



**Proposed Land Acquisition/Airspace Establishment in Support
of Large-Scale MAGTF Live-Fire and Maneuver Training
Project Update Notice Number 12—July 27, 2012
Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center
Twentynine Palms, CA**

The Project Update Notices offer a focused way to provide easily accessible, wide-spread distribution of new Project information.

They augment the regular updating of key Project public documents carried on MCAGCC's Land Acquisition Study webpage.

Please see these other Project documents for an overview and key background information.

➤ **Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Released for Public Review July 27, 2012**

The FEIS represents a nearly four-year study of the environmental impacts associated with six different land acquisition alternatives, and associated Special Use Airspace, to meet requirements for Marine Expeditionary Brigade sustained, combined-arms, live fire maneuver training.

➤ **The FEIS was prepared following evaluation of public comments on the DEIS**

- The Project Team evaluated over 22,000 public comments in response to the Draft EIS (DEIS).
- Alternative 6, the preferred alternative, was developed directly in response to public comments during the scoping period and is slightly modified in the FEIS. In this modified form it remains the Marine Corps preferred alternative.
- Many new studies were undertaken in response to comments received on the DEIS.
 - Airspace sections revised and updated per coordination with the FAA.
 - Air quality impacts analysis to sensitive receptors added.
 - Displaced Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Study added.
 - New analyses of single-event noise and noise-generated vibrations results added.
 - Impacts from ordnance on water wells analysis added.

➤ **All alternatives had significant impacts to land use, biological resources and airspace management. All alternatives except for Alternative 3 had significant impacts to recreation resources. Alternative 3 had significant impacts to transportation and air quality resources.**

➤ **The Marine Corps is proposing mitigation measures for five resource areas, as appropriate to the Alternative, including:**

- An additional mitigation measure for loss of recreation use in the West Study Area (except in Alternative 3 where impacts to recreation are less than significant).
- Four additional special conservation measures (developed in consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS)) for impacts to biological resources, especially the desert tortoise.
- Continued consultation with FAA on airspace configurations and use that would meet MEB and MEB-building block training while allowing for effective overall management of the national air space.
- Measures for transportation resources in Alternative 3.
- The Installation Cultural Resources Management Plan would be modified to include acquired lands and updated in 2014 to account for mitigation measures for cultural resources to be identified in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and Native American tribes.

➤ **No mitigation measures were available to address the impacts to land use.**

➤ **Biological Opinion:** The Marine Corps and US FWS have completed formal consultation under the Endangered Species Act regarding effects to the threatened Desert tortoise. In its Biological Opinion (BO) of the proposed actions dated July 17, 2012 the USFWS concluded the proposed action was not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the desert tortoise, nor destroy or adversely modify its critical habitat. The BO also identifies specific avoidance, minimization and conservation measures, as well as required terms and conditions.

➤ **Future Significant Project Milestone:** Publish Record of Decision (ROD) September 28, 2012. Public comments on the Final EIS will be evaluated in preparation of the ROD.

For Further Information Please Contact

29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project

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