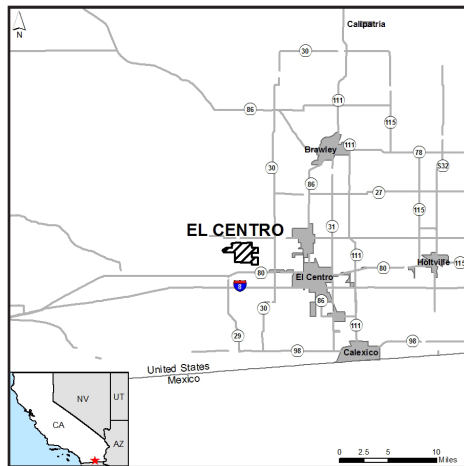




## EL CENTRO RANGE COMPLEX

Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro is under the jurisdiction of Navy Region Southwest and serves both as temporary homeport to military units conducting live air-to-air and air-to-ground training, and as the winter training home of the Blue Angels aerobatics display team.

The open desert environment, with its vast unobstructed terrain, combined with the superior flying conditions, makes NAF El Centro an ideal year-round aerial training venue. NAF Centro Ranges have one of the highest utilization rates of all Pacific Fleet range complexes because of its proximity to other nearby air bases (NAS North Island, MCAS Yuma, MCAS Miramar, and MCAS Camp Pendleton) and the persistent superior flying weather.



Encroachment issues at NAF El Centro primarily relate to development of incompatible land uses in the areas affected by installation and range operations (e.g., by aircraft and live-fire noise, overflights). Development pressures in such areas could potentially lead to public pressure on the Navy to modify or cease specific operations based on noise sensitivity or safety concerns. The desired end state is to establish a protective buffer of compatible land use and encroachment prevention policies and controls such as restrictive use easements surrounding operating areas to ensure that key flight operations can continue to be conducted in an unconstrained manner.

Insulating NAF El Centro and its associated range areas from incompatible land interests safeguards realistic training for the warfighter and supports natural habitat for sensitive species of concern.

### BENEFIT SUMMARY

#### COMMUNITY

- Provides habitat for rare and at-risk species
- Preserves working agricultural land
- Supports compatible development

#### MILITARY

- Protects night flying and air exercises that require minimal light pollution
- Improves operational safety and reduces trespassing on military ranges
- Preserves live-fire training capability



NAF El Centro's ideal location, weather, and training ranges make it a perfect winter home of the Blue Angels (top). The unique desert environment supports a variety of live-fire training events such as the M134 minigun on a UH-1Y Venom helicopter (bottom).

### KEY PARTNERS

- Rivers and Lands Trust
- The Trust for Public Land

### CONTACT

COMMUNITY PLANS AND LIAISON OFFICE:  
(760) 339-2286

### FAST FACTS FROM FY 2019 THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: In Progress

Authority	Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	12	7,840	\$14.2 million

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding