



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

**Land Acquisition/Airspace Establishment in Support of
Large-Scale Training Exercises**



The Project Update Notices provide new information to augment public documents available on MCAGCC's Land Acquisition Study webpage.

Project Update Notice #21, October 2016

➤ **Notice of Availability for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)**

- The Notice of Availability for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the Land Acquisition and Airspace Establishment to Support Large-Scale Marine Air Ground Task Force Live-Fire and Maneuver Training at MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, California Final EIS, was published in the Federal Register on September 30, 2016. In conjunction with the Draft SEIS Notice of Availability, the Department of the Navy published a Notice of Public Meetings.
- The SEIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts of alternative plans and locations for implementing a Desert Tortoise Translocation Program in support of MEB-sized training exercises on newly acquired lands. It examines in detail the environmental effects associated with biological resources, land use, air quality, and cultural resources.
- The Notice of Intent to prepare a SEIS was published in the Federal Register on August 24, 2016. Since the 2012 Final EIS and 2013 Record of Decision (ROD), the Marine Corps conducted detailed studies and worked cooperatively with USFWS and BLM on alternative translocation plans for the desert tortoise, as required in the 2012 Biological Opinion (BO) and 2013 ROD. In light of new information gained from these efforts, the Department of the Navy (DoN) elected to prepare a SEIS focusing on the evaluation of potential impacts of alternative tortoise translocation plans; BLM is a cooperating agency on the SEIS.
- The public is invited to comment for a period of 45 days, from September 30, 2016 to November 14, 2016. Three public meetings will be held during this period:

Tuesday, October 25, 2016, 5:00pm – 8:00pm
Joshua Tree Community Center
6171 Sunburst Street
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Wednesday, October 26, 2016, 5:00pm – 8:00pm
Palm Springs Convention Center
277 N. Avenida Caballeros
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Thursday, October 27, 2016, 5:00pm – 8:00pm
Barstow Harvey House
681 N. 1st Avenue
Barstow, CA 92311

- Comments can be made at the meetings and also through the website: www.SEISforLAA.com, or by mail to the following address:

29Palms SEIS Project Team
c/o Cardno Government Services
3888 State Street, Ste. 201
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

- In addition, persons who wish to be added to the mailing list may send a request to the SEIS project manager at the above address, or call 760-830-3737.

For Further Information Please Contact

29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project
(web) <http://www.29palms.marines.mil/Staff/G5-Government-and-External-Affairs/Johnson-Valley/>
(e-mail) SMBPLMSJOHNSONVALLEY@usmc.mil – (phone) 760-830-3737
(mail) MAGTFTC, MCAGCC, Bldg. 1417, Box 788105, Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8105

- More information on the Draft SEIS, background and historical documents, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and locations other than the website where the Draft SEIS can be read are included on the website:

www.SEISforLAA.com.

➤ **Temporary closure of the Johnson Valley Shared Use Area**

- The outcome of the SEIS will not affect current established boundaries of MCAGCC, the Shared Use Area, or the Johnson Valley Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Area. Consistent with federal law, BLM will continue to manage the nearly 56,000 acre Shared Use Area for 10 months of the year during which it is available to the public for recreational use. The Marine Corps will manage the land during the up-to two 30-day periods of the year for military training.
- The Johnson Valley Shared Use Area will be temporarily closed to the public August 1-30, 2017 for military training. As with August 2016 training, the closure period will include the time required to ensure the Shared Use Area is clear of recreation prior to training and to confirm the land is clear of hazards prior to reopening to the public. The adjacent Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area will remain open to the public during Shared Use Area closure.
- The Marine Corps will continue robust outreach to ensure the public is informed of the temporary change in land use as training approaches, is conducted, and concludes.
- Representatives from the Marine Corps and the Bureau of Land Management will host a Resource Management Group meeting at the Lucerne Valley Community Center on April 1, 2017, from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to communicate the Marine Corps' plans to conduct a large-scale exercise that will include training in the congressionally established Shared Use Area during the closure August 1-30, 2017. Information concerning temporary land closures in the Johnson Valley and public safety information will be discussed with attendees. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

For Further Information Please Contact

29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project

(web) <http://www.29palms.marines.mil/Staff/G4InstallationsandLogistics/LandAcquisition.aspx>

(e-mail) SMBPLMSCOMBATCENTERPAO@usmc.mil – (phone) 760-830-3737

(mail) MAGTFTC, MCAGCC, Bldg. 1417, Box 788105, Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8105