



Welcome to the U.S. Marine Corps' public meeting!

The Marine Corps requests your input.





The Bureau of Land Management

**Welcomes
your questions
about the segregation
of public lands process.**





National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process and Community Involvement

NEPA requires U.S. federal agencies to consider the potential environmental consequences of their actions before making a decision. The public participates in the process by:

- Helping to identify environmental issues and potential alternatives during the scoping period
- Evaluating the analysis of the proposed action and alternatives during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) public comment period
- Evaluating the Final EIS and U.S. Marine Corps responses to the public comments received on the Draft EIS during the Final EIS wait period

Milestone	Description	Schedule
Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an EIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of the NOI in the Federal Register started the public involvement phase of the NEPA process 	Oct. 30, 2008
Scoping Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted before the start of environmental analysis Involved the public and other agencies in identifying the environmental issues and reasonable alternatives to be addressed in the EIS Provided three scoping meetings and a 94-day public comment period 	Scoping Period: Oct. 30, 2008 – Jan. 31, 2009 Scoping Meetings: Twentynine Palms – Dec. 3, 2008 Victorville – Dec. 4, 2008 Ontario – Dec. 5, 2008
Draft EIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presents the analysis of potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and each alternative, including a No-Action Alternative Made available for public and agency review and comment Filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and made available to interested parties 	Feb. 25, 2011
Notice of Availability followed by Public Meetings and Comment Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a 90-day public comment period Public meetings held to receive comments on the Draft EIS 	Public Comment Period: Feb. 25, 2011 – May 26, 2011 Public Meetings: Joshua Tree – April 12, 2011 Ontario – April 13, 2011 Victorville – April 14, 2011
Final EIS and Notice of Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An update to the Draft EIS based on comments received during the public meetings and comment period Announced via a Notice of Availability of the Final EIS published in the Federal Register and appropriate newspapers Filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and made available to interested parties 	December 2011
30-Day Wait Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a 30-day wait period after the Final EIS is published Interested parties have 30 days to review and submit comments on the Final EIS 	January 2012
Record of Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows the 30-day wait period and consideration of public comments on the possible environmental impacts Includes selection of an alternative by the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations & Environment) Announced via a Notice of Record of Decision published in the Federal Register and appropriate newspapers Made available to interested parties 	April 2012

► Opportunities for Public Review and Comment

Complete

In Progress



Proposed Action

To enhance the Combat Center's training capabilities to meet sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) training requirements.



MEBs are the Marine Corps' premier response force for combined-arms operations. Marines need to train as they fight to protect and defend themselves, the nation and its allies.

The Marine Corps seeks sufficient training land and airspace to accommodate MEB-sized training exercises.

The Marine Corps proposes to:

- Acquire sufficient land contiguous to the Combat Center to accommodate MEB training
- Modify and establish corresponding Special Use Airspace
- Expand training activities

The proposed action would fulfill Marine Corps requirements for sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver training exercises.


The Combat Center is the Marine Corps' largest combined-arms, live-fire training range complex. More than 90 percent of Marines that deploy to combat receive pre-deployment training at the Combat Center.





Afghanistan Relational Map

and DOD Installations



MARINE CORPS
Western Region



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Marine Corps Installations West (MCI West)
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Email: geodiswest@usmc.mil
USMC Intranet: <https://www.geodiswest.usmc.mil>

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Email: mci.campen.gis@usmc.mil
USMC Intranet: <https://pe.geodiswest.usmc.mil>

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Nautical Miles
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Miles
0 50 100 150 200

Kilometers
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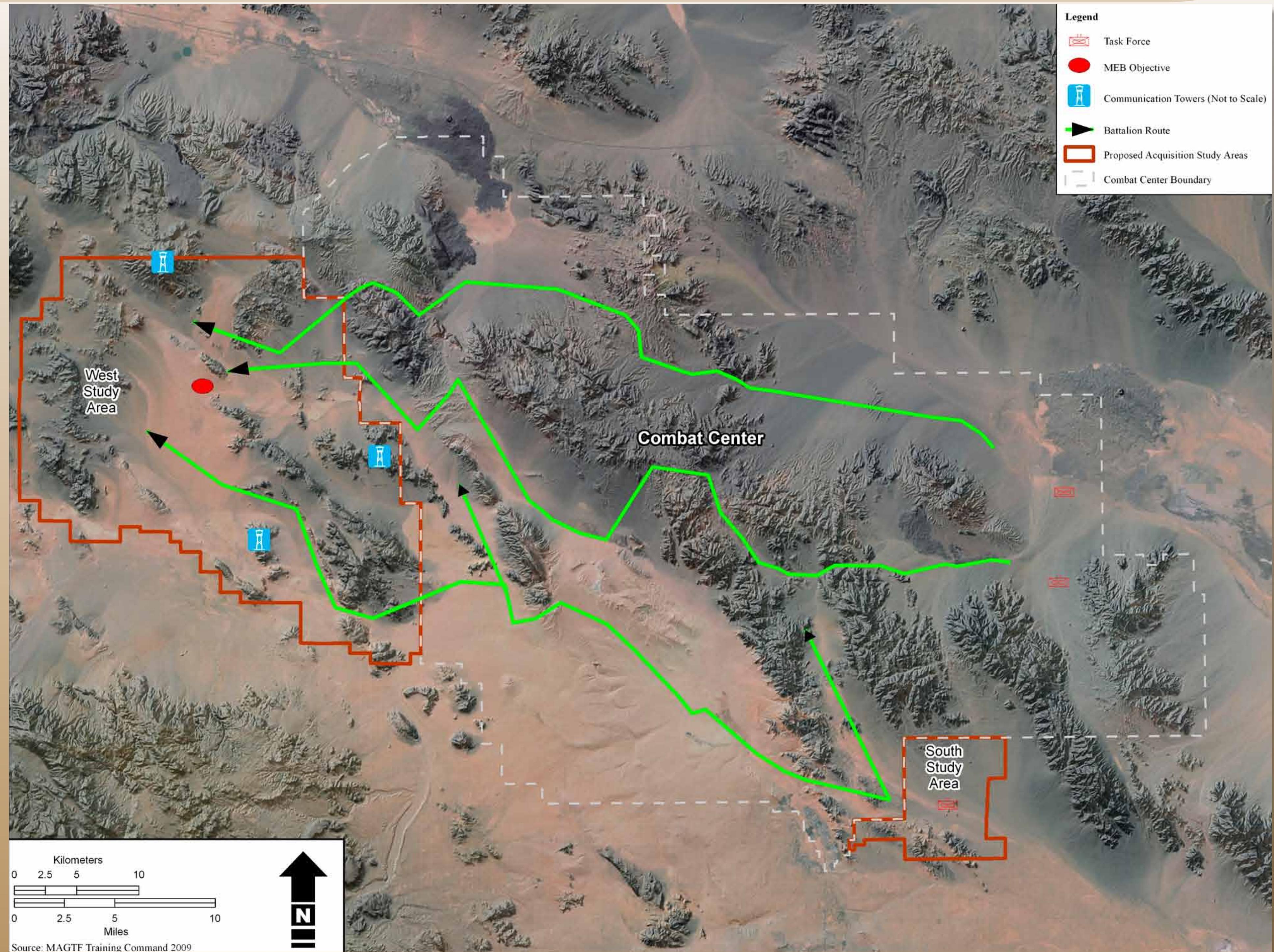
NOTES
BOUNDARIES SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AUTHORITATIVE.
DRAFT MAP. ROAD AND RAILROAD LINES ARE NOT SHOWN.
IN DEVELOPED AREAS ONLY THROUH ROADS ARE CLASSIFIED.
TOURIST ROADS ARE NOT SHOWN. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED. DATE 10-2010 BY 62260.
THERE MAY BE PRIVATE INHOLDINGS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES
OF THE NATIONAL STATE REGIONS WHICH ARE SHOWN ON THIS MAP.

ALTHOUGH EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ENHANCE THE ACCURACY
OF THE INFORMATION, ERRORS AND CONDITIONS ORIGINATING FROM
PHYSICAL MAP DATA, COMPUTER PROGRAMMING, AND OTHER SOURCES
IN THE DATA SUPPLIED. THE USER MUST BE AWARE OF DATA CONDITIONS
AND LIMITATIONS. THE USER IS ADVISED TO VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF
THE INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE ERRORS. ORIGINAL MAP
DATA SOURCE AND DATE UNKNOWN. ACCURACY UNKNOWN. AND
OTHER CONDITIONS SPECIFIC TO CERTAIN DATA. THIS INFORMATION
DOES NOT DEPICT ALL POSSIBLE RESOURCES. FIELD VERIFICATION OF
ALL POSSIBLE RESOURCES IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE USER. THIS INFORMATION
IS DEEMED RELIABLE, BUT NOT GUARANTEED.

ELLIPSOID.....GEODETIC REFERENCE SYSTEM 1980
GRID.....1,000 METER UTM ZONE 11
PROJECTION.....TRANSVERSE MERCATOR
HORIZONTAL DATUM.....NORTH AMERICAN DATUM 1983 / WORLD GEODETIC SYSTEM 1984

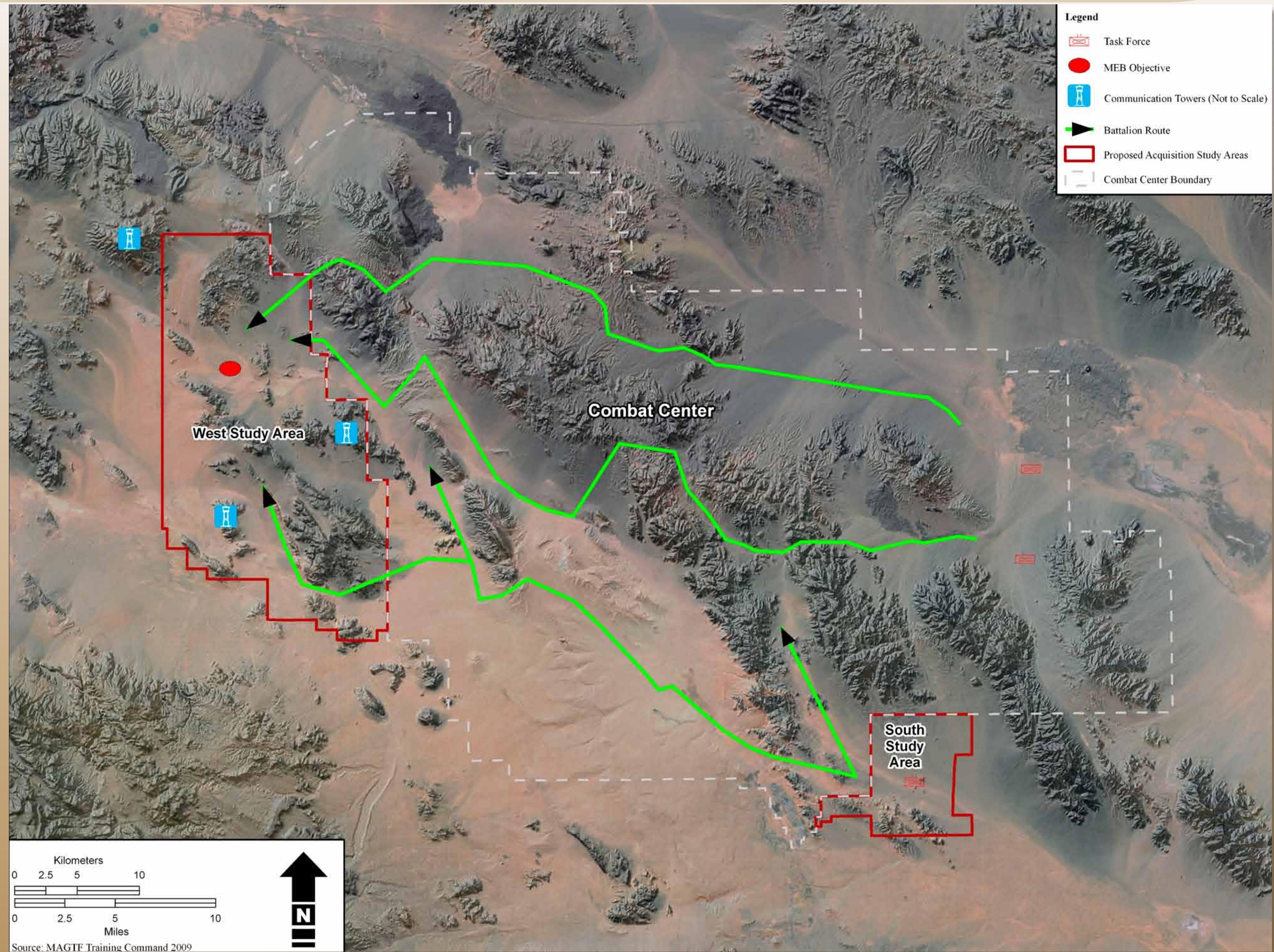


Action Alternative 1



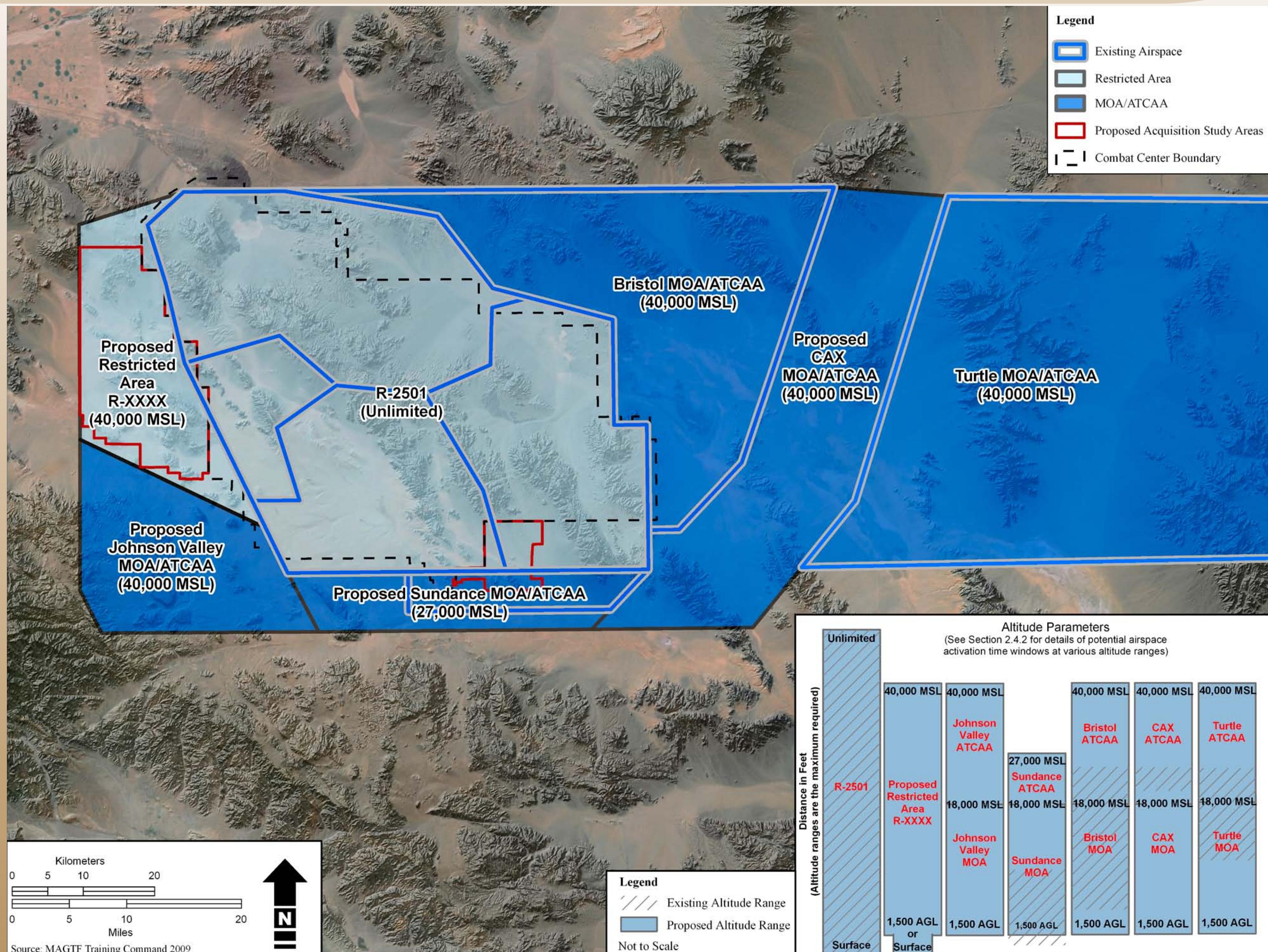


Action Alternative 2



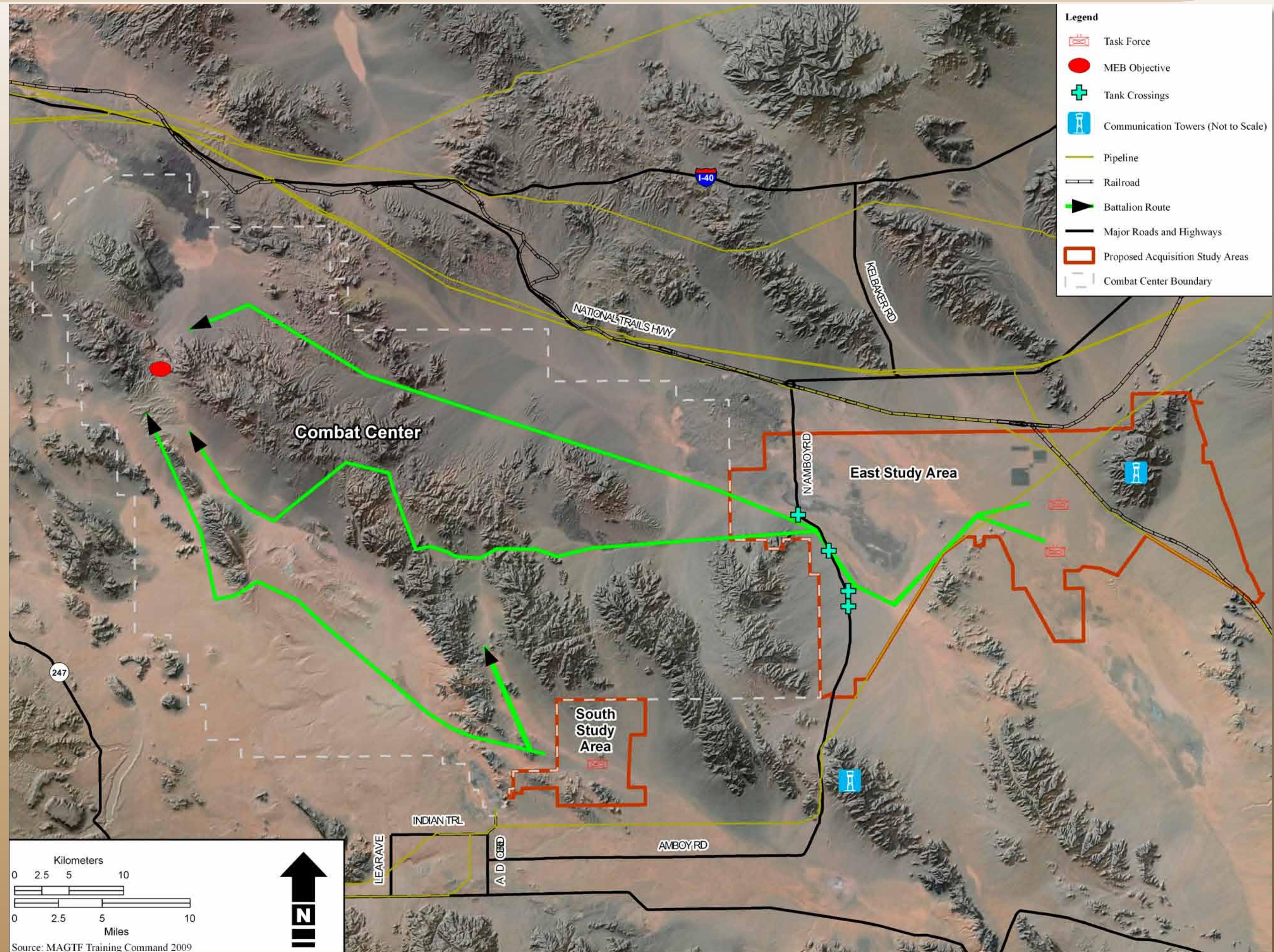


Alternative 2 | Airspace



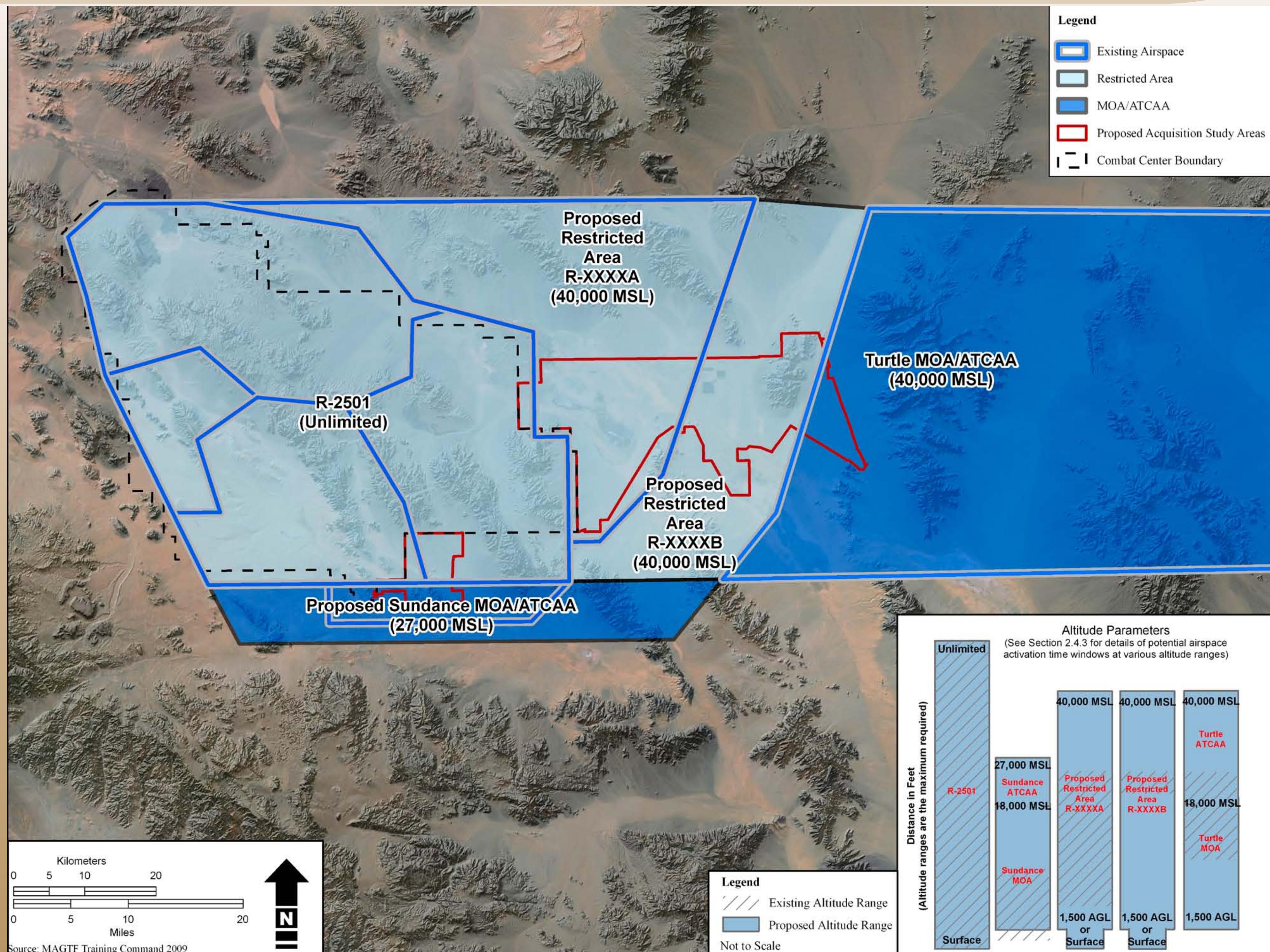


Action Alternative 3



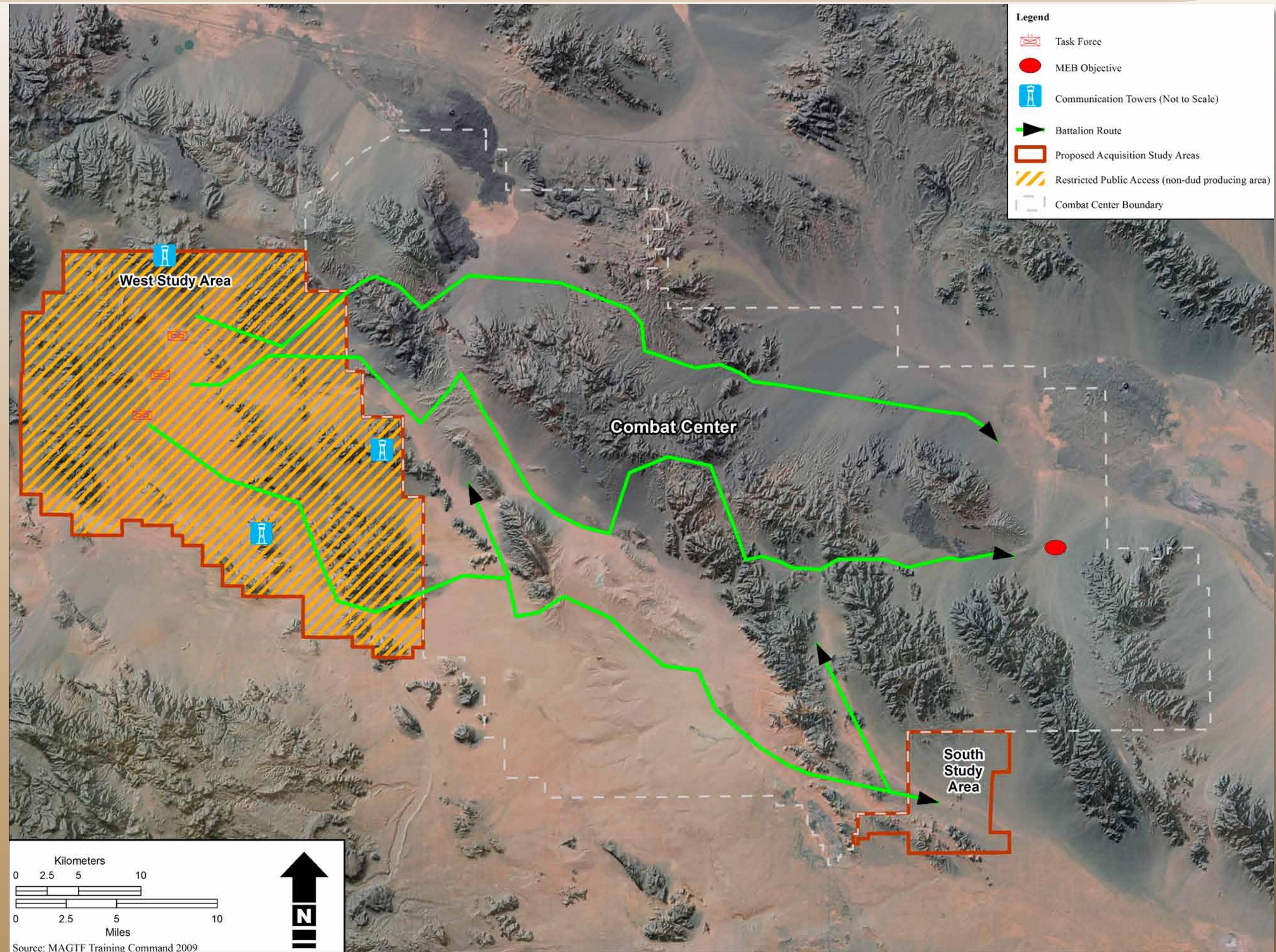


Alternative 3 | Airspace



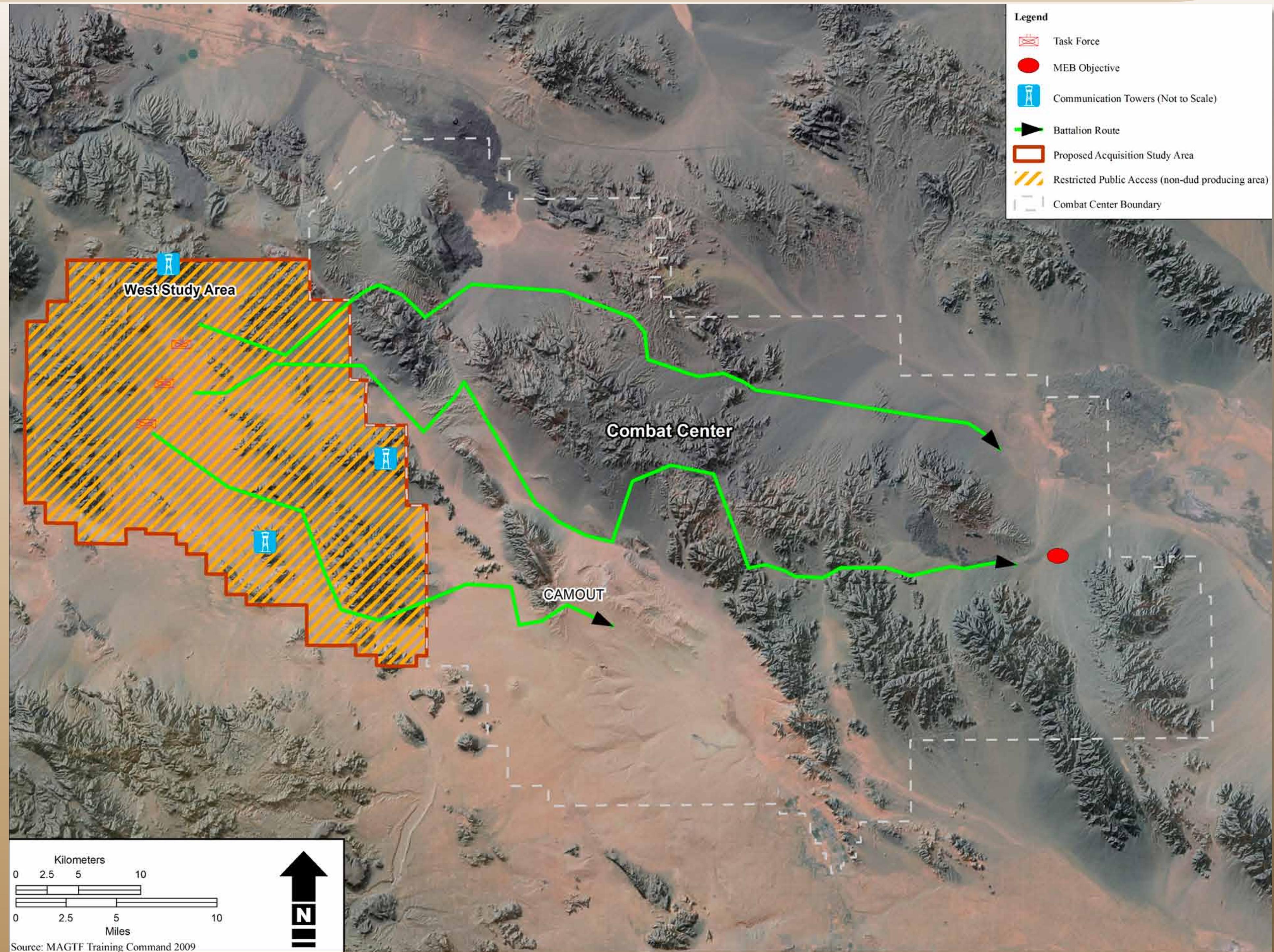


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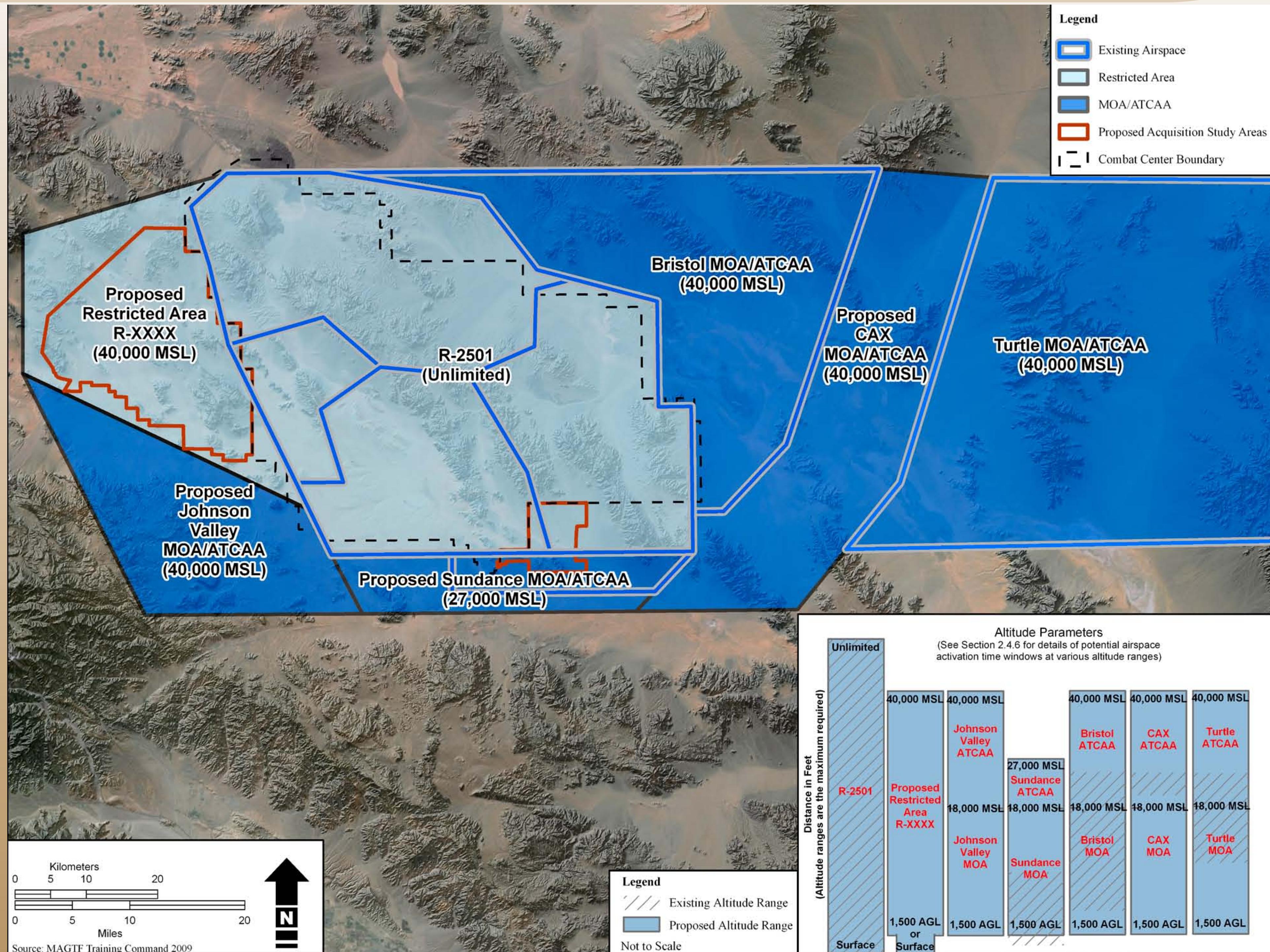


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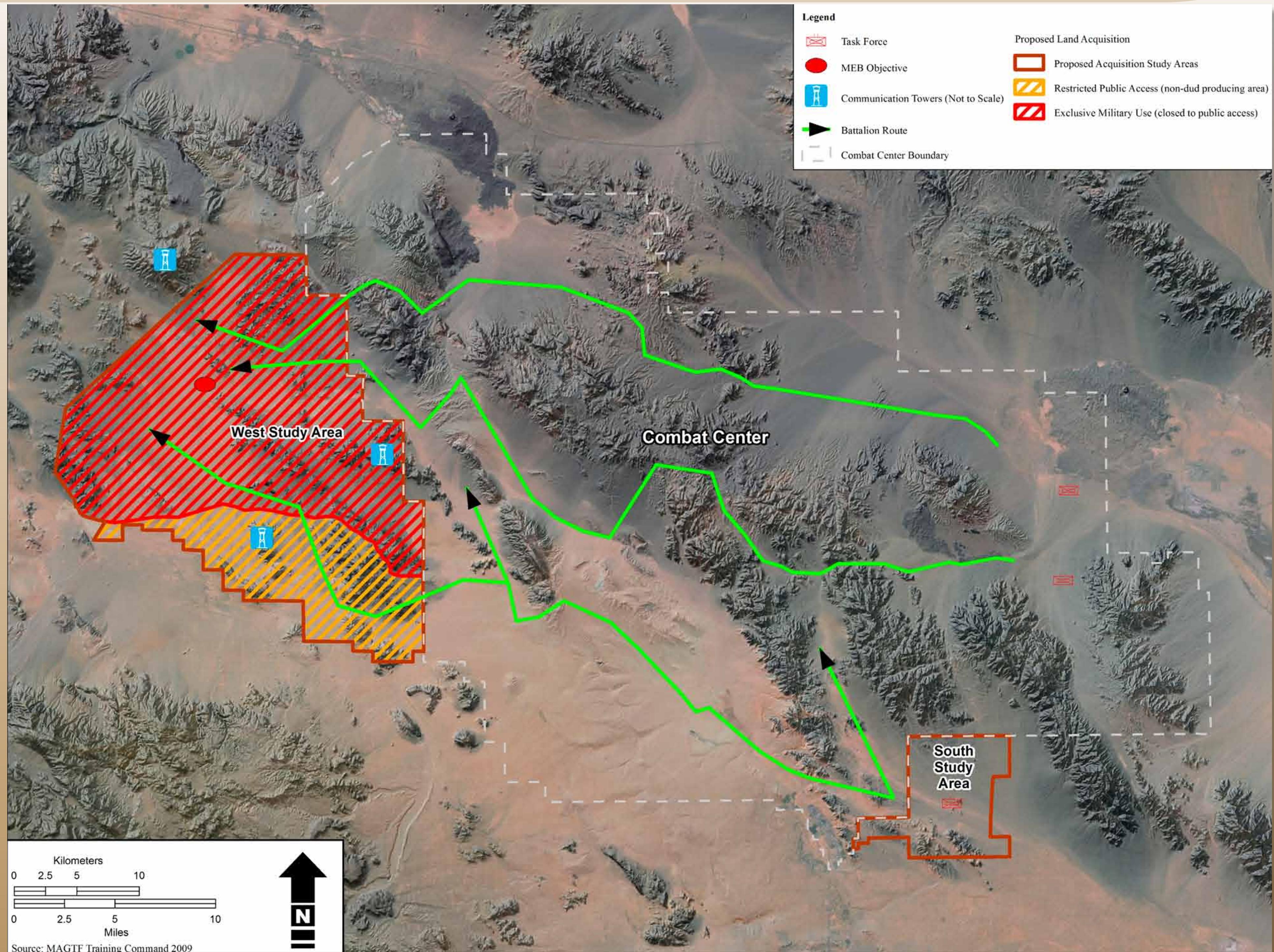




Alternatives 1, 4, 5 & 6 | Airspace



Action Alternative 6 (Preferred Alternative)

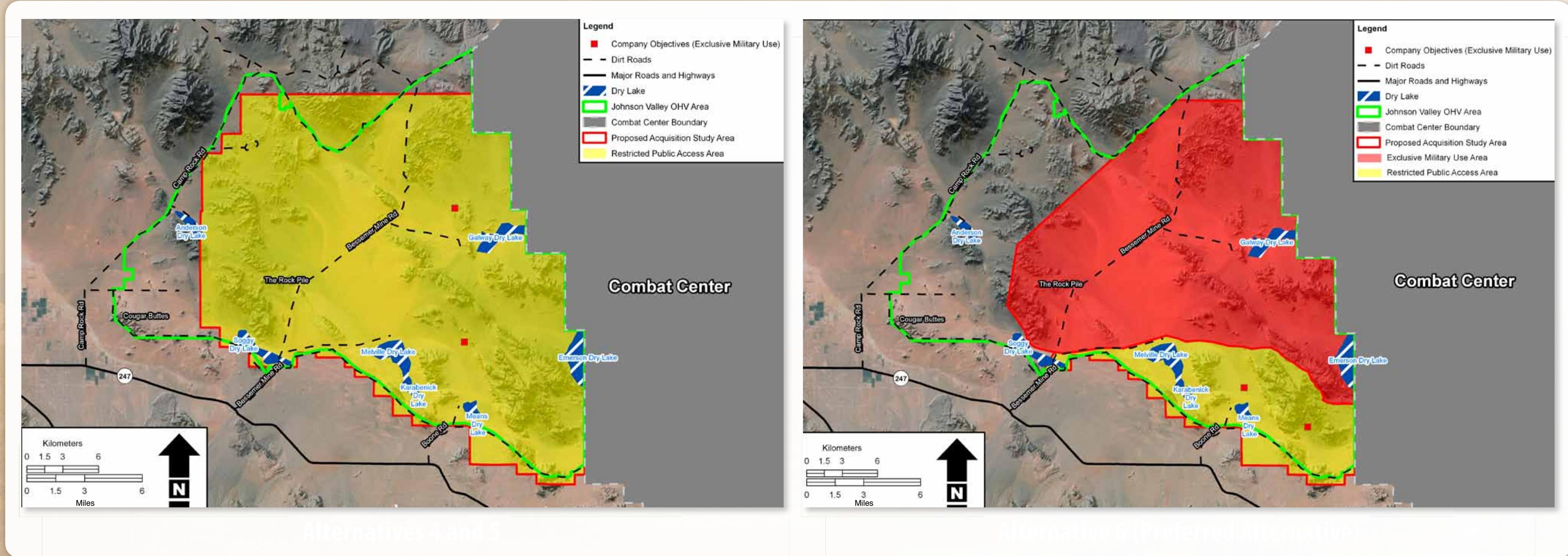




Restricted Public Access Areas (RPAA)

An RPAA is an area within which the Marine Corps proposes to conduct live-fire and maneuver training exercises for a Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) twice each year, and otherwise permit restricted public access for popular recreational uses.

Potential Restricted Public Access Areas



Alternatives 4, 5 and 6 include an RPAA in Johnson Valley that would:

- Designate land for exclusive military training two months/year
 - Public use of land allowed 10 months/year
 - Alternative 6 proposes a portion for exclusive military use year-round
- Require a Marine Corps permit for public access and use of the area

- Require use of only non-dud producing ordnance when firing into the RPAA
- Require clean up of the RPAA after training activities
- Be subject to a determination by the Commanding General that the area has been returned to a condition suitable for authorized public access following each MEB Exercise



Proposed Public Safety Measures in Restricted Public Access Areas (RPAA)

The Marine Corps proposes a coordinated program of public notification, safety education and range safety procedures to permit restricted public access in the designated RPAA when military training activities are not being conducted.

Public Safety Measures in the RPAA

Public Notification and Safety Education:

- Informational outreach program for local citizens, community leaders and interest groups
- Web-based education requirements and permitting process for RPAA users
- Website to promote public awareness and provide schedules for planned military activity well in advance to not conflict with any organized recreational activities
- Informational materials, including brochures, advertisements, fliers and kiosks

Pre-Exercise Procedures:

- Increased military presence immediately before training to prevent mistaken entry by civilians to the training range
- Permanent signage
- Manned roadblocks along all access routes immediately before and throughout the training period
- Overflights and range sweeps to identify any public presence before training commences
- Pre-exercise leadership briefings to enhance vigilance regarding RPAA operational restrictions and proper accounting for ammunition and equipment

Post-Exercise Procedures:

- Multiple range sweeps to find, mark and remove dangerous items, equipment and surface debris immediately after exercise
- Removal of any detected ordnance by certified personnel
- Once access to RPAA is authorized, all currently approved recreational uses would be allowed

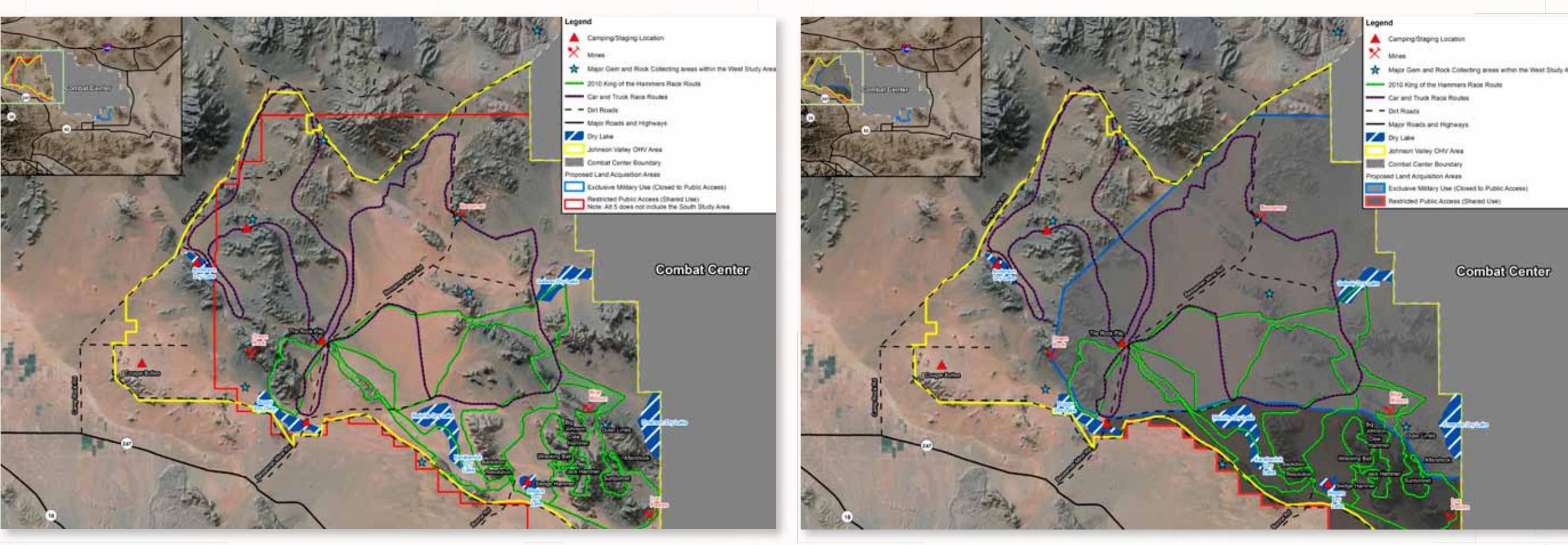
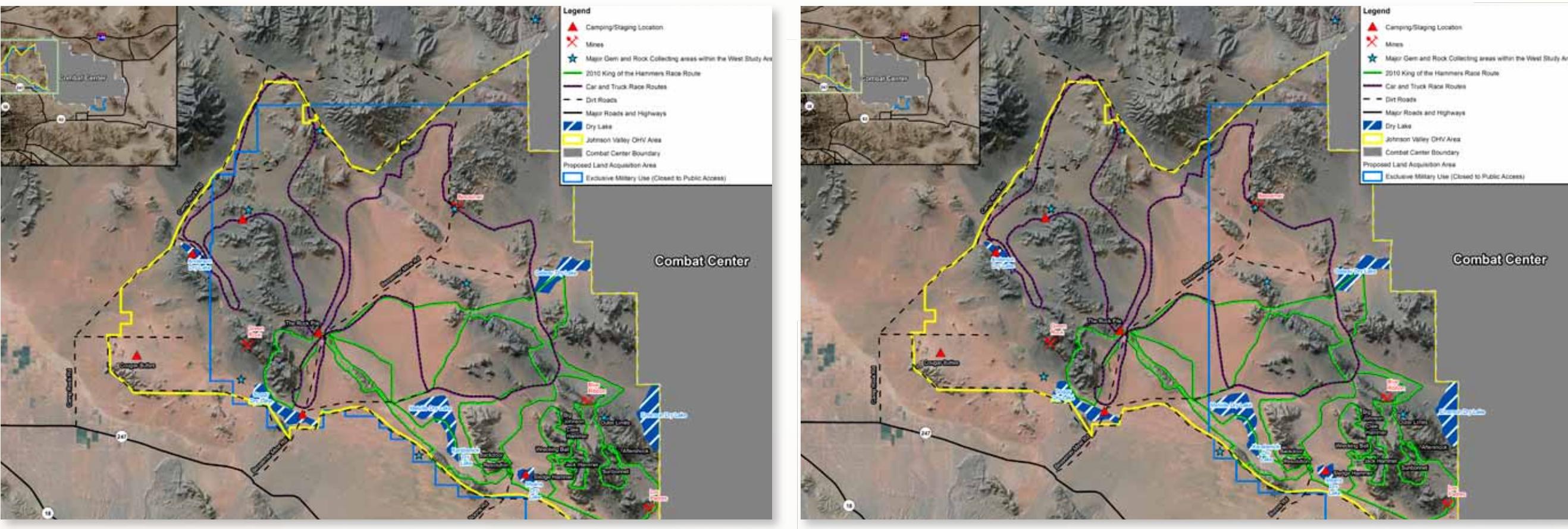




Impacts on Recreational Areas

The Marine Corps is taking active steps to address public concerns related to proposed land acquisition that may impact recreational activities.

Alternatives Boundaries in Johnson Valley



To find a balance between recreational interests and training requirements, the Marine Corps evaluated various land acquisition and public access scenarios.



Potential Impacts on Recreational Areas

- West Study Area (Alternatives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6):** Johnson Valley OHV Area.
- South Study Area (Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 4, 6):** BLM land and private property. No established recreational areas.
- East Study Area (Alternative 3):** No established recreational areas.

Johnson Valley OHV Area: Percentage of Usable Acreages Remaining under each Alternative

Alternative	Usable Acreage* Available for Recreation	Percent of Johnson Valley OHV Area Available for Recreation
No-Action Alternative	189,470	100% (12 months per year)
Alternative 1	17,640	9% (12 months per year)
Alternative 2	86,200	46% (12 months per year)
Alternative 3	189,470	100% (12 months per year)
Alternative 4	189,470	100% (10 months per year)
Alternative 5	189,470	100% (10 months per year)
Alternative 6	82,802	44% (10 months per year)

* Acreage is approximate



Impacts on Air Quality

The Marine Corps has developed special conservation measures to reduce air quality impacts. The California Air Resources Board and the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District conclude that the project would conform with the federal Clean Air Act and the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Potential Impacts from Construction

- Emissions from construction equipment
- Dust from vehicles on bare soil

Potential Impacts from Operations

- Emissions from:
 - Aircraft
 - Ordnance
 - Tactical vehicles/support equipment
- Dust from vehicles on exposed soil

Potential Impacts on Air Quality

- Proposed emission increases of volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides and PM₁₀ would conform to SIP
- Increase in carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and PM_{2.5} emissions would produce less than significant air quality impacts
- Emissions would produce less than significant impacts on Joshua Tree National Park

Special conservation measures during construction would reduce air quality impacts:

- Using water trucks to minimize dust
- Minimizing the amount of disturbed ground area at a given time
- Minimizing ground disturbing activities near the Combat Center boundary
- Minimizing ground disturbing activities during high wind conditions
- Monitoring the dust control program and increasing measures to minimize dust





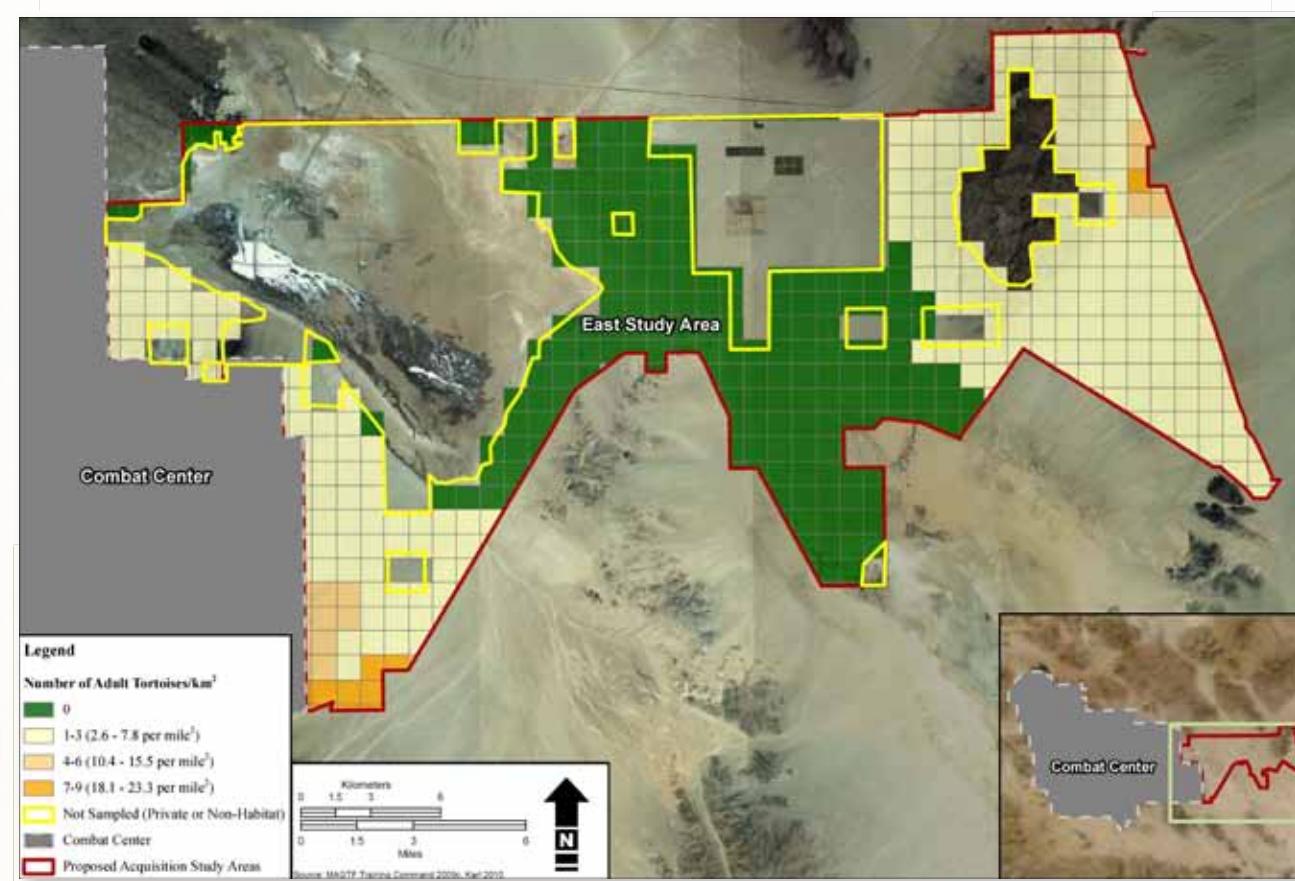
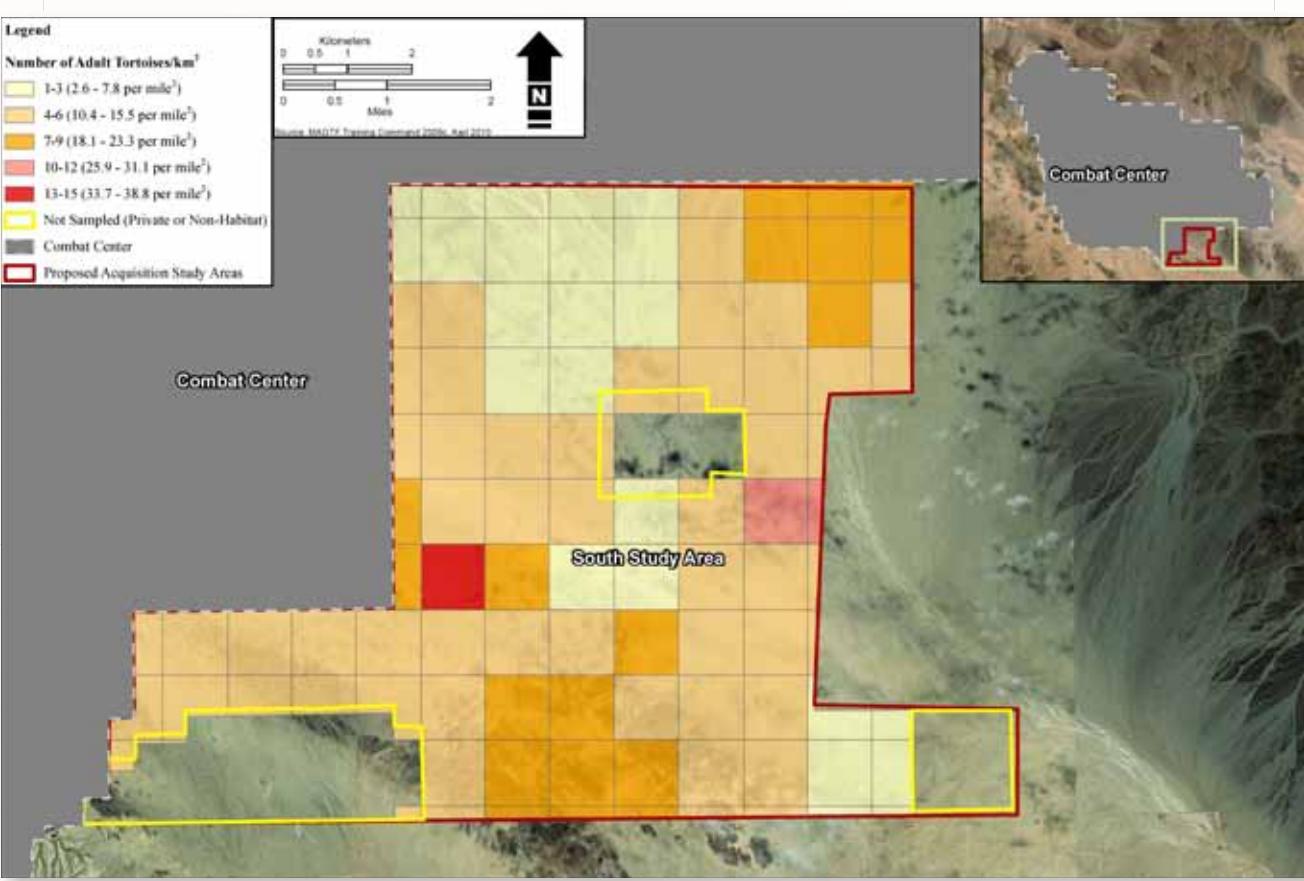
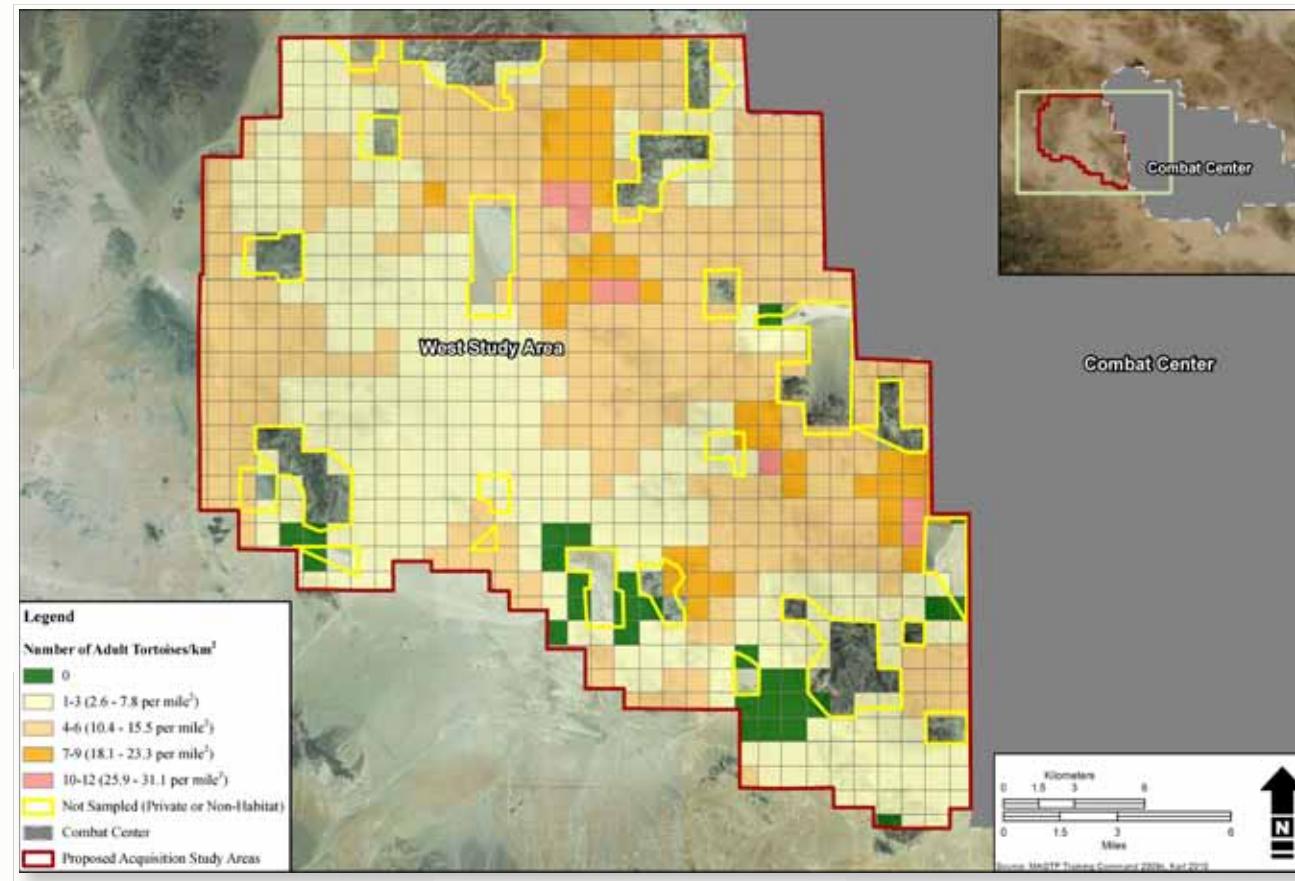
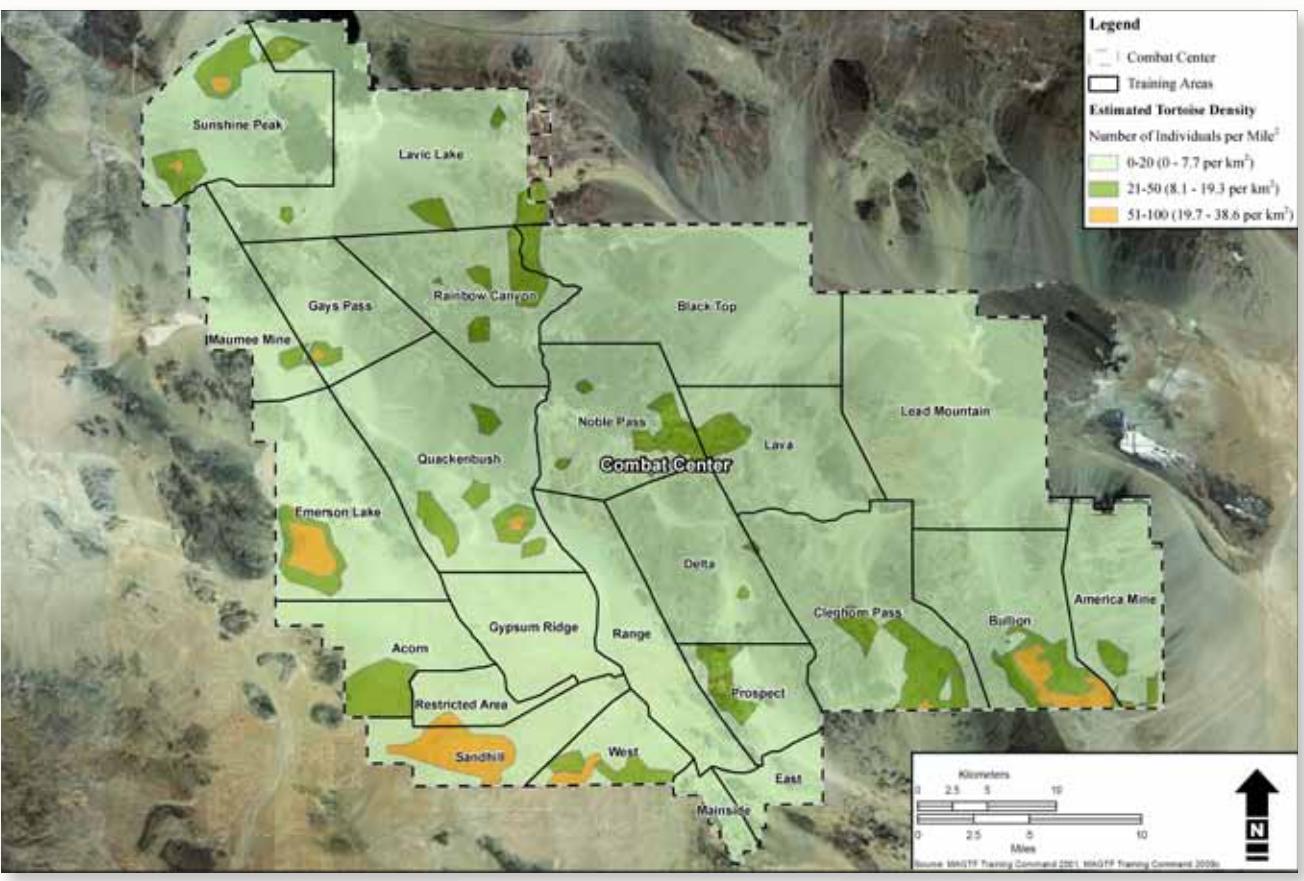
Impacts on Biological Resources

The Marine Corps has conservation measures to protect listed species and their habitat.



Where training exercises occur, special status wildlife populations and plant species are avoided to the extent practicable.

Desert Tortoise Densities



Biological resources include:

- Wildlife
- Vegetation
- Ecosystems



Special Conservation Measures

- Designing training exercises to minimize disturbance
- Surveying and monitoring listed species and species at risk to minimize impacts
- Evaluating habitat conditions to facilitate ecosystem management

Potential Impacts on the Desert Tortoise

- Impacts on species and non-critical habitat from training activities; degree of impact varies between alternatives
 - No impacts on designated critical habitat
- Indirect impacts from displacing OHV users to other areas, except for Alternative 3



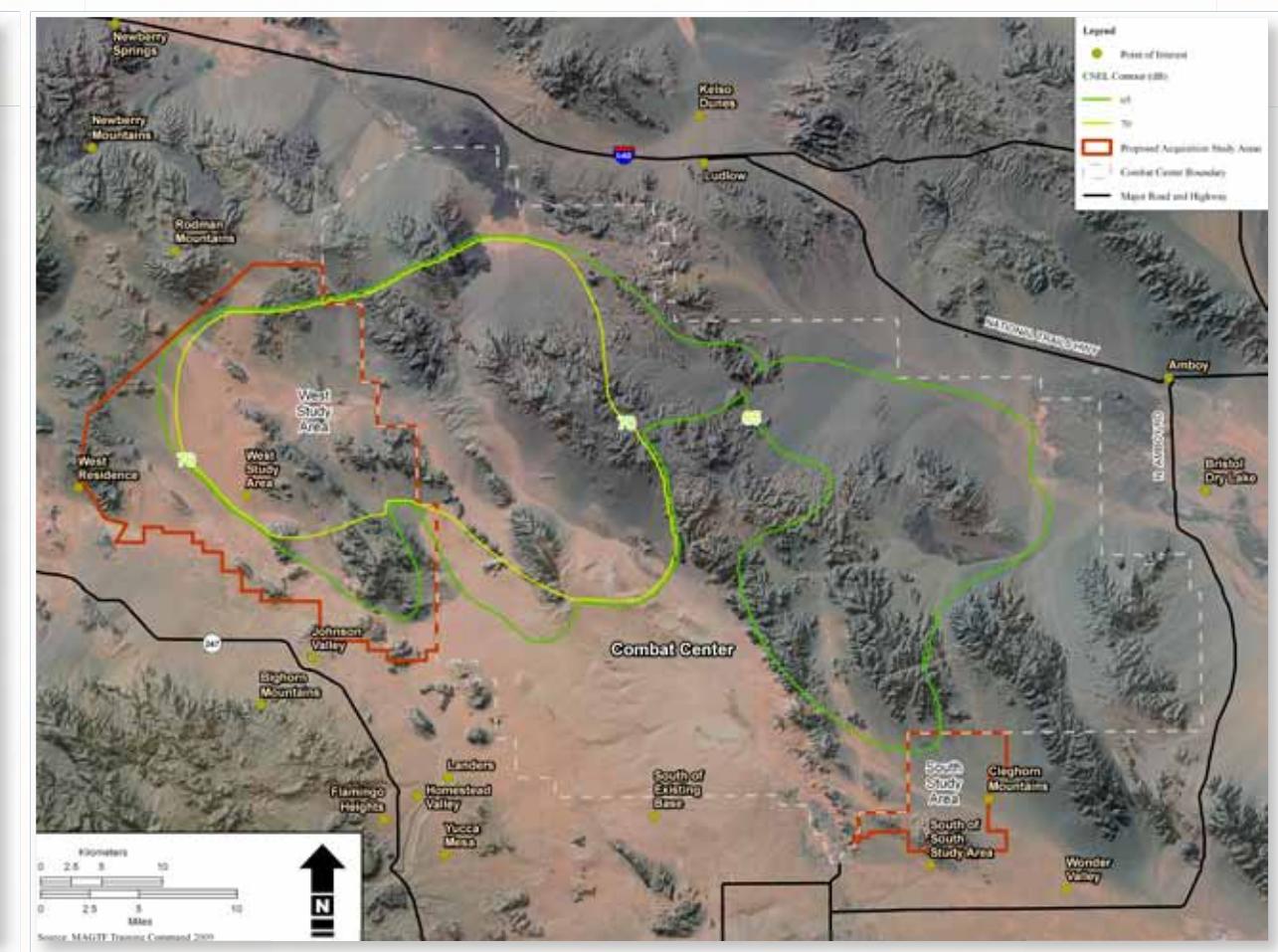
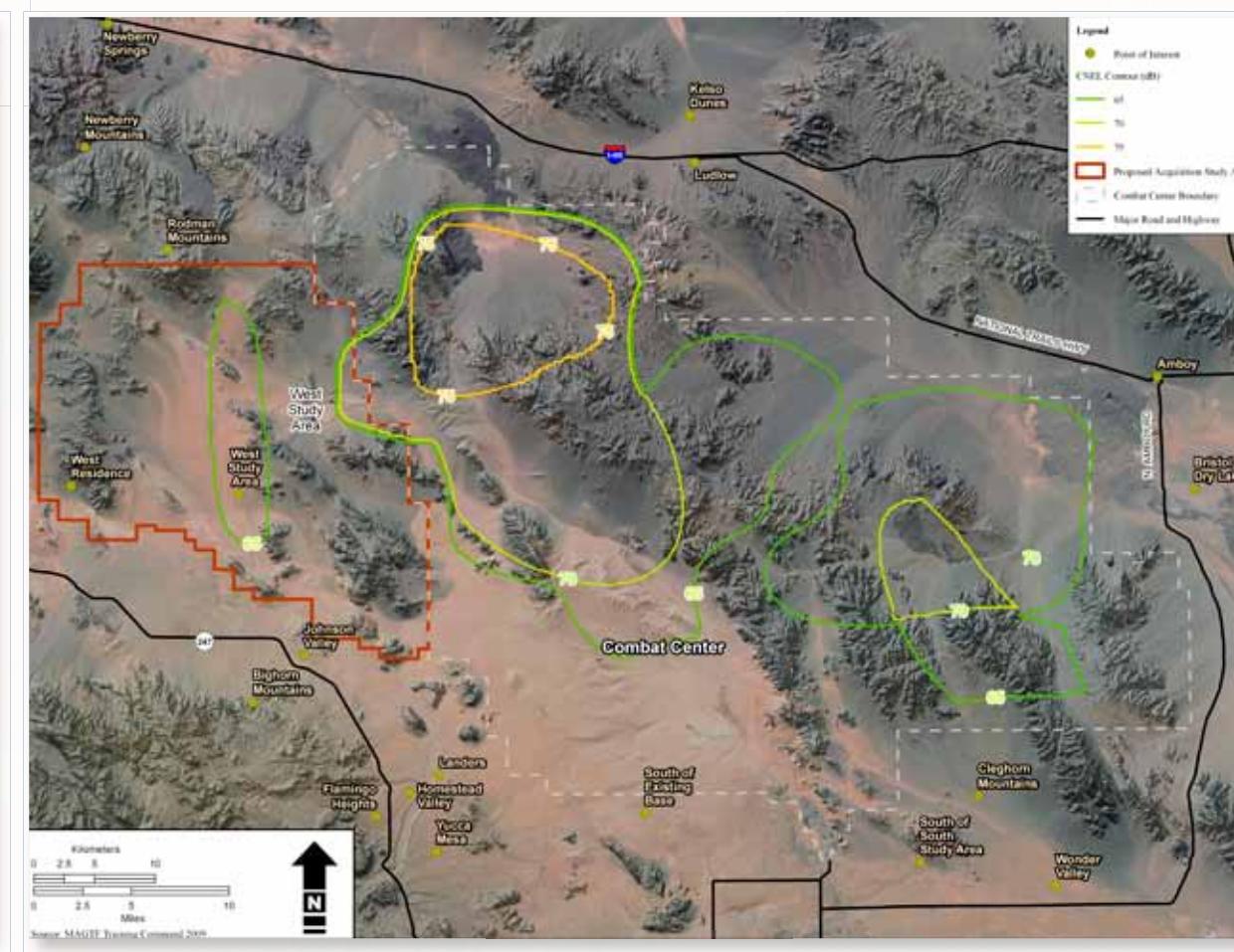
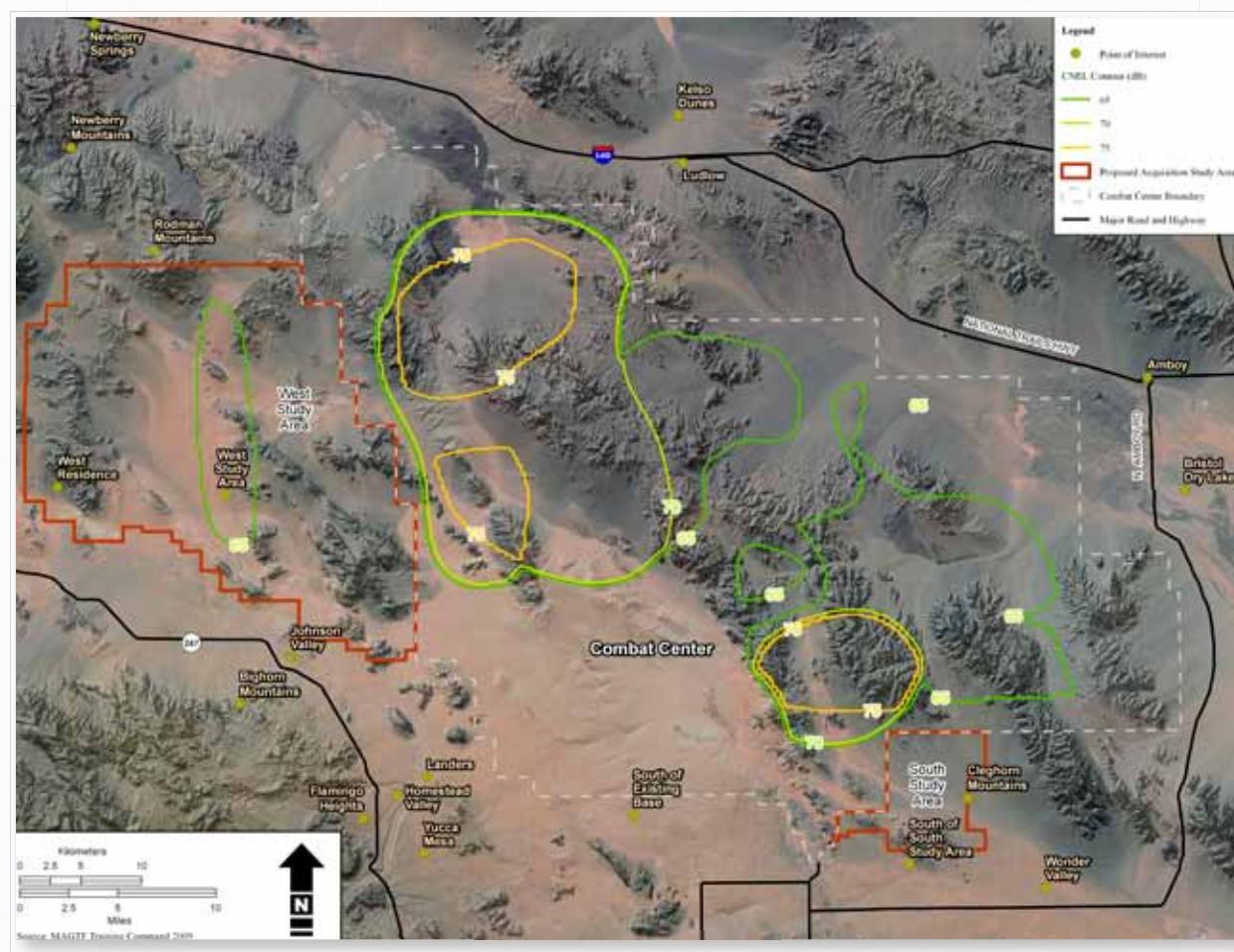
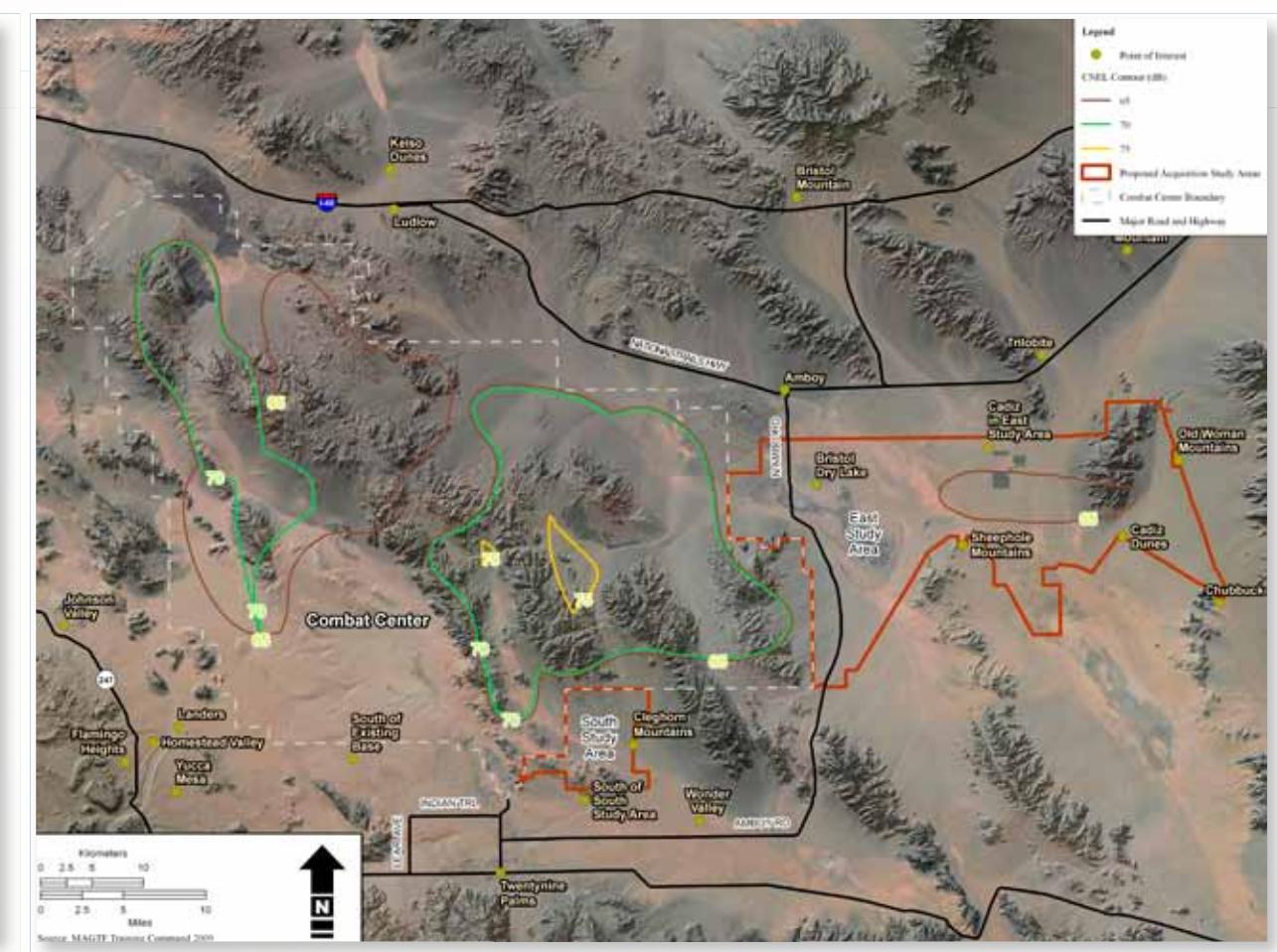
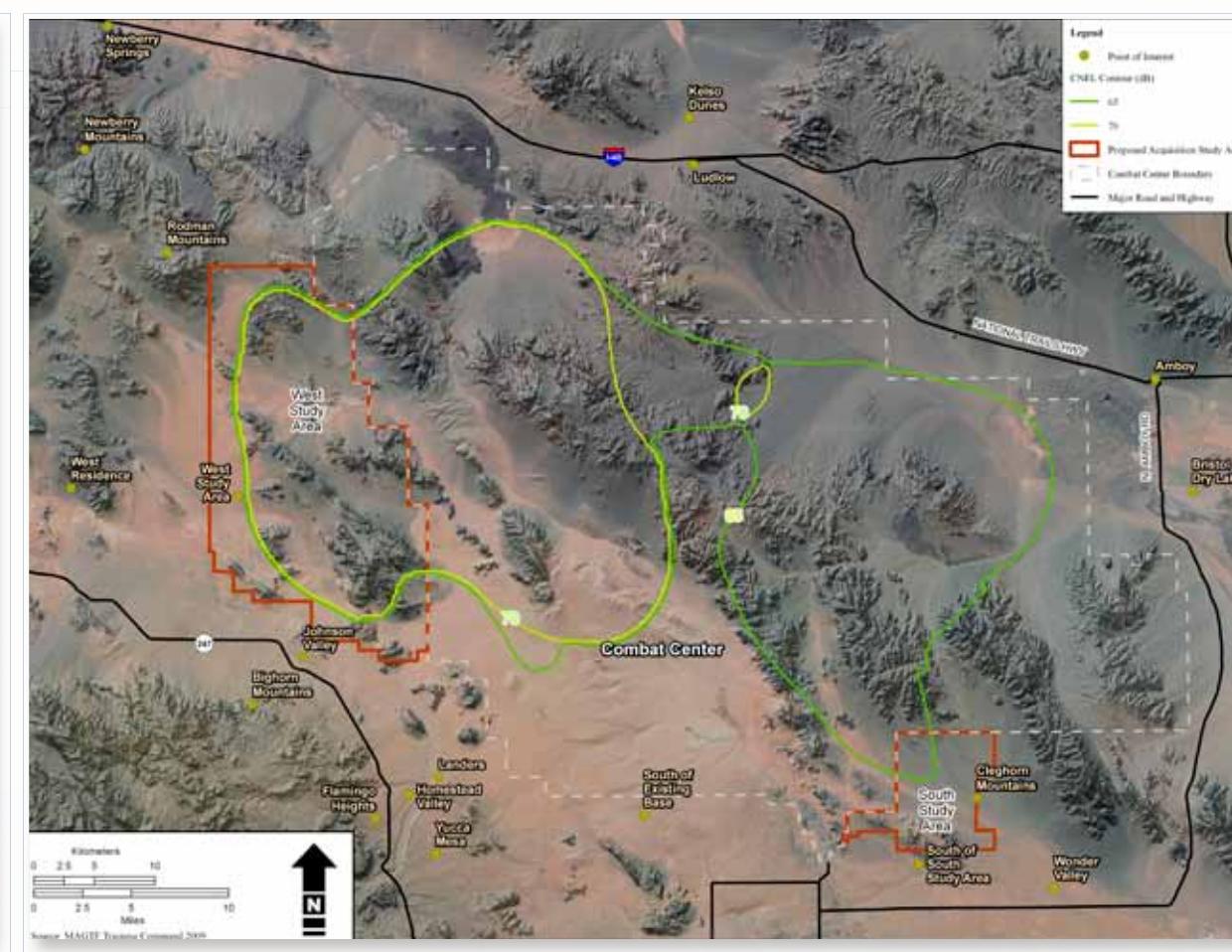
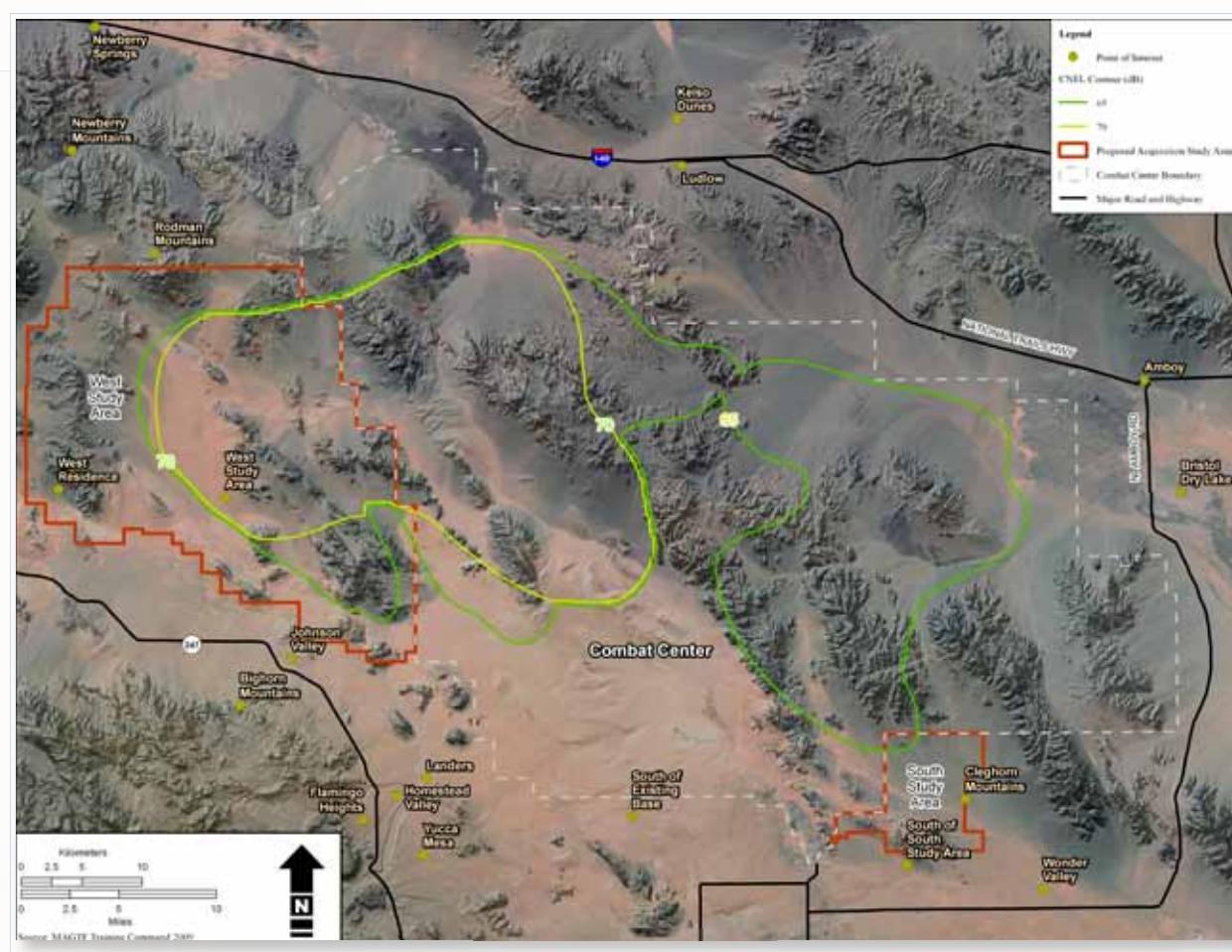
Noise Impacts from Aircraft

Under all alternatives, noise-related impacts from aircraft overflights would be less than significant.

Potential Noise Impacts

- Overflights increase and occur at lower altitudes
- No persons or sensitive receptors outside study area exposed to significant increases in noise levels

Aircraft Noise Contours





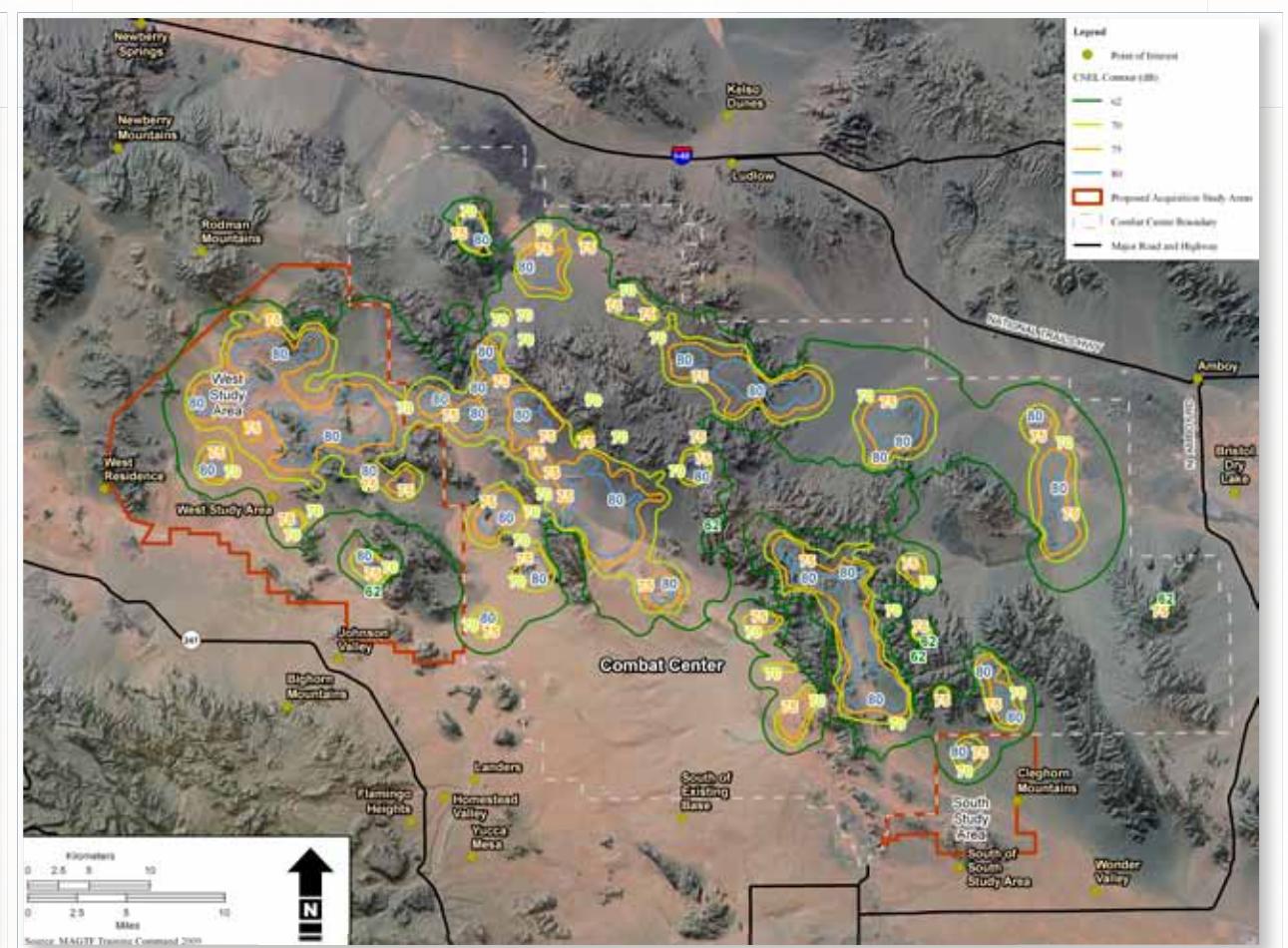
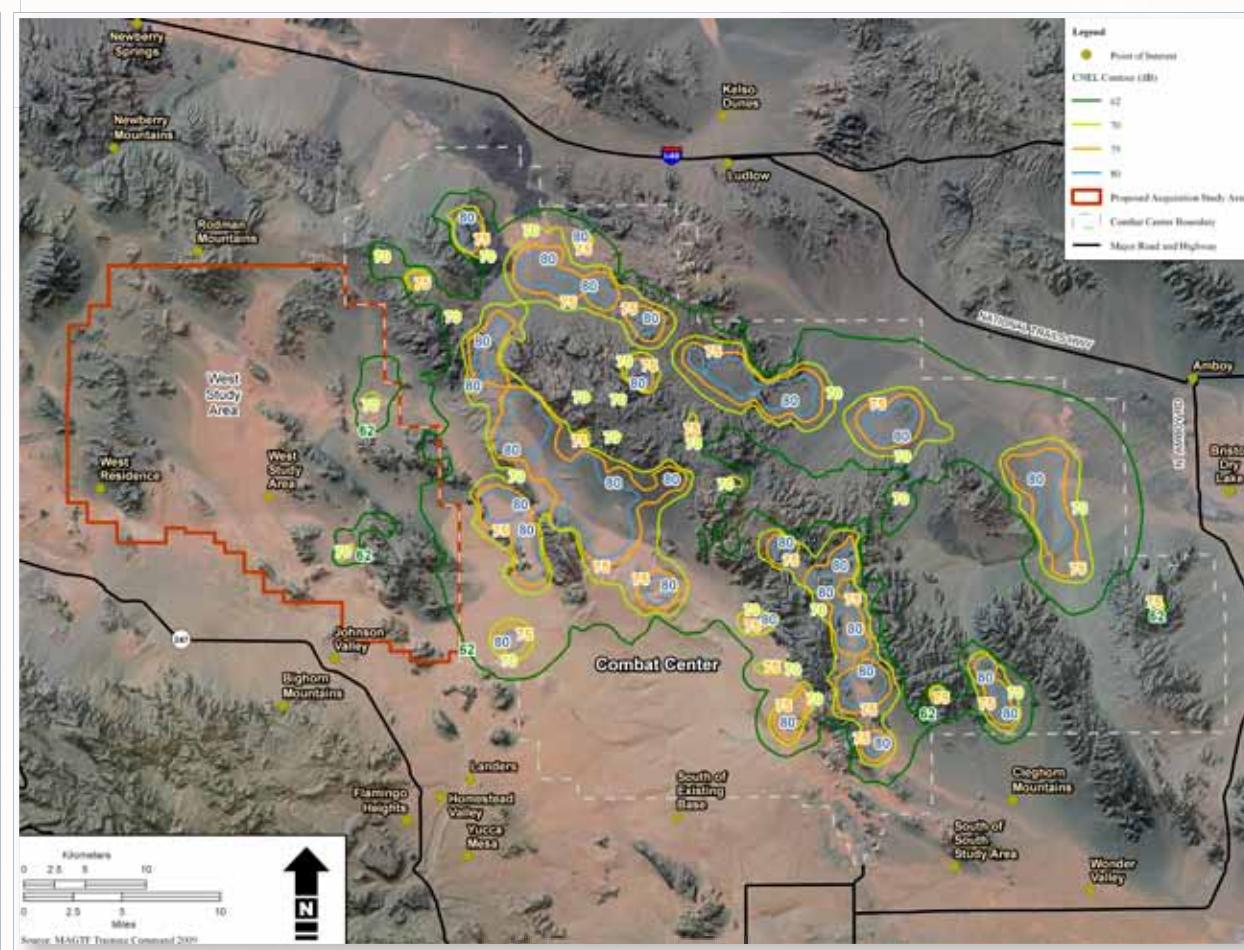
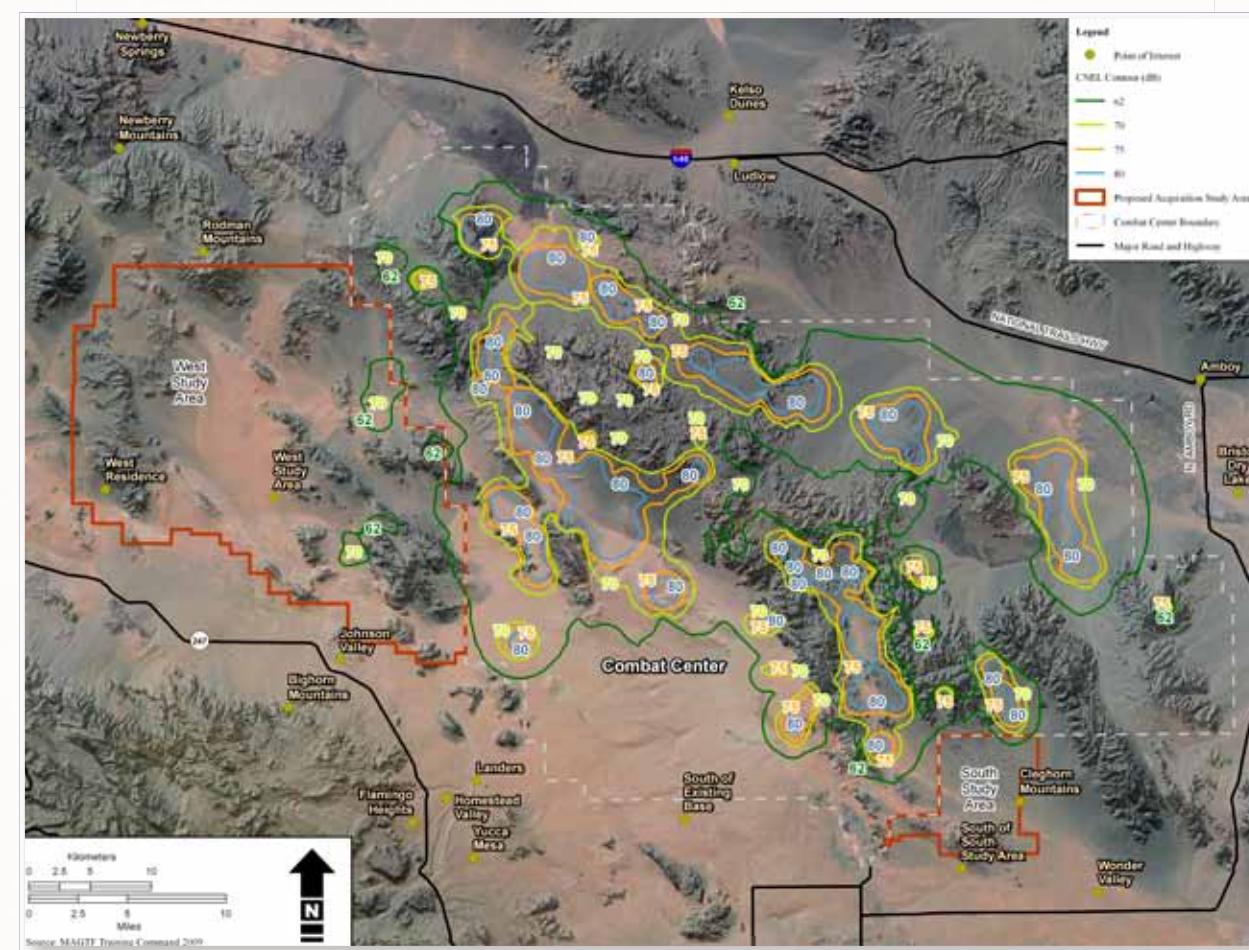
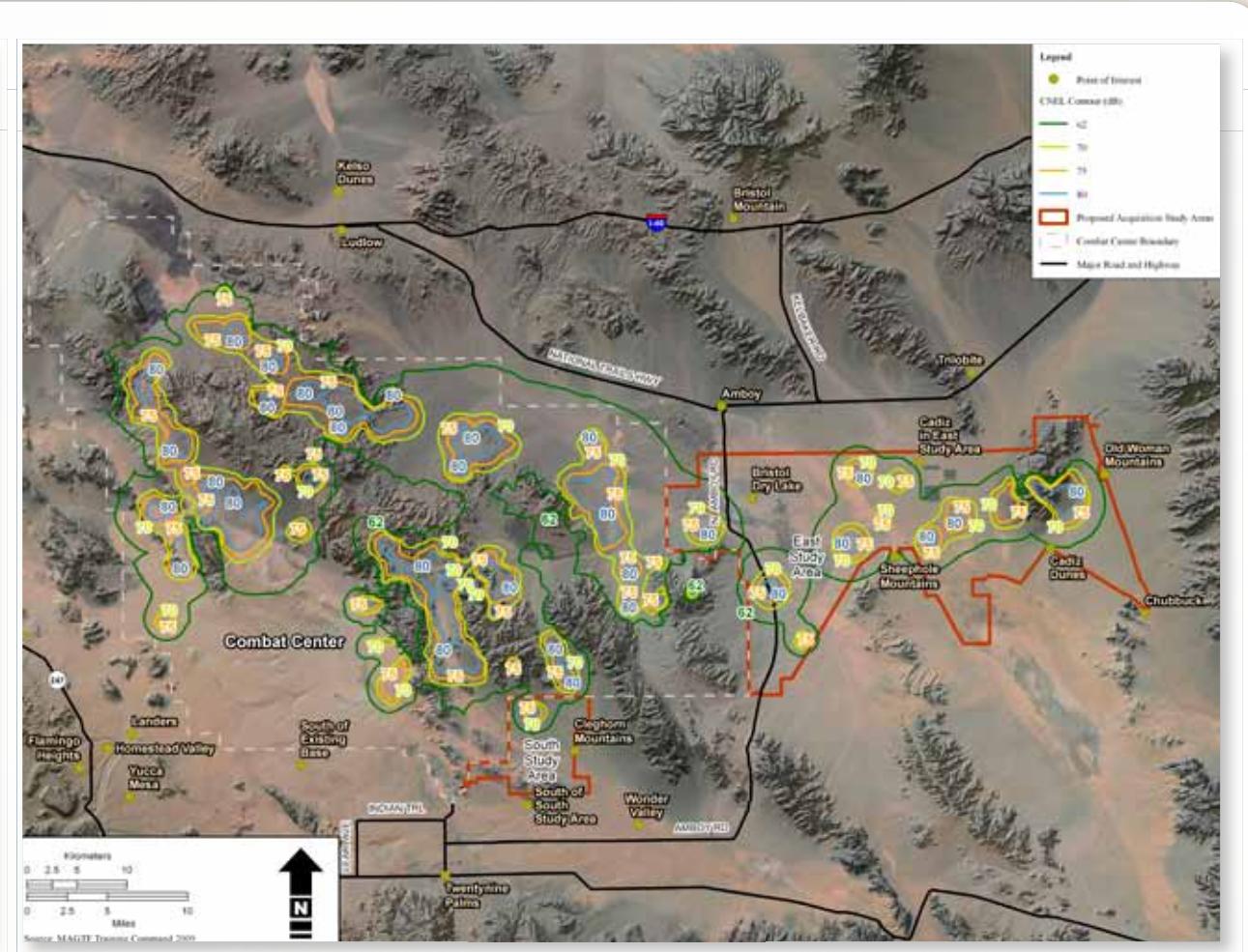
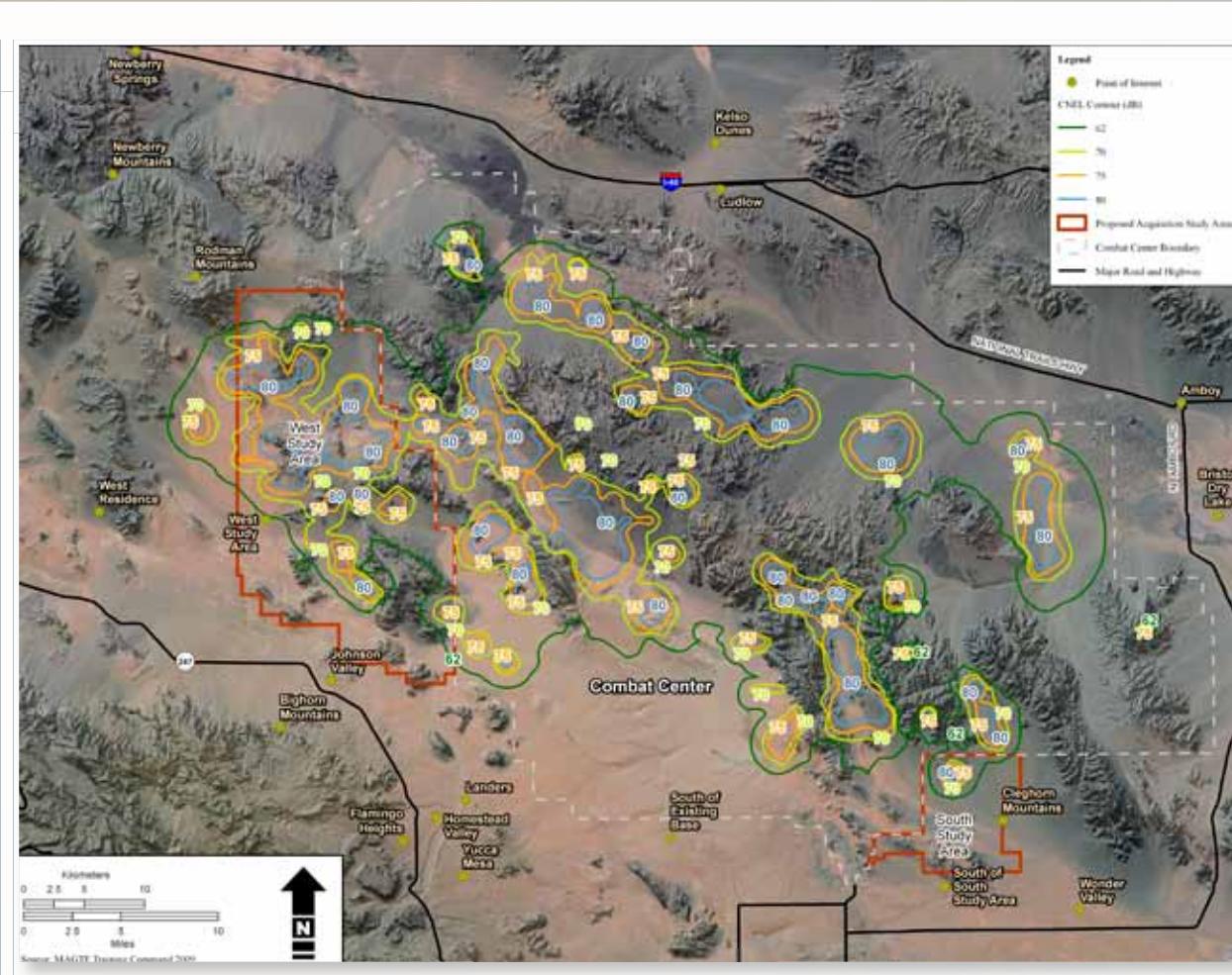
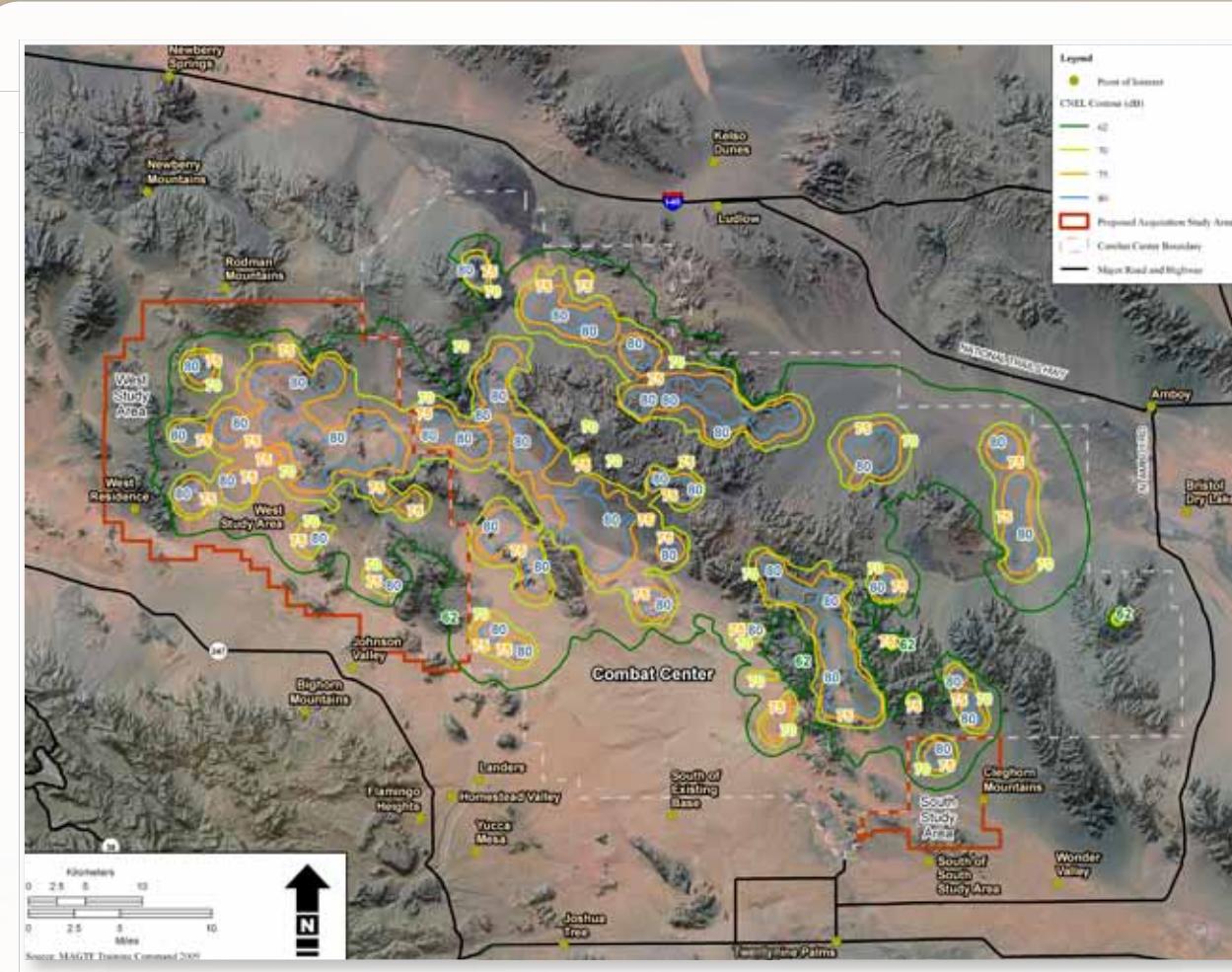
Noise Impacts from Ordnance

Under all alternatives, noise impacts from ordnance would be less than significant.

Potential Noise Impacts

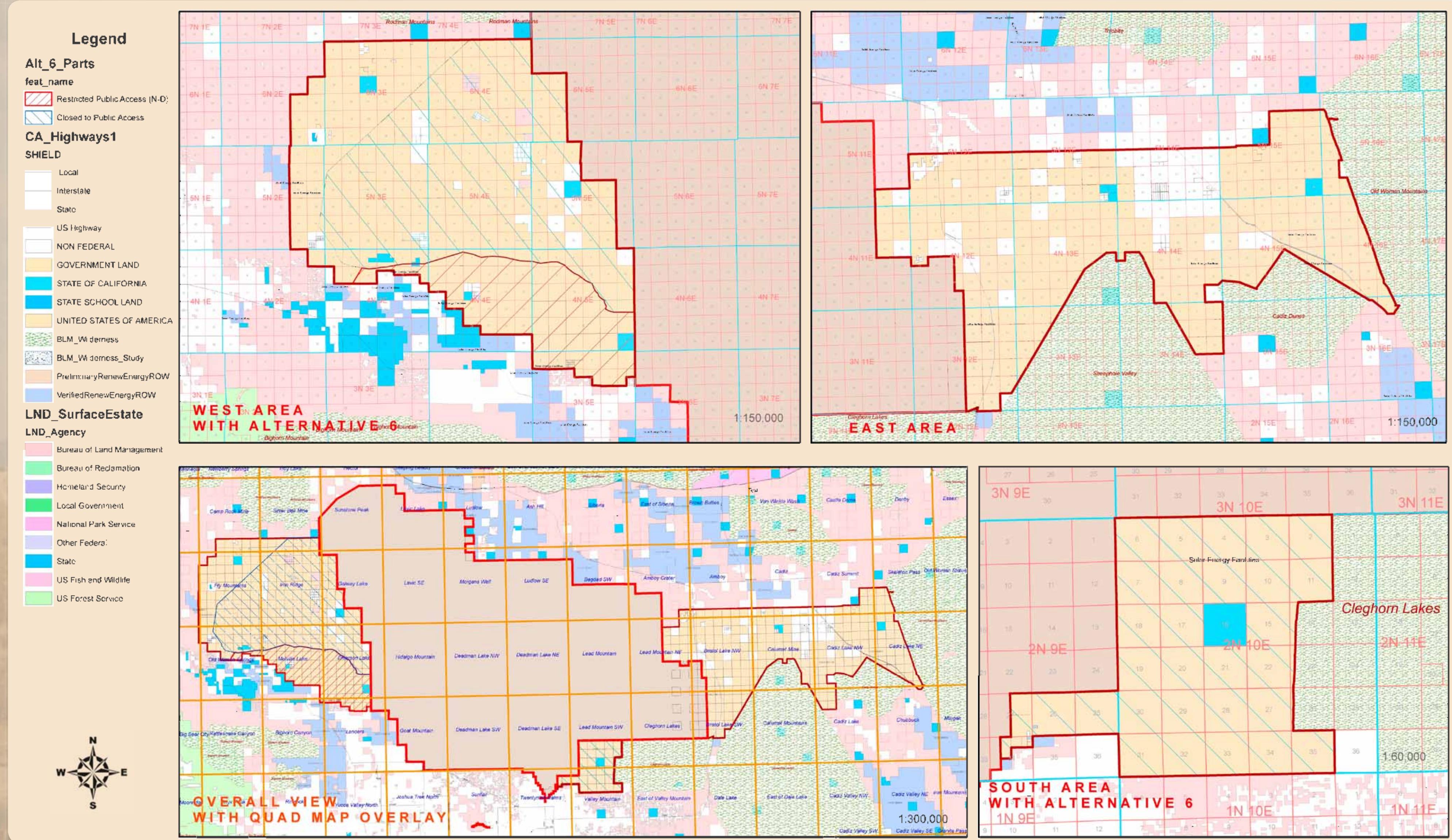
- Primarily from ground-to-ground and air-to-ground ordnance use

Ordnance Noise Contours

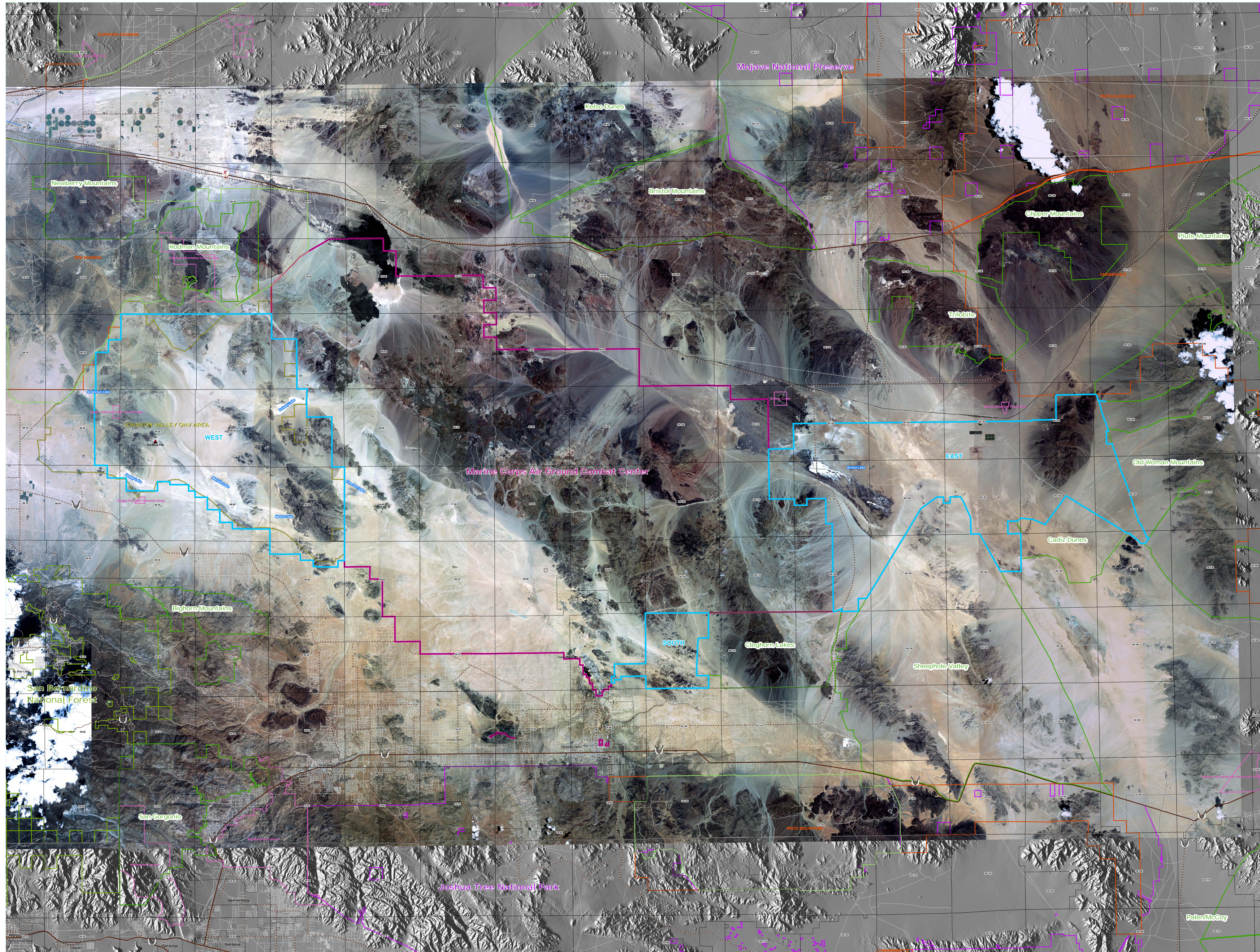




Proposed Combat Center Expansion



STUDY AREAS -- AERIAL OVERVIEW



For Further Information
Please Contact:
Training Land/Airspace Study Office
<http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/ta/>
760-830-3764
SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil
MAGTF, MCAGCC
Bldg. 1554, Box 788106
Twenty-nine Palms, CA 92278-8106

*BLM Ownership Data downloaded
August 2008 from
<http://www.blm.gov/ca/gis>
(Metadata states that data is from 1999)

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA

Legend (Data Source)

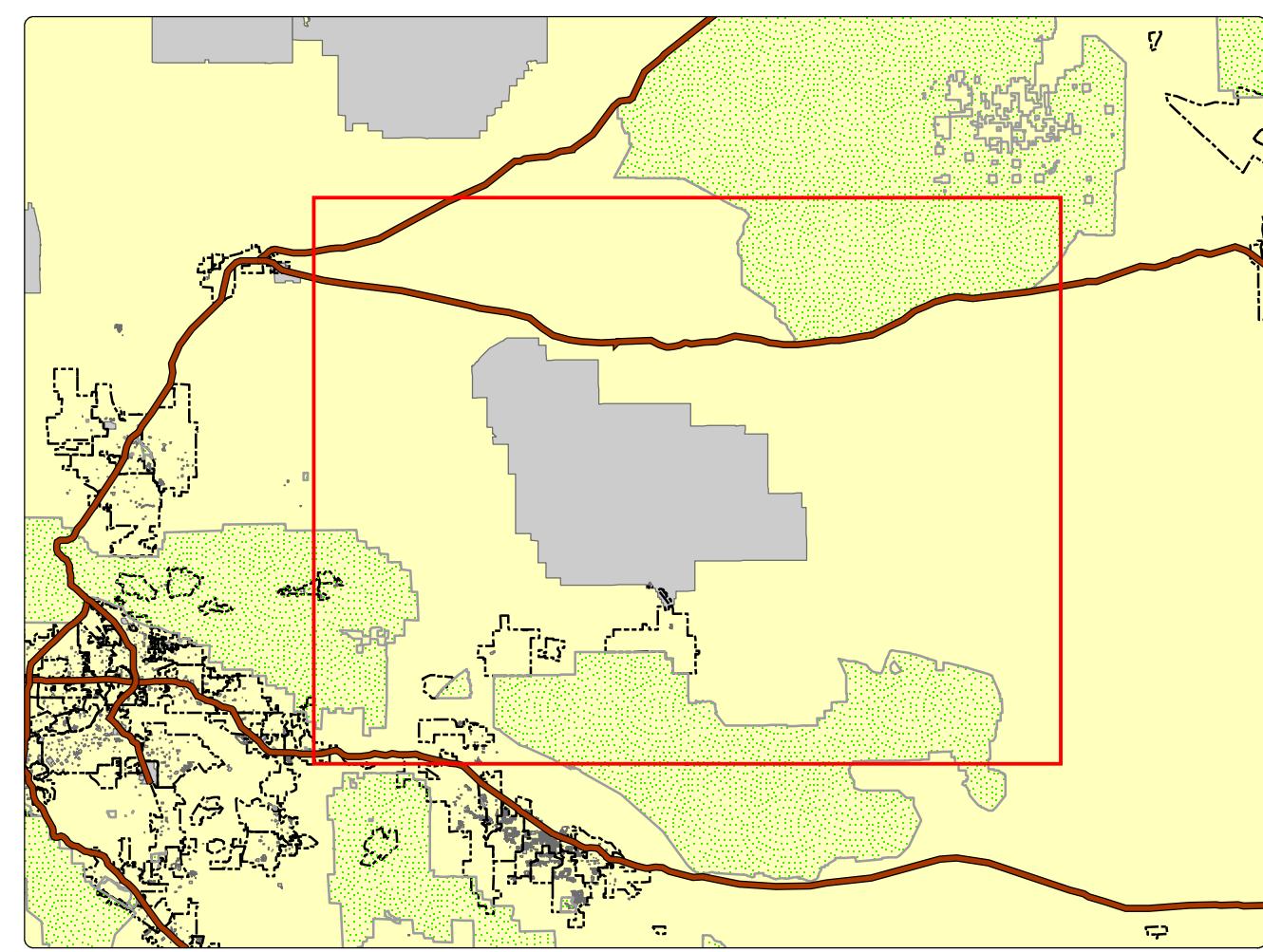
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■ Military Reservation Boundary (NGA)	■ Riverside County (GEOFWest)
■ Wilderness Area (BLM)	■ Local Road (ESRI)
■ Designated Wildlife Management Areas (BLM)	■ Major Road (ESRI)
■ Area of Critical Concern (BLM)	■ Highway (ESRI)
■ Critical Desert Tortoise Habitat Area (BLM)	■ Major Railroad Lines (ESRI)
■ US National Park Service (BLM)	
■ US Forest Service (BLM)	
■ Johnson Valley OHV (BLM)	

NOTE: BOUNDARY LINES SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AUTHORITATIVE.

0 5 10 15 Miles
0 5 10 15 20 25 Kilometers

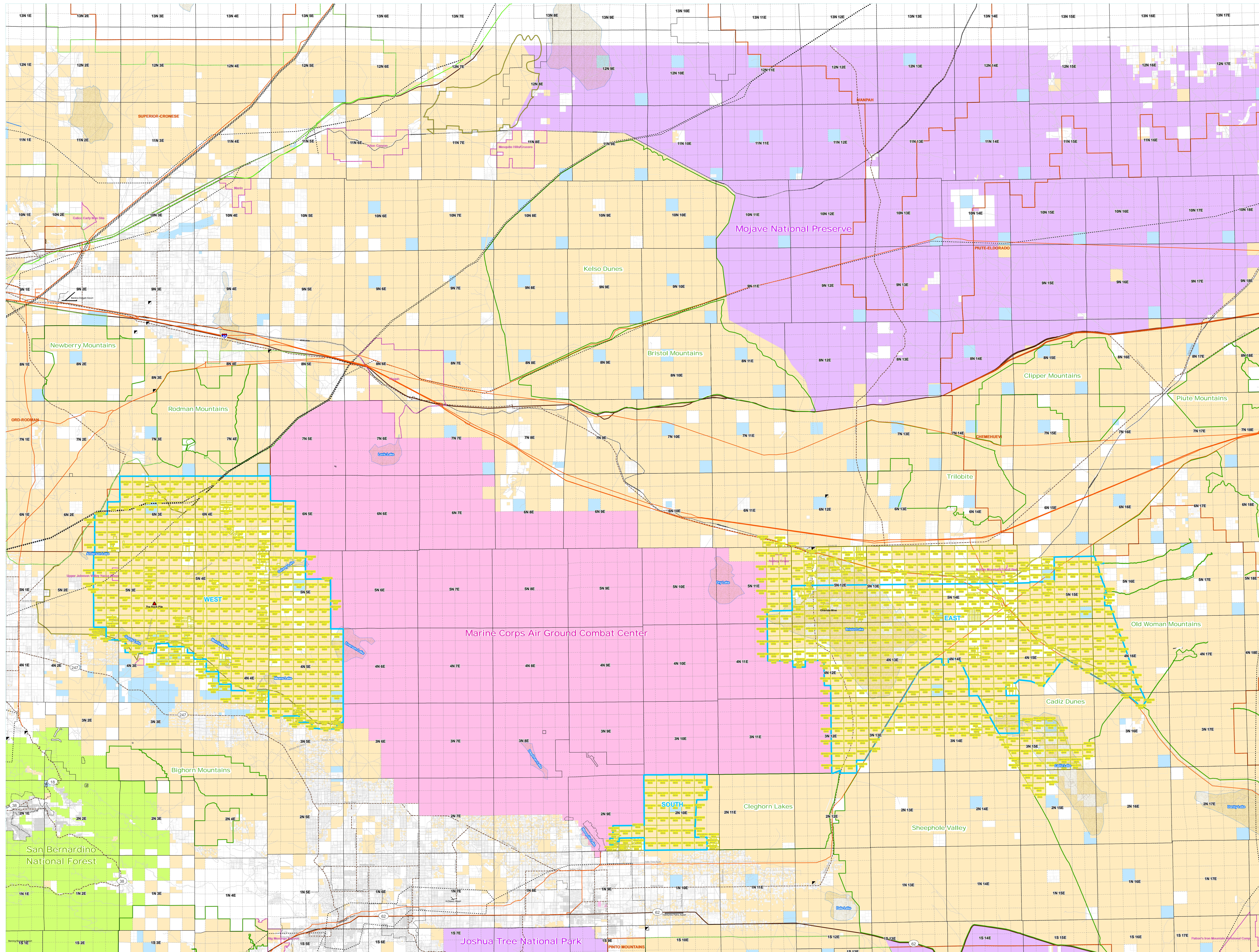
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Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 11N

BLM PUBLIC LAND SURVEY SYSTEM (PLSS), TOWNSHIP RANGE.



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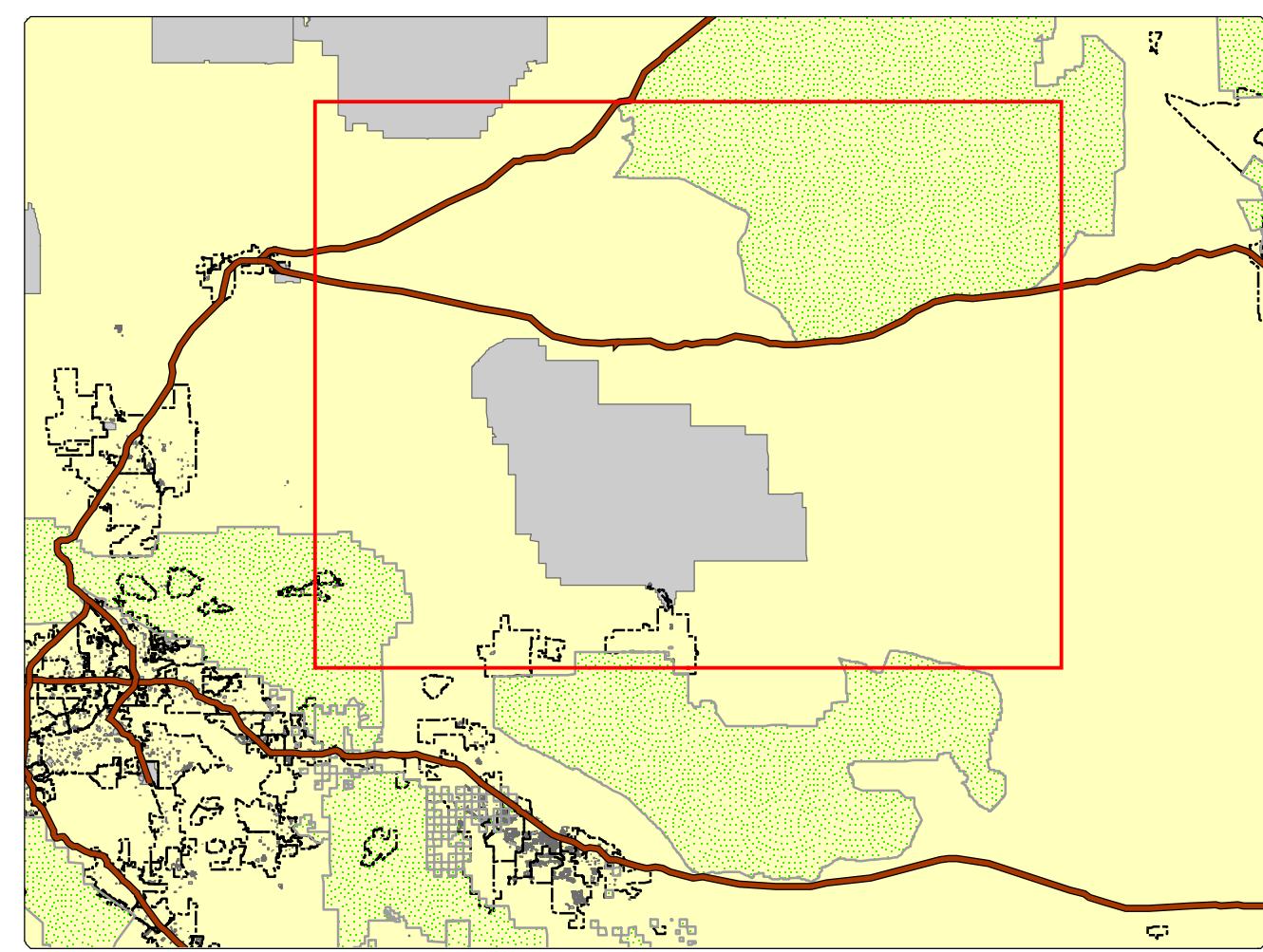
For Further Information
Please Contact:
Training Land/Airspace Study Office
<http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/ta/>
760-830-3764
SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil
MAGTF, MCAGCC
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<http://www.blm.gov/ca/gis>
(Metadata states that data is from 1999)

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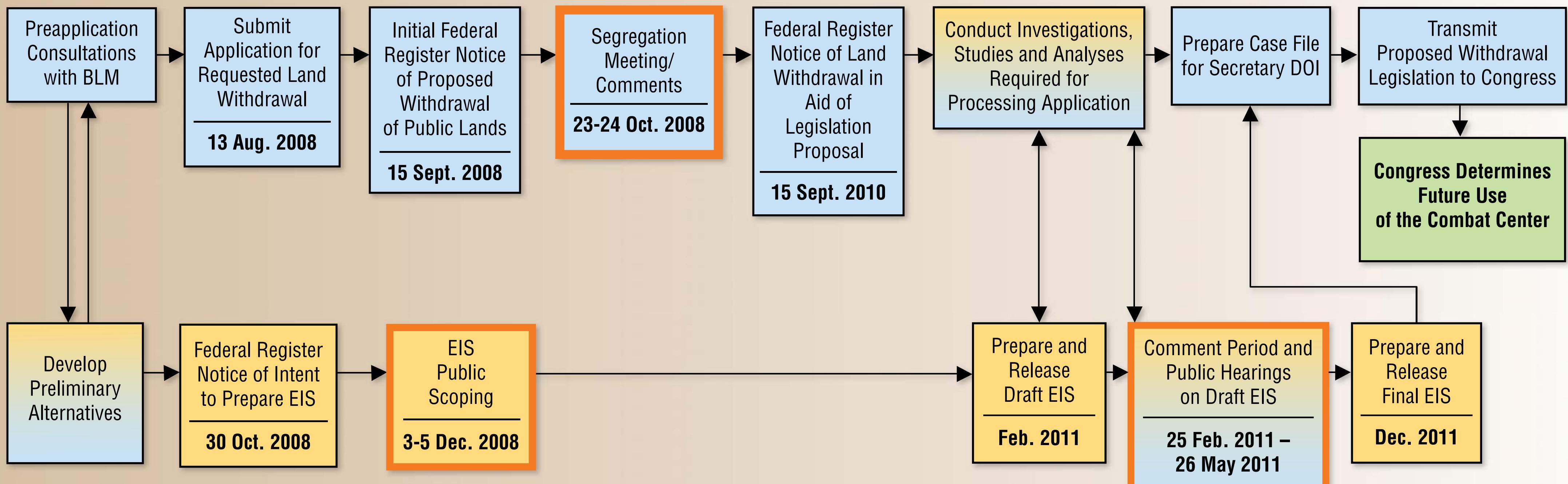
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Military Reservation (NGA)	State Lands (S. B. Cnty.)	Major Road (ESRI)
Wilderness Area (BLM)	Federal Lands (S. B. Cnty.)	Highway (ESRI)
Designated Wildlife Management Areas (BLM)	US National Park Service (BLM)	Major Railroad Lines (ESRI)
Critical Desert Tortoise Habitat Area (BLM)	US Forest Service (BLM)	Gas Pipeline (PHMSA)
Johnson Valley OHVA (BLM)	Dry Lake/Playa (GEOFWest)	Liquid Pipeline (PHMSA)

----- Power Line (GEOFWest)
■ Active Mining Site as of 2003 (USGS)





Federal Land Segregation/Withdrawal Integrated with the NEPA Process



LEGEND

Federal Statutory Land Withdrawal Process (43 CFR 2300)

National Environmental Policy Act Process (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 and MCO P5090.2A)

Public Involvement Opportunity

Congressional Action

Segregative Effect

For withdrawals, segregation is the closure of lands to the operation of all/some of the public land laws and/or mineral laws. Public land laws authorize some means for use or disposal of the surface estate, whereas the mineral laws authorize use or disposal of the mineral estate.