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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of alternative desert tortoise translocation options at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) Twentynine Palms, Calif., is now available for public review.

Translocation of the desert tortoise is necessary to support the recovery of the species on lands withdrawn for military training in the 2014 Fiscal Year National Defense Authorization Act. The Final SEIS studied the effects of a range of alternatives for implementing a successful desert tortoise translocation program in support of large-scale military training exercises. Impacts on biological resources, land use and air quality associated with alternative desert tortoise translocation plans were assessed. Alternative 2, identified as the preferred alternative, was determined to have less-than-significant environmental impacts on the resources analyzed. The preferred alternative was developed using internal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service draft revised translocation guidance with increased focus on augmenting depleted tortoise populations.

The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Final SEIS for Land Acquisition and Airspace Establishment to Support Large-Scale Marine Air Ground Task Force Live-Fire and Maneuver

Training at MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, Calif., was published in the Federal Register on Jan. 6, 2017.

A copy of the Final SEIS will be posted in electronic format on the project website at www.SEISforLAA.com. Hard copies will be available for review at the following libraries starting Jan. 6, 2017:

- Newton T. Bass Apple Valley Library
- Barstow Branch Library
- Palm Springs Public Library
- Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building
- San Bernardino County Library Administrative Offices
- Twentynine Palms Branch Library
- Victorville City Library
- Yucca Valley Branch Library
- Joshua Tree Branch Library
- Lucerne Valley Janice Horst Branch Library
- Needles Branch Library
- Ovitt Family Community Library

There is a 30-day waiting period after the release of the Final SEIS before the Record of Decision (ROD) may be issued. During this period, the public and other agencies may submit comments on the Final SEIS. Comments must be received by Feb. 4, 2017, and may be submitted via the project website at www.SEISforLAA.com or mailed to:

29Palms SEIS Project Team
c/o Cardno Government Services
3888 State Street, Ste. 201
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

For more information, please visit the project website at <http://www.SEISforLAA.com> or call the Resource Management Group at (760) 830-3737.