



United States Marine Corps

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MEDIA ADVISORY #17-001

April 5, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DESERT TORTOISE TRANSLOCATION MEDIA DAY

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – The Combat Center is scheduled to host a media day in support of Desert Tortoise Translocation aboard the installation, April 12, 2017. This will be the only day offered by the Marine Corps to members of the media to observe the initial translocation efforts and provided transportation is limited to those who RSVP first. All others will be required to obtain a rental vehicle equipped with 4-wheel-drive.

In December 2013, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014 was signed into law, changing management responsibility of designated land from the Bureau of Land Management to the Department of Defense. The desert tortoise population within this newly-acquired training land has been identified for translocation in order to sustain their survivability in accordance with the Final Environmental Impact Statement and supporting the United States Fish and Wildlife Service-signed Biological Opinion. The Combat Center's Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs staff will conduct a translocation and subsequent long-term study of the threatened species to support the tortoise recovery goals set out in the BO.

The Marine Corps has worked carefully with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management to craft a desert tortoise translocation plan calculated to assure the maximum survival of relocated tortoises. The Marine Corps will monitor tortoises intensely for the first five years after translocation, with monitoring requirements reducing over time out to the full 30 year obligation in accordance with the Biological Opinion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

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

Media interested in covering this event must email the MCAGCC Public Affairs Office at SMBPLMSCOMBATCENTERPAO@usmc.mil and must RSVP no later than 8 a.m. on MONDAY, APRIL 10. The first media members to RSVP will be afforded transportation to and from the event as seats are limited. All others will still be permitted to attend, however they will be required to obtain a 4-wheel-drive rental vehicle to drive in the training area. All vehicles will be escorted on and off the installation via a convoy and must plan to stay throughout the entire duration of the event regardless of independent transportation capabilities. Members of the media who have RSVP'd will meet at MCAGCC's MAIN GATE located on Adobe Rd. at 6:30 a.m. on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, to be escorted to the event. Any media who arrive after 6:45 a.m. will not be granted access to the base. NO EXCEPTIONS. Please plan to remain on base for at least SEVEN hours.