

Marine Corps training is realistic. Can you tell which is the Combat Center and which is real-world?



MCAGCC & JOHNSON VALLEY

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The U.S. Marine Corps is America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness — an elite, highly skilled team of professionals who are prepared to respond immediately to any crisis, anywhere around the globe, to stabilize any situation.

When Marines are called into action, they form a Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF), bringing together under a single commander all of the ground, air and logistics components

Did you know?
An average of 35,000 Marines and sailors from around the globe train for deployment aboard the Combat Center annually.

required to ensure mission success. The nature of each mission dictates the size of the force assembled, and the Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) of about 15,000 Marines and sailors is a key Marine Corps MAGTF for meeting the world's current challenges.

The Corps' philosophy, "centralized planning, decentralized execution," requires that every MAGTF Marine participating in a mission, regardless of rank, know his or her role and responsibilities, and be able to make split-second decisions to carry out those responsibilities in an arena where failure is never an option.

Marines know that being prepared is key to mission success, and that constant, realistic training is the only way to prepare. They know, too, that proper training in a world of ever-changing opponents, battlegrounds, objectives, technologies and cultural challenges requires a lot of physical space. That's why the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) and Johnson Valley are so important — only here, with the expanded training range lands, can a MEB train the way it will have to fight.

Because of the world-class training Marines receive at the Combat Center, America can rest easy knowing that **"We're the most ready when the nation is least ready."**

Answers to quiz: MCAGCC: 1, 4, 5, 8 Afghanistan: 2, 3, 6, 7

Every Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) is scalable and flexible

Each MAGTF is a balanced, air-ground combined-arms organization of Marine Corps forces led by a single commander and structured to accomplish a specific mission. MAGTFs are capable of responding rapidly to a broad range of combat, crisis and conflict situations. Regardless of mission, every MAGTF has the same basic structure:

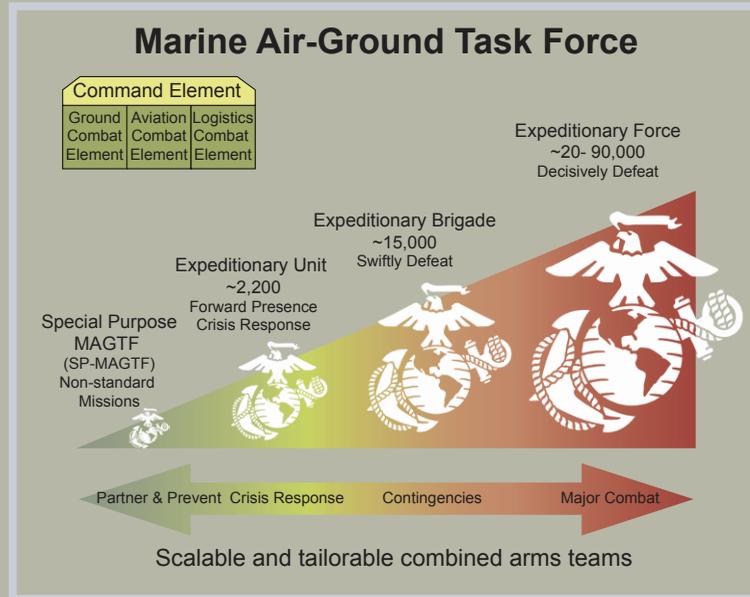
Command Element (CE): The CE is comprised of headquarters and other units that provide intelligence, communication and administrative support for the MAGTF.

Ground Combat Element (GCE): The GCE conducts ground operations in support of the MAGTF mission. It includes infantry, artillery, reconnaissance, armor, light armor, assault amphibian, engineer and other forces as needed.

Aviation Combat Element (ACE): The ACE conducts offensive and defensive air operations. It may include fixed-wing tactical aircraft, tiltrotor aircraft and rotary-wing assault support aircraft.

Logistics Combat Element (LCE): The LCE provides the equipment and personnel (supply, maintenance, transportation, engineering, health, administrative, communications and more) that keep the MAGTF running.

Other attachments rounding out a MAGTF may include civil affairs teams, interpreters, military working dogs, explosive ordnance disposal teams and others, depending on the mission.

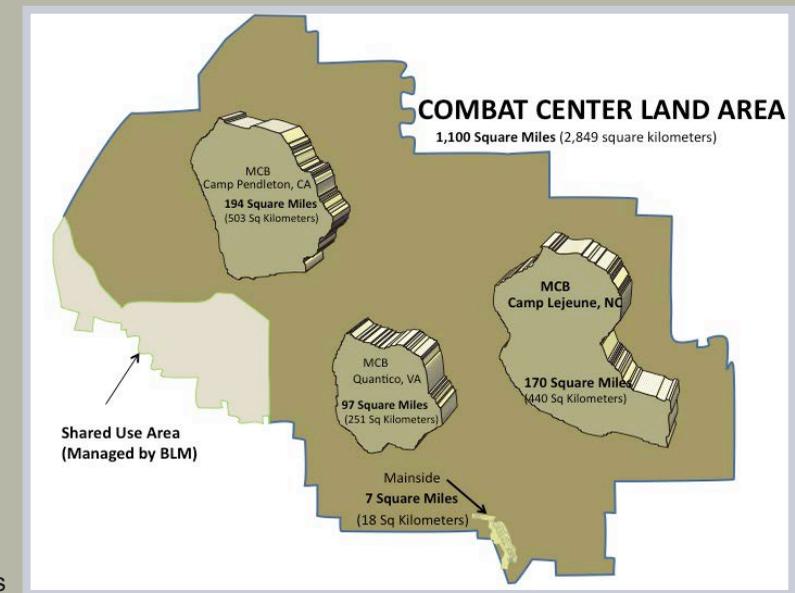


Why the Marine Corps needs the approximate 225 square miles that Johnson Valley provides for training

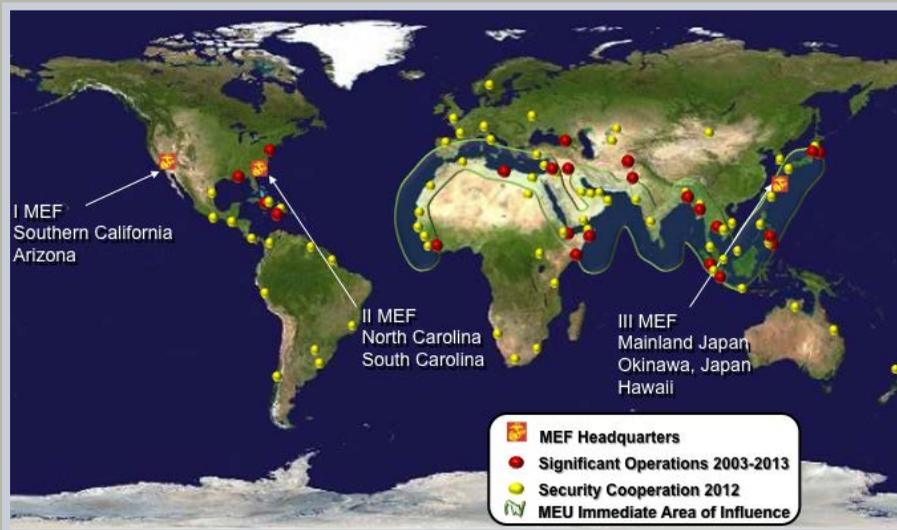
When the Marine Corps stood up 935 square miles of rugged, remote Mojave Desert terrain in 1952 to serve as a much-needed training center for Camp Pendleton-based artillery units, it was a dream come true for artillerymen. Here, they could fire in four directions at once, and occupy and maneuver through an area at the same time, something they couldn't accomplish at their 194-square-mile home base on the coast.

Despite the seemingly endless amount of space comprising MCAGCC, Marine Corps mission requirements, increased mobility and speed, increased range of weapons systems and other factors such as munitions storage, protected species habitat, and the identification of sites of cultural and historical importance aboard MCAGCC all limit the amount of land that can be used for training.

To meet its mandate to conduct realistic MEB training, the Combat Center requires land and airspace to allow three battalions and all of their support personnel, equipment and vehicles — roughly 15,000 Marines and sailors — to simultaneously maneuver for 48 to 72 hours in a combined-arms, live-fire exercise scenario. The recent Congressional addition of the Johnson Valley Exclusive Military Use and Shared Use areas provides the Marine Corps the ability to effectively meet that training requirement for the nation.



Marine Expeditionary Forces are globally engaged



The nation's shock troops must be the most ready when the nation is least ready ... to provide a balanced force in readiness for a naval campaign and, at the same time, a ground and air striking force ready to suppress or contain international disturbances short of large-scale war.

- 82nd Congress deliberating the role of the U.S. Marine Corps

What you get for your money

The Marine Corps provides a great return on investment for America. According to Headquarters Marine Corps, its budget is 8 percent of the Department of Defense's annual budget and provides the nation with:

- 15 percent of active ground maneuver brigades
- 11 percent of fighter/attack aircraft
- 11 percent of artillery batteries
- 7 flexible and scalable Marine Expeditionary Units (MEUs) deployed on amphibious ships around the world

