



**Land Acquisition and Airspace Establishment Project
Frequently Asked Questions:
Temporary Special Use Airspace Proposal Status
with the Federal Aviation Administration
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MARINE CORPS / DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY SUBMITTED A *TEMPORARY SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE PROPOSAL TO THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TO MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR LARGE SCALE EXERCISE-2017*

1. Have the Marine Corps and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) come to an agreement for *Temporary Special Use Airspace (SUA)* in support of Large Scale Exercise-2017 (LSE-17)?

The Marine Corps has submitted to FAA *Temporary* SUA proposals in support of LSE-17. While the proposed *Temporary* SUA does not meet all Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) Training requirements, it would allow the Marine Corps to undertake a meaningful large-scale training exercise in the training lands provided by Congress in the safest and most efficient manner for all users of the National Airspace System (NAS). The *Temporary* SUA proposals were submitted in October 2016 and will begin the FAA regulatory processes for establishment and modification, to include a public comment period. Once the FAA evaluates public comments and determines if any mitigations are necessary, it would establish *Temporary* SUA by Notice to Airmen (NOTAM), to include temporary modification of existing SUA, which would be assigned to the Marine Corps for the duration of the planned LSE-17 exercise in August 2017.

2. Would the proposed *Temporary* SUA be a suitable replacement for the Marine Corps Permanent SUA proposal?

No, the *Temporary* SUA outlined in the proposals, while useful for conducting a more limited large-scale, combined-arms exercise in the newly expanded ranges at MCAGCC, is insufficient to meet more robust training requirements for a MEB, about 15,000 Marines, that includes a:

- Command Element;
- Ground Combat Element built around a Regimental Combat Team (three battalions);
- Aviation Combat Element built around a Marine Aviation Group;
- Logistics Combat Element built around a Combat Logistics Regiment.

Special Use Airspace (SUA) is needed to meet MEB sustained (48-72 hours), combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver training requirements for, and to protect the public from, the use of:

- Artillery, mortars, tanks and other ground-based systems;
- Missiles, bombs and other airborne weapons systems;
- Maneuver space for aircraft involved in the exercise.

3. What is the *Temporary* SUA proposal that the Marine Corps and FAA developed for LSE-17?

The *Temporary* SUA proposals request the addition of a *Temporary* Restricted Area (RA) which would be contiguous to the northwestern boundary of R-2501 and directly over newly acquired training lands. Additionally, the *Temporary* SUA proposals would create new, and expand or modify existing, Military Operating Areas (MOAs) and Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace (ATCAA) contiguous to the southwestern, southern, and eastern boundaries of the MCAGCC training range.

4. How does the proposed LSE-17 *Temporary* SUA proposal differ from the original *Temporary* SUA proposals, submitted in 2014?

The differences between the published proposed LSE-17 *Temporary* SUA and the original *Temporary* SUA request proposals include:

- Significant reductions in vertical airspace use in two proposed *Temporary* RAs to the west of the current R-2501 restricted airspace.
- Reductions in lateral dimensions of furthest west *Temporary* RA, and not including two additional RAs.

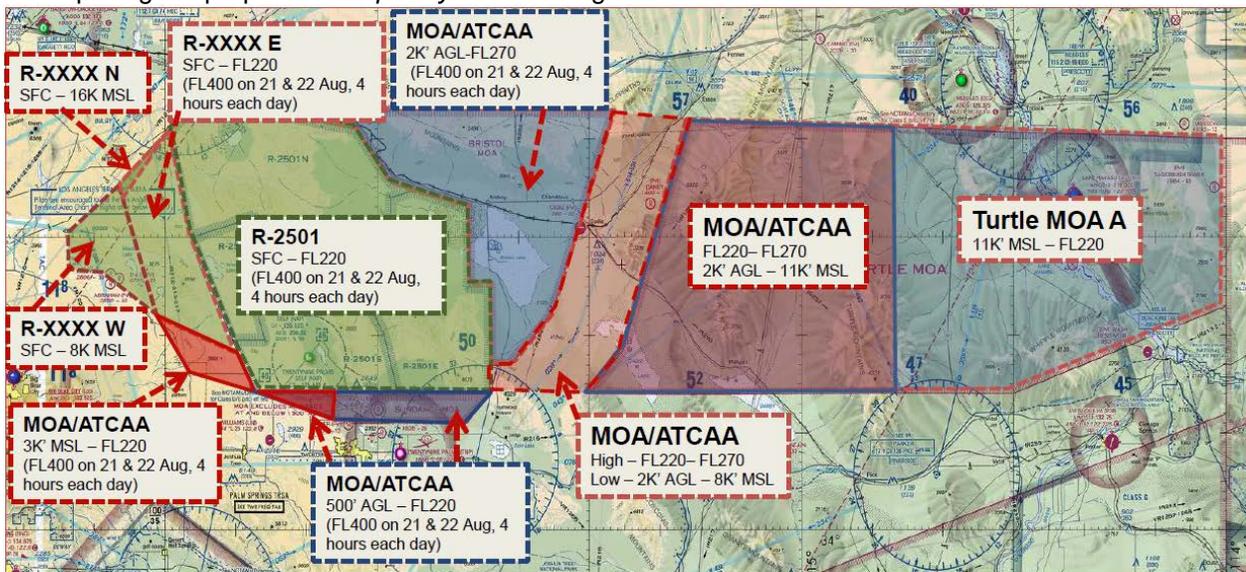


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- Reductions in lateral dimensions to the proposed *Temporary* Johnson Valley, Sundance West and Sundance *Temporary* MOAs. Additionally, proposed use of higher altitudes (above 27,000 feet) was significantly curtailed in all areas.
- Increased floor of Bristol MOA, Turtle MOA and CAX MOA from 1,500 feet AGL to 2,000 feet AGL, in response to public comments.

A chart depicting the proposed *Temporary* SUA and flight levels is below:



The above graphic depicts the proposed LSE-17 *Temporary* SUA dimensions. The green represents RA with the other colors representing MOAs, the blue being already established MOAs, and the red shaded areas being new *Temporary* MOAs in support of LSE-17.

Note: R-2501 remains permanently established at surface to unlimited, but for the purposes of LSE-17, only airspace up to FL 400 is planned for activation.

5. With the delay of the desert tortoise translocation, does the Marine Corps still need *Temporary* SUA for LSE-17?

Yes. The LSE-17 training is under design review to accommodate safely the presence of desert tortoises in the newly acquired range areas if translocation cannot occur before the exercise. LSE-17 will include aerial operations that could be hazardous to public aviation; therefore, the MOAs, ATCAAs and Restricted Airspace requested in the *Temporary* SUA proposal are each necessary for the safety of the NAS users regardless of the final exercise design.

6. How will the Marine Corps proceed to secure the SUA it needs to meet its MEB-training requirements?

When LSE-17 is complete, the Marine Corps will use the lessons learned from the exercise to refine procedures and/or airspace dimensions to better support future exercises. With this additional information in hand, the Marine Corps will continue to work with all stakeholders to create a modified Permanent SUA proposal for submission to the FAA that supports all MEB training requirements while minimizing impact to the NAS.

Throughout the process, the Marine Corps will continue to efficiently manage established MCAGCC SUA, only activating the airspace when required for training and returning it to the NAS for joint use at all other times. The Marine Corps will continue to be a good neighbor in the Southern California airspace neighborhood.

For Further Information, Please Contact
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