



TRAINING SOUNDS from the Combat Center

Twenty-nine Palms, California



Critical training conducted by Marines and sailors aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center prepares them for combat. They must train as they would fight, using the mortars, artillery, tanks, aircraft and guns they would use in combat. These training events generate sounds that are sometimes heard in the surrounding communities.

FAQS about military training sounds

Why are training sounds louder on some days than on others? Noise changes depending on the type of training being conducted, and the location of the training. In addition, cloud cover and wind direction also cause the sounds to travel further, making them sound louder.

Do you train over my house? The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has designated Military Training Routes and Special Use Airspace assigned to the military that extend beyond the Combat Center boundaries. These routes and airspace may be over homes and other buildings.

Why do the aircraft fly so low? Low-level approaches are sometimes required during training, but at no time do military aircraft fly lower than approved by the FAA, which is 500 feet above ground level in designated areas.

Can training noise cause earthquakes? No. Seismic activity is not related to ordnance used in military training.

Why do you train at night? In combat environments, operations are conducted around the clock. To adequately prepare Marines for combat operations, training must be conducted at different hours of the day, including at night.

Let us know what you hear

We want to know what military sounds you hear to better understand the interaction between our training activities and what the community experiences. For more information on training sounds from the Combat Center, visit: 29palms.marines.mil/SoundReporting
To let us know what you hear, please contact:

Government and External Affairs (760) 830-9222
PLMS-MCAGCC-SOUND_REPORTING@usmc.mil

Please include the time and date of the sound occurrence, where you were when you heard it and the type of sound that you heard (artillery, aircraft, other sounds). If you would like us to follow up with you, please include a contact number or email address.

Compare the sounds you hear

It's difficult to calculate the exact decibel (dB) level of training sounds you may hear from the Combat Center, because Marines do not train in the same location using the same equipment every day. Weather conditions also can cause variations in what you hear. The same activity at the same place on different days can have very different sound signatures because of temperature inversions, and wind strength and direction.

Most training sounds that travel outside the Combat Center boundaries are estimated at 65 dB and below. Compare that to the sounds that you hear every day:

10 dB Just audible

40 dB Quiet rural area

60 dB A/C unit at 100 feet

60-70 dB Normal conversation

70 dB Television

84 dB Diesel truck at 45 mph at 50 feet

88 dB Food blender

90 dB Motorcycle at 25 feet

107 dB Power mower at 3 feet

115 dB Loud rock concert

