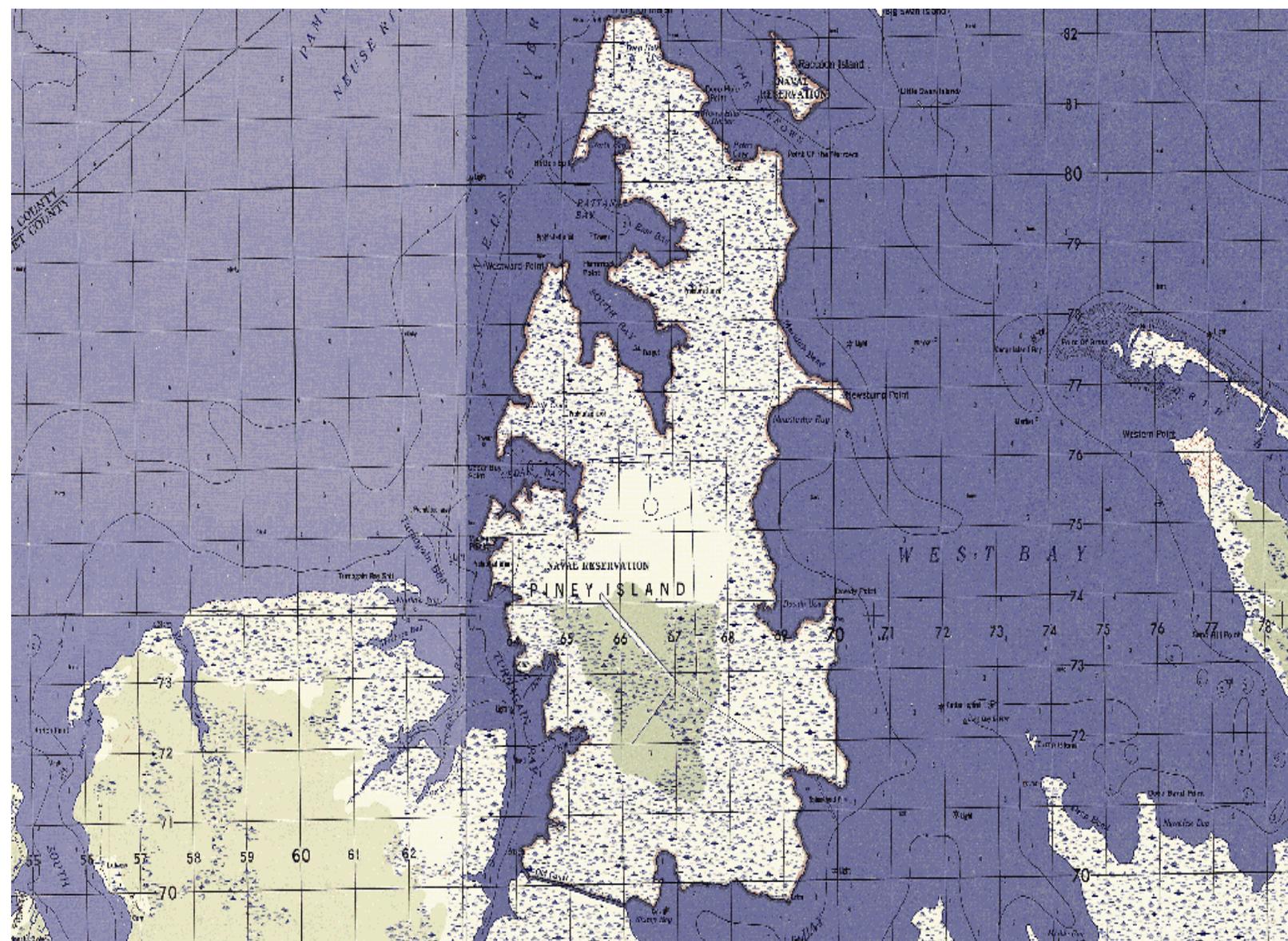


Figure 1-1.--BT-11 MAP

SOP OPSMAN, BT-11 FIREFIGHTING

CHAPTER 2

FIRE MITIGATION PROCEDURES

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CHAPTER 2

FIRE MITIGATION PROCEDURES

2000. GENERAL INFORMATION. Analysis of the terrain, topography, soil conditions and prevailing seasonal weather changes has provided insight as to whether fire mitigation techniques should be employed at BT-11. In short, with respect to protecting valuable government assets and public/private land adjacent to the southern portion of Piney Island, it has been determined that fire mitigation techniques in the form of controlled/prescribed burns are necessary.

2001. PRESCRIBED BURN PROCEDURES. Prescribed burn procedures at BT-11 should be viewed as long-term techniques that will be performed on an annual and/or semi-annual basis. Planning, coordination and execution of the prescribed burns will be conducted by the following tenant activities aboard MCAS Cherry Point; Environmental Affairs Department, Fire Department, North Carolina Forestry Representative, Operations Directorate, Marine Transport Squadron One (VMR-1) and the Aerial/Surface Targets Department (ASTD). Additionally, extensive planning and coordination will be required between ASTD and tenant/using units to ensure that all precautions are taking to ensure the safety of personnel and facilities.

2002. INDIAN DITCH. The aforementioned geographic analysis of BT-11 revealed that with respect to the protection of public/private property, the only way for fire to migrate from BT-11 to lands of this type is by "spotting" over Indian Ditch (Figure 2-1). Indian Ditch is a man-made canal located on the southern-most portion of BT-11 and is approximately 50 feet wide by 5000 feet long. In the past 20 years, there have only been two occasions of fire spotting over Indian Ditch however, this does not negate the fact that prescribed burning can further mitigate events of this type. In particular, it was determined that a 2000 foot wide prescribed burn from Indian Ditch to the north would reduce the possibility of fire spotting across the canal to private land.

2003. COORDINATION. Primary responsibility for coordinating prescribed burns will be the responsibility of the MCAS Cherry Point, Environmental Affairs Department. Planning should include dates for burning (Feb-Apr), graphic depiction of the burn-site, personnel and equipment requirements etc., all subject to approval by the CG, MCAS Cherry Point and/or his direct representative. Said approval is required prior to conducting prescribed burns of any type at BT-11. As ASTD conducts quarterly range maintenance stand-downs, all efforts should be made to ensure that prescribed burns are coincident with the range maintenance stand downs in order to reduce the amount of time the target area is not useable.

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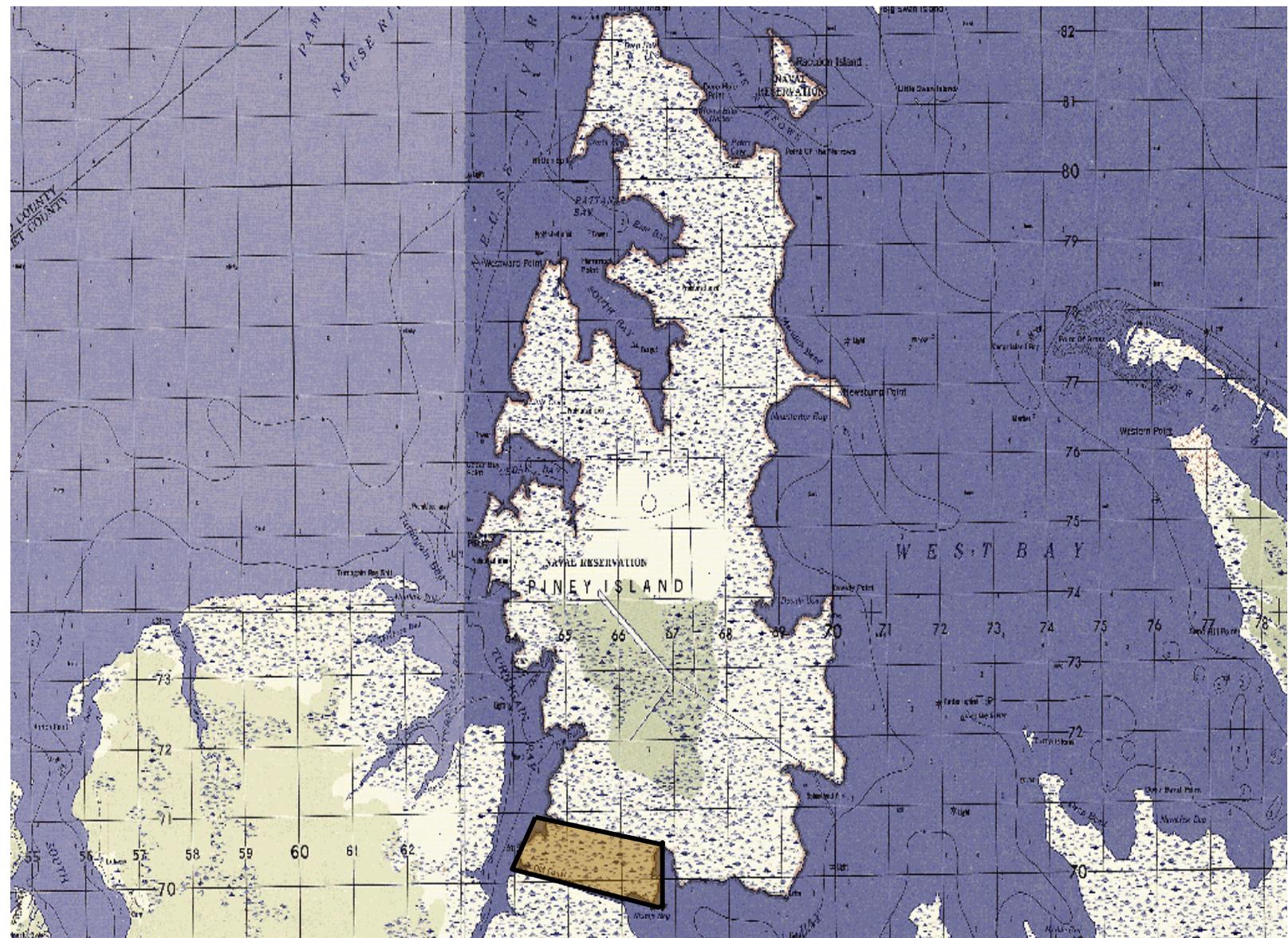


Figure 2-1.--BT-11 PRESCRIBED BURN MAP

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CHAPTER 3

FIRE FIGHTING PROCEDURES

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CHAPTER 3

FIRE FIGHTING PROCEDURES

3000. GENERAL INFORMATION. Although prescribed burns on BT-11 are the most viable means to mitigate the migration of fire from BT-11 to private land, this long-term technique is not viable for preventing the occurrence of fires on the northern two-thirds of Piney Island. It is not feasible to prescribe burn the entire BT-11 range complex, therefore it has been determined that additional procedures are required to combat fires that occur on BT-11 as a result of natural causes or otherwise. Statistically, fires due to natural causes or resulting from the expenditure of aviation ordnance on BT-11 are most prevalent from May through September. It is not uncommon during this timeframe for BT-11 to have 3-5 fire events over a 5-day period. Additionally, solely by virtue of BT-11's location, the aforementioned high-fire period is many times, in direct contrast to local fire incidence values posted by NC Forestry for the Croatan National Forest. To that end, it has been determined the most effective way to combat fires that occur on BT-11 will be to establish firefighting HOT, WARM and COLD zones on Piney Island, with specific procedures in each case (Figure 3-1).

3001. RESPONSIBILITY. Ultimate responsibility for coordination, execution and combating fires on BT-11 will initially rest with the MCAS Cherry Point Operations Directorate. Based on initial estimates of endangerment, G-3 Operations will serve as the focal point for initiating any type of firefighting action on Piney Island. Once action has been initiated, typically when a representative from the MCAS Cherry Point Fire Department (MCASCPFD) in conjunction with the NC Forestry delegate arrive on-scene, control for combating the fire will be passed to the MCASCPFD on-scene commander. It should be noted that personnel on BT-11 are not authorized to make determinations as to whether firefighting procedures should be initiated. They serve only as points of contact in a firefighting phone-tree. Additionally, PEDRO's involvement in nighttime firefighting activities will be determined on a case-by-case basis, once the initial estimates of endangerment have been considered.

3002. FIREFIGHTING ZONES. The establishment of firefighting zones is designed to serve several functions. First, to enable ASTD Range Operations Command Center (ROCC) personnel to accurately locate the fire event on BT-11 and notify higher headquarters the extent to which the fire event endangers facilities and/or personnel. Second, to provide a reference system for ROCC personnel, user unit aircraft and firefighters who may be employed to combat the fire event, exactly where it is located. Third and paramount, the fire zones will be used to determine what type of firefighting action(s) will be taken to combat an event on BT-11. All geographic references are drawn from the Defense Mapping Agency, North Carolina 1:50,000 "Point of Marsh" Topographic Map, Edition 3-DMATC, Series V742, Sheet 5753 IV.

3003. COLD ZONE BOUNDARY. The COLD ZONE on BT-11 covers the northern one-third of Piney Island. The northern-most point of the COLD ZONE commences at Point of Marsh. The COLD ZONE then continues to the south and ends in the vicinity of an east-west road bisecting Cedar Bay. Because the northern portion of BT-11 is relatively sparsely populated with facilities and buildings etc., firefighting actions in the COLD ZONE will primarily consist of monitoring the action of the fire. Direct firefighting actions will be initiated only under the express direction of the Operations Directorate when a facility and/or structure are deemed "AT-RISK."

3004. DURING WORKING HOURS (DWH) COLD ZONE PROCEDURES. The following procedures will be utilized when a fire event occurs in the BT-11 COLD ZONE from 0730-1630:

1. BT-11 ROCC notifies ASTD Scheduling Office (466-4040/4041) of fire in COLD ZONE.
2. ASTD Scheduling Office notifies:
 - a. ASTD OIC (466-2956/3231)
 - b. ASTD SNCOIC (466-4025/3141)
 - c. MCAS Cherry Point Operations Direction (466-3580/6796)
3. Commensurate with information provided, Operations Directorate does/does not initiate firefighting procedures (structure "AT-RISK").

4. If a structure is "AT-RISK", Operations contacts VMR-1 (PEDRO Support), MCAS Cherry Point, EAD (Forestry) and MCAS Cherry Point, Fire Department to coordinate PEDRO launch with Forestry and Fire Department personnel embarked.
5. Once on-scene, command responsibility and authority for firefighting rest with the MCAS Fire Department On-Scene Commander (OSC). His authority includes but is not limited to coordinating ground firefighting actions (local and state), coordinating airborne (PEDRO, local and state) firefighting actions and determining when said operations commence and terminate.
6. The Fire Department OSC is responsible for informing the Operations Directorate, the extent to which the fire endangers property/personnel, procedures to be employed and when firefighting operations have ceased.

3005. AFTER WORKING HOURS (AWH) COLD ZONE PROCEDURES. The following procedures will be utilized when a fire event occurs in the BT-11 COLD ZONE from 1630-0730:

1. BT-11 ROCC notifies:
 - a. ASTD OIC
 - b. ASTD SNCOIC
 - c. MCAS Cherry Point CDO (466-2840/5236/3051)
2. MCAS Cherry Point CDO notifies MCAS Cherry Point Operations Directorate:
 - a. Operations Officer
 - b. Deputy Director
3. Continue with Steps 3 - 6 per paragraph 3004.

3006. WARM ZONE BOUNDARY. The WARM ZONE on BT-11 encompasses the middle one-third of Piney Island. The northern boundary is commensurate with the east-west road bisecting Cedar Bay and extends south to Mulberry Point, then southeast paralleling the Abandoned Runway and its access road to the eastern shoreline of Piney Island. The WARM ZONE is more densely populated than the COLD ZONE and large fires also produce a greater risk of migrating to the southern portion of BT-11 and Indian Ditch. Therefore, a fire occurring in the WARM ZONE will require "IMMEDIATE ASSESSMENT" by firefighting personnel.

3007. DURING WORKING HOURS (DWH) WARM ZONE PROCEDURES. The following procedures will be utilized when a fire event occurs in the BT-11 WARM ZONE from 0730-1630:

1. BT-11 ROCC notifies ASTD Scheduling Office (466-4040/4041) of fire in WARM ZONE.
2. ASTD Scheduling Office notifies:
 - a. ASTD OIC (466-2956/3231)
 - b. ASTD SNCOIC (466-4025/3141)
 - c. MCAS Cherry Point Operations Directorate (466-3580/6796)
3. MCAS Cherry Point Operations Directorate contacts VMR-1 (PEDRO Support), MCAS Cherry Point EAD (Forestry) and MCAS Cherry Point Fire Department to coordinate PEDRO launch with Forestry and Fire Department personnel embarked to assess the fire.
4. MCAS Cherry Point Fire Department OSC assesses fire and subsequently determines whether immediate firefighting actions are required.
5. If immediate firefighting actions are required, PEDRO will combat until fire is deemed no longer a threat or extinguished.
6. If immediate firefighting actions are not required, the MCAS Cherry Point Fire Department OSC will establish a schedule to monitor the fire and coordinate further actions through Operations Directorate to prevent fire incursion into the HOT ZONE or place a structure "AT-RISK."

7. The Fire Department OSC is responsible for informing Operations Directorate the extent to which the fire endangers property/personnel, procedures to be employed and when firefighting operations have ceased.

3008. AFTER WORKING HOURS (AWH) WARM ZONE PROCEDURES. The following procedures will be utilized when a fire event occurs in the BT-11 WARM ZONE from 1630-0730:

1. BT-11 ROCC notifies:
 - a. ASTD OIC
 - b. ASTD SNCOIC
 - c. MCAS Cherry Point CDO (466-2840/5236/3051)
2. MCAS Cherry Point CDO notifies MCAS Cherry Point G-3:
 - a. Operations Officer
 - b. Deputy Director, Operations
3. Continue with Steps 3 - 7 per paragraph 3006.

3009. HOT ZONE BOUNDARY. The HOT ZONE on BT-11 encompasses the southern one-third of Piney Island. The HOT ZONE northern boundary is coincident with the southern boundary of the WARM ZONE and extends southward to Indian Ditch. Any fire in the HOT ZONE will require "IMMEDIATE FIREFIGHTING" operations to commence.

3010. DURING WORKING HOURS (DWH) HOT ZONE PROCEDURES. The following procedures will be utilized when a fire event occurs in the BT-11 HOT ZONE from 0730-1630:

1. BT-11 ROCC notifies ASTD Scheduling Office (466-4040/4041) of fire in HOT ZONE.

2. ASTD Scheduling Office notifies:

- a. ASTD OIC (466-2956/3231)
- b. ASTD SNCOIC (466-4025/3141)
- c. MCAS Cherry Point Operations Directorate (466-3580/6796)

3. MCAS Cherry Point Operations Directorate contacts VMR-1 (PEDRO Support), MCAS Cherry Point EAD (Forestry) and MCAS Cherry Point Fire Department to coordinate PEDRO launch with Forestry and Fire Department personnel embarked to commence firefighting procedures.

4. MCAS Cherry Point Fire Department acting as the OSC will assist PEDRO in the conduct of airborne firefighting until such time that the fire is either extinguished or exceeds the capability of PEDRO to combat the fire.

5. If the OSC determines that additional assets are required to combat the HOT ZONE fire he will notify Operations Directorate. Upon the OSC's recommendation, Operations Directorate will act as the single Point of Contact (POC) for initiating procedures to utilize local and state firefighting assets on government property. It should be noted that Memorandums of Agreement exist between MCAS Cherry Point and several county/state agencies whereby MCAS Cherry Point provides military firefighting assets if requested on a case-by-case basis.

6. The Fire Department OSC is responsible for informing Operations Directorates the extent to which the fire endangers property/personnel, procedures to be employed and when firefighting operations have ceased.

3011. AFTER WORKING HOURS (AWH) HOT ZONE PROCEDURES. The following procedures will be utilized when a fire event occurs in the BT-11 HOT ZONE from 1630-0730:

1. BT-11 ROCC notifies:

- a. ASTD OIC
- b. ASTD SNCOIC
- c. MCAS Cherry Point CDO (466-2840/5236/3051)

2. MCAS Cherry Point CDO notifies MCAS Cherry Point Operations Directorate:
 - a. Operations Officer
 - b. Deputy Director, Operations
3. Continue with Steps 3 - 6 per paragraph 3010 ON PAGE 3-8.

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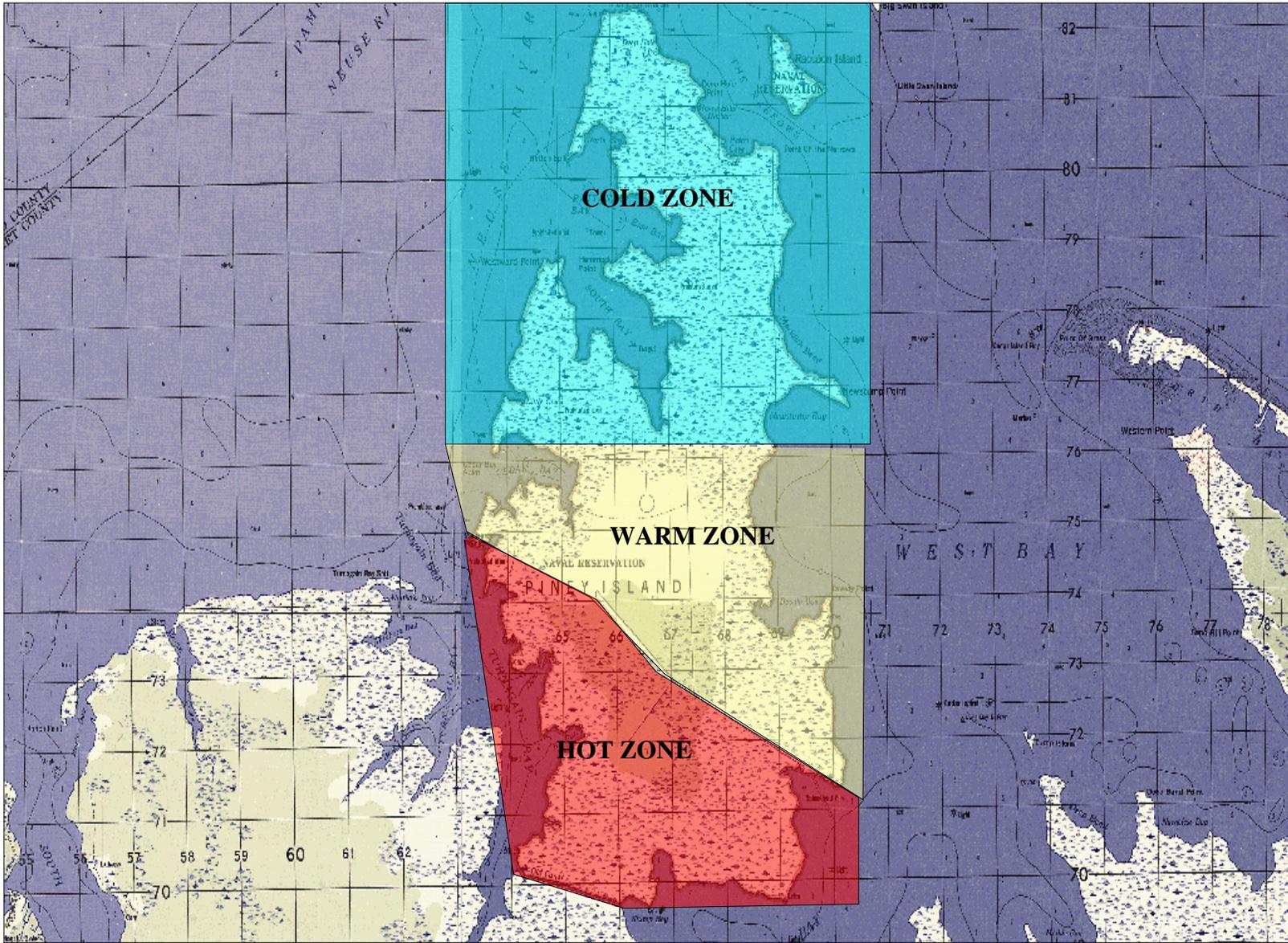


Figure 3-1.--BT-11 FIRE ZONE MAP

SOP OPSMAN, BT-11 FIREFIGHTING

APPENDIX A

PHONE TREE

NAME	DEPARTMENT	PHONE NUMBER
MCAS Cherry Point	CDO	466-2840/5236/3051
Director of Operations	G-3	466-5175 (W)
Deputy Director, Operations	G-3	466-3580/6796 (W)
Operations Officer	G-3	466-6796/3580 (W)
ASTD OIC	G-3	466-2956/3231 (W)
ASTD SNCOIC	G-3	466-4025/3141 (W)
Executive Officer	VMR-1	466-4660 (W)
Director	EAD	466-4549 (W)
NC Forestry	EAD	466-5650 (W)
Fire Chief	MCAS FIRE DEPARTMENT	466-2241/2351 (W)
Carteret County Forestry	Operations	(252) 670-8323 (C)
NC Forestry	Operations Group	(252) 514-4764 (W)