



# United States Marine Corps

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **TAX CENTER DEFENDS MARINES FROM CALIFORNIA TAX INQUIRIES**

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

The California Franchise Tax Board is sending letters to service members stationed in California demanding to know why they did not file a California tax return in 2014. The Combat Center Tax Center is helping Marines and Sailors respond to these letters and avoid being sent to collections.

“California sees that a federal tax return was filed by someone living in this state,” explained Capt. Kurt Sorensen, Officer in Charge, Combat Center Tax Center. “California wants to know where their piece of the pie is.”

Marines and Sailors domiciled outside of California, however, do not owe state taxes to California.

“So long as the service member replies to the letter with that information, California should leave them alone,” said Sorensen. “It becomes a headache, however, when service members don’t respond because of a PCS, deployment, or botched mail forwarding.”

At that point, California often sends their claims to collections, which has a negative impact their credit scores.

“We are not going to stand by while this happens to our Marines and Sailors,” Gunnery Sgt. Ian Moore, Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge, Combat Center Tax Center, affirmed. “Our office will do what is necessary to prevent California from sending letters to any of our customers.”

This process will be time consuming, as the Tax Center will file an extra form with every qualifying tax return explaining that the service member does not owe any California taxes.

“We are also going to contact all of our previous customers to offer this additional service to them,” said Moore.

Service members can find the Combat Center Tax Center on Brown Road in between Adobe Road and 1st Street in Building 1110-R1. Customers with questions regarding these letters from California should call (760) 830-4331.

“I don’t know of any tax service out in town or online that is aware of this problem faced by our Marines and Sailors,” Sorensen said. “But we are going to go above and beyond to help our Marines with their taxes and, in turn, their commands with maintaining unit readiness.”