

## **Appendix A**

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### **Public Notification Documentation**

- **Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement**
- **Notice of Intent Correction**
- **USMC Public Affairs Office (PAO) Press Release**
- **NOI Mailing List**
- **Scoping Meeting Notification Postcard**
- **Scoping Meeting Notification Letter**
- **Project Website FAQs**

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64604

Federal Register / Vol. 73, No. 211 / Thursday, October 30, 2008 / Notices

mailed to the USPTO, for a total postage cost of approximately \$107,453 per year.

The recordkeeping costs for this collection are associated with submitting maintenance fee payments, forms, and petitions online through the USPTO Web site. It is recommended that customers who submit fee payments and documents online print and retain a copy of the acknowledgment receipt as evidence of the successful transaction. The USPTO estimates that it will take 5 seconds (0.001 hours) to print a copy of the acknowledgment receipt and that approximately 214,556 maintenance fee payments, forms, and petitions will be submitted online, for a total of 215 hours per year for printing this receipt. Using the paraprofessional rate of \$100 per hour, the USPTO estimates that the recordkeeping cost associated with this collection will be approximately \$21,500 per year.

The total non-hour respondent cost burden for this collection in the form of filing fees, postage costs, and recordkeeping costs is estimated to be \$614,571,323 per year.

#### IV. Request for Comments

*Comments are invited on:* (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, e.g., the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: October 24, 2008.

**Susan K. Fawcett,**

*Records Officer, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Customer Information Services Group, Public Information Services Division.*

[FR Doc. E8-25886 Filed 10-29-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9510-16-P

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

##### Department of the Navy

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Acquisition of Lands and Establishment of Airspace Contiguous to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, CA

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DoD.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section (102)(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)), as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to study alternatives for meeting Marine Corps Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) sustained, combined arms, live-fire and maneuver training requirements. The proposed action is to request the withdrawal of federal public lands, acquire state and privately owned lands, and to seek the establishment of Special Use Airspace with the effect of expanding the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), Twentynine Palms, California. The Department of the Navy will prepare the EIS in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management and Federal Aviation Administration.

**DATES:** All written, oral, or telephonic comments regarding the scope of issues that the Department of the Navy should consider during EIS preparation must be received before January 31, 2009. Three public scoping meetings have been scheduled and the meeting locations are as follows:

1. December 3, 2009, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Twentynine Palms, CA;
2. December 4, 2009, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Victorville, CA;
3. December 5, 2009, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Ontario, CA.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments or requests for inclusion on the EIS mailing list may be submitted to Project Manager (*Attn:* Mr. Joseph Ross), Box 788104, Bldg 1554, Rm 138, MAGTFTC/MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8104. Public meeting locations are as follows:

1. Twentynine Palms Junior High School, Hay's Gym, 5798 Utah Trail, Twentynine Palms, CA;
2. Hilton Garden Inn Victorville, 12603 Mariposa Road, Victorville, CA;
3. Convention Center, 2000 E. Convention Center Way, Ontario, CA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Project Manager (*Attn:* Mr. Joseph Ross),

Box 788104, Bldg 1554, Rm 138, MAGTFTC/MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8104; *phone:* 760-830-3764; *e-mail:* [SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil](mailto:SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Each of the three scoping meetings will consist of an informal, open house session with information stations staffed by Marine Corps representatives. Public comment forms will be available and gathered at the information stations, and a stenographer will be available to take oral comments for inclusion in the record. Details of the meeting locations will be announced in local newspapers. Additional information concerning meeting times and the proposed alternatives will be available on the EIS Web site located at <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/las>.

The meetings are designed to solicit input from agencies and the affected public regarding issues or interests that should be studied or the reasonable alternatives that should be considered for study to meet Marine Corps Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) sustained, combined arms, live-fire and maneuver training requirements. The public is welcome to comment orally or by written comment forms at the meeting; or, by sending a letter to Mr. Joe Ross, Project Manager, 29Palms Proposed Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project, MAGTFTC/MCAGCC, Bldg 1554, Box 788104, Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8104; by an e-mail to [SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil](mailto:SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil); or by voice mail at 760-830-3764.

The EIS will consider alternatives for the proposed acquisition of training land and accompanying Special Use Airspace sufficient to meet the training requirements for three MEB battalions, as a Ground Combat Element, and a correspondingly sized Air Combat Element to simultaneously maneuver for 48-72 hours, using combined-arms and live fire with their supporting Logistics Combat Element and Command Element. To meet MEB training requirements which utilize weapons systems and platforms currently and foreseeable in the Marine Corps inventory, more contiguous military range land and airspace than is now available for training anywhere in the United States would be required.

The requirement for MEB training reflects a shift in doctrine that emerged in the 1990s that placed the MEB as the premier fighting force that would be deployed to world crises in the foreseeable future. The Marine Corps studied locations nationwide that might meet the training requirements and concluded that the Southwest Region

range complex is the best location to meet them. This study further determined that expansion at MCAGCC would be necessary to meet the sustained MEB training requirement for a three battalion Ground Combat Element to maneuver to a single objective. MCAGCC is the Marine Corps' service-level training facility for Marine Air Ground Task Force training, the place through which nearly all Marine Corps units rotate for training before deployment.

The Marine Corps is studying various alternatives to meet MEB training requirements at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, CA. At this time, it is anticipated that the EIS will evaluate five action alternatives and the No Action Alternative. The EIS will also consider any other reasonable alternatives that are subsequently identified during scoping or the preparation of the document. The Marine Corps will also evaluate opportunities for co-use of the land, as part of the evaluation of alternatives. The following is a summary of the alternatives that are currently proposed to be studied in the Environmental Impact Statement.

*Alternative 1* would add approximately 188,000 acres to the West of the base and approximately 22,000 acres to the South of the base, and accompanying Special Use Airspace. During a MEB training exercise, three battalions would begin movement in a westerly direction from different starting positions in the current MCAGCC range complex area and converge on a single objective in the western part of what is called "Johnson Valley," conducting live-fire from ground- and air-based combat elements throughout the training exercise. During non-MEB training periods, any newly acquired installation lands would be used for live-fire, combined arms training and other military training of smaller units. With regard to any Special Use Airspace, this alternative would establish Restricted Airspace over the Western Area to accommodate live-fire from aviation and surface units. Special Use Airspace over the proposed Southern expansion area would need to be converted from Military Operational Airspace to Restricted Airspace.

*Alternative 2* would add approximately 112,000 acres to the West of the base, the same 22,000 acres to the South as in Alternative 1, and accompanying Special Use Airspace. During a MEB training exercise, three battalions would begin movement in a westerly direction from different starting positions in the current MCAGCC range complex area and converge on a single objective in the

center of what is called "Johnson Valley," conducting live-fire from ground- and air-based combat elements throughout the training exercise. During non-MEB training periods, any newly acquired installation lands would be used for live-fire, combined arms training and other military training of smaller units. With regard to Special Use Airspace, this alternative would establish Restricted Airspace over the Western Area to accommodate combined arms live-fire from aircraft in support of the Ground Combat Element and would determine whether the current Special Use Airspace over the proposed Southern expansion area would need to be converted from Military Operational Airspace to Restricted Airspace.

*Alternative 3* would add the same 22,000 acres of land in the South as would be added in Alternatives 1 and 2 and would add approximately 228,000 acres to the East of the base. During a MEB training exercise, two battalions would begin movement from starting positions to the east of the MCAGCC current range complex and travel together in a westerly direction before separating for individual movement once aboard the current MCAGCC. The third battalion would begin movement in a westerly direction from a starting position in the southern portion of the current range complex. All three battalions would maneuver toward a single objective in the northwest portion of the current range complex. The two battalions that would start in the proposed new areas to the east would conduct live-fire from ground- and air-based combat elements once aboard the current MCAGCC range complex, and the third battalion would be able to conduct live fire from ground- and air-based combat elements throughout the training exercise. During non-MEB training periods, any newly acquired installation lands to the east would be used for live small arms fire and other military training of smaller units, and any newly acquired installation lands in the south would be used for live-fire, combined arms training and other military training of smaller units. In this alternative, it is possible that no additional Special Use Airspace would need to be established, or that any current Special Use Airspace would need to be modified.

*Alternative 4* would add the same 188,000 acres to the west of the current installation and approximately 22,000 acres to the south of the installation as are contained in Alternative 1. During a MEB training exercise, three battalions would begin movement in an easterly direction from different starting

positions in what is called "Johnson Valley" and assault different objectives in the eastern portion of the current range complex and in the proposed southern expansion area. Live-fire training in the western expansion area would be limited to non-dud producing ordnance, with dud-producing ordnance only targeted within the current range boundary. Non-MEB training events would be subject to the same restrictions. With respect to Special Use Airspace, this alternative would establish Restricted Airspace over the Western and Southern Areas to accommodate combined arms live-fire from aviation and surface units.

*Alternative 5* would add the same 188,000 acres of land to the west of the base as in Alternatives 1 and 4. During a MEB training exercise, three battalions would begin movement in an easterly direction from separate starting positions in "Johnson Valley." Two battalions would attack separate objectives in the current range complex, and the third battalion would attack the Combined Arms Military Operations in Urban Terrain (CA MOUT) facility in the current range complex. Live-fire training in the western expansion area would be limited to non-dud producing ordnance, with dud-producing ordnance only targeted within the current range boundary. Non-MEB training events would be subject to the same restrictions. With respect to Special Use Airspace, this alternative would establish Restricted Airspace over the Western Area to accommodate combined arms live-fire from aviation and surface units.

*The No Action Alternative* would seek no additional lands and no additional or changes to Special Use Airspace associated with MCAGCC's current range complex. During a MEB exercise, the three battalions of the ground combat element would commence their operations aboard the current MCAGCC range complex in the eastern and central areas of the base, moving towards a single objective in the northwest corner of the current MCAGCC, undertaking live-fire and combined arms actions throughout, except as restrained by on-base administrative controls.

The Department of the Navy is initiating the scoping process to identify community interests and local issues to be addressed in the EIS. Federal, state and local agencies, Native American Indian Tribes and interested individuals are encouraged to provide oral and/or written comments regarding the scope of the EIS to develop reasonable alternatives and/or to identify specific issues or topics of environmental

concern that the commenter believes should be considered.

The EIS will evaluate potential environmental effects associated with action alternatives and the No Action Alternative. Potential issues include, but are not limited to: Land use, recreation, energy development, air quality, airspace/air traffic, biological resources, cultural resources, mining/minerals, socioeconomic and noise.

A mailing list has been assembled to facilitate preparation of the EIS. Those on this list will receive notices and documents related to EIS preparation. This list includes local, state, and federal agencies with jurisdiction or other interests in the alternatives. In addition, the mailing list includes adjacent property owners, affected municipalities, and other interested parties such as conservation and off-highway vehicle organizations. Anyone wishing to be added to the mailing list may request to be added by contacting the EIS project manager at the address provided above.

Dated: October 24, 2008.

T.M. Cruz,

*Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate  
Generals Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register  
Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. E8-25845 Filed 10-29-08; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 9810-FF-P

#### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

##### Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**SUMMARY:** The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before December 29, 2008.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information

Management Services, Office of Management, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: October 24, 2008.

Angela C. Arrington,

*IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information  
Management Services, Office of Management.*

##### Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

*Type of Review:* New.

*Title:* Reading First Expenditure Study.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Affected Public:* Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

*Responses:* 4,420.

*Burden Hours:* 13,260.

*Abstract:* The U.S. Department of Education Reading First program has no formal mechanism for grantees to report on specific uses of grant funds. The proposed surveys will collect data on the use and allocation of Reading First grants from current State educational agencies (SEA) grantees and their local educational agencies (LEA) subgrantees. Collecting such information will help satisfy the informational needs of key stakeholders, and inform future grant-making efforts.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 3844. When you access the

information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., LBJ, Washington, DC 20202-4537. Requests may also be electronically mailed to [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) or faxed to 202-401-0920. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be electronically mailed to [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. E8-25894 Filed 10-29-08; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

#### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

##### National Assessment Governing Board; Meeting

**AGENCY:** Department of Education, National Assessment Governing Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting and partially closed meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Assessment Governing Board. This notice also describes the functions of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This document is intended to notify members of the general public of their opportunity to attend. Individuals who will need special accommodations in order to attend the meeting (i.e., interpreting services, assistive listening devices, materials in alternative format) should notify Munira Mwalimu at 202-357-6938 or at [Munira.Mwalimu@ed.gov](mailto:Munira.Mwalimu@ed.gov) no later than November 10, 2008. We will attempt to meet requests after this date, but cannot guarantee availability of the requested accommodation. The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

**DATES:** November 20-22, 2008.

*Times*

##### November 20

Committee Meetings:

Ad Hoc Committee on NAEP Testing and Reporting on Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners: Open Session—2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Executive Committee: Open Session—4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Closed

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Navy****Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Acquisition of Lands and Establishment of Airspace Contiguous to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, CA; Correction**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice; correction.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Navy published a document in the **Federal Register** on October 30, 2008, announcing its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Acquisition of Lands and Establishment of Airspace Contiguous to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California. The original publication contained incorrect dates.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Project Manager (Attn: Mr. Joseph Ross), Box 788104, Bldg. 1554, Rm. 138, MAGTFTC/MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8104; phone: 760-830-3764; e-mail: [SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil](mailto:SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil).

**Correction**

1. In the **Federal Register** of October 30, 2008, in FR Doc. E8-25845, on page 64604, in the second column, correct the **DATES** caption to read as follows:

**DATES:** All written, oral, or telephonic comments regarding the scope of issues that the Department of the Navy should consider during EIS preparation must be received before January 31, 2009. Three public scoping meetings have been scheduled and the meeting locations are as follows:

1. December 3, 2008, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Twentynine Palms, CA;
2. December 4, 2008, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Victorville, CA;
3. December 5, 2008, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Ontario, CA.

Dated: November 14, 2008.

**T.M. Cruz,**

*Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. E8-27693 Filed 11-20-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Department of the Navy****Notice of Closed Meeting of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Executive Panel**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The CNO Executive Panel will report on the findings and recommendations of the Subcommittee "The Navy & The Nation" to the Chief of Naval Operations. The matters to be discussed during the meeting are: Campbell-Ewald Advertising contract, Branding project, and marketing & recruiting methods; CNO's Engagement and long-range schedule. Each topic under each of these headings relates solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the agency; discloses privileged/confidential trade secrets, commercial, and financial information; pertains to the CNO's classified "SECRET" long-range schedule, and discusses information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate the fair bidding process for a major DON contract which makes this information exempt from open meeting disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. sections 552b(c)(1) and (4).

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on December 15, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at Center for Naval Analyses (CNA), Room 1A01, 4825 Mark Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22311.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** LCDR Eric Taylor, CNO Executive Panel, 4825 Mark Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22311, telephone: 703-681-4909.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), these matters constitute classified information that is specifically authorized by Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense and is, in fact, properly classified pursuant to such Executive Order.

Accordingly, the Secretary of the Navy has determined in writing that the public interest requires that all sessions of this meeting be closed to the public because they will be concerned with matters listed in sections 552b(c)(1) and (4) of title 5, United States Code.

Individuals or interested groups may submit written statements for consideration by the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Panel at any time

or in response to the agenda of a scheduled meeting. All requests must be submitted to the Designated Federal Officer at the address detailed below. If the written statement is in response to the agenda mentioned in this meeting notice then the statement, if it is to be considered by the Panel for this meeting, must be received at least five days prior to the meeting in question.

The Designated Federal Officer will review all timely submissions with the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Panel Chairperson, and ensure they are provided to members of the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Panel before the meeting that is the subject of this notice. To contact the Designated Federal Officer, write to Executive Director, CNO Executive Panel (N00K), 4825 Mark Center Drive, 2nd Floor, Alexandria, VA 22311-1846.

Dated: November 14, 2008.

**T.M. Cruz,**

*Lieutenant Commander, Office of the Judge Advocate General, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. E8-27694 Filed 11-20-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION****Arbitration Panel Decision Under the Randolph-Sheppard Act**

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of arbitration panel decision under the Randolph-Sheppard Act.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Education (Department) gives notice that, on August 28, 2008, an arbitration panel rendered a decision in the matter of *Teresa Alcorn v. Kentucky Office for the Blind, Case no. R-S/07-3*. This panel was convened by the Department under 20 U.S.C. 107d-1(a), after the Department received a complaint filed by the petitioner, Teresa Alcorn.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** You may obtain a copy of the full text of the arbitration panel decision from Suzette E. Haynes, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5022, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2800. *Telephone:* (202) 245-7374. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

# PRESS ADVISORY

## United States Marine Corps

### Division of Public Affairs

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Date: Nov. 25, 2008  
Contact: HQMC Media Branch, POC: Capt Amy Malugani  
Telephone: (703) 614-4309

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#### USMC HOSTS OPEN HOUSES FOR PROPOSED LAND EXPANSION

**HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS** (Nov. 25, 2008) – The Department of the Navy is in the initial stages of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to study potential environmental effects associated with a range of reasonable alternatives (including ‘no action’ alternative) for the proposed acquisition of lands and establishment of special-use airspace bordering the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), Twentynine Palms, Calif.

As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, the Marine Corps will host three scoping meetings in Southern California. Meetings will be in open house format allowing interested parties to view information boards and handouts, speak with project representatives and submit written and oral comments on issues and alternatives for consideration in the Draft EIS (by Jan. 31, 2009). For additional information please reference the project website [www.29palms.usmc.mil/las](http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/las).

Open-house meeting locations, times and dates are as follows:

**Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008, 5 to 9 p.m.**  
Twentynine Palms Junior High School  
5798 Utah Trail  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

**Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008, 5 to 9 p.m.**  
Hilton Garden Inn  
12603 Mariposa Road  
Victorville, CA 92395

**Friday, Dec. 5, 2008, 5 to 9 p.m.**  
Ontario Convention Center  
2000 E. Convention Center Way  
Ontario, CA 91764

**Comment Mailing Address:**  
MAGTFTC, MCAGCC  
ATTN: Land Acquisition Program  
Box 788104, Bldg 1554, Rm 138  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8104  
E-mail: [SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil](mailto:SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil)

**Proposed 29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project  
Stakeholder Letter Recipients  
Notice of Intent and Scoping Meetings October 2008**

**Local Elected Officials and Government Representatives**

name_first	name_last	Organization	address1	city	state	zip
		Office of the Mayor, City of Twentynine		Twentynine		
Elaine	Bernal	Palms	6136 Adobe Road	Palms	CA	92277
Mark	Uffer	County of San Bernardino	385 North Arrowhead Avenue	San Bernardino	CA	92415
		San Diego County Regional Airport				
Thella	Bowens	Authority	3225 North Harbor Drive	San Diego	CA	92101
				Twentynine		
Philip	Cisneros	Twentynine Palms Water District	74201 Hatch Road	Palms	CA	92277
Garry	Dokter	Big Bear City Airport	P.O. Box 755	Big Bear City	CA	92314
Bob	Dunn	Yucca Valley Airport	P.O. Box 2527	Yucca Valley	CA	92286
Clarence	Everly	Desert Managers Group	2701 Barstow Road	Barstow	CA	92311
Dan	Feger	Bob Hope Airport (Burbank)	2627 Hollywood Way	Burbank	CA	91505
Jeff	Fitch	Los Angeles International Airport	One World Way	Los Angeles	CA	90009
		Southern California Association of				
Hasan	Ikhata	Governments	818 West Seventh Street, 12th Floor	Los Angeles	CA	90017
				Twentynine		
Joel	Klink	Twentynine Palms City Council	6136 Adobe Road	Palms	CA	92277
Chris	Kunze	Long Beach Airport	4100 Donald Douglas Drive	Long Beach	CA	90808
Robert	Leone	Town of Yucca Valley, Office of Mayor	57090 Twentynine Palms Highway	Yucca Valley	CA	92284
Jackie	Lindgren	Mojave Resource Conservation District	14393 Park Ave, #200	Victorville	CA	92392

Alan	Murphy	John Wayne Airport	3160 Airway Avenue	Costa Mesa	CA	92626
Ed	Muzik	Hi-Desert Water District	55439 29 Palms Highway	Yucca Valley	CA	92284
H.	Nahai	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	111 North Hope Street	Los Angeles	CA	90012
Bill	Neeb	Yucca Valley Town Council	57090 Twentynine Palms Highway	Yucca Valley	CA	92284
Thomas	Nolan	Palm Springs International Airport Authority	3400 East Tahquitz Canyon Way	Palm Springs	CA	92262
Vana	Olson	Department of Public Works	825 East Third Street	San Bernardino	CA	92415
Rusty	Reed	City of Twentynine Palms, Community Development Department	6136 Adobe Road	Palms	CA	92277
Julie	Rock	Land Use Services Department, San Bernardino County	385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor	San Bernardino	CA	92415
Jess	Romo	Ontario Airport	1940 East Moore Way	Ontario	CA	91761
Peter	Soderquist	Southern California Logistics Airport	18374 Phantom West	Victorville	CA	92394
Terry	Stover	Barstow-Daggett Airport	21600 Corwin Road	Apple Valley	CA	92307
Terry	Stover	Twentynine Palms Airport	825 East Third Street, Room 203	San Bernardino	CA	92415
John	Wohlmuth	Coachella Valley Association of Governments	73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 200	Palm Desert	CA	92260
Niel	Derry	San Bernardino County Supervisor-Elect	P.O. Box 90518	San Bernardino	CA	92427
Brad	Mitzelfelt	San Bernardino County Supervisor	385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 5th Floor	San Bernardino	CA	92415

**State Elected Officials and Government Representatives**

name_first	name_last	Organization	address1	address2	city	state	zip
Linda	Adams	California Environmental Protection Agency	1001 I Street	P.O. Box 2815	Sacramento	CA	95814
Steve	Borchard	Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District	22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos		Moreno Valley	CA	92553
Gary	Cathey	California Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautic	MS #40	P.O. Box 942874	Sacramento	CA	94274-0001
Mike	Chrisman	State of California Resources Agency	1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311		Sacramento	CA	95814
Milford	Donaldson	California State Historical Preservation Office	State Historical Preservation Officer	1416 9th Street, Room 1442-7	Sacramento	CA	95814
John	Garamendi	Office of the Lieutenant Governor	State Capitol	Room 1114	Sacramento	CA	95814
John	Kalish	Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Office	690 West Garnet Avenue	P.O. Box 581260	North Palm Springs	CA	92258-1260
Will	Kempton	Department of Transportation, State of California	P.O. Box 942873		Sacramento	CA	94273-0001
Donald	Koch	California Department of Fish and Game	1416 Ninth Street		Sacramento	CA	95814
Wayne	Nastri	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9	75 Hawthorne Street		San Francisco	CA	94105
Kevin	Petersen	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	Dryden Flight Research Center	P.O. Box 273, M/S D2407	Edwards	CA	93523-0273

Mike	Pool	Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior	2800 Cottage, Suite W- 1834		Sacramento	CA	95825- 1886
Curt	Sauer	Joshua Tree National Park, National Park Service	74485 National Park Drive		Twentynine Palms	CA	92277- 3597
Arnold	Schwarzenegger	Office of the Governor, State of California	State Capitol Building		Sacramento	CA	95814
Russell	Scofield	Desert Managers Group, Department of the Interior	c/o Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program	2701 Barstow Road	Barstow	CA	92311
Paul	Thayer	California State Lands Commission	100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South		Sacramento	CA	95825
Steve	Thompson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California-Nevada Region	2800 Cottage Way		Sacramento	CA	95825
Roxie	Trost	Bureau of Land Management, Barstow Field Office	2601 Barstow Road		Barstow	CA	92311
Carl	Benz	The Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, Desert Division	2493 Portola Road, Suite B		Ventura	CA	93003
Kristin	Berry	U.S. Geological Survey, Box Springs Field Station	22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos		Moreno Valley	CA	92553
Dale	Bonner	Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency	980 Ninth Street	Suite 2450	Sacramento	CA	95814- 2719
Edmund	Brown	Attorney General's Office, California Department of Justice	P.O. Box 944255		Sacramento	CA	94244- 2550
Cynthia	Bryant	Governor's Office of Planning and Research	P.O. Box 3044		Sacramento	CA	95812- 3044

		State Water Resources Control Board, California Environmental Protection Agency	1001 I Street, P.O. Box 100		Sacramento	CA	95812
Tam	Doduc						
Dan	Dunmoyer	Office of the Governor	State Capitol Building		Sacramento	CA	95814
				602 South			
		U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service	Forest Supervisor's Office	Tippecanoe	San		
Jeanne	Evans		OHMVR Division	Avenue	Bernardino	CA	92408
				1725 23rd Street,			
Daphne	Greene	California State Parks	Headquarters	Suite 200	Sacramento	CA	95816
		California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection					94244-
Ruben	Grijalva	Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District	P.O. Box 944246	1416 Ninth Street	Sacramento	CA	2460
Eldon	Heaston	California Native American Heritage Commission	14306 Park Avenue		Victorville	CA	92392
Larry	Myers	California Air Resources Board, State of California	915 Capitol Mall	Room 364	Sacramento	CA	95814
			1001 I Street, P.O. Box 2815				
Mary	Nichols	California Public Utilities Commission			Sacramento	CA	95812
					San		
Michael	Peevey	California Energy Commission	505 Van Ness Avenue		Francisco	CA	94102
Jackalyne	Pfannenstiel	Office of Lieutenant Governor, State of California	1516 Ninth Street, MS-31		Sacramento	CA	95814
Wade	Sanders	Caltrans, District 8	1720 Whaley Avenue		San Diego	CA	92104
					San		
Karla	Sutliff		464 West 4th Street		Bernardino	CA	92401

William	Withycombe	Federal Aviation Administration, Western Pacific Region	15000 Aviation Boulevard	Hawthorne	CA	90250
Karen	Bass		State Capitol Capitol Office	Sacramento	CA	94249
Dave	Cogdill		State Capitol Capitol Office	Sacramento	CA	95814
Don	Perata		State Capitol Room 205	Sacramento	CA	95814
Mike	Villines		State Capitol Room 3104	Sacramento	CA	0029
Dick	Ackerman		State Capitol Room 3048	Sacramento	CA	95814
Anthony	Adams		State Capitol Room 4015	Sacramento	CA	95814
Greg	Aghazarian		State Capitol Capitol Room 4167	Sacramento	CA	95814
Joel	Anderson		State Capitol Room 2111	Sacramento	CA	95814
Roy	Ashburn		State Capitol Room 3063	Sacramento	CA	95814
Jim	Battin		State Capitol, California State Senate Room 3060	Sacramento	CA	95814
John	Benoit		State Capitol Room 4144	Sacramento	CA	2064
Tom	Berryhill		State Capitol Room 4116	Sacramento	CA	95814
Sam	Blakeslee		State Capitol Room 4117	Sacramento	CA	95814
Anna	Caballero		State Capitol P.O. Box 942849	Sacramento	CA	0028
Ronald	Calderon		State Capitol Room 4088	Sacramento	CA	95814

Connie	Conway	P.O. Box 8134		Visalia	CA	93290
Paul	Cook	State Capitol	Room 5164	Sacramento	CA	95814
Dave	Cox	Capitol Office	Room 2068	Sacramento	CA	95814 94249-
Hector	De La Torre	State Capitol	P.O. Box 942849	Sacramento	CA	0050
Denise	Ducheny	Capitol Office	Room 5035	Sacramento	CA	95814
Robert	Dutton	State Capitol	Room 5094	Sacramento	CA	95814
Michael	Duvall	State Capitol	Room 4177	Sacramento	CA	95814
Jean	Fuller	State Capitol	Room 3098	Sacramento	CA	95814
Bonnie	Garcia	State Capitol	Room 4009	Sacramento	CA	95814 94249-
Loni	Hancock	State Capitol	P.O. Box 942849	Sacramento	CA	0014
Dennis	Hollingsworth	State Capitol	Room 5064	Sacramento	CA	95814 94249-
Jared	Huffman	State Capitol	P.O. Box 942849	Sacramento	CA	0006 94249-
Rick	Keene	State Capitol, Room 2158	P.O. Box 942849	Sacramento	CA	0003
Christine	Kehoe	State Capitol	Room 4038	Sacramento	CA	95814 94249-
John	Laird	State Capitol	P.O. Box 942849	Sacramento	CA	0027 94249-
Mark	Leno	State Capitol	P.O. Box 942849	Sacramento	CA	0013 94249-
Lloyd	Levine	California State Assembly	P.O. Box 942849	Sacramento	CA	0040

Alan	Lowenthal	State Capitol	Room 2032	Sacramento	CA	95814
Bob	Margett	State Capitol	Room 3082	Sacramento	CA	94814
						94249-
Bill	Maze	State Capitol	Room 5160	Sacramento	CA	0034
Tom	McClintock	State Capitol	Room 3070	Sacramento	CA	95814
						94249-
Pedro	Nava	State Capitol	P.O. Box 942849	Sacramento	CA	0035
Gloria	Negrete-McLeod	State Capitol	Room 2059	Sacramento	CA	95814
						94249-
Roger	Niello	State Capitol	Room 6027	Sacramento	CA	0005
						94249-
Fabian	Nunez	State Capitol	P.O. Box 942849	Sacramento	CA	0046
Gloria	Romero	State Capitol	Room 313	Sacramento	CA	95814
			State Capitol,			
George	Runner	California State Senate	Room 5097	Sacramento	CA	95814
						94249-
Sharon	Runner	Capitol Office, Room 5158	P.O. Box 942849	Sacramento	CA	0036
						94249-
Lori	Saldana	State Capitol	P.O. Box 942849	Sacramento	CA	0076
Joe	Simitian	State Capitol	Room 2080	Sacramento	CA	95814
Cameron	Smyth	State Capitol	Room 4153	Sacramento	CA	95814
						94249-
Jose	Solorio	State Capitol	P.O. Box 942849	Sacramento	CA	0069
Darrell	Steinberg	State Capitol	Room 4035	Sacramento	CA	95814

Tom	Torlakson	Capitol Office	Room 5050	Sacramento	CA	95814
Mimi	Walters	State Capitol	Room 6031	Sacramento	CA	95814
Mark	Wyland	State Capitol	Room 4066	Sacramento	CA	95814
Leland	Yee	Capitol Office	Room 4048	Sacramento	CA	95814
Tom	Harman	State Capitol	Room 2052	Sacramento	CA	95814

**Federal Elected Officials and Government Representatives**

name_first	name_last	Organization	address1	city	state	zip
Mary	Bomar	National Park Service	Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW	Washington	DC	20240
Jim	Caswell	U.S. Bureau of Land Management	BLM Office of Public Affairs, 1849 C Street, Room 406-LS	Washington	DC	20240
Daniel	Elwell	Federal Aviation Administration	800 Independence Avenue, SW	Washington	DC	20591
Lisa	Epifani	U.S. Department of Energy	1000 Independence Avenue SW	Washington	DC	20585
H.	Hall	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	1849 C Street, NW	Washington	DC	20240
Joseph	Kelliher	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	888 First Street, NE	Washington	DC	20426
Kerry	Long	Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration	800 Independence Avenue, SW	Washington	DC	20591
John	Nau	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 803	Washington	DC	20004
Robert	Sturgell	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	800 Independence Avenue, SW	Washington	DC	20591
Suedeem	Kelly	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	888 First Street, NE	Washington	DC	20426
Marc	Spitzer	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	888 First Street, NE, Suite 11-D	Washington	DC	20426

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission						
Jon	Wellinghoff	Commission	888 First Street, NE 141 Hart Senate Office Building	Washington	DC	20426
Daniel	Akaka	U.S. Senate	703 Hart Senate Office Building	Washington	DC	20510
Jeff	Bingaman	U.S. Senate	112 Hart Senate Office Building	Washington	DC	20510
Barbara	Boxer	U.S. Senate	311 Hart Building	Washington	DC	20510
Robert	Byrd	U.S. Senate	2201 Rayburn Building	Washington	DC	20515
Ken	Calvert	U.S. House of Representatives	113 Dirksen Senate Office Building	Washington	DC	20510
Thad	Cochran	U.S. Senate	1526 Longworth House Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
Susan	Davis	U.S. House of Representatives	2328 Rayburn House Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
John	Dingell	U.S. House of Representatives	328 Hart Office Building	Washington	DC	20510
Pete	Domenici	U.S. Senate	2369 Rayburn Building	Washington	DC	20515
Chet	Edwards	U.S. House Of Representatives	331 Hart Senate Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
Dianne	Feinstein	U.S. Senate	307 Cannon House Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
J.	Forbes	U.S. House of Representatives	2265 Rayburn House Office Building	Washington	DC	20215
Duncan	Hunter	U.S. House of Representatives		Washington	DC	20515

			284 Russell Senate Office			
Kay	Hutchison	U.S. Senate	Building	Washington	DC	20510
			722 Hart Senate Office			
Daniel	Inouye	U.S. Senate	Building	Washington	DC	20515
			136 Hart Senate Office			
Tim	Johnson	U.S. Senate	Building	Washington	DC	20510
Carl	Levin	U.S. Senate	269 Russell Office Building	Washington	DC	20510
			2112 Rayburn House Office			
Jerry	Lewis	U.S. House of Representatives	Building	Washington	DC	20515
			241 Russell Senate Office			
John	McCain	U.S. Senate	Building	Washington	DC	20510
			2351 Rayburn House Office			
Howard	McKeon	U.S. House of Representatives	Building	Washington	DC	20515
			2423 Rayburn House Office			
John	Murtha	U.S. House of Representatives	Building	Washington	DC	20515
			2314 Rayburn House Office			
Dave	Obey	U.S. House of Representatives	Building	Washington	DC	20515
			2110 Rayburn House Office			
Solomon	Ortiz	U.S. House of Representatives	Building	Washington	DC	20215
			528 Hart Senate Office			
Harry	Reid	U.S. Senate	Building	Washington	DC	20510
			2206 Rayburn House Office			
Ike	Skelton	U.S. House of Representatives	Building	Washington	DC	20515
John	Thune	U.S. Senate	U.S. Senate SR-493	Washington	DC	20510

Zach	Wamp	U.S. House of Representatives	1436 Longworth House Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
C.W.	Young	U.S. House of Representatives	2407 Rayburn House Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
Joe	Baca	U.S. House of Representatives	1527 Longworth House Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
Joe	Barton	U.S. House of Representatives	2109 Rayburn Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
Howard	Berman	U.S. House of Representatives	2221 Rayburn House Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
Mary	Bono	U.S. House of Representatives	104 Cannon House Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
Raul	Mack	U.S. House of Representatives	1440 Longworth House Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
Lucille	Grijalva	U.S. House of Representatives	2330 Rayburn House Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
Loretta	Allard	U.S. House of Representatives	1230 Longworth House Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
Adam	Sanchez	U.S. House of Representatives	326 Cannon House Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
Hilda	Schiff	U.S. House of Representatives	1414 Longworth House Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
Henry	Solis	U.S. House of Representatives	2204 Rayburn House Office Building	Washington	DC	20515
	Waxman	U.S. House of Representatives		Washington	DC	20515

**The U.S. Marine Corps  
invites you to participate in the  
Proposed 29 Palms Training Land/Airspace  
Acquisition Project**



The Department of the Navy is in the initial stages of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed acquisition of lands and establishment of airspace contiguous to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California.

The EIS will consider a range of reasonable alternatives for the proposed action sufficient to meet Marine Expeditionary Brigade training requirements.

**The U.S. Marine Corps wants your input!**

Attend an open house scoping meeting to let the Marine Corps know what issues and interests you have for consideration in the development of the EIS.

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS**

**Twentynine Palms:**

Dec. 3, 2008

5 to 9 p.m.

Twentynine Palms Jr. High,  
Hays Gym

5798 Utah Trail

Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

**Victorville:**

Dec. 4, 2008

5 to 9 p.m.

Hilton Garden Inn

12603 Mariposa Road

Victorville, CA 92395

**Ontario:**

Dec. 5, 2008

5 to 9 p.m.

Ontario Convention Ctr.

2000 E. Convention Ctr. Way

Ontario, CA 91764

**Submit written comments to:** MAGTFTC, MCAGCC, ATTN: Land Acquisition Program Manager, Box 788104, Building 1554, Room 138, Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8104; or via e-mail to: [SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil](mailto:SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil)

**Comments must be received by Jan. 31, 2009, for consideration in the Draft EIS.**

**For more information** visit: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/las>

## Proposed 29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project



### The U.S. Marine Corps invites you to participate in the Proposed 29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project

Attend an open house scoping meeting to let the Marine Corps know what issues and interests you have for consideration in the development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Representatives from the Marine Corps will be available to provide information about the proposed action. Your comments are welcome.

Oral and written comments will be accepted at the open houses. Written comments may also be submitted to:

MAGTFTC, MCAGCC  
ATTN: Land Acquisition Program Manager  
Box 788104, Building 1554, Room 138  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8104  
E-mail: SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil

**Comments must be received by Jan. 31, 2009, for consideration in the Draft EIS.**

**The U.S. Marine Corps wants your input!**

For more information, visit: <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/las>

#### Open House Scoping Meetings

**Twentynine Palms:**

Dec. 3, 2008, 5 to 9 p.m.  
Twentynine Palms Junior High  
Hays Gym  
5798 Utah Trail  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

**Victorville:**

Dec. 4, 2008, 5 to 9 p.m.  
Hilton Garden Inn  
12603 Mariposa Road  
Victorville, CA 92395

**Ontario:**

Dec. 5, 2008, 5 to 9 p.m.  
Ontario Convention Ctr.  
2000 E. Convention Ctr. Way  
Ontario, CA 91764



### Proposed Action

The Department of the Navy is in the initial stages of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed acquisition of lands and establishment of airspace contiguous to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California.

The EIS will consider a range of reasonable alternatives for the proposed action sufficient to meet Marine Expeditionary Brigade training requirements.

MAGTFTC, MCAGCC  
ATTN: Land Acquisition  
Program Manager  
Box 788104, Building 1554,  
Room 138  
Twentynine Palms, CA  
92278-8104

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CODE

CODE

October 30, 2008

NAME  
TITLE  
ADDRESS 1  
ADDRESS 2

SUBJECT: Proposed Land Acquisition/Airspace Establishment in  
Support of Large-Scale Marine Air Ground Task Force  
Live Fire and Maneuver Training

Dear NAME:

The Department of the Navy is in the initial stages of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed acquisition of lands and establishment of airspace contiguous to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California.

The Marine Corps is holding three open house public scoping meetings to support an early and open review process. Community input from the scoping meetings will be used to help identify potential issues and reasonable alternatives that should be considered for study. The scoping meetings will be held from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the following locations:

**Friday, Dec. 5, 2008**  
Ontario Convention Ctr.  
2000 E. Convention Ctr. Way  
Ontario, CA 91764

**Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008**

Twentynine Palms Junior High  
Hays Gym  
5798 Utah Trail  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

**Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008**

Hilton Garden Inn  
12603 Mariposa Road  
Victorville, CA 92395

For more information, please review the enclosed project overview paper, visit the project website at <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/las> or contact the Project Officer at 760-830-3764.

Sincerely,

Enclosure:

(1) Project Overview Paper - August 2008



## **Potential 29 Palms Training Land and Airspace Establishment Project Frequently Asked Questions December 2008**

### **MARINE CORPS REQUIREMENTS DRIVE THE 29 PALMS LAND/AIRSPACE STUDY**

#### **1. What is the training requirement driving the project?**

- Marines must train as they fight to prepare for the certainty and uncertainty of combat. Realistic training is for the safety of the Marines put in harm's way
- With the end of the Cold War in the 1990s and the addition of new weapons systems, changes in Marine Corps doctrine led to the establishment of an enduring requirement for Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver training.
- A MEB training exercise requires 48-72 hours of continuous offensive action, with three battalions moving abreast—in three different corridors—towards a single objective.
- Combined-arms means that ground-based and airborne weapons systems, including direct and indirect fire, will be used in the training exercise.

#### **2. What do you mean by “Marines must train as they fight?”**

- Training is mission rehearsal. To meet training requirements, Marines must train under conditions that closely approximate those of the battlefield.
- By training as they fight, Marines become proficient in tactics, techniques, and procedures both as individuals and as units, a training concept that is as essential for success in military operations as it is in nearly all other team or skilled activities.
- Marines will instinctively do as they were trained. Marines train to the Marine Air Ground Task Force standard, as that is how they will be equipped and employed in combat.
- Marines need to train as a MAGTF in order to succeed. Doing less will jeopardize their safety and degrade their ability to meet their mission.

#### **3. Why the new requirement?**

- The end of the Cold War brought the MEB forward as the premier force to respond to global crises. This resulted from a number of studies and analyses undertaken over a period of years to adjust Marine Corps war-fighting and training doctrine so that it could meet its role in the Nation's national security and national military strategies in this new era.
- A Marine Corps study, conducted by the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA), concluded that a MEB had to train as an integrated combat team – without the use of distributed or representational forces – in order to replicate the conditions of actual combat. The Marine Requirements Oversight Council (MROC), a body constituted of the senior Marine Corps general officers, concurred with this requirement and approved the MEB training requirement.

**For Further Information Please Contact**

**29 Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project**

**(web) [www.29palms.usmc.mil/las](http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/las) – (e-mail) [SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil](mailto:SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil) – (phone) 760-830-3764  
(mail) MAGTFTC, MCA GCC, Bldg. 1554, Box 788104, Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8104**



**Potential 29 Palms Training Land and  
Airspace Establishment Project  
Frequently Asked Questions  
December 2008**

**4. Who established the requirement?**

- The Marine Corps' Training and Education Command (TECOM), the Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC), with the concurrence of the Marine Requirements Oversight Council (MROC), established the MEB sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver training requirement after careful study of doctrine, lessons-learned from recent combat operations and an evaluation of new and foreseeable weapons systems and platforms.

**5. Will USMC requirements change with the next administration?**

- No, Marine Corps training requirements are based on enduring doctrine and meeting the Marine Corps role in the National Military Strategy. These are unlikely to change from administration to administration.

**6. Are there plans for additional acquisitions after this one?**

- The Marine Corps has been studying various alternatives for meeting MEB-level training requirements, including the proposed acquisition of land and airspace near the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC).
- The Marine Corps will continually study training requirements shaped by emerging developments in doctrine and systems, although the Marine Corps doesn't currently foresee other acquisition requests.



**Potential 29Palms Training Land and  
Airspace Establishment Project  
Frequently Asked Questions  
December 2008**

**POTENTIAL TRAINING LANDS RESPOND TO TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

**1. What is driving the request for new lands and airspace for MEB training?**

- A Marine Corps study, conducted by the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) study concluded that there is no current Department of Defense range that provides space sufficient for MEB sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver training.
- After a lengthy review of a number of options to meet sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver MEB training, the Marine Requirements Oversight Council (MROC) authorized study of potential land acquisition and the establishment of corresponding Special Use Airspace as a means to meet this vital Marine training requirement under Marine Corps Strategy 21.

**2. Why is the study of lands focused on the area near the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, CA?**

- The CNA study concluded that the U.S. Southwest range complex provided the best training area for a MEB, but that this training requirement could only be fully met with an expansion of the training range lands and airspace at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) at Twentynine Palms, CA.
- MCAGCC is the “center of excellence” for Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) training, so it is logical to ensure the capability at MCAGCC to achieve sustained combined-arms, live fire and maneuver MEB training and to enhance such training for other large-scale MAGTFs.
- More than 90% of the Marines deploying to combat receive their final training at MCAGCC, and any additional lands acquired to meet the MEB training requirement would also provide additional training capability to meet the full range of current and foreseeable Marine Corps training.
- Additional land and associated airspace would allow the Marine Corps to utilize current *and* planned weapons and systems in training.

**3. Doesn't the Marine Corps have enough land at MCAGCC?**

- No, the maneuver and training areas at MCAGCC are insufficient to meet Marine Corps training requirements for sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver MEB training.
- MCAGCC cannot accommodate all the units that currently need to train.
- Only 40% of MCAGCC is available for this type of combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver training. The remaining 60% of the land supports safety buffers, as well as area for infrastructure and for natural resources protection, or is otherwise unavailable due to terrain restrictions.
- Marines will continue to be good stewards of lands it controls, as they contain important

**For Further Information Please Contact**

**29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project**

**(web) [www.29palms.usmc.mil/las](http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/las) – (e-mail) [SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil](mailto:SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil) – (phone) 760-830-3764  
(mail) MAGTFTC, MCAGCC, Bldg. 1554, Box 788104, Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8104**



## **Potential 29Palms Training Land and Airspace Establishment Project Frequently Asked Questions December 2008**

environmental and cultural resources.

#### **4. Who establishes these restrictions?**

- Some of the guidelines to protect human health and safety, or natural or cultural resources are internal USMC guidelines and requirements.
- Others are from resource agencies such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service and regulatory agencies such as US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- The terrain restrictions preclude in many places the type of training the Marine Corps needs to conduct.

#### **5. Why study such a large amount of land?**

- The alternatives the Marine Corps has examined so far range from the smallest amount of land that would meet minimum requirements for sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver MEB training, to ones that could meet 100% of the requirement.
- In order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps team will analyze a range of reasonable alternatives to meet MEB training requirements, as well as a No Action Alternative. As a result the Environmental Impact (EIS) will analyze the impacts to lands west, south and east of the base. (MCAGCC analysis to date shows that lands to the North cannot support MEB training.)
- Once the NEPA process is completed and the Environmental Impact Statement is released, the Department of the Navy would issue a Record of Decision (ROD) that could choose one of the alternatives, a combination of alternatives, parts of alternatives or the No Action alternative. Only then would it be certain what lands would be actually proposed for addition to MCAGCC, if any.
- Any lands later identified as being unsuitable or unneeded for military training will be released from the withdrawal request.

#### **6. Why can't Marines use the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, in other words, why not share training lands with the Army?**

- Although the Army and the Marine Corps often serve side-by-side and execute similar missions, they have different training requirements. As a result, NTC does not have ranges capable of supporting MEB-level sustained, combined-arms live-fire and maneuver training.

#### **7. Isn't the Nation trying to downsize the number of troops in Iraq, do you really need this land?**

- MCAGCC is likely to be the premier service-level training facility for Marines into the future.

**For Further Information Please Contact**

**29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project**

**(web) [www.29palms.usmc.mil/las](http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/las) – (e-mail) [SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil](mailto:SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil) – (phone) 760-830-3764  
(mail) MAGTFTC, MCAGCC, Bldg. 1554, Box 788104, Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8104**



**Potential 29Palms Training Land and  
Airspace Establishment Project  
Frequently Asked Questions  
December 2008**

- Large-scale MAGTF combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver training, such as for a MEB, is a logical extension of training that has gone on at MCAGCC for decades.
  - Marines are the first to fight for our Nation, and they must always be prepared to deploy immediately. The potential land acquisition and Special Use Airspace would play an important role in helping the Marine Corps to fulfill this training requirement.
- 8. I thought the military was giving up land because of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process; why are you seeking more?**
- The potential MCAGCC land acquisition is being studied because there is currently no location at which the Marine Corps can sufficiently conduct the sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver MEB training it needs to best prepare Marines for deployment to combat. This is part of right-sizing our Nation's basing.
  - BRAC closures result when an installation is in excess to military requirements.

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**POTENTIAL SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE RESPONDS TO TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Why is the Marine Corps studying the establishment of additional airspace?**

- A MEB is an Air Ground Task Force. The Marines deploy to combat as a combined-arms unit, which includes air and ground combat elements.
- To support MEB training, the Marine Corps would require the corresponding training airspace.
- In order to ensure that MEB training requirements are fulfilled, it is important to ensure that both training lands and training Special Use Airspace are sufficient to meet the requirements for sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver MEB training.

**2. How will this airspace decision be made?**

- Throughout the EIS process, both land and airspace issues and resource impacts will be evaluated for the alternatives being studied. That is why the FAA is an important cooperating agency in the project EIS.
- During the EIS, the FAA will be reviewing the action along the way as an invited cooperating agency. With the FAA's cooperation and expertise, the Department of the Navy's goal is to prepare an EIS that is fully sufficient for FAA decision making.
- If the Record of Decision (ROD) determines that Special Use Airspace needs to be established, the FAA will conduct formal airspace customer feasibility forums, coordinate the final proposal with Air Traffic Control, and undertake a Proposed Rule Making.
- If the FAA concludes that additional Special Use Airspace should be established at MCAGCC, it will establish through Final Rule Making such Special Use Airspace for MEB-training purposes.

**3. Would this program result in any new restrictions being placed on commercial airline or civil aviation over flights?**

- MCAGCC airspace restrictions might be extended over any newly-acquired land due to safety issues involved with live-fire, combined arms air-ground task force training.
- The Marine Corps will work with the Federal Aviation Administration and aviation stakeholders on issues examined during the EIS.
- Through its long-standing working relationship with the FAA, MCAGCC and the Marine Corps work hard to both minimize disruption to the regional and national airspace due to its training activities and to support FAA efforts to optimize the safe use of airspace over the installation by commercial airlines and civil aviation.

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### **THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS ENSURES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND INPUTS**

#### **1. Is this a done deal?**

- No. The Marine Corps will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and work with regulators, resource agencies and other stakeholders to study the potential environmental effects of a range of reasonable alternatives to meet Marine Corps training requirements.
- During the EIS process, the public will be provided with multiple opportunities to participate in public meetings and to comment on the study, including on the proposed alternatives and issues. At the end of the process, the Marine Corps will select the option that meets its training requirements and is consistent with environmental and resource interests.
- During the EIS process the Department of the Navy and the Marine Corps will examine the impacts of the proposed alternatives on habitat, endangered species, recreation, alternative energy development and other environmental resources.
- A Notice of Intent to undertake the EIS and to hold Scoping Meetings for the public has been published in the Federal Register. Public scoping meetings will be held on December 3, 4 and 5, at which stakeholders can examine the proposed alternatives, raise their issues, and comment on the alternatives.

#### **2. How would the Marine Corps acquire any new land? What is the process? Who makes the ultimate decisions on the Marine Corps request?**

- After the EIS process is completed, the Department of the Navy will issue a Record of Decision, indicating the alternative, or combination or portion of alternatives, it seeks to pursue.
- If the Department of the Navy seeks to acquire new land it would submit a request to the Bureau of Land Management asking that the Department of Interior submit proposed legislation to Congress. Congress and the President will ultimately decide whether or not to legislate to remove these public lands from non-military uses, and provide them to the Marine Corps for training purposes.
- Any privately held lands or interests would have to be purchased by the government for the fair market value of the land or interest; and any state lands would be acquired based on agreements between the State of California and the federal government.
- The Federal Aviation Administration would determine whether or not to establish additional Special Use Airspace to complement any newly acquired training lands.

#### **3. What is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) process and how do citizens engage?**

- The BLM issued a public notice with the USMC of the proposed withdrawal in the Federal Register and held public meetings on October 23 and 24, 2008. There is a 90 day public

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(mail) MAGTFTC, MCA GCC, Bldg. 1554, Box 788104, Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8104**



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comment period through December 15, 2008, during which time the public can make comments to the BLM.

#### **4. Who owns the private lands? What effects does segregation have on private lands?**

- Segregation only affects federal land, and it prevents the establishment of permanent interests that would conflict with the proposed withdrawal for military purposes.
- Private lands are not part of the withdrawal and segregation of public lands process.
- During the EIS process, a concurrent examination will be made of private land ownership in the area.
- Any private lands acquired would be purchased through the payment of fair market value.

#### **5. How does the public express its views of the project alternatives? To what extent is the USMC currently coordinating with the public?**

- The EIS will analyze the environmental impacts, on both natural resource and socio-economic, of the various alternatives. Stakeholders – including public agencies; state, local and tribal governments; businesses, non-government organizations, including conservationists, recreation enthusiasts and developers and individuals – can participate in a transparent process to review and comment on the EIS. They will have a chance to review and comment on the EIS alternatives, issues, analysis, potential mitigation and conclusion.
- The Marine Corps will continue to work closely with the BLM and the FAA throughout the process, to help to ensure that all stakeholder concerns are adequately addressed during the EIS.
- The Marine Corps and MCAGCC regularly meet with stakeholders to discuss issues aboard the bases and in relation to the proposed land and airspace study.

#### **6. What is the involvement of the BLM on this project?**

- The BLM is a cooperating agency on the Environmental Impact Statement studies.
- The BLM and the Marine Corps have held public meetings to hear stakeholder input regarding the Department of the Navy's military training land withdrawal/segregation request.

#### **7. Why are there two 90-day public comment periods (one running through 15 Dec 2008; the other through 30 Jan 2009)**

- The first comment period is in connection with the BLM's public notice for the segregation of lands for the Marine Corps' EIS study. Comments during this period should be made to the BLM.
- The second comment period is for the "scoping period" for the EIS study. During this period the public is invited to provide comments to the Marine Corps on issues and the

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**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES WILL BE CAREFULLY STUDIED**

- 1. What threatened or endangered species are on the base?**
  - There is one listed species, the threatened Desert Tortoise. The Marine Corps at MCAGCC also works to protect and study such sensitive species as the Nelson Big Horn Sheep, various bat species and desert plants on base.
- 2. Would the additional operations and noise bother the endangered species?**
  - The Marine Corps has an outstanding record of protecting endangered and threatened species, and species of concern, on its installations.
  - The Marine Corps will work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game to ensure that MCAGCC has appropriate plans and operational methods that will be compatible with their continuing efforts to protect endangered and threatened species on the installation.
- 3. What have the resource surveys concluded about desert tortoises and other species, as well as cultural resources, in the study areas? What's the timeline for the studies?**
  - The resource studies underway will be concluded over the next year. They will be used in the EIS to evaluate any potential impacts to biological and cultural resources by the different alternatives.
  - In addition to these studies, consultations will occur with Native American Tribes to ensure that cultural resources studies are appropriately undertaken.
- 4. Is the USMC considering wilderness de-designation for expansion to the east?**
  - In the Wilderness Act of 1964, Congress established a National Wilderness Preservation System. In 1994 Congress designated three areas near to MCAGCC as Wilderness areas: Cleghorn Lake Wilderness, Sheephole Valley Wilderness and Cadiz Dunes Wilderness.
  - These Wilderness areas are administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such a manner as they are left unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness. The Wilderness designation provides protection of those areas and the preservation of their wilderness character.
  - The Marine Corps does not propose land acquisition in any congressionally designated Wilderness areas.
- 5. Has the BLM provided recreational and other data to the USMC?**
  - Yes, and the BLM will work with the USMC as a cooperating agency in evaluating the resource impacts of the proposed alternatives studied in the EIS, including any losses of socio-economic values, recreation and mining.
- 5. Do off-roaders currently use the potential acquisition land near MCAGCC?**

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- They use an area designated within the Johnson Valley in the West study area.
  - The impacts of the various alternatives on recreation use of the area will be studied under the Environmental Impact Statement process. This will allow for public comment on the project analysis and alternatives.
- 6. Would off-roaders be able to use it after the acquisition?**
- If land acquisition were completed and the area were used for dud-producing live-fire, no.
  - The alternatives studied will address the potential elimination or restriction of public access to any lands that might be acquired.
  - MCAGCC would use any acquired land for its training operations and if for safety reasons the public could not be allowed to enter after live-fire training, the land would no longer be available to off-roaders.
- 7. Would “off-roaders” be able to use it during the study period?**
- During the study period, public access for hiking or off-road vehicle activity will continue to be allowed.
- 8. Where would the off-roaders go if the Marine Corps acquires the land?**
- With the public’s participation during the EIS process, the Marine Corps will evaluate means to mitigate adverse environmental impacts.
- 9. Would historic or archeological resources be impacted by the acquisition?**
- The Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (NREA) mission awareness project is to develop and maintain awareness of values and requirements of natural and cultural resources protection at MCAGCC.
  - Potential impacts to cultural resources, if any, resulting from a proposed alternative will be identified and studied in the NEPA analysis.
  - With the public’s participation during the EIS process, the Marine Corps will evaluate means to mitigate adverse environmental impacts.
- 10. Would dust generation be increased and would it impact local communities?**
- Potential dust generation issues will be studied as air quality impacts in the EIS process.
  - The Marine Corps does not anticipate any impact on local communities.
  - MCAGCC’s Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan ensures coordination with military training organizations to minimize disturbances to training areas (i.e., road proliferation, dust control, etc.).

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**11. Would the additional noise bother the outlying communities?**

- The Marine Corps will study potential noise impacts as part of the required EIS analysis.
- The Marine Corps will do all that it can to minimize noise to MCAGCC neighbors.
- Stakeholders will have a chance to comment on this issue as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps team develops and publishes its analyses through the EIS process.

**12. Would water quality or quantity be impacted?**

- The Marine Corps does not believe that the project would impact either water quality or quantity, but this issue will be studied in the NEPA process and analyzed in the Draft EIS and Final EIS.

**13. What about airborne chemicals, ground contamination, noise and restrictions to traffic (e.g., on Hwy 247)?**

- All of these issues will be studied in the EIS and will be available for public review. After the EIS process is completed, the Department of the Navy will issue a Record of Decision, indicating the decision it has made regarding the alternative, or combination or portion of alternatives, if any, that it seeks to pursue to meet the MEB sustained, combined-arms, live fire and maneuver training requirement.

**14. What effect does the segregation request have on energy projects proposed for the area?**

- Projects that would be incompatible with military training will be “on hold” until such time as the Department of the Navy and the Marine Corps complete the EIS and issue the Record of Decision.
- At any time that lands are determined to no longer have military training value, the Department of the Navy will release the segregation hold on them and this limitation would cease to exist.



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**MCAGCC, A PREMIER TRAINING FACILITY**

**1. What is the estimate for what land acquisition would cost?**

- Initial estimates for potential project costs – environmental reviews, regulatory compliance and real estate acquisition – to complete the potential land acquisition were approximately \$50 million for the smallest acquisition alternative. Estimates will be developed for the various alternatives that will be studied in NEPA.

**2. Who trains here?**

- Currently, over 90% of the Marines deploying to combat in Iraq or Afghanistan receive training at MCAGCC before deployment, as well as units who are stationed at the base and units from other services and from other nations.
- Some units from the Army train here to hone select skills after they have trained for their “core” skills at their own bases.
- Many multi-national forces train here as well.

**3. What units train regularly on base?**

- The base is home to many First Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) units, including the 7<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment; 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Armored Recon Battalion; 1<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion; the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Marines; “D” Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> AAV; Combat Logistics Battalion 7, Marine Wing Support Squadron 374; 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines; 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines; 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines; 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines; and VMU-1.
- Many other Marine Corps units – 90% of all Marine units headed for combat in Iraq and Afghanistan – complete pre-deployment training at MCAGCC.
- Marine Reserve units also train at the MCAGCC.

**4. Do other country’s militaries train here? Which ones?**

- Yes military units from many countries have trained here, including, units from the United Kingdom and Singapore.

**5. What units are currently training at the MCAGCC? Are they the next unit to head out?**

- For security purposes, the Marine Corps does not discuss future deployment plans of military units.

**6. Do the units return to the MCAGCC between each combat tour?**

- Yes, because of the unique, comprehensive training package MCAGCC offers units. Training includes taking the lessons learned from the combat theater and incorporating them into training to ensure that Marines are trained with the most up-to-date information.

**7. What kind of training do they receive at MCAGCC?**

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- Among other training, they receive Marine Air-Ground Task Force combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver training, cultural awareness training, and Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training.

**8. What is MOUT and why is it important?**

- Military Operations in an Urban Terrain. It is training in an urban environment, such as those presented in Afghanistan and Iraq, where there is close-quarter battle.

**9. What future weapons systems will be used here?**

- MCAGCC would need to accommodate the Joint Strike Fighter, the Osprey and new munitions.

**10. How long does a Battalion train at MCAGCC?**

- Typically, there is a 30-day training window.

**11. Would depleted uranium rounds be used aboard MCAGCC in training activities, and are they already used aboard the base?**

- There is no requirement to use depleted uranium rounds in training.



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### **INCIDENTAL PROJECT QUESTIONS**

**1. Where would the money come from?**

- The money would come from Congressional appropriations through the regular military construction program.

**2. What would the Marine Corps build on this land?**

- Any potential land acquisition or Special Use Airspace establishment primarily would allow us to meet the space requirement for sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver MEB training for a MEB.
- If acquired, the Marine Corps would use these resources for other training, including smaller units, joint training with other services, and for the training of larger MAGTF elements.
- If the lands were acquired, MCAGCC would build facilities, such as MOUT buildings and facilities, roads and other infrastructure, as requirements dictate.

**3. Would there be an increase in the permanent party population aboard the base?**

- There would not be any increase directly affected by the training land and airspace study effort.
- However, the Commandant of the Marine Corps has identified MCAGCC for an increase of military personnel stationed aboard the base now that Congress has approved expanding the Marine Corps to 202,000 Marines by 2011. Some new units will also be based at MCAGCC.

**4. To what extent does the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) apply to this project?**

- The Marine Corps is working with the State of California to ascertain what will need to be done in terms of the CEQA requirements for state actions.

**5. Will greenhouse gas emissions and climate change due to global warming be analyzed?**

- The Marine Corps is currently analyzing what it must do regarding the study of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change issues in the EIS.

**6. How long has this potential acquisition been in the works?**

- The Marine Corps' Requirements Oversight Council initiated the effort in 2002 by asking for a study to determine what the requirements were for meeting future training requirements. Once they determined that they needed to be able to provide sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver training for a Marine Expeditionary Brigade, they initiated further studies to see how to meet those training requirements. A Marine Corps study, conducted by the Center for Naval Analyses, showed that the ranges in the Southwest United States provided the best opportunity to meet this requirement, but that it could only be met without the use of representational and virtual forces if there was expansion of the Marine

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Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms. The MROC authorized a study to look into potential land acquisition at MCAGCC. That decision has been reviewed at various levels within the Department of the Navy and the Department of Defense since, receiving validation and confirmation through all echelons.

### **7. Why did this take so long to become public?**

- First, the Marine Corps had to review whether or not there were present facilities adequate for current and future sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver MEB training requirements. Since there were not, the Marine Corps then looked at various options for meeting the requirements. Once the decision to look at potential land acquisition was identified, it had to be approved through HQMC, the Department of the Navy and DoD. Once approved, MCAGCC undertook the effort to identify a set of potential alternatives that might meet the requirements and that would be studied in the National Environmental Policy Act process that leads to the publication of a Draft EIS, Final EIS, and ultimately a Record of Decision. Those alternatives were just recently approved and will now be communicated to all stakeholders.

### **8. When did the Marine Corps first notify the public of the project?**

- Once the requirement had been validated up through the Department of Defense and permission to undertake NEPA and other analyses was approved in the summer of 2007, the Marine Corps immediately provided notice to Congress, issued a press release and sent letters from MCAGCC's Commanding General to community leaders and organizations. Since then, MCAGCC and HQMC have held meetings with Members of Congress and their staffs, State Government officials in Sacramento, the BLM and FAA, and with community stakeholders such as Off-Road Vehicle enthusiasts, energy companies, the film industry, MCAGCC neighbors, local government officials and others. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to undertake the NEPA analysis and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was published on October 30, 2008. Public meetings are being held on December 3, 4 and 5, 2008, so that the public may learn more about the alternatives and provide input to the Marine Corps on the issues that should be evaluated in the EIS.

### **9. If this project was in the Defense Appropriation Bill, why did you need a waiver from the Office of the Secretary of Defense?**

- A government position was established that does not allow for significant land acquisition at military bases unless it can be established that existing facilities cannot meet the requirement. After a strenuous review by Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment (DUSD (I&E)), it was determined that only land acquisition at MCAGCC could meet the Marine Corps training requirement. The DUSD (I&E) recommended granting a waiver and in June 2007, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (USD (A, T & L)) granted a waiver to the moratorium that allowed study of the various options that will be looked at in the NEPA process.

### **10. What is the nature of the waiver?**

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- The waiver provides authority to undertake the necessary steps to pursue potential acquisition of training land to enable the Marine Corps to conduct sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver MEB training. It means the Marine Corps could undertake an EIS, with public review and comment, to study alternatives to meet this requirement.

**11. Who made the decision on the waiver?**

- The decision was made by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

**12. Can the public get the GIS files, specific maps or other products to assist in analysis?**

- The project has loaded necessary maps and other documents onto the MCAGCC project website: **(web) [www.29palms.usmc.mil/las](http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/las)**

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