



Welcome

to the U.S. Marine Corps'
open house scoping meeting for the
**Proposed 29Palms Training Land/
Airspace Acquisition Project**
Environmental Impact Statement

Please sign in

<http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/las>





Importance of Training at 29Palms

The Marine Corps is directed by federal law to:

Operate as a combined arms task force

Combined arms means using fully integrated ground and air live-fire weapons to support maneuver. The Marine Corps operates as a *Marine Air-Ground Task Force*.

Train for its missions

Marines must “train as they fight.” Realistic training prepares Marines to succeed in their mission and helps bring them home safely from combat.

“...perform such other duties as the President may direct.”

These words have significantly impacted Marine Corps doctrine, operations and training for over 60 years.



Purpose & Need for the Proposed Action:

Meet Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) training requirements.



Marines Must Train as They Fight:

Marines deploy and operate as a Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB), an air-ground task force that ranges from 3,000 to 20,000 Marines and Sailors.

Marines need a large enough area to provide realistic training for all members of a MEB at one time.

Over 90 percent of Marines deploying to combat receive pre-deployment training at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, CA.



Proposed Action



The Marine Corps is proposing the acquisition of lands and the establishment of Special Use Airspace contiguous to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) at Twentynine Palms, California.

This action is needed to meet Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) training requirements.

A range of reasonable alternatives is being developed at this time.

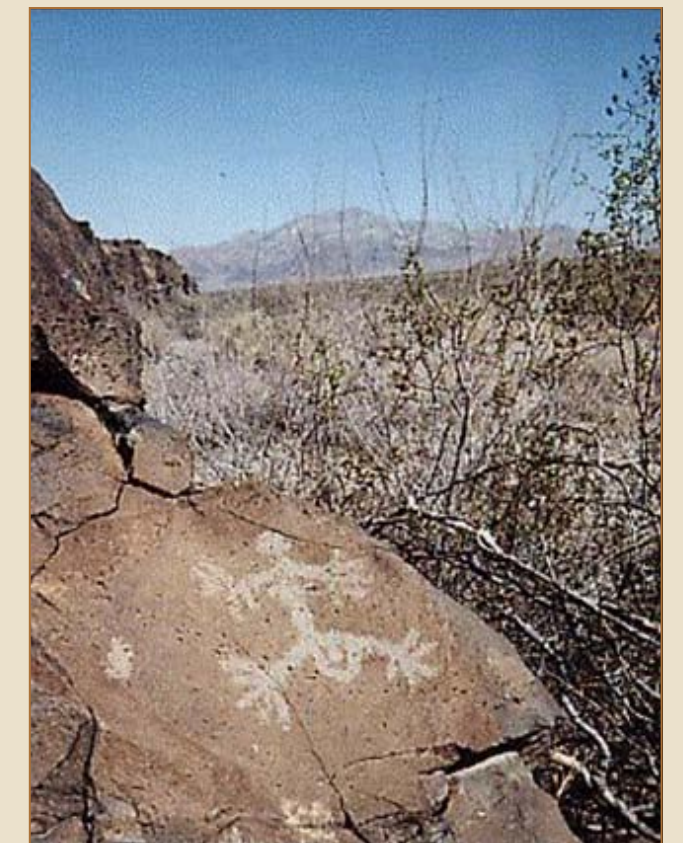




Resource Areas to be Analyzed in the EIS

The EIS will study and estimate potential impacts to the following resources:

- ◆ Aesthetics/Visual Resources
- ◆ Air Quality
- ◆ Airspace/Air Traffic
- ◆ Biological Resources
- ◆ Cultural Resources (including historic and prehistoric)
- ◆ Environmental Justice
- ◆ Hazardous Materials/
Hazardous Wastes
- ◆ Land Use
- ◆ Mining/Minerals
- ◆ Noise
- ◆ Public Health and Safety
- ◆ Public Services
- ◆ Recreation
- ◆ Socioeconomics
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Utilities and Infrastructure (including alternative energy production)
- ◆ Water Resources



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process



| MILESTONE | DESCRIPTION |
|---|--|
| Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS Oct. 30, 2008 | Publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register starts the public involvement phase of the NEPA process. |
| ► Scoping Period Oct. 30, 2008 through Jan. 31, 2009 | The scoping process uses public input to identify environmental issues and a range of reasonable alternatives for the proposed action. Public comments must be received by the close of the scoping period to be considered in the Draft EIS. The scoping period closes on Jan. 31, 2009. |
| Draft EIS Spring 2010 | The Draft EIS analyzes the potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives. |
| ► Notice of Availability Spring 2010 followed by Public Meetings and Comment Period | A Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register to notify the public that the Draft EIS is available. The Draft EIS is made available to the public for 90 days so that agencies, organizations and interested parties can review and comment on the document. Public meetings will be held during the 90-day comment period to receive comments on the Draft EIS. |
| Final EIS Winter 2010 | The Final EIS documents significant environmental impacts of the proposed action and each alternative, and responds to comments received on the environmental analyses presented in the Draft EIS. It will include appropriate mitigation measures to address unavoidable environmental impacts. |
| ► Notice of Availability Winter 2010 | A Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register to notify the public that the Final EIS is available. Interested parties have 30 days to review and submit comments on the Final EIS. |
| Record of Decision Spring 2011 | After considering environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives, other factors such as cost and feasibility, and public comments received on the EIS, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy will select a course of action and sign a Record of Decision document. |

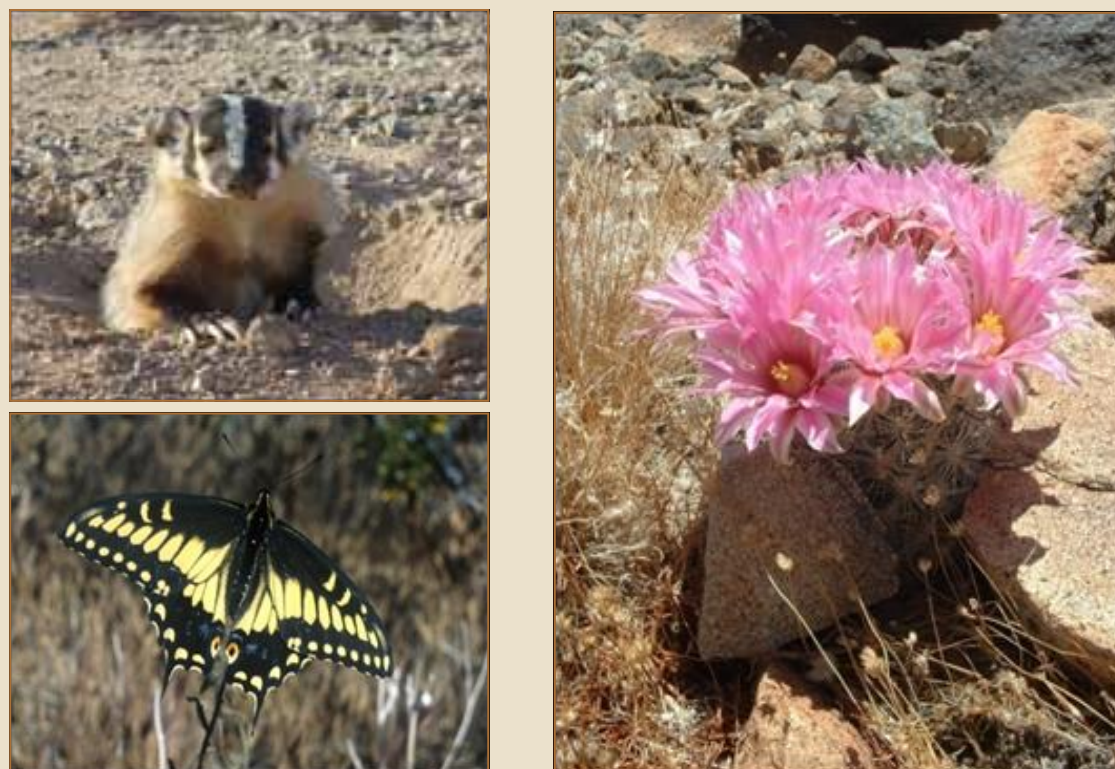


Excellence in Environmental Stewardship

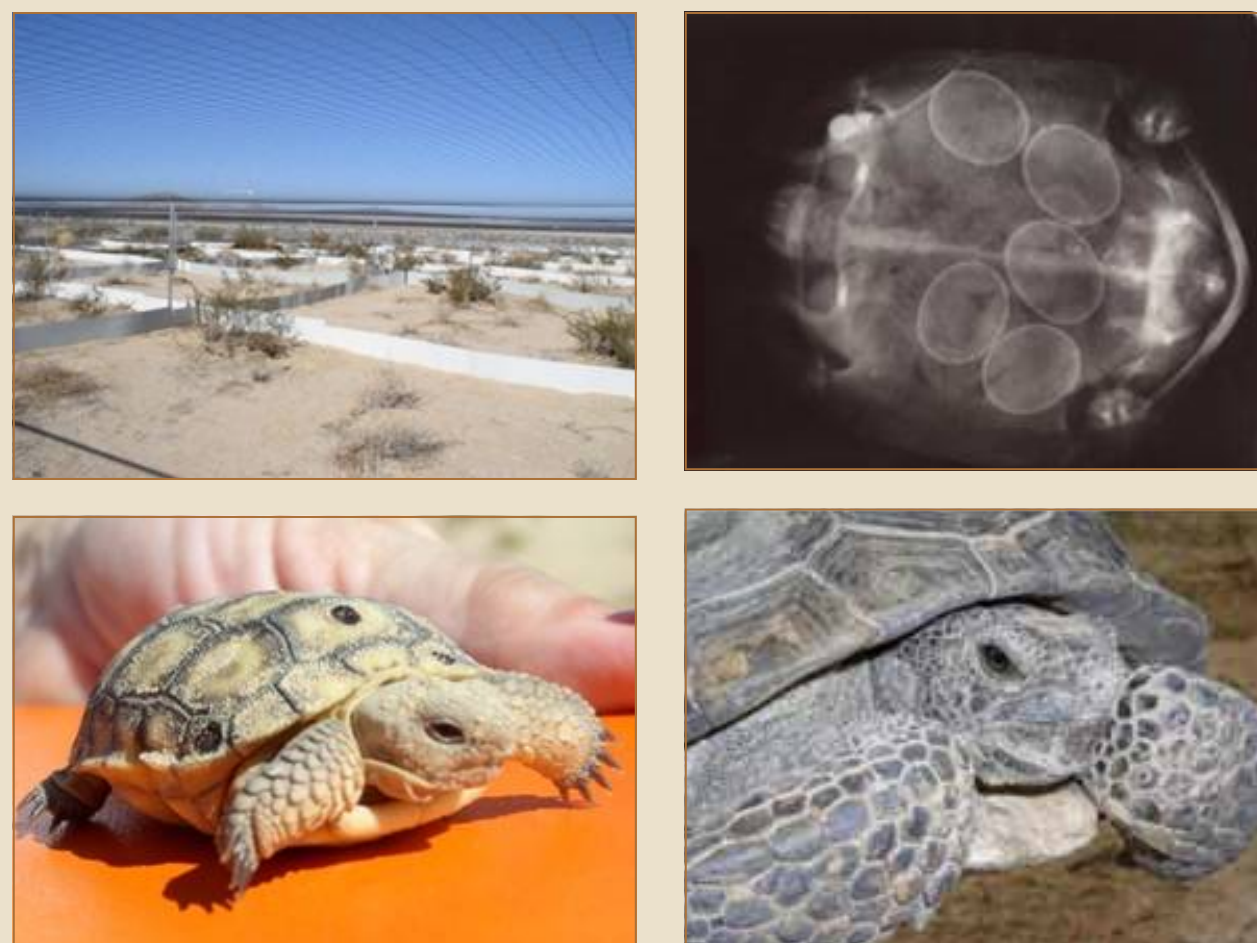


Natural Resources:

MCAGCC's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) provides a summary of the many projects and programs the Marine Corps has in place at MCAGCC to protect natural resources.



MCAGCC's 'Headstart' program monitors and cares for desert tortoises from birth.



Cultural Resources:

A significant portion of the base has been surveyed and inventoried for cultural resources and archeological sites. All areas of cultural and historical significance at MCAGCC are protected and are off-limits to training exercises.



MCAGCC's Archeology and Paleontology Curation Center stores over 400 boxes of artifacts and provides interactive displays for visitors to learn about the base's history.



Resource Conservation and Sustainability:

MCAGCC generates 60% of its energy (95% in the winter) and operates a solar array and cogeneration plant.



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded MCAGCC a Certificate of Outstanding Environmental Achievement for its excellent recycling and reuse programs.

