



MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER (MCAGCC)

PROPOSED SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE ESTABLISHMENT in JOHNSON VALLEY



The Marine Corps is committed to protecting both our national security and the unique community character of Johnson Valley. The Marine Corps airspace proposal was designed with the local community in mind – ensuring recreation, aviation, and events like King of the Hammers can continue to be enjoyed as they are today. This fact sheet provides details on the Marine Corps Preferred Alternative, Alternative 2, as described in the Draft Environmental Assessment for Permanent Special Use Airspace Establishment and Modifications at MCAGCC (August 2025), and additional details on how airspace would be implemented.

Key Facts:

- ✓ Recreation activities and events would not be impacted. Off-roading, drones, and low-flying aircraft can occur just as it does today – no military permission or authorization required.
- ✓ Airspace floor above the Shared Use Area would be established at an altitude to accommodate recreation when the area is open to the public, not “Surface-to-Sky.”
- ✓ NO impacts or delays to MEDEVAC. Emergency operations would remain prioritized and protected.
- ✓ Would not affect land ownership or ground use.
- ✓ Under Alternative 2, Restricted Area over the Shared use Area would only be activated up to 60 days per year. When the airspace is not activated, it is available for other airspace users.
- ✓ Civilian pilots can verify the airspace status by checking Notices to Airman (NOTAMs).



Note: “restricted area” refers to the type of proposed Special Use Airspace, and is not in reference to land or its status.

Community and Recreation Access:

The Johnson Valley Shared Use Area would remain open to the public under the current land-use model.

- Recreation activities in Johnson Valley would continue as they do today, subject to existing regulations, permit requirements, and closures.
- Under Alternative 2, activation of Restricted Area over Johnson Valley would be limited to 60 days annually; many of these days would coincide with pre-scheduled closures for military training.
- When the airspace is not activated, there would be no military-related restriction.
- When the airspace is activated over the Johnson Valley Shared Use Area, the floor of the airspace would be established at an altitude that accommodates typical recreation activities – off-roading, drones, model rockets, and even low-flying helicopters for filming and events.

Emergency Response and MEDEVAC:

Emergency medical evacuation, firefighting, and disaster response aircraft will continue to always have immediate access when required. The Combat Center has established clear and effective procedures that guarantee rapid and safe access during medical emergencies, including immediately suspending training activities if need to facilitate safe and efficient passage for emergency aircraft.

- If the Restricted Area is inactive, no coordination is required.
- If the Restricted Area is activated and altitude requirements are above the established floor, MCAGCC Range Control will facilitate coordination with the MEDEVAC provider, ensuring immediate access.

King of the Hammers (KOH):

The Marine Corps understands KOH’s significance to the off-road community and the local economy.

- The proposed changes in airspace would not impact the event’s ability to use helicopters or drones for event operations, or impact MEDEVAC access.
- The Marine Corps continues to coordinate with Hammerking Productions regarding future events.



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