

The Combat Center is continually taking steps to lower its air emissions and improve our air quality. Several units and offices use Global Electric Motorcars, or GEMs, when driving around the installation, eliminating exhaust fumes completely. In addition, over 100 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles have been purchased for use on the installation, which further reduces auto exhaust. The Combat Center has paved high-traffic dirt roads to help reduce dust emissions. Also, the installation now uses greener, less hazardous products, such as cleaners and solvents that release fewer pollutants into the air.

ALL OF US HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK NOW TO ENSURE THE FUTURE OF OUR AIR QUALITY.

-COMBAT CENTER
AIR QUALITY MANAGER



The Commanding General of the installation uses an electric cart called a "GEM."

WHAT CAN I DO?

Although air quality at the Combat Center is typically "Good", we all must work to reduce our air pollution emissions to ensure the clean air that is necessary for public health. There are several smart choices we can all make every day to help maintain and improve our air quality.

Drive Smart:

- Carpool, use public transit, ride bicycles or walk to reduce the amount of exhaust fumes we produce.
- Keep your car's engine tuned, tires inflated, and air filters clean.
- Drive a fuel-efficient vehicle.
- Drive slowly over unpaved roads to reduce dust in the air.

Choose Air-Friendly Products:

- Use water-based household products.
- Store solvents in air-tight containers.
- Use electric rather than fuel-burning equipment.
- Avoid burning wood or debris on low visibility days.

Saving energy also helps reduce air pollution! Whenever fossil fuels are burned to produce electricity, we pollute the air. A few additional ways to help save energy are: use energy efficient appliances, turn off lights when you leave a room, and choose recycled products.



This brochure was printed on 100% Recycled paper.



**The Combat Center's
Commitment to
Air Quality in the
High Desert**

Protecting the quality of air in the high desert is a responsibility the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center takes seriously. Protecting air quality – now and in the future – requires continued vigilance and action, a commitment to our *green practices*, and the investment in new technologies and equipment to reduce emissions and enhance air quality aboard the base and within the high desert air basin.

AIR QUALITY INDEX CHART



Above: Air quality monitoring stations aboard the Combat Center ensure healthy air standards for Marines and civilians alike.

The Combat Center has several Air Monitoring Stations that record air quality continuously across the base.

The Air Monitoring Stations measure the most common pollutant in the desert – dust. Not just any dust, but fine dust that is picked up by gusting winds or vehicles on dirt roads and is smaller than the width of a human hair. Dust and other particles this small are categorized as Particulate Matter 10 (PM10).

When you breathe in PM10 size particles, they can slip past your lungs' natural defense system and embed deep in your lungs, possibly leading to problems such as asthma attacks or other lung diseases.

Data collected from around Twentynine Palms are used to rate the cleanliness of our air. These ratings are portrayed in the the Air Quality Index (AQI) chart to the right. It conveys the level of pollutants in the air and what associated precautions should be taken. The AQI focuses on health effects that may be experienced within hours or days of breathing polluted air, rather than long term effects.

As measured against AQI factors, the Combat Center usually has “Good” quality air. This means that normally there are no limitations on outdoor activities in the area. However, when local air quality is degraded, the installation issues notices that allow people to take necessary precautions and modify their outdoor activities.

AQI Index Values	Level of Health Concern	Cautionary Statements
0-50	Good	No Limitations
51-100	Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should limit prolonged outdoor exertion
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Active adults and children with respiratory disease such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion
151-200	Unhealthy	Everyone, especially children and seniors, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion
201-300	Very Unhealthy	Active children and adults and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid all outdoor exertion. Everyone else, especially children, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion
300+	Hazardous	Everyone should avoid all outdoor exertion

You can always find the current AQI rating for Twentynine Palms by visiting the following website: <http://www.airqualitydata.org/ozonemap/twe.htm>
To see an AQI rating for anywhere else in the United States, visit www.airnow.gov.