



Land Acquisition and Airspace Establishment Project Frequently Asked Questions—Temporary Special Use Airspace October 2015



MARINE CORPS / DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY SUBMITTED TEMPORARY SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE PROPOSALS TO THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TO MEET MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE LARGE SCALE EXERCISE REQUIREMENTS FOR 2016

1. Why has the Marine Corps proposed the establishment of Temporary Special Use Airspace at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC)?

- In December of 2013, Congress passed and the President signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2014, authorizing the land expansion of MCAGCC to support Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) training. The Marine Corps has formally submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) a Special Use Airspace (SUA) (a restricted area, and military operations areas) proposal above the newly acquired land to meet the MEB training requirement for up to two 30-day periods each year. The process to complete acquisition of additional SUA could take several years to complete; therefore, temporary measures are being pursued to accommodate the planned MEB level exercise in August 2016.

2. What is Temporary Special Use Airspace (SUA)?

- Temporary SUA is SUA designed to support a specific event. It is used to accommodate temporary military requirements for additional airspace to supplement routine training and/or test activities. All flight restrictions and requirements associated with permanent SUA types (i.e. Restricted Area/Military Operations Area) apply to Temporary SUA. Once the specific event is complete the airspace returns to its previous designation and uses in the National Airspace System (NAS).

3. What is Restricted Area (RA) airspace?

- RA, a type of SUA, is airspace in which no person may operate an aircraft within the airspace between designated altitudes and during the time of designation unless they are participating in the activities within the area or has advance permission of the controlling agency. Activities conducted within RA must be confined because of their nature, or limitations may be imposed upon aircraft operations that are not part of those activities, or both. Restricted areas denote the existence of unusual, often invisible, hazards to aircraft (such as artillery firing, aerial gunnery, or guided missiles).

4. What is a Military Operations Area (MOA)?

- MOA, a type of SUA, is airspace designated outside of Class A airspace (18,000-60,000 feet) to separate or segregate certain nonhazardous military activities from Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) traffic and to identify for Visual Flight Rule (VFR) traffic where these activities are conducted.

5. What is Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace?

- ATCAA, is airspace that is similar to a MOA (and usually overlaying a MOA) within Class A airspace (18,000-60,000 feet). Non-military aircraft may fly in ATCAA during

For Further Information Please Contact

29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project

(web) <http://www.29palms.marines.mil/Staff/G4InstallationsandLogistics/LandAcquisition.aspx>

(e-mail) SMBPLMSCOMBATCENTERPAO@usmc.mil – (phone) 760-830-3737

(mail) MAGTFTC, MCAGCC, Bldg. 1417, Box 788105, Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8105



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military training so long as air traffic controllers can maintain IFR separation from military aircraft; only non-hazardous military activities may be conducted in an ATCAA.

6. What are the details of the Marine Corps' Temporary SUA proposal?

- The USMC would utilize the airspace identified in the Temporary SUA proposal for no more than 19 days during August 2016. Moreover, to minimize impacts to other users only eight of the nineteen days would utilize Temporary SUA above 18,000 feet Mean Sea Level (MSL).
- The SUA dimensions including the maximum altitude requirement would vary depending upon which systems, activities and/or events were scheduled to take place. The Marine Corps would release the airspace not needed to conduct the exercise daily to the NAS. The proposed Temporary RA is contiguous to the northwestern boundary of R-2501 and directly over lands recently added to the MCAGCC training range complex. Additionally, the Temporary SUA proposal creates, expands or modifies existing MOAs contiguous to the southwestern, southern and eastern boundaries of the MCAGCC training range.
- Key details of the Temporary SUA proposal are:
 - The proposed altitudes for the new Temporary RA are Surface to 40,000' MSL. The proposed utilization of Temporary RA airspace above 18,000' MSL is confined to only 8 days.
 - The proposed altitude for the new Temporary Military Operations Area to the Southwest is from 3000 feet AGL to 40,000' MSL. The proposed utilization of this Temporary MOA airspace above 18,000' MSL is confined to only 6 days.
 - The proposed altitude for the expanded Temporary Military Operations Area to the South is from 1500 feet AGL to 40,000' MSL. The proposed utilization of this Temporary MOA airspace above 18,000' MSL is confined to only 6 days.
 - The proposed altitude for the expanded Temporary Military Operations Area to the Northeast is from 1500 feet AGL to 40,000' MSL (currently 5,000' to 22,000' MSL). The proposed utilization of this Temporary MOA airspace above 18,000' MSL and below 5,000' MSL is confined to only 6 days.
 - The proposed altitude for the new Temporary Military Operations Area to the Southeast is from 1500 feet AGL to 8,000' MSL and from 18,000' MSL to 40,000' MSL. The proposed utilization of this Temporary MOA airspace above 18,000' MSL and between 1500 feet AGL to 8,000' MSL is confined to only 5 days.
 - The proposed altitude for the expanded Temporary Military Operations Area furthest to the East is from 1500 feet AGL to FL 400 (normally 11,000' to 22,000' MSL). The proposed utilization of this Temporary MOA airspace above 18,000' and below 11,000' MSL is confined to only 5 days.

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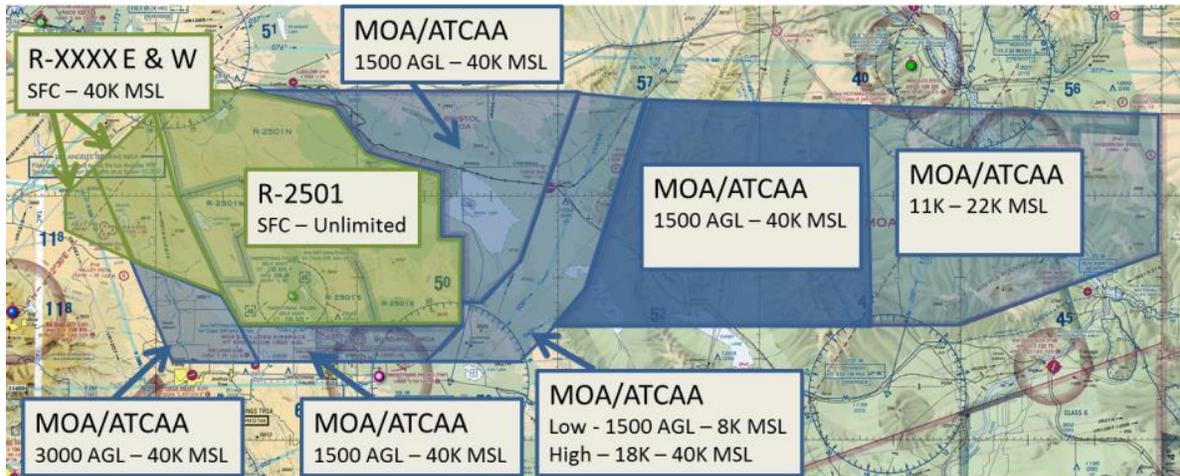
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- The graphic below highlights the proposed dimensions.



7. Will the Temporary SUAs be depicted on aeronautical charts and will the public be provided notice of Temporary SUA activation by Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)?

- Temporary SUA, unlike Permanent SUA, is not compiled and published in the FAAO JO 7400.8. However, Temporary SUA would be described and activated via Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) and may also be circularized and/or published in the same manner as Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) notices. Though the minimum advance notice should be at least four hours before the activation time, the NOTAM would be issued as far in advance as feasible to ensure widest dissemination of the information to airspace users. All aviators should check for NOTAM notifications during flight planning.

8. Would this proposal result in any new restrictions being placed on commercial airline or civil aviation overflights?

- Yes. Like other types of SUA, there would be restrictions on commercial airline and civil aviation overflights due to the nature of the activities conducted within the various types of Temporary SUA. All flight restrictions and requirements associated with permanent SUA types (i.e. Restricted Area/Military Operations Area) apply to Temporary SUA.
- The Marine Corps recognizes that MCAGCC is located in a busy air traffic area, and works very hard every day to minimize impacts to other airspace users. The MEB level exercise has been designed to minimize amount of days the proposed Temporary SUA is required to support the August 2016 exercise. The Marine Corps proposed new SUA for only those days necessary to conduct the military training and would release the airspace to the NAS immediately after exercise completion.

9. Why did the Marine Corps choose to establish a Temporary SUA for the MEB level exercise when a CFA was chosen for MEB building block training for the rest of the year?

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- A CFA cannot support the live-fire combined arms training required to fully support the MEB Level Exercise. As required under CFA restrictions, MEB building block training would be designed to undertake only those activities that can be immediately stopped if a nonparticipating aircraft approaches the area. Such activities include direct fire weapons (such as rifles and machine guns), lasers, mortars, tanks, artillery, and demolition training events which are all delivered from the ground. A CFA does not support aerial ordnance (such as bombs and missiles) which is a crucial element of MEB level training. The proposed Temporary SUA does accommodate both ground and aerial weapon delivery systems that would be employed during the August 2016 exercise.
- The MEB level exercise is the culmination of the building block training conducted throughout the year. Though the Marine Corps determined the training restrictions associated with a CFA could be accepted for the building block training to minimize potential impacts to civil aviation, a CFA would not be able to accommodate the MEB level training Congress recognized was critical for Marine Corps training and readiness.

10. How is Temporary SUA different from Permanent SUA?

- When Temporary SUA is activated for a training event all flight restrictions and requirements associated with Permanent SUA types (i.e. Restricted Area/Military Operations Area) apply. However, once the training exercise is completed, the airspace is returned to the NAS under its previous designation.
- Unlike Permanent SUA, Temporary SUA proposals are submitted and approved for each requested use. Detailed plans of activities within the airspace requested must be submitted approximately 270 days before the event to accommodate the FAA review process, and the Marine Corps has submitted those plans. Permanent SUA modification can take several years to complete. Despite the increased number of proposals required with recurring military training events, Temporary SUA is a tremendous supplement to meeting military training requirements until Permanent SUA can be established.
- Temporary SUA is typically activated via NOTAM.

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