



United States Marine Corps

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMBAT CENTER TO RELEASE FIRST OF DESERT TORTOISE HEADSTART PROGRAM

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. –

Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs will host a ceremony for the first release of desert tortoises from MCAGCC's Desert Tortoise Headstart Program, September 30, near the installation's Tortoise Research and Captive Rearing Site.

In attendance will be installation leadership to provide remarks at the ceremony as well as civic stakeholders, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and headstart collaborators from UCLA.

The Combat Center is diligently dedicated to the recovery of the desert tortoise and hence has implemented the long-term research program, which allows desert tortoise hatchlings to grow to an age and size wherein their shells are no longer vulnerable to most predators and monitors released animals to determine survivability and reproductive competence.

******MEDIA COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS******

Media interested in covering this event must call the MCAGCC Public Affairs Office at (760) 830-6213 or email SMBPLMSCOMBATCENTERPAO@usmc.mil and must RSVP no later than 4:00 p.m. on FRIDAY, September 25. Members of the media who have RSVP'd will meet at MCAGCC's MAIN GATE located on Adobe Rd. at 8:00 a.m. on WEDNESDAY, September 30 to be escorted to the event. Please plan to remain on base for at least FOUR hours.