



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING COMMAND  
MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER  
BOX 788100  
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA 92278-8100

CCO 3140.1

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SEP 27 2012

COMBAT CENTER ORDER 3140.1

From: Commanding General  
To: Distribution List

Subj: DESTRUCTIVE WEATHER READINESS BILL

Ref: (a) NAVMETOCCOMINST 3140.1M  
(b) OPNAVINST 3140.24F  
(c) NAVAIR 00-80T-115  
(d) NAVSEA OP 5 Vol. 1  
(e) NAVAIR 06-502  
(f) <https://intranet.mciwest.usmc.mil/palms/MAGTFTC%20G3/pages/MCAGCC%20Weather.aspx>.

Encl: (1) Local Forecast Area and Local Flying Area Map

1. Situation. To promulgate information on hazardous and destructive weather and to establish procedures for setting conditions of readiness in anticipation of storms, high winds, and other hazardous or destructive weather at Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command (MAGTFTC), Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC).

2. Mission. To provide guidance, information, and procedures for use in the event of destructive weather in accordance with the references. To recommend to the Regional Meteorological and Oceanographic (METOC) Center (RMC) to establish weather conditions of readiness for the Combat Center.

3. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent

(a) Storms are a potential threat to personal safety, aircraft, equipment, and installations. Adequate and timely warnings, coupled with prompt and effective action by all personnel will minimize the loss and damage resulting from destructive weather.

(b) Currently, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 (MWSS-374) has hangar space at the Strategic Expeditionary Landing Field for the stowage of a limited number of aircraft. To ensure airfield services are available during aircraft departures, should unusual conditions require aircraft evacuations, the flyaway will be coordinated with the Commanding Officer, MWSS-374.

Distribution Statement A: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

(2) Concept of Operations

(a) The Commanding General (CG), MAGTFTC, MCAGCC sets and secures hurricane and tropical storm conditions and will issue the appropriate condition of readiness for the Combat Center.

(b) As local weather conditions dictate, conditions of readiness at a greater level than those set by higher authority may be set.

(c) Such weather conditions of readiness apply to all station, tenant, transient detachments, and units located aboard the Combat Center.

(d) Coordinate with tenant commands to ensure that ample assets and time are utilized in the most efficient and effective manner.

b. Subordinate Elements Missions

(1) Commanding Officers, Assistant Chiefs of Staff, Directors, and Officers In Charge. Each section, directorate, and tenant unit should establish procedures for material readiness in the event of destructive weather.

(2) Assistant Chief of Staff G-1, Adjutant. The MAGTFTC, MCAGCC Command Duty Officer (CDO) is designated the afterhours destructive weather team activator. The CDO will receive a call from the METOC staff noncommissioned officer in charge or duty forecaster informing them of the impending weather warning. Upon notification of impending weather warning, the CDO will immediately notify the installation emergency manager.

(3) Assistant Chief of Staff G-3

(a) Combat Camera. Publish the most up to date information on inclement weather via appropriate means.

(b) Range Control (BEARMAT). Pass essential information to units training in the various ranges of Twentynine Palms.

(4) Assistant Chief of Staff G-5. Publish the most up to date weather warnings via the appropriate means.

(5) Assistant Chief of Staff G-7. Responsible for the MAGTFTC, MCAGCC emergency management plan and the operation of the Emergency Operations Center.

(6) Commanding Officer, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374. In the event aircraft are on deck, the Commanding Officer, MWSS-374 may establish a more stringent condition of readiness if required, see reference (f).

(7) Meteorological and Oceanographic Staff Noncommissioned Officer In Charge

(a) Keep the CG, via appropriate chain of command, informed of current weather conditions and maintain liaison with the RMC for updated local warnings and advisories as appropriate.

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(b) Inform all activities listed on the warning call out sheet, reference (f), and any visiting squadrons, when any weather warnings or conditions of readiness are set, amended, extended, or cancelled. The RMC is the primary disseminator of all warnings and conditions of readiness, utilizing the mass communication callout system. The RMC is an automated system; it will be the responsibility of the receiving activity to ensure that their personnel are aware when conditions are set.

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Conditions of Readiness for Weather Warnings aboard the Combat Center

(a) The setting of windstorm, tropical storm, hurricane, thunderstorm, and tornado conditions, as required by reference (b), will be in accordance with the conditions outlined in paragraph 3c(2).

(b) The hurricane season for this locale exists annually, from 15 May through 30 November. During this period, the Combat Center will automatically assume hurricane condition five.

(c) Winter storms (non-tropical in nature) with potentially destructive effects disrupt operations, endanger life and property, and may occur occasionally in the high desert area. The winter storm season affects the area from 1 December through 31 March.

(d) Thunderstorms and tornadoes, while of a lesser scale than that of hurricanes and winter storms, may also endanger life and property attributable to the possibility of flash flooding. Due to the frequency and intensity of thunderstorms being generally associated with seasonal transition periods and the summer months, 1 May through 30 November is destructive weather season for the high desert.

(2) Warning Criteria and Thunderstorm/Hurricane Conditions of Readiness

(a) Warning Criteria

1. Thunderstorm/Tornado

a. Thunderstorm Advisory. Conditions are favorable, thunderstorms are forecast to occur within 50 nautical miles (NM) or within the next 12 hours.

b. Thunderstorm Condition 2. Thunderstorms and accompanying destructive winds are occurring or expected to pass within 25 NM or 6 hours. The potential exists, in the vicinity of thunderstorms, for lightning, hail, low-level wind shear, destructive winds, and flash flooding.

c. Thunderstorm Condition 1. Thunderstorms and accompanying destructive winds are occurring or expected to pass within 10 NM or 1 hour. The potential exists, in the vicinity of thunderstorms, for lightning, hail, low-level wind shear, destructive winds, and flash flooding.

d. Tornado Watch. Tornadoes are within 25 NM or expected within 6 hours. Additionally, this warning will be set if any portion of the installation is within a National Weather Service Watch Box (WW) and the weather is progressing as forecasted.

e. Tornado Warning. Tornadoes are within 10 NM or expected within 1 hour. Additionally, this warning will be set if any portion of the installation is within a National Weather Service Watch Box (WW) and the weather is progressing as forecasted.

f. Severe Thunderstorm Watch. Severe thunderstorms are thunderstorms having wind speeds greater than 50 knots, hail with diameter greater than or equal to 3/4" and or tornadoes. Destructive winds accompanying the severe thunderstorms are within 25 NM, or expected within 6 hours. Associated lightning/thunder, torrential rain, hail, severe downbursts, sudden wind shifts, and tornadic activity are possible. Precautions that will permit establishment of an appropriate state of readiness on short notice must be taken. Additionally, this warning will be set if any portion of the installation is within a National Weather Service Watch Box (WW) and the weather is progressing as forecasted.

g. Severe Thunderstorm Condition One. Severe thunderstorms are thunderstorms having gusts of wind greater than 50 knots, hail with diameter greater than 3/4" and or tornadoes. Destructive winds accompanying the severe thunderstorms are within 10 NM, or expected within 1 hour. Associated lightning/thunder, torrential rain, hail, severe downbursts, sudden wind shifts, and tornadic activity are possible. Take immediate safety precautions and shelter. Additionally, this warning will be set if any portion of the installation is within a National Weather Service Watch Box (WW) and the weather is progressing as forecasted.

h. Lightning Warning. Lightning is imminent or occurring within 5 NM of the Combat Center.

## 2. Non-Tropical Wind Warnings/Advisories

a. Local Wind Warnings. Sustained wind speeds of 15-33 knots or frequent gusts in excess of 25 knots are occurring or forecasted to occur within 25 NM area during the time specified. Under these conditions, higher or lower sustained wind and gusts are possible due to terrain effects as wind is funneled in and around obstructions.

b. Gale Warning. Sustained winds of 34-47 knots forecasted to occur.

c. Storm Warning. Sustained winds of 48-63 knots forecasted to occur.

d. Cross Wind Advisory. Advisory issued when strong or gusty winds are forecasted to cross the local runway at a significant angle from zero to 90 degrees.

## 3. Flash Flood

a. Flash Flood Advisory. Heavy or significant amounts of rainfall may indicate a potential for flash floods. The National Weather Service located within the jurisdiction of San Bernardino County issues the watches when there is a 50 percent chance that flooding is possible within 12 to 18 hours.

b. Flash Flood Warning. Flooding is imminent or forecasted to occur in low-lying areas. The National Weather Service issues

these warnings when flash flooding is imminent or occurring. The valid time for this type of warning is 3 hours.

4. Winter Weather

a. Frost/Freeze Warning. Temperatures forecasted to fall below freezing (32°F/0°C) during the time specified.

b. Hard Freeze Warning. Temperatures are forecasted to fall below 20°F (-7°C) for at least 24 hours.

c. Winter Storm Advisory. A low pressure system produces a combination of winter weather (snow, freezing rain, sleet, etc.) that present a hazard, but does not meet warning criteria.

d. Winter Storm Watch. A low pressure system produces a combination of winter weather (snow, freezing rain, sleet, etc.) that present a hazard, but does not meet warning criteria.

e. Winter Storm Warning. Forecasted accumulation of greater than or equal to 12" in 12 hours or greater than or equal to 18" in 24 hours.

f. Blizzard Warning. Sustained wind or frequent gusts to 30 knots with falling or blowing snow, visibility less than 1/4 statute mile for 3 hours or more.

5. Tropical Storm/Hurricane Conditions. The National Hurricane Center issues tropical storm/hurricane watches with impending conditions within 36 hours and warnings issued for the same within 24 hours. Hurricane watches are issued for known hurricanes with sustained wind speeds of 64 knots or greater. Tropical storm watches are issued for known tropical storms with sustained wind speeds of 34 knots or greater. The setting of tropical storm/hurricane conditions are as follows:

a. Tropical Storm/Hurricane Condition Five. A seasonal condition in effect from 15 May to 30 November.

b. Tropical Storm/Hurricane Condition Four. Destructive winds of force indicated are possible within 72 hours.

c. Tropical Storm/Hurricane Condition Three. Destructive winds of force indicated are possible within 48 hours.

d. Tropical Storm/Hurricane Condition Two. Destructive winds of force indicated anticipated within 24 hours.

e. Tropical Storm/Hurricane Condition One. Destructive winds of force indicated are occurring or expected within 12 hours.

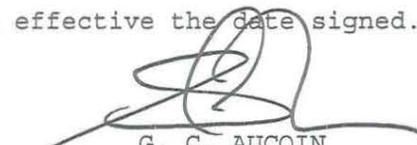
(b) Enclosure (1) is provided to show nautical mile boundaries of the local warning areas, local forecast areas, and local flying areas.

4. Administration and Logistics. Distribution statement A directives issued by the CG are distributed via email upon request and can be viewed at <http://www/29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/manpower/adj/ccotoc.asp>.

5. Command and Signal

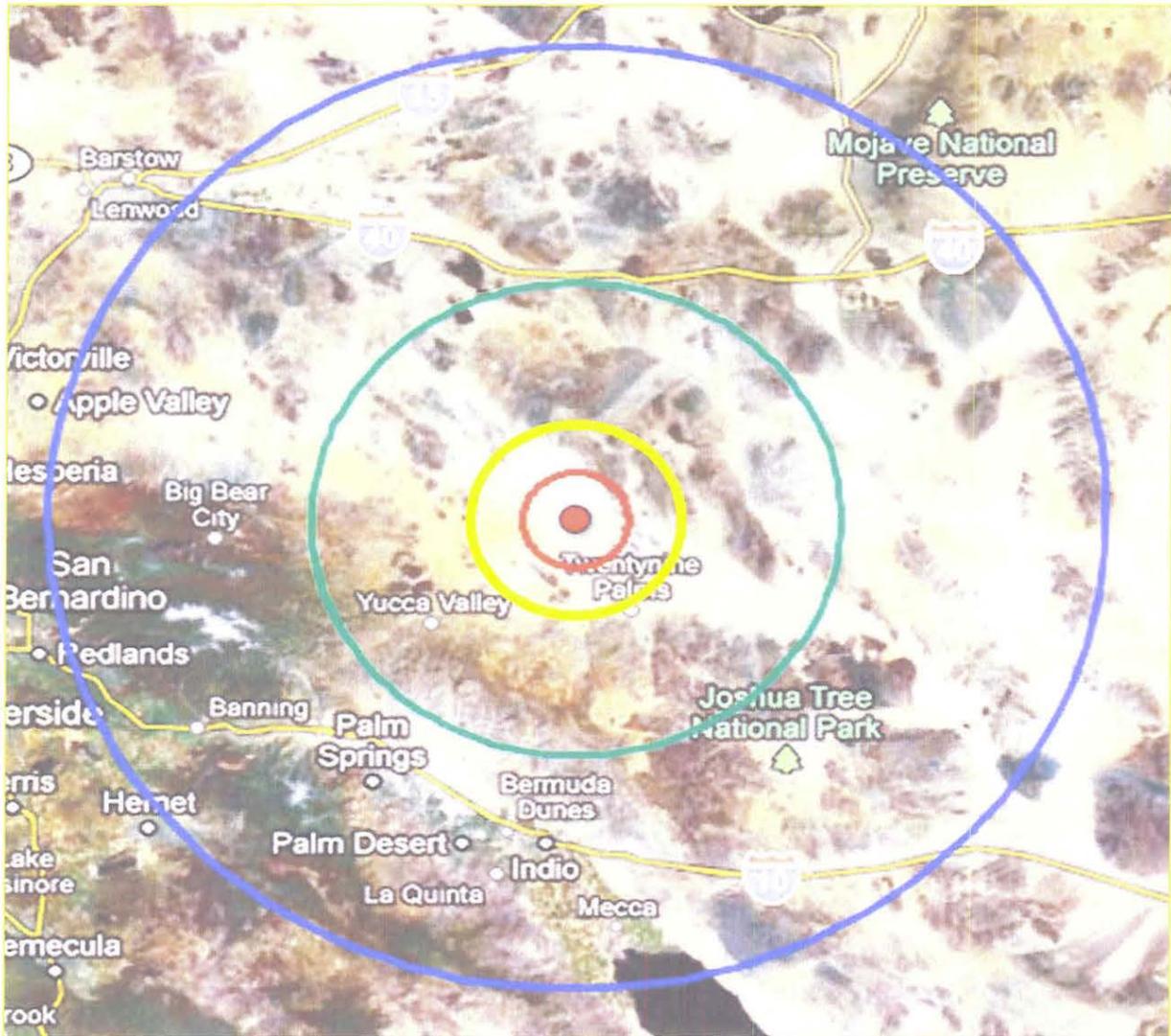
a. Command. This Order is applicable to active-duty, reserve, and civilian personnel aboard the Combat Center.

b. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.



G. C. AUCOIN  
Chief of Staff

Local Warning Area, Local Forecast Area & Local Flying Area Map  
For the MCAGCC 29 Palms, California



- Red: (5) nautical miles (5.8 miles) around MAGTFTC, MCAGCC
- Yellow: (10) nautical miles (11.5 miles) around MAGTFTC, MCAGCC
- Green: (25) nautical miles (28.8 miles) around MAGTFTC, MCAGCC (Local Forecast Area)
- Blue: (50) nautical miles (57.6 miles) around MAGTFTC, MCAGCC (Local Flying Area)

Nautical mile = 6080.21 feet or 1.15 statute miles