

# USMC



**MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER  
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA**

**60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION**

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**1952-2012**



# MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER 60TH ANNIVERSARY



*Photo 1:* Jim Murrell (right) and Ed Drinane relax in their barracks aboard the installation in the late 1950s.  
*2:* The base gas station in 1960.  
*3:* Early construction of squad bay buildings aboard the installation.  
*4:* Marines participate in training aboard MCAGCC during the 1980s.  
*5:* Well-wishers greet Marines coming home from Desert Storm in 1991.  
*6:* Marines from CLB-3 wait to attach an M777A2 howitzer to a CH-53E Super Stallion during Enhanced Mojave Viper pre-deployment training in 2010.



**TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA  
2012**



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**Design and layout by:** Samantha Giordano

**Sources:** "U.S. Marines at Twentynine Palms, California" by Col. Verle E. Ludwig (RET); MCAGCC and USMC Command Chronologies; Observation Post; The Desert Trail newspaper, MCAGCC website; marines.mil; tenant unit histories

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**COMMANDING GENERAL  
MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING COMMAND  
MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER  
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA**



In August 1952, 200 Marines journeyed by truck from Camp Pendleton to a remote location in the Mojave Desert. Their mission was to begin work on a new training site, called Camp Detachment Marine Corps Training Center, Twentynine Palms. Though none of them had previously heard of Twentynine Palms, it is a name now recognized by hundreds of thousands of Marines, past and present, who sharpened their combat skills across the Center's rugged terrain and in the harsh environmental conditions of the high desert.

From its humble beginnings as a remote artillery training location, the Combat Center has grown and evolved into one of the premier training installations in the entire Department of Defense. Today, the Combat Center encompasses 935 square miles and is home to 28,000 Marines, sailors, civilian employees and family members. The Combat Center is the heart of the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, which supports the most aggressive and fully integrated live-fire combined-arms training anywhere in the world. Last year 44,000 warfighters trained aboard the Combat Center, preparing for deployments in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and other contingencies around the globe.

The evolution of the Combat Center has been characterized by decades of Marines who have made it their business to support the training of our operating forces to fight and win our nation's battles around the globe. This anniversary celebration serves as a salute to six decades of selfless service by tens of thousands of sun-weathered Leathernecks who have played a role in writing the rich history of this "crown jewel" of our Corps.

The Combat Center has mapped an exciting trajectory into the next decade that includes tremendous infrastructure growth throughout Mainside, an ongoing initiative to acquire additional lands to support 21st Century MAGTF live-fire training requirements, and a DOD-leading effort to leverage renewable energy while continuing to serve as responsible stewards of the environment.

Yet, with all the change on the horizon, one constant remains: the all-important role the Combat Center will play in ensuring that our Corps remains the Nation's Expeditionary Force in Readiness – with the core competency of being the most lethal combined-arms fighting force in the world. Our collective responsibility to our Corps and our Nation remains crystal clear.

I am extremely proud to serve with all of the superb men and women of the current Combat Center Team. As well, I am honored to stand in salute of all of those who have played a role through the years in making this magnificent Center what it is today.

Happy 60th Anniversary and Semper Fidelis!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. W. Smith, Jr.", written over a white background.

G. W. SMITH, JR.  
Brigadier General, USMC



# 1950s



Photo 1: A snow storm hits the installation in 1954.

2: Tanks and Marines line up for display during a VIP visit.

3: A view of the Marine Corps Training Center, Twentynine Palms front gate in the 1950s.

*In 1950, it was all about space.*

As tensions between North and South Korea heated up into a full-blown war and more and more Marines were called to duty, Camp Pendleton was rapidly running out of room for warriors to train.

The Corps set out to find a place where artillery and rocket units could co-exist and conduct maneuvers without threat to base camp or surrounding civilians. Eventually, they found the perfect spot some 130 miles inland — 935 square miles of open desert at a former military base just north of Twentynine Palms.

“Sheppard proclaims Marines are coming,” read the banner headline on the front page of the 1 November 1951 issue of the community’s newspaper, The Desert Trail. The previous day, Congressman Harry R. Sheppard had finally laid to rest months of conjecture when he announced during a community meeting at Smith’s Ranch that \$15,915,210 had been allocated for construction at the base, and work was expected to begin in December.

A self-reliant, tight-knit community populated mostly by families of World War I vets who moved here hoping the pristine desert air would ease the pain of their mustard-gassed lungs, Twentynine Palms was no stranger to military operations. The U.S. Army Air Corps had

operated a glider school here briefly during World War II and naval aviators from West Coast bases later dropped bombs and practiced strafing the landscape during training.

Desert dwellers were ecstatic that the Corps was on its way, and despite a few bumps like a contractor strike that brought construction to a halt for nearly two months in mid-summer 1952, the Marines were settling in before summer’s end.

“Marines Arrive,” the 21 August 1952 edition of The Desert Trail trumpeted a day after Post Order 343 was issued at Camp Pendleton, creating Camp Detachment Marine Corps Training Center, Twentynine Palms.

More than 50 trucks carrying 200 Marines and equipment made their way triumphantly to the new desert detachment, the newspaper noted.

The following week’s front page featured two large photos of Force Troops artillery convoys rolling north on Adobe Road and a banner headline excitedly informing the public that “Marine artillery units begin training at base.”

The Marines had indeed arrived, and they were here to stay.

In 1952, there was much work to be done. While visiting artillerymen took full advantage of the fledgling center’s vast expanse, training out of a hastily erected tent city known as Camp Wilson, installation commander Lt. Col. Frederick H. Scantling and Lt. Cmdr. John P. Mapes, the naval resident officer in charge of construction, got busy growing Mainside. A mess hall for unmarried Marines, a commissary and the detachment’s headquarters occupied old Army buildings while permanent buildings were under construction.

Wells were drilled, concrete slabs were poured and sturdy concrete buildings began to rise from the desert floor by the dozens. Construction at Twentynine Palms in those first years was the largest such military endeavor undertaken to date, an architectural trade magazine reported.

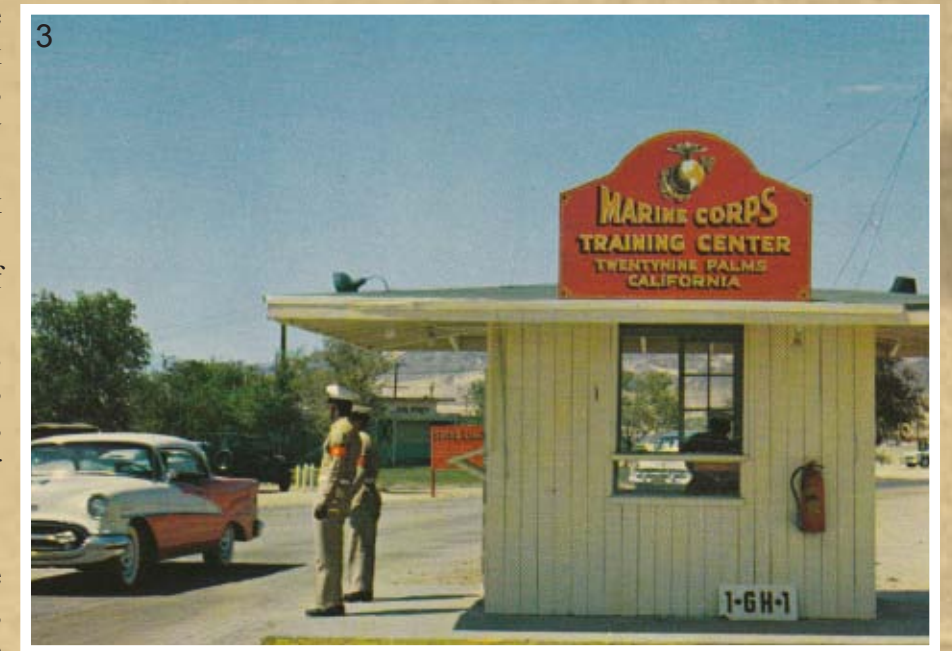
On 6 February 1953, the installation was redesignated Marine Corps Training Center, Twentynine Palms and by the late 1950s, Mainside as we know it today had largely taken shape.

“It was a base of which to be proud,” author and retired Col. Verle E. Ludwig wrote in his 1989 book, “U.S. Marines at Twentynine Palms, California,” published by Headquarters, Marine Corps’ History and Museum Division.

The Catholic and Protestant chapels faced one another proudly across the parade field just below the new headquarters building, and six mess halls seating 1,000 men each were in operation as were clubs for enlisted Marines and officers. Single Marines and sailors were housed in “modern-design” barracks instead of tents, and families filled Marine Palms housing near the main gate. There was a post office, an exchange, a bank, a theater, a bowling alley, a child care center and two training tanks (aka swimming pools). There even was a base newspaper, The Observation Post. Its inaugural issue hit the stands on 21 March 1957.

The installation also was the only community in the Hi-Desert with a sewer system, its sometimes-pungent filtration ponds affectionately dubbed “Lake Bandini.”

The first half of 1957 brought major change — on 1 February the installation was promoted to Marine Corps



Base, Twentynine Palms, no longer under the command of Camp Pendleton.

A few months later, the Marines’ tenure here briefly was threatened when the Senate Public Lands Committee claimed the Corps had taken over the land without title or permission and had no right to be there. Congressman Sheppard, who was instrumental in bringing the Marines to the desert five years earlier, quickly ended that dust-up when he presented a 1952 bill passed by Congress and signed by the president authorizing the land acquisition and base construction.

The Marines really were here to stay.

The waning decade of the 1950s continued to bring growth as more units and Marines moved permanently to the desert. Among them were 7th Engineer Battalion’s Company D, which came aboard to keep the roads in usable condition, and the 2nd Medium Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion with its “Honest John” rockets.

In the final two years of the decade, the main athletic field, site of numerous recreational activities until it was converted in 2011 to a new Marine Corps Exchange, was dedicated Victory Field in honor of Brig. Gen. Randall M. Victory, base commander from 1957-58. The base also purchased 44 mature palm trees from a date palm grove in the Coachella Valley, planting them along Del Valle Road.

Those years also saw activation of the band, which represented the installation musically both on and off base until its deactivation in January 2012 due to restructuring within the Marine Corps.



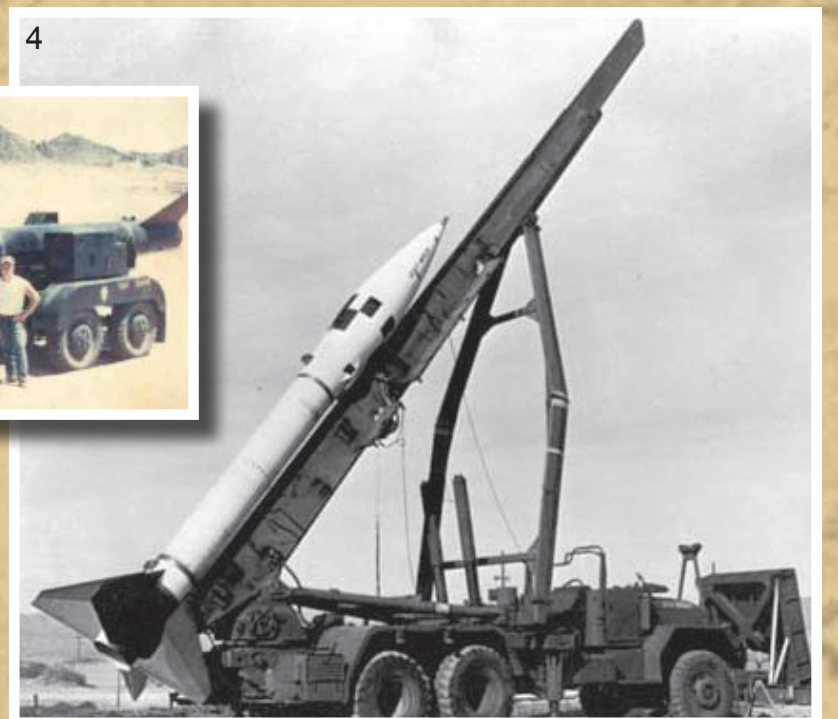
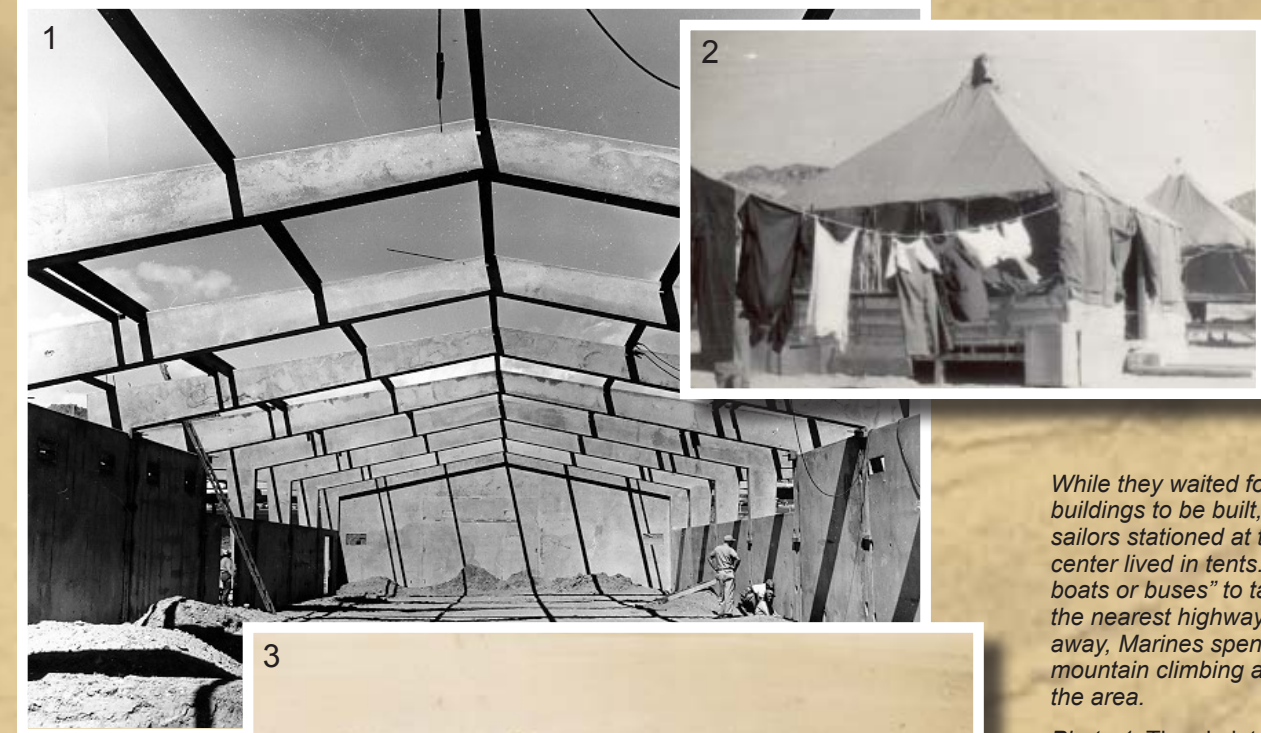


Photo 1: An aerial shot of Marine Corps Training Center, Twentynine Palms shows just how quickly installation buildings populated the vast desert landscape.

2: The 21 August 1952 edition of The Desert Trail heralds the arrival of the Marines.

3: Local dignitaries, including Harris Moore, Ed Kenney, Bill Hatch and Bill Ince, learn about equipment and training during a visit to the installation.

4: The makeshift headquarters of the Marine detachment at Twentynine Palms was the operations building of the former World War II-era Army Air Corps and Navy airfield.



4: An M-289 truck holds an "Honest John" missile.

5: Marine Cliff Hughes poses next to an "Honest John" missile.

While they waited for permanent buildings to be built, Marines and sailors stationed at the new training center lived in tents. With no "liberty boats or buses" to take them to the nearest highway 49 miles away, Marines spent their free time mountain climbing and exploring the area.

Photo 1: The skeleton of a permanent concrete building awaits completion.

2: Uniforms hang on a clothes line outside a tent used as temporary housing for Marines.

3: Marines spend their off time exploring the vast expanse of the new base.





Photo 1:  
55 MM guns line up on  
MCB Twentynine Palms in 1964.



2: Staying hydrated has always been  
a priority for Marines and sailors  
in the field. In the 1960s, they  
used canvas water bags.

3: Shirley Sitton, LASSIE of the  
month, poses for a picture in the 1960s.

4: The original base hospital on  
Fifth Street served the installation  
until the 1990s. Today, the building  
houses the Village Center.

The 1960s would bring momentous change to Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms, on nearly all fronts. In the first half of the decade, two Light Anti-Aircraft Missile (LAAM) battalions with Hawk missiles, a rocket battery and more units came aboard and the base became only the fourth place in the country where troops could fire surface-to-air missiles during training.

The 4th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment also reached full battalion size when more troops transferred here from Camp Pendleton.

The Corps' first Redeye Missile School opened classes here mid-decade with 49 students, graduating them two months later.

In 1966, the 9th Communication Battalion was activated and assigned to Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force Pacific the following year. It would undergo a name

change (to the Communication Support Company) and a series of deactivations and reactivations until 1982 when it was moved to Camp Pendleton and redesignated as Communication Company (Reinforced), 9th Communication Battalion.

Field training ramped up as commanders continued to take full advantage of the desert's vast expanse. In October 1962, Marines from the 1st Marine Division and 3rd Marine Air Wing convoyed and flew to the desert to join local Force Troops Marines for Winter Night, a massive combined-arms exercise in which 43,000 men worked together to hone their collective fighting skills.

That same month, LAAM battalions from Twentynine Palms became part of an amphibious force poised to invade the island nation of Cuba if Fidel Castro and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev failed to comply with the United States' demand to immediately dismantle Russian nuclear missile installations discovered that summer. The

battalions returned home without going ashore when President John F. Kennedy and his administration won the tension-filled, two-week battle of wills and Khrushchev backed down, dismantling the missile sites and averting possible nuclear war by the narrowest of margins.

The 1960s also marked the first time units from Twentynine Palms deployed for war.

In late 1964, Marines and sailors from Twentynine Palms began deploying both individually and with their desert-based units as America sent combat units to Vietnam. They would stay in the fight until the fall of Saigon in 1975. In all, 13,000 Marines would die and 88,000 would be wounded in the bloody conflict, many of them from Twentynine Palms.

As expected in wartime, few Marines stayed behind, and it fell to the wives who stayed here to make sure that things on the homefront ran smoothly. In addition to tending to their families, the women created LASSIE — Ladies Auxiliary Special Service Individual Endeavor — to run special services and recreation programs. Once the war ended, the LASSIEs turned over those duties to women Marines assigned to the base.



Training here also took a new direction in the '60s. On 22 November 1963, the day President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Headquarters Marine Corps announced plans to move its fastest-growing school — the Communications-Electronics School Battalion — from San Diego to the desert. In addition to more space, the remote location meant less atmospheric interference

and noise interruption from airport takeoffs and landings. Moving the school would take years — C&E's first classes aboard Twentynine Palms commenced in the fall of 1967 with 400 students. Three more schools would make the move inland during the decade and in 1969, construction began on the first phase of what would become a sprawling school complex.



The tumultuous decade also saw construction and expansion of a branch naval hospital. A nine-hole golf course and adjacent Ocotillo Heights housing also were built, as was a dormitory to house Women Marines, who numbered around 50 by the end of 1969.

A ham radio station went operational in 1960, connecting 13,000 Marines overseas with their families back home in its first year. On the first day of 1967, the U.S. Postal Service gave MCB, Twentynine Palms its own ZIP code — 92278. To this day, 92278 and the original 92277 are the only two codes serving Twentynine Palms, the base and the unincorporated communities of Wonder Valley to the east and Desert Heights to the west.

The 1960s — precisely, 20 August 1965 — also marked the first time a female Marine was assigned to Twentynine Palms. She was Cpl. Ida Endsley Buchman, wife of Staff Sgt. Robert E. Buchman of the base photo lab. Until the end of 1967, the only way a woman Marine could serve here was if her husband also was assigned here or if he was a retired Marine who lived here. After that, a rules change meant women could be assigned here on their own merit.

Not only were the Marines here to stay, so were women in uniform. Today, more than 460 active-duty female Marines are stationed here.



# 1970s



Photo 1: Planes line up at the new Expeditionary Airfield.



2: Marines shoot a .50-caliber machine gun during training.



3: The 26th commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Louis H. Wilson, left, and Brig. Gen. Edward J. Megarr, base commanding general, show off the sign for the newly dedicated road to Camp Wilson in 1976.

As the 1970s got under way, combat units continued their Vietnam rotations and base staff focused on growth, improving the installation's water system to the tune of \$800,000, upgrading the sewage treatment plant and opening a new, permanent commissary building near the main gate. Phase II construction began at the C&E school complex and the school got a new name — Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School (MCCES).

The new Shadow Mountain housing area added 100 more family homes and bachelor enlisted quarters (BEQs) that

looked more like hotels than the low-rise barracks of the past added hundreds of rooms for single Marines. A base gym was built on Sixth Street and a new Marine Corps Exchange opened on Brown Road between Fifth and Sixth Streets.

As the Vietnam War wound down mid-decade, major change was on the horizon for Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms. On 1 July 1975, Medal of Honor recipient Louis H. Wilson was promoted to general and sworn in as the Corps' 26th commandant. Wilson immediately set about expanding the installation's

mission to include training of all tactical units in the Marine Corps, bringing Brig. Gen. Ernest R. Reid aboard as commanding general to handle the ground element and Col. Bill Bouldin in as assistant base commander to handle the air element.

Years before the term would become part of the installation's name, Wilson called it "my air-ground training center," Bouldin recalled. Though it would be his first tour of duty here, the aviator was no stranger to the desert. Some 23 years earlier — on St. Patrick's Day 1952 — Bouldin had flown from El Toro to Camp Pendleton to pick up 42 Marines, bringing them to the desert to help with construction of the new camp detachment.

In 1975, it was Bouldin's job to oversee construction of an airfield near Camp Wilson that could accommodate oversized cargo planes weighing hundreds of thousands of pounds fully loaded. Construction on the Expeditionary Airfield (so-called because its 3 million square feet of aluminum matting can be picked up and moved if needed) began in January 1976. By mid-year, the 8,000-foot runway was in use. The EAF officially opened in June 1976, and the first C-5A landed in August 1978.

Airfield construction funding included money to pave the soft-top road connecting Mainside to Camp Wilson to make it an all-weather blacktop route. The road project didn't come without human cost — on 10 December 1976, it was dedicated as Phillips Road in honor of a Navy Seabee killed during its construction.



EAF project money also was allocated to improve the camp itself, with new head and shower facilities, a permanent mess hall, a small exchange, a mail facility and several shelters to house troops.

With the EAF operational, Commandant Wilson's vision of an air-ground training center was complete. On 1 October 1978, Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms was redesignated the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Training Center. In February 1979, the word training was dropped and the installation's name would remain the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center for the next 21 years.



The '70s also saw Brig. Gen. Reid and his staff draw up plans for a Tactical Exercise Control Center. The 3rd Tank Battalion also relocated to Twentynine Palms, with a permanent tank park and maintenance facilities completed in April 1976.

It also would be another momentous decade for women here. In May 1974, the Women Marine Company moved into new dormitory-style quarters. Two weeks later, the company — which all female Marines assigned here reported to though they worked in various places around the base — was deactivated and the women were assigned to the units where they actually worked.

Though most of Twentynine Palms' 130 commissioned and enlisted female Marines served with the Base Headquarters and Service Battalion and schools, in August 1974 two women went to Force Troops. Pvts. Victoria Bullard and Cynthia Southworth were assigned to the Provisional Maintenance Company to repair and calibrate fire control instruments for artillery units.

In 1975, Headquarters Marine Corps announced that only four occupational specialties would remain closed to women — infantry, artillery, armor and air crews in combat.



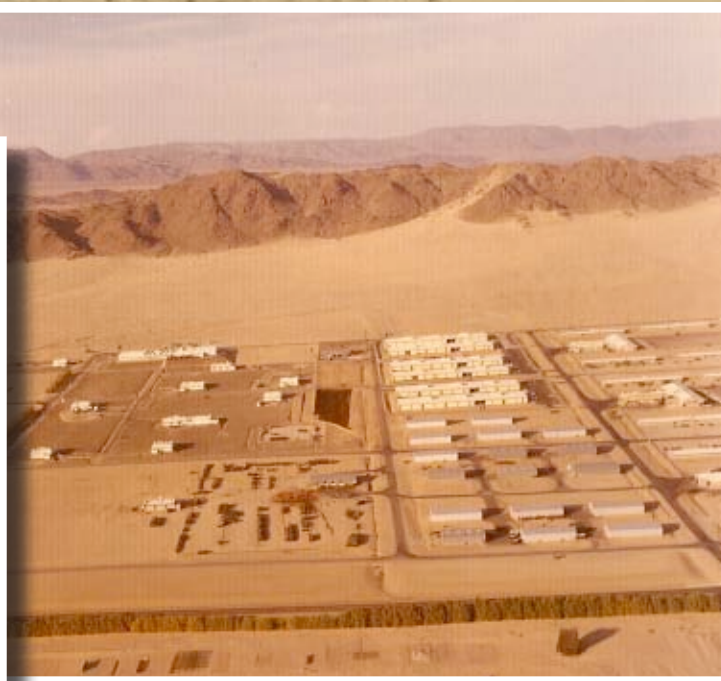


Photo 1: An aerial shot of Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms in 1971 shows the continued expansion of permanent buildings on base.

2: Marines stationed in Twentynine Palms celebrate the 200th birthday of the Corps in 1975.



Marines trained with a variety of ground weapons in the 1970s.

3: Marines fire an M60 machine gun.

4: A shoulder-fired anti-tank rocket system is used during training.

5: A Marine sights his 106 mm recoilless rifle



Marines stationed in Twentynine Palms during the 1970s prepared for combat in several different ways.

Photo 1: A Marine receives a communication via radio.

2: A Marine fires a "Red Eye" missile during training aboard the installation.

3: A Marine learns how to fire a Russian weapon to have knowledge of foreign weapons should he ever need to use one during war.

4: Long before the days of role players and CAMOUT, Marines themselves dressed up as the enemy during training.





# 1980s

Photo 1: A Tube-launched Optically-tracked Wire-guided (TOW) missile is launched during training.

2: Coyotes conduct range recon prior to training.

3: Marines practice a ground assault at one of MCAGCC's ranges.

4: M60 tanks, AAVs and other tactical vehicles maneuver through the desert during training.

5: The Combat Center Drum and Bugle Corps marches down Adobe Road in Twentynine Palms during the 1981 Pioneer Days Parade.



As the 1980s got under way, Force Troops here, on Commandant Wilson's order, morphed into the Combined Arms Command. Later in the decade its name would change to 7th Marine Amphibious Brigade then to 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB). The mission remained the same — continue to expand and improve training. New range regulations focused on safety while providing the most realistic scenarios possible and the training formerly called Desert Palm Tree was now known as CAX, for Combined Arms Exercise. It was conducted under the direction of

the Tactical Exercise and Evaluation Control Group (TEECG).

Three years into the CAX program, the 1983 Command Chronology narrative described the Combat Center's mission of developing, conducting and evalu-

ating the Corps' Combined Arms Training Program as "a formidable one," noting that "The 935-square-mile training area, once considered to offer unlimited training opportunity is now in such high demand that not all training and test and evaluation requirements can be accommodated."

August 1988 would mark the first expanded CAX, when 28,000 Marines, soldiers, sailors, airmen and Coast Guardsmen all trained together during Gallant Eagle/Gallant Knight, an exercise that included a force-on-force phase utilizing Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) gear that recorded if an individual was hit by enemy or friendly fire.

Growth would be the order of the decade and by the end of the '80s, some 2,000 additional Marines would call MCAGCC home as units like the Light Assault Vehicle Battalion, 3rd and 4th Battalions, 11th Marines and 5th Battalion, 12th Marines relocated from Camp Pendleton and Okinawa. In July 1983, A Company, 1st Light Armored Vehicle Battalion stood up, becoming

the first unit in the Marine Corps to utilize light-armored vehicles in a combat setting.

The decade also brought new administration buildings (including a new headquarters for MCCES and the 7th MEB), new water wells, a new armory, training and maintenance facilities, a new fitness center, and new mess halls at Camp Wilson and Mainside. New family housing units and three-story high-rise BEQS also were built. As single Marines moved into their new homes, their old low-rise barracks were converted into office space.

During the '80s, a Combined Arms Staff Trainer, a simulator designed to teach staff officers how to effectively employ combined arms, came online. Range Maintenance made significant progress on a Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) range and completed the Tire City Range 108C. It also completed the firing line and lateral limits of the MK 19 grenade launcher range (Range 112). The Weapons Impact Scoring System, a computerized target system for aircraft ordnance deliveries, scored its first impact.



Technological advances weren't limited to training — in October 1983, the first computer-generated training schedule of all MCCES courses/classes was published.

Basewide improvements were made throughout the decade. The airfield and the base telephone and electrical systems were updated and I.D. cards began being issued at a centralized location. The Catholic and Protestant chapels were renovated and dining facilities were modernized. The main exchange was expanded to the tune of \$3.8 million and two new seven-day convenience stores were built. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Directorate (now called Marine Corps Community Services) also renovated gym/fitness centers, the auto hobby shop, food outlets and the youth center.

In 1985, the Navy's branch hospital on Fifth Street just south of the Headquarters Building opened a new emergency room and medical repair building, and its lab was renovated. Three years later, it was granted full naval hospital status in preparation for construction of a brand new facility though discovery of a previously unknown earthquake fault at its intended location required planners to find a new site and come up with a new design.



The installation also turned a serious eye toward the environment in the 1980s, creating an Environmental Review Board, an Encroachment Management Committee and a Desert Tortoise Habitat. A Water Conservation and Wastewater Re-Use study was undertaken and the base located and registered 73 underground hazardous storage tanks with the California Water Resources Control Board.

On a lighter note, the installation's first fast-food place — a burger joint called The Last Oasis — opened in the building on Sixth Street that now houses Charley's Grilled Subs.

In the decade's final year, the Marine Corps purchased 10 acres of land near Condor Road on the Combat Center's south boundary, setting aside a portion for Condor Elementary School, which opened in 1990.







2



Photo 1: Marines of Desert Storm during the "Mother of All Victory Parades" held after their return from the Persian Gulf.

2: Marines conduct Special Patrol Insertion/Extraction (SPIE) rigging training aboard MCAGCC.

3: Well-wishers line Twentynine Palms Highway to greet Marines and sailors returning from Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

From the start, the last decade of the 20th Century would provide Combat Center Marines and sailors numerous opportunities to put their training to use. On 1 June 1990, the 7th Marine Regiment — the "Magnificent Seventh" — completed its move here from Camp Pendleton, but there was little time to get settled. On 2 August, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein ordered his troops to invade Kuwait. Caught off-guard, the country quickly fell to Iraq's army and it was feared that oil-rich Saudi Arabia was next in his sights.

Within days, combat units would rumble out of Twentynine Palms en route to the Persian Gulf, where the U.S. would lead a 34-nation coalition circling the wagons around Saudi Arabia and poised to oust the Iraqi invaders from Kuwait. Their deployment to Operation Desert Shield was so rapid that Marines and sailors here had barely enough time to pack the gear they took with them, leaving behind barracks rooms filled with personal effects. Staff NCOs from non-deploying units like MCCES stepped up, packing belongings for safekeeping. It was anyone's guess when those deployed would return.

The regiment's arrival here and its almost immediate deployment to Desert Shield put a heavy strain on organizations like the Family Services Center, American Red Cross and Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, but each rose to the challenge, implementing support groups and classes for family members left behind.

Desert Shield temporarily shifted the installation's mission from CAX training to preparing units for duty in the Gulf. When there wasn't enough time for the regiment to undergo mechanized combined-arms training before it left, TEECG took training to the regiment, sending 15 infantry trainers known as Coyotes to Saudi Arabia as part of the Marine Corps

Combat Development Command In-Country Training Team.

It may not have been business as usual at the Combat Center with their commanding general Brig. Gen. John I. Hopkins Sr. and his warriors all deployed, but those who stayed behind made great strides in their absence. A construction moratorium delayed work on the new naval hospital, a child care center and the maintenance facility for the new M1A1 main battle tank, but construction of a new Marksmanship Training Unit operations building went forward. In October 1990, the first M1A1 tanks arrived at MCAGCC and the 2nd Tank Battalion out of Camp Lejeune, N.C., came aboard to train before deploying to the Gulf with 76 of the new main battle tanks.

A new building to store the Training and Audiovisual Support Center's MILES equipment and other training devices was completed. The Wargaming Center went operational on 20 August, incorporating TACWAR, Steelthrust and other mechanical and computer games used for training.

MWR wrapped up a busy first year of consolidated operations, opening the Marine Palms and Ocotillo exchanges as well as a Burger King. The Commander's Room at the Officers Club opened and a project to convert the mini-golf area into a family park got under way. At Camp Wilson, the Warriors Club opened, the chow hall was upgraded and A-frame desert huts that housed troops during training were replaced with K-spans.

In November 1990, the new main gate opened. Instead of navigating that notoriously dangerous stretch of roadway known as the Condor Curves, those entering the installation now came straight in on Adobe Road.

As the old year faded into 1991, those wondering what would happen in the Gulf wouldn't have to wait long. On 17 January, viewers around the world were glued to their TV sets as CNN broadcast live when Operation Desert Storm got under way with a coordinated attack that included Tomahawk land attack missiles launched from cruisers, destroyers and battleships.

They were watching still when Marines and soldiers crossed into Kuwait at 0400 on 24 February, and they breathed a huge sigh of relief when Saddam Hussein's promised "Mother of All Battles" fizzled and footage of thousands of Iraqis waving the white flags of surrender flashed across TV screens. One hundred hours later it was over as President George H.W. Bush announced:

"Kuwait is liberated. Iraq's army is defeated. Our military objectives are met."

The Marine Corps would lose 23 men in Desert Storm, including Lance Cpl. Eliseo C. Felix of Sierra Battery, 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, who died 2 February 1991 when his M109 howitzer was hit by a laser-guided bomb near the Kuwait border. In 1998, the Combat Center dedicated Felix Field, a new sports complex at Adobe and Del Valle roads, in honor of the 19-year-old Avondale, Ariz., native.

As the Marines of Desert Storm wrapped up their deployment, the community prepared for their return. Yellow ribbons were everywhere, and nearly every Marine Corps bus that rolled east on the highway toward the Combat Center was met by cheering, flag-waving crowds.



On 28 March, First Lady Barbara Bush visited the Combat Center to meet with Marines and their families.

On 27 April, after three weeks of intense planning that involved hundreds of community members and 5,000 Marines, "The Mother of All Victory Parades" drew 50,000 well-wishers to the city. They lined the streets to pay their respects as 2,000 Marines and sailors, along with their weapons, equipment and tactical vehicles, made their way north on Adobe Road.

With that, life aboard MCAGCC began returning to normal.

In May 1991, construction began on the new hospital and dental clinic. That May and June, 46 M60A1 tanks were shipped to Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow as the Corps began phasing them out for the new M1A1 main battle tank.

That August, the regiment was renamed Regimental Combat Team-7 after the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Tank Battalion and Delta



Company, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion came under its umbrella. It would change names again, to 7th Marine Regiment (Reinforced) two years later. In August 1996, (Reinforced) was dropped when both battalions and Delta Company separated from the regiment. All three continued to provide direct support to 7th Marines.

In August 1991, Congress authorized funding for 600 off-base housing units to be built on Two Mile Road and Joe Davis Drive. A private contractor would build the "801 Project" to house enlisted families. Formally named Vista del Sol, it opened in 1993.

In September 1991, MCCES was the first organization in the Corps to receive the new AN/TYQ-23 Tactical Air Operations Modules used to control the skies of a combat zone with combat surveillance, air traffic and surface-to-air missile control. That month also marked the opening of a climate-controlled, 24-hour phone connection facility on Sixth Street. It had 24 individual sit-down booths with pay-per-call telephones and Marines no longer had to stand in long lines outside to call home.

In October 1991, the commissary was one of 400 integrated into the new Defense Commissary Agency, becoming part of the third-largest food store chain in the world.

Throughout the 1990s, the number of Marines here continued to rise. In June 1992, 1st Tank Battalion relocated to the desert from Camp Pendleton, replacing the deactivating 3rd Tanks. In 1998, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines transferred here from Camp Pendleton.



As the decade progressed, MCAGCC Marines would be called into action again and again — to Somalia for Operation Restore Hope in 1992-93, and to the Persian Gulf for Vigilant Warrior in 1994 and Vigilant Sentinel in 1995 when Saddam Hussein sent troops to the Kuwaiti border. They went back to Somalia in 1995 for Operation United Shield, assisting in the final withdrawal of peacekeeping troops from that country. In 1996, Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 (VMU-1)

deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of the NATO peacekeeping Operation Joint Endeavor.

Training continued to evolve as TEECG fine-tuned its programs after each CAX, and new gear and new technology came online. In the mid-1990s, the name changed to Tactical Training Exercise Control Group to better describe the control group's mission. In May 1999, TTECG's headquarters building was named in memory of the late former commanding general and Silver Star recipient Maj. Gen. John I. Hopkins Sr.

In 1993, the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Expeditionary Training Center was established, bringing the Mountain Warfare Training Center at Bridgeport, Calif., and Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1 from Quantico, Va., under its umbrella.

Over the years, new ranges were added and hundreds of unserviceable vehicles ranging from M60 tanks and howitzers to tank retrievers were stripped down and placed for use as targets. When the expense of shipping tactical equipment to the desert for training became too much of a financial burden for most non-tenant units to bear, the ever-resourceful Corps reacted quickly. The Exercise Support Division spent much of 1994 building an inventory that would allow MCAGCC to equip thousands of Marines with everything they needed to train, from Humvees to howitzers to tanks. The Enhanced Equipment Allowance Pool issued its first set of CAX gear to a visiting unit in 1995.

MCCES also was busy, completing a new wing for its Air School. In August 1997, the Computer Science School began classes here after relocating from Quantico.

Environmental issues took on increased significance in the '90s, with MCAGCC building a solid reputation both within the Corps and the community as a good steward of the environment. In 1992, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (NREA) became its own directorate, studying plants and animals of the Combat Center, logging historical and cultural sites and helping the Marines carrying out their mission with as little impact on the environment as possible. A digital database of training areas was created to allow detailed evaluations of training's effect on the terrain and desert flora and fauna, and programs were implemented to educate people about the importance of protecting the environment, cultural sites and native species.

Recycling programs shifted to NREA, which would oversee a massive program to keep everything from

aluminum cans and furniture to heavy equipment out of the landfill. The range residue program, tasked with safely processing and selling as scrap such ordnance-related items as pieces of bombs, mortars and other projectiles expended during live-fire training, became a major revenue generator. Proceeds were used to improve the recycling program and fund projects aboard the installation.

Quality of life on base continued to improve in the '90s. In January 1993, sailors with the 23rd Dental Company moved into a new building and that July, the new hospital opened. In 1994, its Maternal Infant Ward opened. The Corps' only quick-service chow hall opened that year, serving 2,700 meals a day. The Family Readiness Support Program kicked off, Camp Wilson got a new gym and a natural gas filling station and car wash opened on Mainside.

In November 1997, a one-stop-shop called the Village Center opened in the old base hospital, saving Marines coming aboard time by bringing several organizations and offices on their check-in sheets under one roof.

In February 1998, the MCCES chow hall opened. Nine months later, it was dedicated Littleton Hall in memory of posthumous Medal of Honor recipient Pfc. Herbert A. Littleton, a field radio operator who threw himself on an enemy hand grenade to save his fellow Marines during the Korean War.

The Provost Marshal's Office established a Special Reaction Team of six Marines with four in reserve, all trained in hostage removal, home entry and room clearing.

The final years of the 1990s saw a MCAGCC website come online to provide information about the installation and Internet access became available on much of the base. The Single Marines Program was implemented, and the new Bright Beginnings building opened at the Child Development Center, providing space for 214 children.

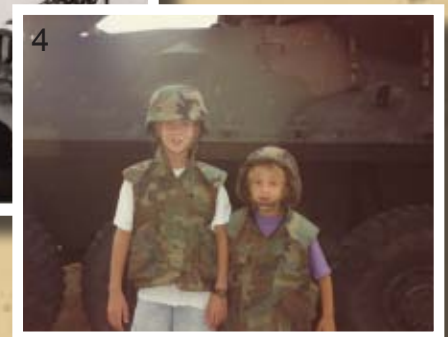
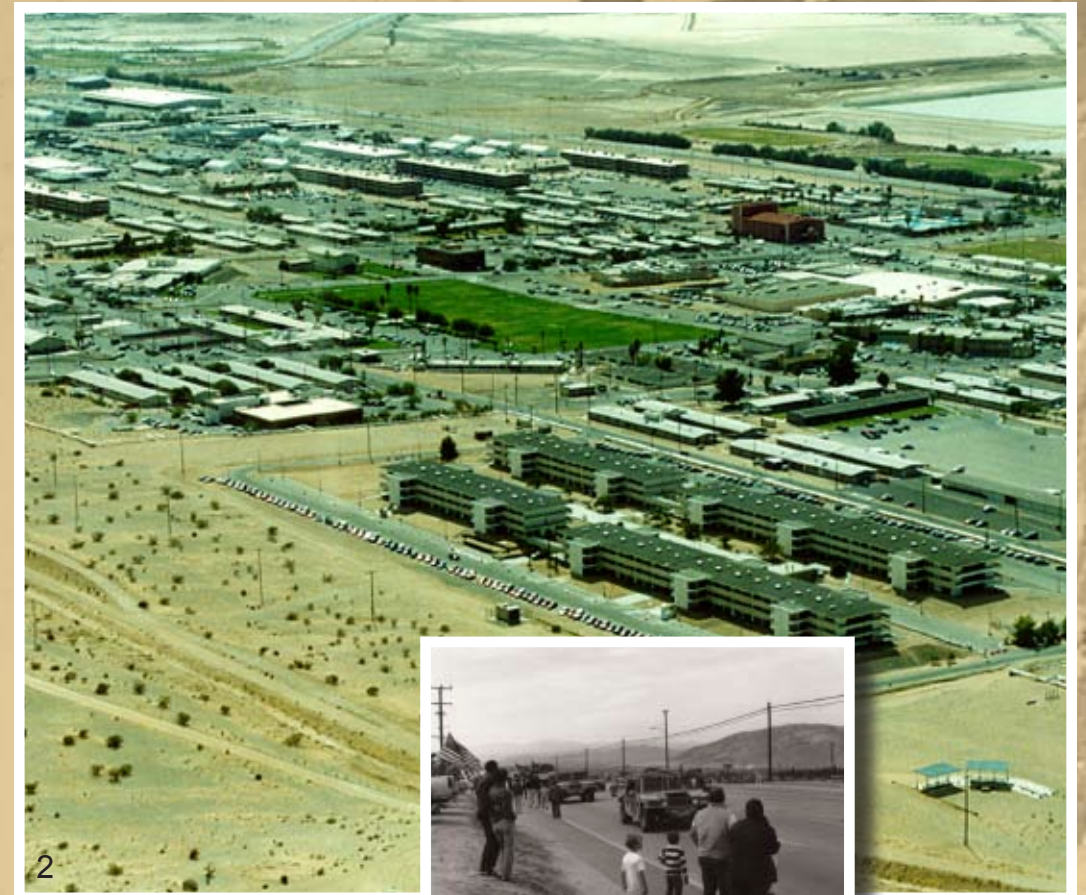


Photo 1: Marines from MCAGCC prepare for deployment to Somalia in December 1992.

2: An aerial shot of the installation shows new barracks built for single Marines.

3: Citizens of Twentynine Palms gather along Highway 62 to welcome Marines and sailors home from Desert Storm.

4: Military children enjoy experiencing their dad's job at a 3rd Light Armored Infantry family day in 1991.



# 2000s



Photo 1: A 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Marine looks through Vector 21B binoculars in a supporting arms virtual trainer.



2: An osprey lifts a howitzer during training aboard MCAGCC.

3: A member of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment rushes during an exercise on Combat Center Range 1A.

When the predicted Y2K computer system meltdown proved a non-event, MCAGCC kicked off a busy, and peaceful, year on 1 January 2000. Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines tested the new 7.1-ton Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement, evaluating its ride and practicing tactical dismounts and rapid extractions, and Weapons Company tested the new Javelin weapons system set to replace the retiring Vietnam-era Dragon anti-tank system. Marine infantrymen also tested the new M16A2 service rifle.

After 10 years of research, Marines at Camp Wilson began testing the Rapid Deployment Kitchen, a self-contained unit that could serve hot chow to Marines in the field then be broken down and folded up for tactical transport or maritime shipping.

New housing for families and individuals came online or got under way in 2000, including a new Navy barracks housing 128 sailors in two-man rooms. A new Community Recreation Center opened, offering youth sports,

education and self-improvement classes, a TV room, four multipurpose rooms, a basketball court, weight room and men's and women's locker rooms. Improvement projects included a major project at the EAF, with Marines moving 526,000 square feet of runway to even out the soil under the metal matting.

During a ceremony in May 2000 attended by its namesake, the hospital was renamed Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital in honor of the World War II Medal of Honor recipient. The hospital's wasn't the only big name change that year. On 1 October, the installation's command was tasked with an additional mission and Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command was added to its name (MAGTFTC, MCAGCC for short).

The year 2001 looked like it would be more of the same, with a focus on training, new programs, and new and upgraded facilities and services coming online. Nine months into the year, however, everything changed in a way few could ever have imagined. On 11 September, as the year's eighth CAX was wrapping up and units

were turning in their tactical gear, Osama bin Laden and his jihadist group, al-Qaeda, mounted an unprecedented terrorist attack on the United States, flying jet liners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, killing thousands of people. Security here was immediately tightened to ensure that only those who had legitimate business on base were allowed aboard, and Headquarters Battalion quickly assembled a guard force of 34 Marines, placing them in strategic locations around the base for quick response. In less than a month, America would launch its Global War on Terror.

On 7 October, Operation Enduring Freedom kicked off when troops from the U.S., Great Britain, Australia, Canada, Germany other coalition nations and the Afghan United Front (Northern Alliance) began pursuing their objectives of dismantling al-Qaeda, driving the Taliban from power and hunting bin Laden.

The following day, 7th Marine Regiment Marines were among more than 70,000 U.S. and allied troops participating in Exercise Bright Star in Egypt. Planned well before the terror attacks, it included live-fire exercises, capabilities demonstrations and force-on-force war games. It helped U.S. troops form meaningful bonds with their allied counterparts in the region and showed U.S. military capabilities to deploy widely.

Despite Afghanistan, life aboard MCAGCC was more business as usual than not during 2002. That January, the Anti-Personnel Obstacle Breaching System was used for the first time in a live-fire training environment during an exercise at Range 400, and NREA began implementing the Total Waste Management concept into the CAX program. Building 2061, the new Tactical Vehicle Maintenance Facility, opened and tank, artillery and Motor T medium sections began moving in.

The hospital began building a Labor Delivery Recovery and Postpartum suite and opened a Clinical Nutrition Division that August, seeing more than 1,600 patients. Families began moving into 114 new homes in Ocotillo Heights and ground was broken for 143 additional homes in Adobe Flats. Bowling alley renovations got under way. NREA began a base-wide air emission inventory to justify to the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District and the state that increased emissions were due to the installation's growth.

As 2003 got under way, events that would set the stage for the rest of the decade were on the horizon. Marines from MCAGCC, including commanding general Brig. Gen. Christian B. Cowdrey, began deploying to

the Middle East for a possible war in Iraq. More than 7,500 local troops were in the region on 17 March 2003 when President George W. Bush ordered Saddam Hussein to leave his country or face invasion. Two days later, at 1830 Pacific Time, Operation Iraqi Freedom I kicked off when the spectacular aerial bombardment known as "Shock and Awe" lit up the night skies over Baghdad.

On 21 March, Marines from the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) crossed the Kuwait border into Southern Iraq in the first push toward Baghdad. There would be no U.S. presidential order to halt this time. With Hussein in hiding, the Iraqi resistance in Baghdad quickly collapsed and by 9 April, U.S. Forces occupied the remainder of the capital. People around the world were again glued to their TV sets as Twentynine Palms Marines assisted Iraqi civilians in toppling a large statue of the Iraqi dictator in downtown Firdaus Square.



Five days later, a Pentagon spokesman announced that although some fighting continued in Iraq, major military operations had ended and the mission was now one of security, humanitarian assistance and reconstruction. In late April 2003, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld announced that major combat activity had come to an end in Afghanistan and the focus in that country would shift to stabilization and reconstruction.

On 1 May 2003, President Bush declared victory in Iraq, and the Marines of MCAGCC began coming home. Through September, the base coordinated 62 homecoming celebrations for returning units. In October, CAX training — previously halted due to unit deployments — resumed.

Saddam Hussein would remain in hiding until his capture in December 2003. He would be tried and executed three years later. While both wars technically ended in 2003, it would be no replay of what happened after Desert Storm.



Operation Enduring Freedom continued in Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi Freedom II got under way in early 2004, with 7th Marine Regiment battalions beginning regular rotations.

It was dangerous duty. The Observation Post carried weekly tributes to fallen Combat Center Marines and sailors alongside stories of heroism, humanitarian efforts and the progress being made in both countries. By mid-2012, more than 160 Marines and sailors from MCAGCC had made the ultimate sacrifice in the sands, streets and rugged mountains of those two countries nearly 7,500 miles from home.

In April 2004, Pfc. Chance Phelps of Lima Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment was killed in a furious firefight in Al Anbar Province. Two years later, the 7th Marine Regiment's mess hall was renamed in the fallen 19-year-old's honor, and in 2009, the story of the posthumously promoted lance corporal's final homecoming was told in "Taking Chance," a movie starring Kevin Bacon based on an essay written by the Marine lieutenant colonel who escorted Phelps home.

Five days after Phelps' death, another Combat Center Marine — Cpl. Jason L. Dunham of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines — was gravely injured after throwing himself on a grenade to protect his men during hand-to-hand combat at a checkpoint near the Syrian border. Evacuated back to the states, he died eight days later at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., his family at his side. Dunham's selfless actions would earn the 22-year-old Scio, N.Y., native the nation's highest award for valor in combat. The Medal of Honor — the first awarded to a Marine since 1970 — was presented to his parents at the White House in 2007. Dunham's story was told in "A Gift of Valor," written by Michael M. Phillips, a reporter embedded with 3/7 in the spring of 2004.

Major Marine Corps operations in Iraq ended in January 2010 and in October 2011, the men of IMEF's Iraqi Marine Training Team-03 — the last 12 Marines remaining in country, safely departed Iraq to begin the journey home to Camp Pendleton.

Despite the upheaval of deployments and their heavy human toll, the decade was not without highlight — on 23 April 2006, President George W. Bush became the first president to visit MCAGCC, landing on the parade field near the Protestant chapel, where he attended a church service, then ate lunch, chatted with Marines and posed for photos at Phelps Hall before departing. A month later, 700 volunteers with 12 organizations serving MCAGCC

were honored for donating 95,546 hours and saving the installation \$1.58 million.

Earlier in 2006, a combined MCAGCC/University of California, Los Angeles facility opened to give desert tortoises on base a head start. Biologists began bringing pregnant females there to lay their eggs and by 2012 several hundred young tortoises were growing up at the Tortoise Research and Recovery site, waiting to be returned to the wild.

MCAGCC continued to grow throughout the 2000s, as more Marines were stationed aboard the installation.

In February 2007, the G-5 Community Plans Liaison Office stood up to help foster relationships with city, town, county and state governments, federal entities and individuals in the surrounding communities. The Community Relations, Public Affairs and School Liaison sections help to ensure that MCAGCC is a good neighbor through event participation, community service projects, and school and other partnerships.

In 2008, the newly-created Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 (VMU-3) stood up here. Sixteen months later, the Phantoms headed to the Middle East.



Training underwent another major evolution as the Corps began to focus heavily on urban warfare. By the end of 2005, the CAX program was replaced by Mojave Viper. In 2009, it was upgraded to Enhanced Mojave Viper when aircraft were added to the training mix. Ranges 200 and 215, resembling villages in the Middle East, went operational and role-players were on call to provide realistic scenarios allowing warriors to practice the skills they needed to successfully conduct operations in urban environments around globe.

A Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer, the first generation of the Combat Convoy Simulator now operating in the Battle Simulation Center at Camp Wilson, also came



Photo 1: An RQ-7B UAV takes off at the airfield during a training exercise for VMU-3.

2: Marines from 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment fire an M485 illumination round from their M777-A2 Lightweight 155-mm howitzer during training in 2009.

3: A Marine from 1st Tank Battalion pays final respects to fellow tanker Lance Cpl. Michael L. Ford at a memorial service for the 19-year-old Marine, who was killed in Iraq in April 2006.

aboard. Over the next few years, more simulators would be added at the site, including those replicating tactical vehicle rollovers, and the challenging road and weather conditions the drivers may encounter. Approximately 30,000 Marines train annually at the BSC, which added tactical off-road and live convoy operations courses to complement the virtual training.

Battalion- and regimental-level commanders got a training boost when the Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group stood up to provide standardized training in Marine Air-Ground Task Force operations.

In 2007, a decade after the Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory in Quantico began studying urban warfare environments, the base broke ground on Range 220, also known as CAMOUT for Combined Arms Military

Operations in Urban Terrain. It was built in three phases, each funded separately and put into operation upon completion. When CAMOUT's final phase went live in January 2011, the Marines had something no one else in the world had, but everyone wanted, a fully decked out seven-district, 1,153-building city the size of downtown San Diego that could easily accommodate up to 15,000 troops during training.

No building's footprint was the same and the real-world scenarios that could play out in and around CAMOUT were endless. Remote-control cameras on site allowed commanders to record and review the action to determine their unit's strengths and weaknesses.

It is anticipated CAMOUT will meet the Corps' urban training needs far beyond the required date of 2015.



# 2010s



With the death of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in May 2011 and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan continuing into 2012 and beyond, training will continue to evolve as the MAGTF Training Command works to ensure that its warriors are ready for whatever the future holds.

Despite a seemingly endless ability to train on an installation roughly the size of Rhode Island, the Marines had known since the 1980s that both their land and airspace here were finite and that meeting the mandate to “train as we fight” would become more difficult as the mobility and speed of combat capabilities continued to grow. Mainside might take up only seven square miles of the installation’s land mass, but it is hardly a training free-for-all inside MCAGCC’s boundaries. Munitions storage, protected habitat, and cultural and historical sites all require space in which no live-fire training can be conducted.

A Center for Naval Analyses study found that MCAGCC was the only location with sufficient land and airspace

potential to allow three battalions to simultaneously maneuver for 48 to 72 hours in a live combined-arms fire exercise scenario. In 2007, the Marine Corps announced it would begin looking beyond the installation’s borders to determine if expansion was feasible. That multi-year process will continue well into the current decade.

In June 2012, MAGTFTC activated its newest professional assessment and standardization unit, the Marine Corps Logistics Operations Group. This solidified the installation’s role as the professional authority for MAGTF operations and gave it the capability to train and assess all four MAGTF elements. These capabilities, the support provided by Combat Center staff and its world-class training ranges will ensure that this crown jewel in the desert remains the premier live-fire combined-arms training facility in the Marine Corps, preparing Marines for their mission well into the 21st century.

In the 1950s, it was all about space. And so it is today.



The first decade of the 21st Century would fade into the second with combat rotations and training continuing, construction ongoing and environmental issues being addressed. In 2010, MCAGCC teamed up with the Mojave Desert Land Trust for the installation’s first Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative project (REPI). The Marines helped the land trust acquire 957 acres in the village of Joshua Tree that serve as a wildlife corridor between the installation and Joshua Tree National Park. The Quail Mountain project area also was important to the Corps because of its location under two main military air training routes connecting the desert installation to Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar.

Significant upgrades to installation infrastructure also were undertaken, with \$500 million spent on projects, including construction and renovation of five barracks

and a new family housing neighborhood. In January 2011, MCAGCC cut the ribbon on the Corps’ largest urban warfare training range, the 284-acre CAMOUT facility. The year also saw the opening of a more modern exchange at Camp Wilson and a new main exchange.

Resource conservation and environmental stewardship efforts earned the command top honors in 2011, including the Secretary of the Navy Energy and Water Management Award, the Federal Energy Management Program Award, two Secretary of the Navy Environmental Awards for Sustainability and Phelps chow hall brought home the Maj. Gen. W.P.T. Hill Food Service Excellence Award for best in the Marine Corps. For the cumulative effect of its improvements to training programs, service to warfighters and fidelity to families, the Combat Center won an unprecedented three-in-a-row Commander-in-Chief’s Installation Excellence Awards.

3

Photo 1: Cpl. Dwight Jackson, a military working dog handler with 1st Law Enforcement Battalion participated in Javelin Thrust 2012 with 4-year-old Hugo, a patrol explosive detector dog.

2: A Marine with II Marine Expeditionary Force’s Enabler Team yells to the driver of his vehicle during a motorized operations training exercise.

3: Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicles (M-ATVs) are among the tactical vehicles used during Enhanced Mojave Viper training aboard MCAGCC.



Photos 1, 2 and 3: Marines participate in Enhanced Mojave Viper training at CAMOUT facilities aboard MCAGCC.



4: Marines from 3/7 participate in an exercise at Range 101 during Enhanced Mojave Viper prior to deployment to Afghanistan.



*Saying goodbye before deployment is still a staple of military life in the second decade of the 2000s, but so is saying "Welcome Home."*

*Photo 1: Three-year-old Caden Buss, son of Seaman Jonathan Buss, hospital corpsman, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, steals one last hug before his dad deploys to Afghanistan.*

*2: Marines from 3rd LAR are welcomed home by Marines from the remain-behind element at the battalion's motor transport lot in. The battalion returned to the Combat Center after a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan.*

*3: A sign posted on 3rd LAR's motor transport lot gate welcomes returning Marines from a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan.*

*4: Cpl. Don Robinson, artilleryman with Lima Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, reconnects with his 8-month-old daughter, Samira.*



1

MONTH		AIRCRAFT		YEAR		FLIGHT TIME AS		TOTAL
DAY	MODEL	SERIAL NO.	CHARACTER OF FLIGHT	PILOT	COPILOT	STUDENT	PASSENGERS	FLIGHT TIME
5	R4Q-1	128729	1A2	2.7				2.7
5	R4Q-1	128729	1A2	2.6	.8	.8		1.9
7	R4Q-1	128736	1A2	1.6				1.6
10	R4Q-1	128723	1A2	.6				.6
11	R4Q-1	128721	1C	.5				.5
11	R4Q-1	128731	1C	.5				.5
11	R4Q-1	128731	1C	.4	.4			.8
11	R4Q-1	128726	1A1	2.5	1.3	1.2		2.1
12	R4Q-1	128728	1A2	2.1				2.1
13	R4Q-1	128728	1A2	1.5				1.5
13	R4Q-1	128728	1A2	2.1				2.1
13	R4Q-1	128728	1A2	.4				.4
14	R4Q-1	128725	1C	.4				.4
14	R4Q-1	128725	1C	.5				.5
17	R4Q-1	128725	1A7	.3				.3
17	R4Q-1	128725	1A7	.7				.7
17	R4Q-1	128725	1A7	.7				.7
17	R4Q-1	128724	1A2	2.3				2.3
17	R4Q-1	128724	1A2	3.7				3.7
17	R4Q-1	128724	1A2	3.7				3.7
17	R4Q-1	128724	1A2	3.7				3.7
21	R4Q-1	128725	1A2	.5				.5
TOTAL—THIS PART				25.9	2.5	7.4		35.8
BROUGHT FWD				57.6	3.2	11.8		72.6
GRAND TOTAL				83.5	5.7	19.2		108.4

MARINE TRANSPORT SQUADRON 253  
MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUP 25  
AIRCRAFT, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC  
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION  
EL TORO (SANTA ANA), CALIFORNIA

26 March 1952

This is to certify that 2nd Lt. Billy D. BOULDIN, USMCR has qualified under minimum requirements for Transport Lt. 1st Pilot in R4Q type aircraft.

*E. J. Doyle*  
E. J. DOYLE  
LtCol., USMC  
Commanding

ALBANYDA-FALLO  
FALLO-ELTORO  
ELTORO-PENDLETON  
PENDLETON-ELTORO  
ELTORO-PEND  
PEND-29 PALMS  
29 PALMS-ELTORO  
ELTORO-FALLO  
FALLO-PEND  
PILOT

9.7 22.4 20. 17  
9.7 22.4 21. 17

18-1840-1



Photo 1: Then 2nd Lt. Billy D. Bouldin's flight log details his 1952 flight to Twentynine Palms. On St. Patrick's Day, he flew 42 Marines from Camp Pendleton to Twentynine Palms to begin construction of the installation. Bouldin returned to Twentynine Palms in 1975 as assistant base commander.

2: A C-5A Galaxy military transport aircraft prepares to touch down on the Expeditionary Airfield near Camp Wilson for the first time on 30 August 1978.

“My hope is that we build the finest combined-arms training center in the world — a place where every Marine can learn the base techniques of fire support coordination — let's get on with it, let nothing be an obstacle ...”

— Gen. Louis H. Wilson, 26th Commandant



