



## Proposed Land Acquisition/Airspace Establishment in Support of Large-Scale MAGTF Live Fire and Maneuver Training

### Fact Sheet – Airspace Study February 2011

#### Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, CA

*The Project Fact Sheets offer a focused way to provide easily accessible, wide-spread distribution of Project information. They augment the regular updating of Project public documents carried on MCAGCC's Proposed Land Acquisition Study webpage. Please see the other Project documents on the Project website for an overview and key background information.*

**Background:** Marines must train as they fight. To meet tomorrow's challenges the Marine Corps must plan today to meet requirements for sustained, combined-arms, live-fire maneuver Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) training. To do this, more training land and airspace are needed



than are now available anywhere in the country. As a result, the Marine Corps has been studying alternatives for proposed training-land acquisition and accompanying Special Use Airspace (SUA) for three battalions to simultaneously maneuver in close coordination using combined-arms (e.g., air/ground) live fire for a 48-72 hour training period. Studies showed that the only location to potentially meet this requirement is at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, California (MCAGCC).

Any land acquisition to meet this MEB training requirement would need to be accompanied by SUA that would allow for the safe use of artillery, tanks, bombs, rockets, missiles and other weapons necessary to the MEB live-fire training exercise.

**Study:** The Marine Corps and the Department of the Navy have undertaken preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) studying the environmental impacts associated with six land acquisition Alternatives to meet this MEB training requirement, as well as those for a No Action Alternative (in which nothing would change). Each Alternative has proposed additions or modifications to SUA currently in place at MCAGCC and in its environs, although the proposed SUA for Alternatives 1, 4 and 5 is the same. Graphic depictions of the SUA proposals are available on the project website, <http://www.marines.mil/unit/29palms/las/>, along with other descriptive materials.

Approximately 20,000 public comments have been received to date from previous public meetings and during public comment periods in 2008 and 2009. These comments have helped shape the Alternatives under study in the EIS. In both the EIS process and any subsequent FAA rulemaking, stakeholders will have further opportunities to provide input on any proposed actions to meet the MEB training requirement.

**Marine Corps SUA Good Neighbor Commitment:** The Marine Corps pledges to seek only that airspace needed to meet training requirements, and to operate any such airspace in a manner that releases it for use by all aircraft in the National Airspace System when it is not needed for training.



#### Project Timeline:

- Draft Environmental Impact Statement, February 2011
- Final Environmental Impact Statement, December 2011
- Record of Decision, April 2012
- FAA Rulemaking Process, Commence in 2012 and complete in 2013

#### For Further Information Please Contact

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