



**Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command (MAGTFTC)
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC)
Twentynine Palms, CA**

**Land Acquisition/Airspace Establishment in Support of
Training**



The Project Update Notices provide new information to augment public documents available on MCAGCC's Military Airspace webpage.

Project Update Notice #27 March, 2019

➤ **Marine Corps Seeks Special Use Airspace (SUA) to Support Scalable Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Training in Newly Acquired Training Lands Aboard MCAGCC**

- The Marine Corps met with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), as well as national, regional and local airspace stakeholders, throughout the development of its original Permanent SUA proposal submission to the FAA in 2014. The 2014 SUA proposal was developed and modified throughout the preparation of the 2012 Final Environmental Impact Statement for Land Acquisition and Airspace Establishment at Twentynine Palms. The Permanent SUA proposal was developed to provide suitable airspace to support scalable Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) level training while mitigating impacts on other users of the National Airspace System (NAS).
- The FAA has worked with the Marine Corps to develop temporary SUA accommodations for large-scale exercises to achieve training milestones in the interim of the development of a revised Permanent SUA proposal.
- On August 23, 2018, the Marine Corps submitted a revised proposal to the FAA for permanent SUA to support scalable MAGTF level combined-arms training and exercises planned for existing and newly acquired training lands at MCAGCC. The revised proposal takes into account lessons learned from large-scale exercises, current weapons systems, current training requirements, and the impact on commercial and general aviation.
- On March 6, 2019, the Marine Corps submitted a Notice of Intent to Prepare (NIP) an Environmental Assessment (EA)/Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives (DOPAA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with establishing new permanent SUA and modifying existing SUA at the Combat Center. The EA will evaluate three alternatives for establishing new Permanent SUA: two action alternatives and a No-Action Alternative.
- The process of establishing permanent SUA can take several years to complete. In the interim, the FAA continues to work with the Marine Corps to develop temporary solutions that support the continuance of limited yet valuable training for the Marines. On August 24, 2018, the FAA approved a Controlled Firing Area (CFA) over the Combat Center to support smaller-scale military training requirements without impacting civilian aviation. Additionally, a Temporary SUA proposal was submitted to the FAA in August 2018 to support large-scale exercises (LSEs) in 2019 and 2020.

➤ **Controlled Firing Area (CFA) Established Over Exclusive Military Use Area**

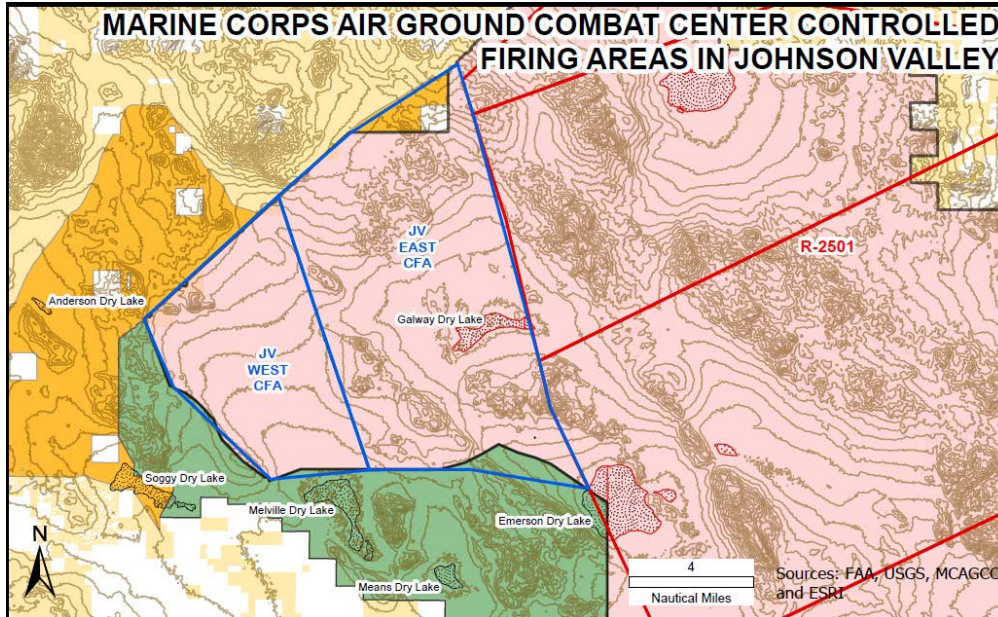
- The FAA approved CFA over the Exclusive Military Use Area in Johnson Valley to support smaller-scale training objectives. The CFA is effective from August 24, 2018, through August 23, 2020, and is activated only during the times needed to support specific training, only to the altitude necessary to contain each day's activities, and deactivated immediately upon completion of training each day.
- A CFA is a type of SUA. Hazardous activities are suspended immediately when non-participating aircraft approach the CFA. CFAs are not depicted on aeronautical charts and are not required to be posted to NOTAMS because MCAGCC Range Control terminates activities when non-participating aircraft approach.
- The CFA allows for:
 - Altitude - surface to 16,000 feet MSL
 - Training supported by the CFA will include small arms to include pistols, rifles and machine guns (up to .50 cal), flares, smoke, hand grenades, demolitions, mortars (60mm, 81mm, 84mm, 120mm), 155mm Howitzers, all classes of lasers, mines, mine clearing line charges, tanks, and fixed and rotary wing flight operations.

For Further Information, Please Contact
29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project
(web) <http://www.29palms.marines.mil/airspace>
(e-mail) SMBPLMSJOHNSONVALLEY@usmc.mil – (phone) 760-830-3737
(mail) MAGTFTC, MCAGCC, Bldg. 1417, Box 788105, Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8105

The CFA does NOT allow for:

- Aviation live-firing training

Established Controlled Firing Area



Key Points of CFA

- Johnson Valley Exclusive Military Use Area
- 365 Days per year
- Surface – 16,000 feet MSL
- CFA East/CFA West
- Activated/De-Activated as Needed

➤ Marine Corps Additional Permanent SUA

- Since the 2012 EIS and 2013 Record of Decision, training requirements have continued to evolve, and new weapons systems and platforms have been developed. Airspace at the Combat Center has become increasingly congested, with as many as 30 training exercises occurring at the same time and requiring additional lateral separation to enhance training flexibility and safety. As a result, the need identified in the 2012 Final EIS for new SUA for only 200 days per year is no longer sufficient and permanent SUA is now required for 365 days per year.
- The Marine Corps permanent SUA proposal was developed through years of collaboration with the FAA and stakeholders. The proposal seeks to acquire sufficient airspace to support ongoing daily training activities 365 days per year. Additional airspace over and adjacent to newly acquired lands in Johnson Valley is needed because the Combat Center lacks the requisite airspace to support live-fire training and aviation element integration year-round in all existing range areas.
- The EA will evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with establishing new permanent SUA and modifying existing SUA at the Combat Center. The EA will evaluate three alternatives: two action alternatives and a No-Action Alternative. The proposed action is to establish new permanent SUA areas and to modify the lateral boundaries, component sectors, and/or altitude limits within existing SUA areas to support ongoing daily training activities at the Combat Center. The Combat Center will utilize existing SUA along with new or modified SUA in the future, regardless of which three alternatives is chosen. Both action alternatives would allow the Combat Center to support ongoing daily training activities 365 days per year.
 - Alternative 1 would establish new permanent SUA to the west and east of existing Combat Center SUA and modify existing SUA along the southern and eastern boundaries of the Combat Center. This expansion would enhance integrated aviation operations with new advance capabilities associated with 5th Generation aircraft. Additionally, Alternative 1 would support greater joint (other service) aviation integration training activities to occur.
 - Alternative 2 is similar to Alternative 1, but does not include establishing new permanent SUA to the east of the Combat Center (i.e., the CAX MOA/ATCAA and the Turtle Low MOA/ATCAA).

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- o In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Marine Corps and the FAA have prepared a DOPAA to support the future preparation of an EA. The DOPAA details the intention of the USMC to establish new permanent SUA areas, and to modify the lateral boundaries, component sectors, and/or altitude limits within existing SUA areas, to support ongoing daily training activities at the Combat Center.
- o The public is encouraged to provide comments on the DOPAA to help inform the Marine Corps and the FAA, as a cooperating agency in development of the EA, regarding environmental issues of concern that should be evaluated in the EA. All comments must be postmarked or received online by April 7, 2019, for consideration in the Draft EA. Comments may be submitted via the website or mailed to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest
 Attention: Mr. Ryan Maynard
 PSUA EA Project Manager
 937 N. Harbor Drive, Building 1, 3rd Floor
 San Diego, CA 92132-5190

The Draft EA is scheduled for public release in January 2020 and will be available for a 30-day public review.

Existing Airspace at the Combat Center

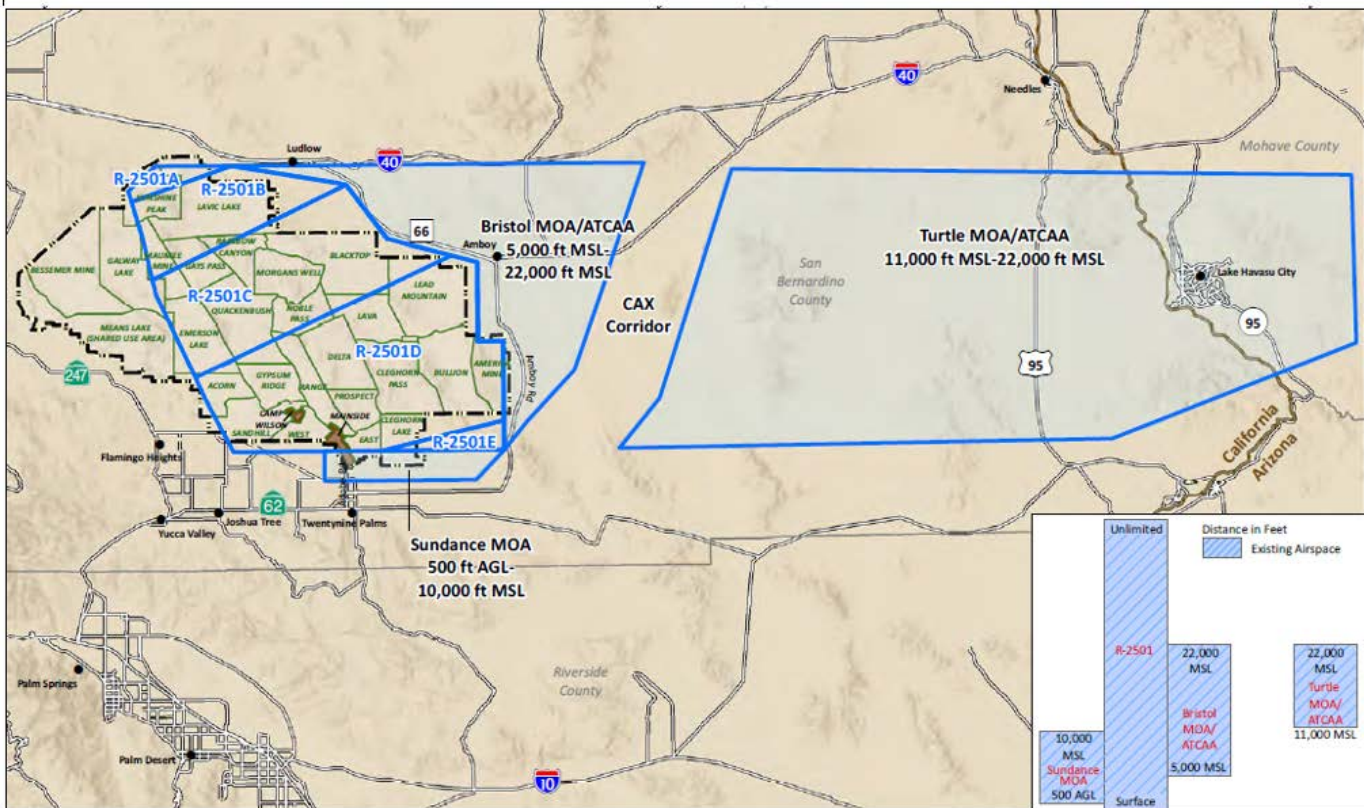


Figure 1-2. Existing Airspace at the Combat Center



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Alternative 1 Special Use Airspace

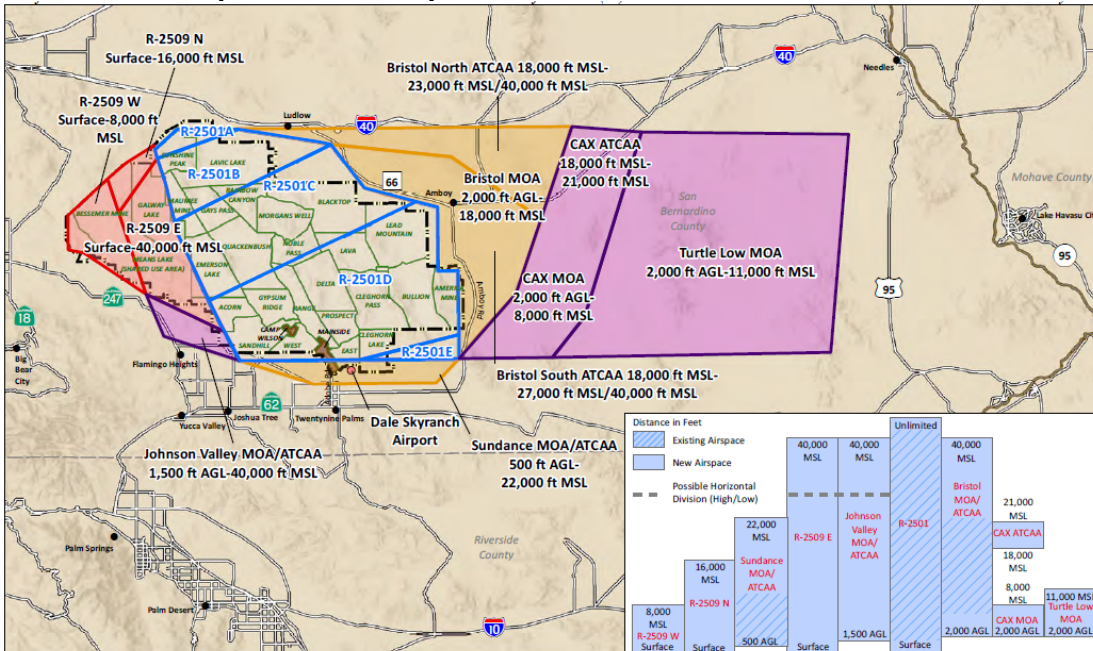
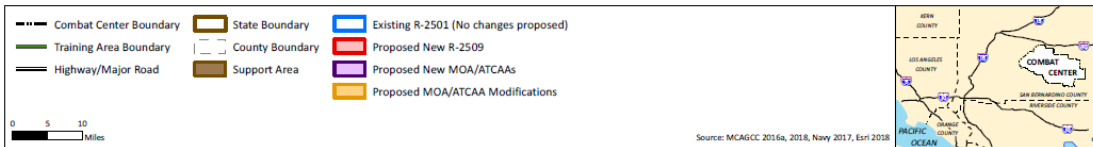


Figure 2-1. Alternative 1 Special Use Airspace



Key Points

- Contains request for new RA and new/modified MOAs, ATCAAs
- 365 days per year
- Supports regular training, scalable MAGTF training, and LSEs

Alternative 2 Special Use Airspace

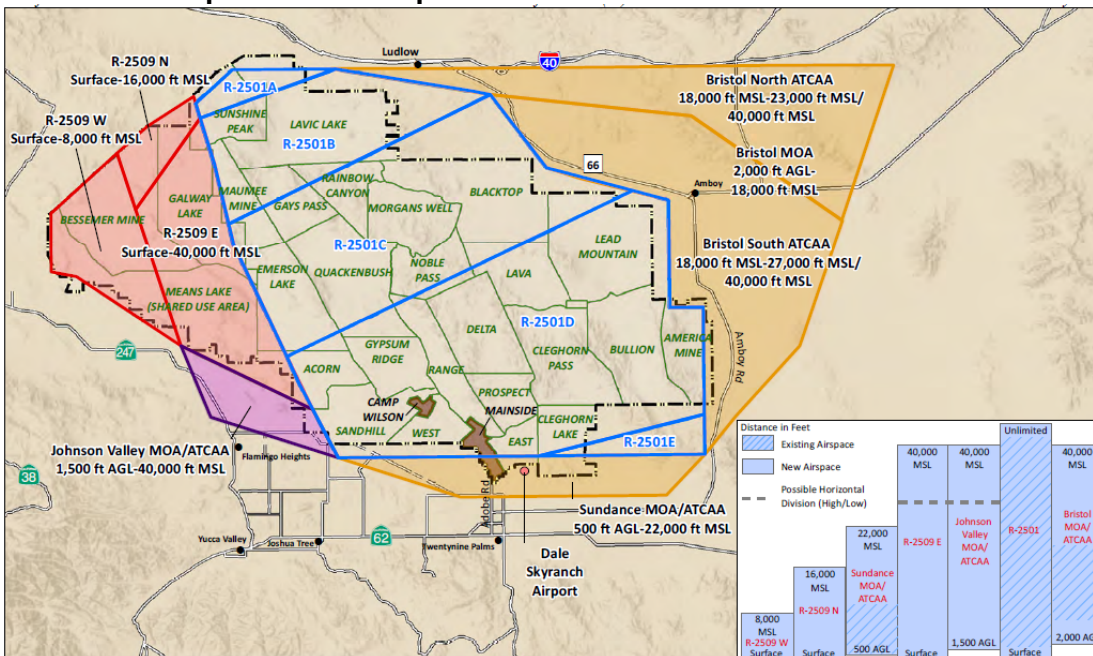
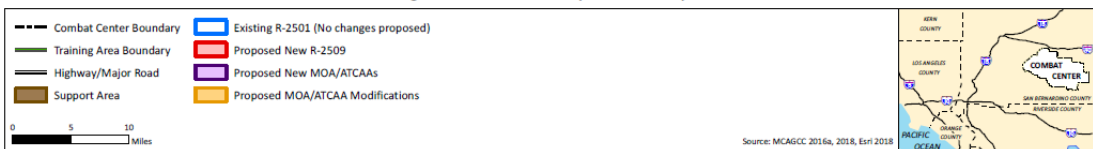


Figure 2-2. Alternative 2 Special Use Airspace



Key Points

- Same as Alternative 1 without CAX MOA/ATCAA and Turtle Low MOA
- Contains request for new RA and new/modified MOAs, ATCAAs
- 365 days per year
- Supports regular training, scalable MAGTF training, and LSEs, however, not to the same extent as Alternative 1

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Comparison of Special Use Airspace under Action Alternatives and No-Action Alternative

Special Use Airspace	No-Action Alternative (Existing SUA after 2020)	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
R-2509 E	Does not currently exist	Surface to 40,000 feet above MSL	Same as Alternative 1
R-2509 W	Does not currently exist	Surface to 8,000 feet above MSL	Same as Alternative 1
R-2509 N	Does not currently exist	Surface to 16,000 feet above MSL	Same as Alternative 1
Johnson Valley MOA	Does not currently exist	1,500 feet AGL to 18,000 feet above MSL	Same as Alternative 1
Johnson Valley ATCAA	Does not currently exist	18,000 feet to 40,000 feet above MSL	Same as Alternative 1
R-2501	Surface to Unlimited	No Change	No Change
Bristol MOA	5,000 to 18,000 feet above MSL	2,000 AGL to 18,000 feet above MSL	Same as Alternative 1
Bristol ATCAA	18,000 to 22,000 feet above MSL	Subdivided into North/South ATCAAs	Same as Alternative 1
Bristol North ATCAA	Internal subdivision does not currently exist	18,000 to 23,000 above MSL/18,000 to 40,000 above MSL for LSE	Same as Alternative 1
Bristol South ATCAA	Internal subdivision does not currently exist	18,000 to 27,000 above MSL/18,000 to 40,000 above MSL for LSE	Same as Alternative 1
Sundance MOA	500 feet AGL to 10,000 feet above MSL	500 feet AGL to 18,000 feet above MSL	Same as Alternative 1
Sundance ATCAA	ATCAA designation does not currently exist	18,000 to 22,000 feet above MSL	Same as Alternative 1
CAX MOA	Does not currently exist	2,000 feet AGL to 8,000 feet above MSL	Same as No-Action Alternative
CAX ATCAA	Does not currently exist	18,000 to 21,000 feet above MSL	Same as No-Action Alternative
Turtle Low MOA	Low MOA does not currently exist	2,000 feet AGL to 11,000 feet above MSL	Same as No-Action Alternative
Turtle MOA	11,000 to 18,000 feet above MSL	No Change	No Change
Turtle ATCAA	18,000 to 22,000 feet above MSL	No Change	No Change

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