

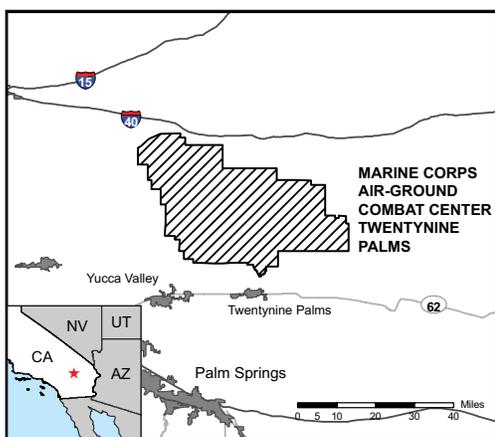


U.S. MARINE CORPS :

MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS : CALIFORNIA



Ninety percent of U.S. Marines train in pre-deployment events at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) 29 Palms, the Marine Corps’ largest installation. Located in the Mojave Desert, the base provides vital training before deployment to desert combat areas. The culminating portions of training at 29 Palms cannot be replicated anywhere else in the U.S. because of its expansive desert environment and varied terrain. However, these training requirements, which also include new weapons systems and tactics, put a strain on



sensitive desert natural resources on-base.

Protecting habitat for the threatened desert tortoise and other species off the installation will help preserve quality training on the installation into the future. In partnership with the Mojave Desert Land Trust, 29 Palms helped protect land adjacent to the popular Joshua Tree National Park. Together they

are sustaining desert tortoise habitat and avoiding the creation of “off-limit” areas on-base that would disrupt and limit live-fire and maneuver training.

The land is part of a wildlife corridor extending down from Quail Mountain, the highest mountain in Joshua Tree National Park. Any damaged habitat on the land will be repaired by the Mojave Desert Land Trust, improving its ecological value. The land will then be donated and incorporated into Joshua Tree National Park. Meanwhile, the vital mission at 29 Palms will be protected from environmental restrictions and residential development.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Supports existing regional planning efforts
- Provides habitat for threatened species
- Links with a wildlife corridor

MILITARY

- Preserves on-installation live-fire, maneuver, and helicopter training capacity
- Reduces the need for less-realistic workarounds that would reduce training effectiveness
- Provides for future mission growth



MCAGCC 29 Palms’ desert terrain provides an ideal pre-deployment training environment (bottom), including post-blast investigation of improvised explosive devices (IEDs, top).

KEY PARTNERS

- Mojave Desert Land Trust
- Copper Mountain College
- National Park Service
- California Department of Parks and Recreation

FAST FACTS AS OF 30 SEP 13

- » Acres preserved: **1,595**
- » Transactions conducted: **5**
- » Partner cost share: **60%**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

CONTACT

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