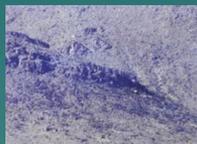


Proposed 29 Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project



Proposed Land Acquisition and Airspace Establishment in Support of Large-Scale MAGTF Live Fire and Maneuver Training

Public Information Brief
February 25, 2011

Marine Air Ground Task Force
Training Command/
Marine Corps Air Ground
Combat Center
(MAGTFTC/MCAGCC)
Twentynine Palms, CA



We Must Train As We Fight



Operation Iraqi Freedom demonstrated a requirement for Marine Expeditionary Brigades to receive sustained, combined arms, live fire and maneuver training.



We Must Train As We Fight



MCAGCC 29 Palms – Range 215



AL SAQLAWIYAH, Iraq –
Marines with 3rd Battalion,
5th Marine Regiment, patrol
through urban streets during
Operation Saqlawiyah.

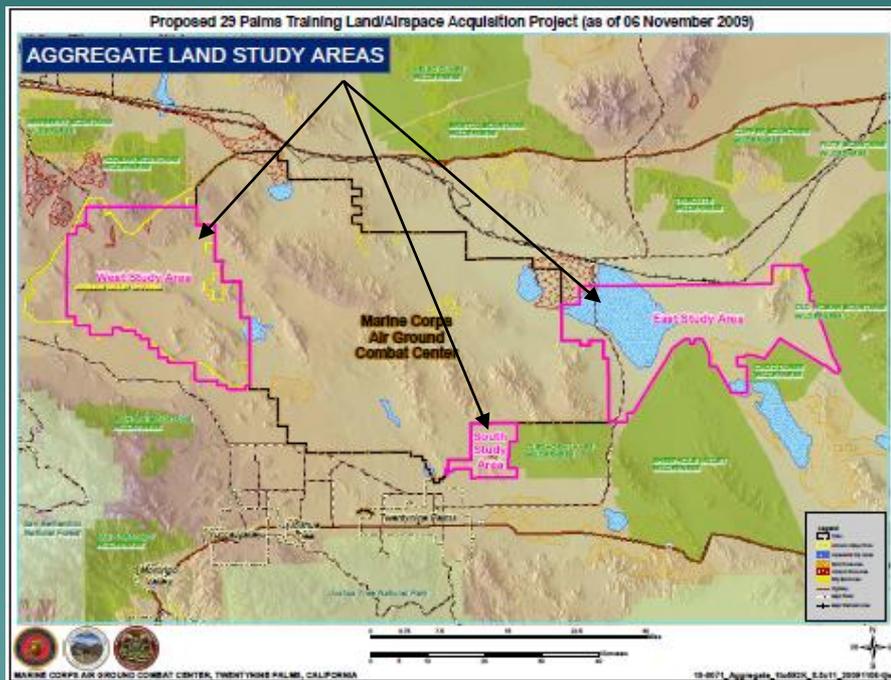


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Lands to the west, south and east of 29Palms have been studied in the NEPA process. The BLM “withdrawal” application requested that public lands be reserved from competing future claims during the study period.

- *Public access and recreation are not affected during the study process.*

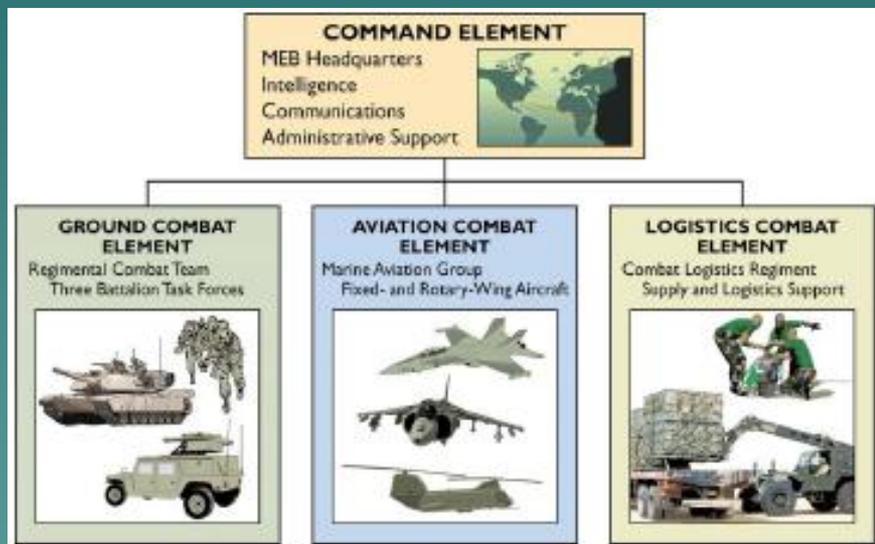


BLM Withdrawal Application

- ♦ The Department of the Navy, on behalf of the Marine Corps, submitted a “withdrawal of public lands” application in August 2008.
 - ♦ BLM published Segregation Notice in September 2008 and public lands within the study areas were reserved from competing future claims for two years.
 - ♦ In June 2009, the Department of the Navy relinquished its interest in approximately 60,000 total acres of land— about 15% of the total, reducing the study area to about 379,000 acres.
 - ♦ In September 2010, BLM published a Notice of Withdrawal in Aid of Legislation to continue to reserve the public lands from competing claims to allow the EIS study to be completed.
- ♦ After the NEPA process, if necessary, any withdrawal of public lands would require congressional approval. Fair market value would be paid for any non-federal lands acquired.



Marines Must Train As We Fight



Operational Requirement

- ♦ Marines deploy as a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF).
- ♦ Marines must train as a Marine Expeditionary Brigade MAGTF (MEB) to deploy around the globe.
- ♦ A MEB, about 15,000 Marines, includes:
 - ♦ a Command Element;
 - ♦ a Ground Combat Element built around a Regimental Combat Team (three battalions);
 - ♦ an Aviation Combat Element built around a Marine Aviation Group;
 - ♦ a Logistics Combat Element built around a Combat Logistics Regiment.
- ♦ MEB training requires a sustained (48-72 hours), combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver training exercise.
- ♦ No military range in the DoD inventory – including MCAGCC – is currently sufficient to support MEB training.



The Marine Corps Training and Education Command Assessed Alternatives Against These Factors

Critical Training Requirements

- ◆ Three Battalion Task Forces abreast converging onto a MEB objective
- ◆ 48-72 hours of continuous offensive operations toward the MEB objective
- ◆ Integrated air and ground live fires with optimized freedom of action (within reasonable constraints)

Other Evaluation Criteria

Land and Airspace that allow for:

- ◆ Employment of current and future weapons systems and munitions
- ◆ Employment of tactical communications and logistics over extended distances
- ◆ Contiguity with current MCAGCC land
- ◆ Avoiding parks, critical habitat, wildlife refuges and wilderness areas
- ◆ 1000 meter buffer between live-fire areas and base boundary



Airspace Alternatives Would Also Be Studied

- ◆ Proposed land acquisition alternatives would require establishment or modification of Special Use Airspace to meet requirements for Marine Air Ground Task Force Training.
- ◆ Each action alternative being studied in the EIS has varying degrees of training land acquisition and Special Use Airspace establishment or modification.
- ◆ Any Special Use Airspace established or modified would be managed, as it is now, to release it for use by all aircraft in the National Airspace System when not needed for military training.



A Range of Reasonable Alternatives Were Evaluated in DEIS

- ◆ Five land acquisition alternatives for meeting MEB training requirements were presented to the public during scoping.
- ◆ Based on public comments and further examination of training requirements, terrain, property ownership and other factors, the five were modified – resulting in removing 15% of lands from the study area.
- ◆ A sixth land acquisition alternative was developed to accommodate public access while better meeting MEB training requirements.
- ◆ All Alternatives received the same degree of analysis regarding environmental impacts associated with selecting them.

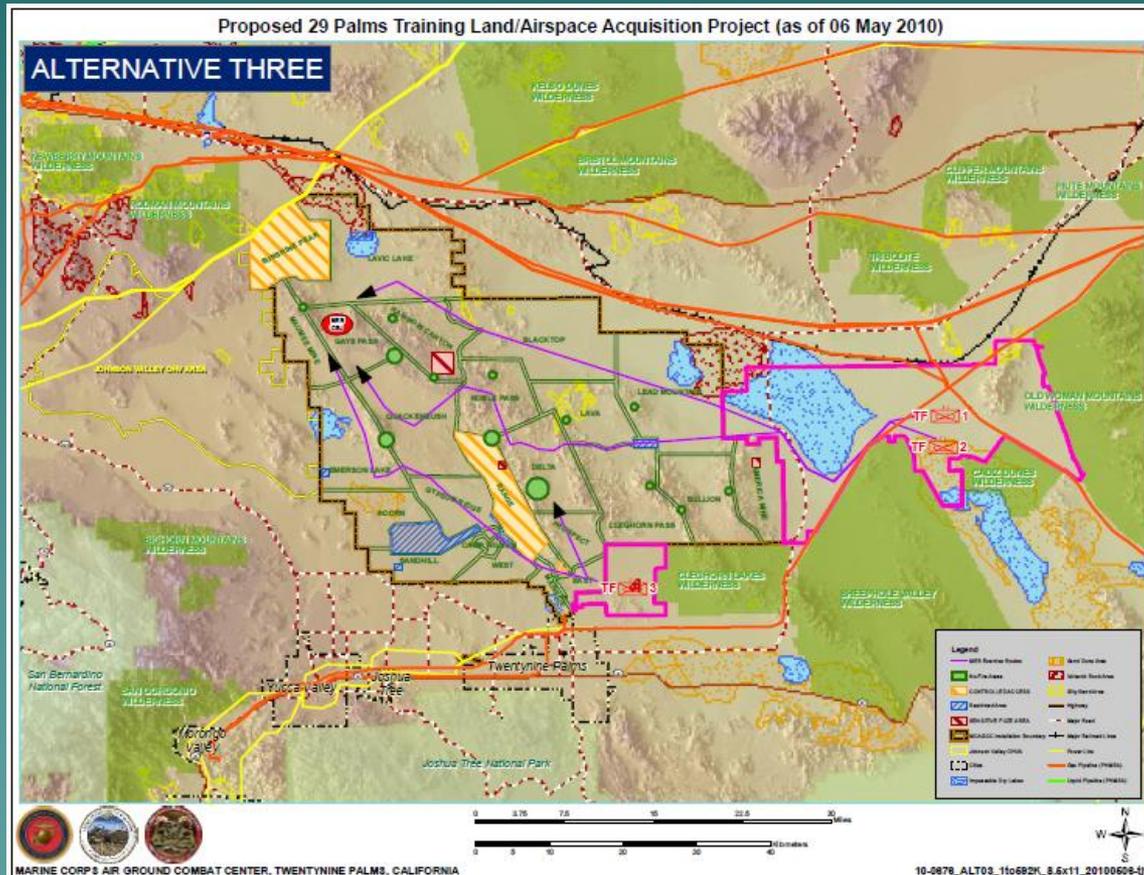
Supporting Airspace Alternatives

- ◆ Alternatives to establish and modify Special Use Airspace were developed to support the training in any newly acquired lands.
 - ◆ One airspace alternative would support land acquisition Alternatives 1, 4 and 5.
 - ◆ Three separate airspace alternatives were developed for each of land acquisition Alternatives 2, 3 and 6.



Alternative 3 – South/East

- ♦ About 21,000 acres south/177,000 acres east
- ♦ Maneuver would start from the south and east study areas and the MEB battalions would converge on an objective within the current MCAGCC base in the northwest.



Proposed 29 Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project



Airspace Establishment and Modification Proposed Under EIS Land Acquisition Alternative 6 Days and Hours of Proposed Usage of SUA



R-XXXX parameters:

Alt	Hours	Days
FL180	8	160
	12	34
FL270	24	6
FL400*	12	6

*Not to exceed 40 hours per year

Johnson Valley MOA/ATCAA parameters:

Alt	Hours	Days
FL180	8	160
	12	34
FL 270	24	6
FL 400*	12	6

*Not to exceed 40 hours per year

Sundance MOA parameters:

Alt	Hours	Days
FL 270	12	20X2

For a total of 40 days/yr.
24-hour operations.

Bristol MOA/ATCAA parameters:

Alt	Hours	Days
FL 220	8	M-F
FL 270	12	6
FL 400*	12	6

*Not to exceed 40 hours per year

CAX Corridor MOA/ATCAA parameters:

Alt	Hours	Days
FL270	12	6
FL 400*	12	6

*Not to exceed 40 hours per year

Turtle MOA parameters:

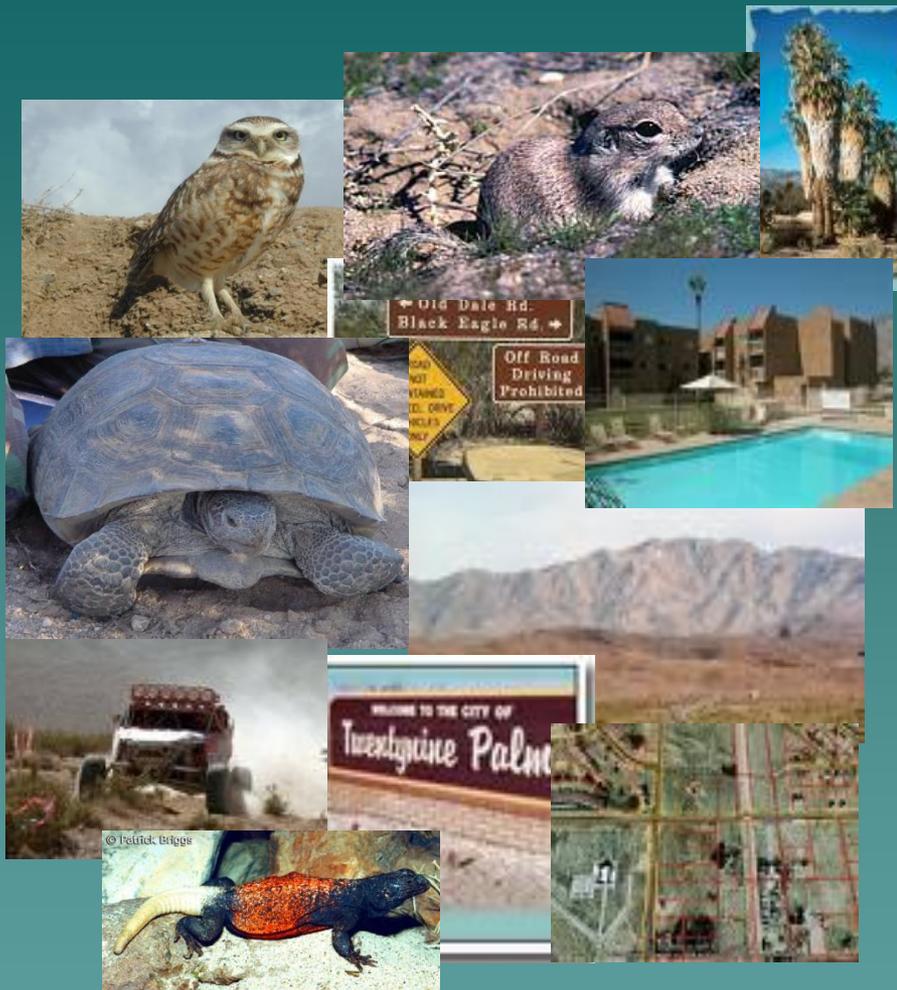
Alt	Hours	Days
FL 220	10	M-F
FL 270	12	6
FL 400*	12	6

*Not to exceed 40 hours per year



Path Forward

- Published Draft EIS, February 2011
- Public Comment Period, Feb 25 to May 26, 2011
- Public Comment Meetings, April 12 (Joshua Tree), April 13 (Ontario) and April 14 (Victorville)
- ◆ Evaluate Public Comments
- ◆ Publish Final EIS, December 2011
- ◆ Publish Record of Decision (ROD), April 2012
- ◆ If required by the ROD:
 - ◆ Submit land withdrawal legislation request, 2012
 - ◆ Commence FAA air space proposal processes to consider establishment or modification of MCAGCC Special Use Airspace, 2012
 - ◆ Federal Land Withdrawal, 2012
 - ◆ Prepare Resource Management Plan or Amend Existing Plan, 2012-2014
 - ◆ Acquire State/Private Lands, 2012-2014
 - ◆ Complete FAA airspace review processes, 2013
 - ◆ Complete Necessary Training Range Improvements, 2014
 - ◆ Implement and Sustain Required Mitigation, 2014 and beyond
 - ◆ Commence MEB-Level Training, 2015



Proposed 29 Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project



Conclusion

- ◆ To meet our required service-level training, the Marine Corps is studying reasonable training land acquisition and special use airspace establishment alternatives in the area near the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, CA.
- ◆ The Marine Corps pledges to seek only those lands and airspace needed and to continue our tradition of outstanding environmental stewardship. The Marine Corps is proud of this tradition, as well as of our good neighbor practices in the High Desert.
- ◆ Throughout the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, stakeholders have had and will have opportunities to review alternatives, the completed studies that support NEPA compliance, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and the final decision made for a project that seeks the resources necessary to train Marines as they must fight.
- ◆ We look forward to working with you throughout the NEPA process, receiving your comments, and using them to develop the right plan to meet Marine Corps training requirements while we also help to preserve the region's resources for generations to come.

Proposed 29 Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project



For Further Information
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QUESTIONS?