

HOLMES & HARVEY

ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS

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Lewis Corman

TO: John Paolozzi

CHANNELS, BIKINI ATOLL

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DATE

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The following sites were visited and a thorough survey was made to determine the best possible location for new channels and necessary improvements to present established channels.

Site Nan: The present channel is adjacent to the north side of an LCU wreck on the beach. This channel was blasted out but blasting was discontinued due to the lack of dynamite at the time. The channel is about forty-five feet wide at the beaching area and widens out gradually to approximately one hundred feet at one hundred and fifty feet out from the beach.

Recommend the width of the present channel be increased to seventy-five feet at the beach area and continued out until the channel joins the 'natural' channel at the seventy-five foot width. This spot will be about seventy-five feet from the beach.

Site George: The channel at Site George is being used by all marine craft at all tides. For stepped up operations the beach area should be cut at right angles to the channel. The natural beach line necessitates the LCUs beach at almost forty-five degrees across the channel. This takes up too much channel space and put the stern of an LCU close to the west edge of the channel.

Site Dog: This channel is a small break in the reef. Only LCUs have been able to land equipment on low tides and in calm weather. The beach area is of jagged coral for about fifty feet out.

Recommend that the jagged edge of the beach be leveled off by blasting for low tide reef landings and a mole about one hundred feet long be built out to deep water. I understand that this landing spot will not be necessary due to a causeway being constructed that will connect Sites Dog, Easy, and Fox with Site George where a good tidal channel is located.

Site Able: Four possible channels were examined at Site Able. All these channels required considerable blasting and dredging. The most suitable channel was found at the western end of Site Able where the sand spit joins high ground and vegetation. The approach to the channel is through a two hundred foot opening in the reef to the edge of the solid shelf about five-hundred feet from the beach. The width of the channel at the

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this shelf could be smoothed down to permit the beaching of an LCU at this point on low tides to discharge equipment necessary to build a mole as planned. The bottom on the ledge is fairly flat and sandy with a mixture of smooth surfaced coral rocks. The maximum water over this ledge averages about two feet at zero tide. This spot is fairly calm considering the rest of the island.

Recommend blasting about one hundred feet of the outer edge of the ledge to a width of one hundred feet and construct a mole the remainder of the way (about 350 ft.).

Site Yoke: Site Yoke has one possible entrance. This is on the lagoon side and in the lee of the reef jutting out from the north-east end of the island. The channel runs in a north and south direction. The channel is about five hundred feet long. The outer two hundred feet average about five feet at zero tide. In this two hundred foot length of channel there are about thirty small coral heads with a controlling depth of two feet at zero tide. LCU operators have picked their way between these coral heads on a three foot tide to off load a Dukw but have several times incurred damage to their craft in backing away to head out of the channel.

Recommend the outer two hundred feet of this channel be blasted free of coral heads to a width of about one hundred feet and a mole be constructed the remainder of the way, about three-hundred feet. Equipment for the mole construction job would have to be landed from an LCU at low tide on the reef at the Eastern end of the island. This spot would have to be cleared of coral heads for about seventy-five feet. A relatively calm day would be required for this beaching. The possibility of beaching on the ocean side of the island was surveyed and found impracticable. Wind and seas would hit the LCU on the starboard beam and considerable blasting would be necessary to reach on a smooth solid rock beach. From the point of beaching, the equipment would have to be moved about two hundred feet over rough coral heads with deep water (average to four feet) between them. NOTE: I understand that at all times a narrow channel into

Site Yoke / (to be done) /

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[Name]

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