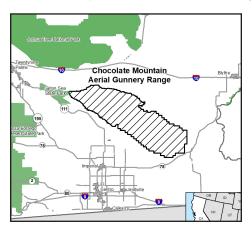


PROJECT PROFILES U.S. MARINE CORPS | CALIFORNIA

# CHOCOLATE MOUNTAIN AERIAL GUNNERY RANGE

#### The Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range (CMAGR) is a 458,267-acre range location in southern California that supports United States Marine Corps training in mission essential tasks such as close air support missions, laser system operations, and air-to-ground bombing.

Due to its large size and unique landscape, the CMAGR is able to support a myriad of mission types, making it a critical U.S. Marine Corps and DOD training asset. The CMAGR is managed by Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma and includes Camp Billy Machen, which supports special operations forces training. To provide realistic air-to-ground training, the CMAGR requires unobstructed air-to-ground approach corridors, a requirement that is threatened by development pressures.



The area surrounding the CMAGR is experiencing rapid growth, resulting in the potential for residential and largescale utilities development pressures that may encroach upon the CMAGR's mission. Residential development near the range could create noise challenges and avoidance areas that restrict air-to-ground approach corridors into the range from all directions.

Air operations may also be impacted by vertical obstruction and radar interference created by wind turbines.

By developing a buffer around the range, the CMAGR can protect its approach and departure corridors, prevent airspace obstructions, prevent noise complaints, and preserve and enhance desert tortoise habitat corridors. Mitigating these potential encroachment concerns will preserve the diverse mission capabilities of the CMAGR.

In addition to protecting the CMAGR mission, this project will also protect habitat for the Desert Tortoise, a federally listed species. Protecting this species off-range will also protect the mission on-range.

## **BENEFIT SUMMARY**

#### COMMUNITY

- Protects habitat for endangered and threatened species
- Enhances existing regional planning efforts
- Mitigates against noise conflicts

#### MILITARY

- Avoids or reduces operational work arounds that would otherwise limit training capacity
- Protects operations in existing airspace
- Increases operational safety





The Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range includes the aerial range depicted above with an AH-1W "Super Cobra" attack helicopter providing close air support (top) and the Camp Billy Machen desert warfare training facility during a live-fire ambush and reaction drill (bottom).

## **KEY PARTNERS**

Friends of the Desert Mountains

## CONTACT

COMMUNITY PLANS AND LIAISON OFFICER: (928) 269-2047

## FAST FACTS THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: Initiated

Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended		
-	-	-		
Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding.   This project has an established and funded REPI partnership but has not completed any transactions through FY 2024.				

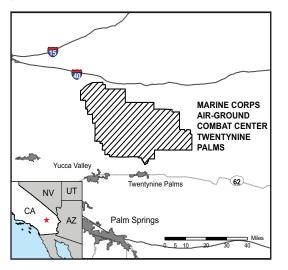


PROJECT PROFILES U.S. MARINE CORPS | CALIFORNIA

# MARINE CORPS AIR-GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS

#### 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 and The Trust for Public Land, 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. Damaged habitat on the land is being repaired by the Mojave Desert Land Trust, improving its ecological value. Some of the land may 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 (top), including post-blast investigation of improvised explosive devices (IEDs, bottom).

## **KEY PARTNERS**

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

## CONTACT

COMMUNITY PLANS AND LIAISON OFFICE: (760) 830-3765

## FAST FACTS FROM FY 2010 THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: In Progress

Authority		Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	11	5,433	\$8.1 million
Other (e.g., Sikes Act, IGSA)	-	_	\$0.1 million
TOTAL	11	5,433	\$8.2 million

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding

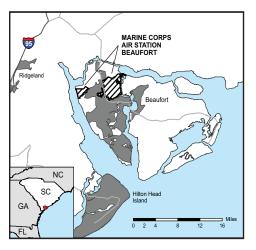


PROJECT PROFILES U.S. MARINE CORPS | SOUTH CAROLINA

# MARINE CORPS AIR STATION BEAUFORT

# With its land and water ranges supporting a valuable mix of scenarios for training military aviators, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort sits strategically along the Atlantic Ocean.

With the only East Coast Marine F/A-18 squadrons, the base relies on adequate land and air space to sustain its training capabilities. The base's mission will take on even more importance in the future given the planned stand-up of MCAS Beaufort as a Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Training Center.



MCAS Beaufort has partnered with Beaufort County and the Beaufort County Open Land Trust to ease significant encroachment pressures, particularly within the Air Installation Compatible Use Zone, which helps define noise and safety considerations around the installation. In addition to safeguarding the mission, such as by preventing a residential subdivision from being built in an Accident Potential Zone, REPI funds are helping to protect an endangered plant species and improving water quality and wildlife habitat.

MCAS Beaufort also established the first multi-partner REPI agreement in the Marine Corps, building on a positive relationship with conservation groups, local landowners, and local government. The Air Station has worked to combine its REPI efforts with a suite of tools to sustain its mission, including using the 10 U.S.C. § 2869 land exchange authority and working with local government to initiate a Transfer of Development Rights program.

## **BENEFIT SUMMARY**

#### COMMUNITY

- Protects working lands, benefiting the local economy
- Supports regional planning objectives, including a Joint Land Use Study
- Alleviates safety concerns
- Provides habitat for threatened and endangered species
- Protects water quality

#### MILITARY

- Preserves training capacity for fixedwing aircraft and night flying
- Prevents workarounds that would reduce training realism or effectiveness
- Allows for future mission growth



MCAS Beaufort hosts training on aircraft such as the F/A-18 Hornet (top). Preserved wetlands near the installation help to protect area water quality (bottom).

## **KEY PARTNERS**

- Beaufort County
- Beaufort County Open Land Trust
- Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program
- City of Beaufort
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- The Nature Conservancy of South Carolina
- The Trust for Public Land

## CONTACT

COMMUNITY PLANS AND LIAISON OFFICE: (843) 228-7119

### FAST FACTS FROM FY 2005 THROUGH FY 2024 |

Project Status: I	In Progress
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Authority		Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	23	11,516	\$80.6 million

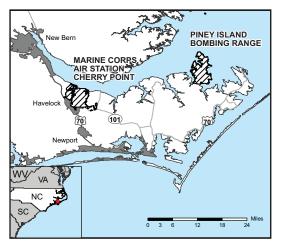


PROJECT PROFILES U.S. MARINE CORPS | NORTH CAROLINA

## MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT WITH PINEY ISLAND BOMBING RANGE

#### A critical asset for its combined training and operational capabilities and the largest air station in the Marine Corps, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point supports carrier landing practice, unmanned aerial systems, and ground maneuver training.

Its range complex includes Piney Island Bombing Range, whose land and water ranges provide electronic and special warfare training. There are no other water-based ranges in the United States so close to nearby stationed aircraft along with ground-based units within flight range to off-shore operating areas. This proximity allows those aircraft



and ground units to effectively conduct joint operations.

Located along the Neuse River, large tracts of forest and farm land with water access near the installation are both desirable for residential development as well as susceptible to hurricanes and coastal flooding. Together with their partners, MCAS is working to limit encroachment and conserve 25,000 acres around the Cherry Point Range Complex, keeping that land in a compatible agricultural use. The installation

is also working with partners to construct 2,100 linear feet of living shoreline to curb erosion and control flooding near the installation.

The Marine Corps has also implemented an innovative regional approach to its installations in Eastern North Carolina by creating REPI's first multi-installation agreement, facilitating collective projects with state and non-profit partners at MCAS Cherry Point, MCAS New River, and Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

## **BENEFIT SUMMARY**

#### COMMUNITY

- Supports existing regional planning, including a Joint Land Use Study
- Protects habitat for wildlife and builds coastal resiliency
- Contributes to the strategic goals of the Eastern North Carolina Sentinel Landscape

#### MILITARY

- Preserves live-fire, maneuver, and helicopter training capacity through the buffering of high-noise areas
- Preserves night flying training capacity that requires minimal light pollution
- Improves operational safety
- Enhances military installation resilience



MCAS Cherry Point provides training on the SuperCobra attack helicopter (bottom) and bombing runs on nearby Piney Island (top).

## **KEY PARTNERS**

- Carteret County
- City of Havelock
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration North Carolina Agricultural Development
- and Farmland Preservation Trust
- North Carolina Attorney General Ecosystem Enhancement Grant
- North Carolina Attorney General Wetlands Grant
- North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund
- North Carolina Coastal Federation
- North Carolina Coastal Land Trust
- North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- North Carolina Department of Justice Environmental Enhancement Grant
- North Carolina Land and Water Fund
- State of North Carolina
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Working Lands Trust
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# CONTACT

COMMUNITY PLANS & LIAISON OFFICER: (252) 466-4197

## FAST FACTS FROM FY 2007 THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: In Progress

Authority		Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	24	15,606	\$46.0 million
Other (e.g., Sikes Act, IGSA)	-	_	\$32,724
TOTAL	24	15,606	\$46.0 million

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding. | This project has expended REPI funds to support the ongoing management or improvement of lands outside the installation.

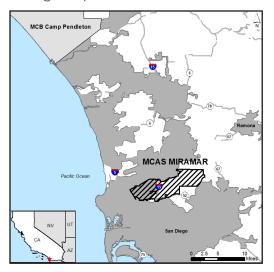


PROJECT PROFILES U.S. MARINE CORPS | CALIFORNIA

# MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR

Located only about 10 miles north of downtown San Diego, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar is the Marine Corps' master air station on the West Coast, home to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing, which is the aviation element of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force.

MCAS Mirmar also has ground training areas and ranges for small arms firing and training for explosive ordnance disposal technicians. The grassland and shrubland habitat on these ranges are also important to numerous rare, threatened, and endangered species.



The presence of these species and the dwindling habitat in the heavily developed Southern California region present challenges to the Marine Corps' mission. To achieve species recovery goals, MCAS Miramar is working to preserve rare habitats, such as coastal sage scrub, within regionally important habitat linkages and refuges from catastrophic regional wildfire.

Protecting such habitats offinstallation will help alleviate restrictions on some of MCAS Miramar's 4,700 acres of ground training areas, reduce risks

to sensitive species from catastrophic wildfire, and ensure compatible land use under the airspace used by Marine Corps aviators. A key aspect of this project is a crediting methodology being developed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton to alleviate restrictions associated with species conservation at Marine Corps installations in the region, further supporting regional training and conservation goals.

## **BENEFIT SUMMARY**

#### COMMUNITY

- Provides habitat and connects wildlife corridors for threatened and endangered species
- Preserves open space

#### MILITARY

- Reduces restrictions on ground training
- Protects an approach corridor for fixedwing aircraft
- Supports multiple Services' training at the installation



Ground training areas on MCAS Miramar are used for field exercises like simulated cargo lift and transport (top). To reduce restrictions on training and mitigate habitat damage, MCAS Miramar is protecting coastal scrub habitat for the California gnatcatcher (bottom) (Photo credit: Mr. Kevin Clark).

## **KEY PARTNERS**

- California Department of Transportation
- Endangered Habitats Conservancy
- Fallbrook Land Conservancy
- Riverside Land Conservancy
- San Diego Association of Governments
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## CONTACT

COMMUNITY PLANS AND LIAISON OFFICE: (858) 577-6603

#### FAST FACTS FROM FY 2015 THROUGH FY 2024

Project Status:	In	Progress
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Authority	Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	1	409	\$9.5 million

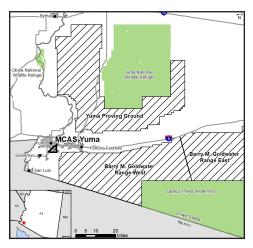


PROJECT PROFILES U.S. MARINE CORPS | ARIZONA

# MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA AND BARRY M. GOLDWATER RANGE-WEST

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma is the United States Marine Corps' busiest air station, providing aviation ranges, support facilities, and services that enable flying squadron tenants to enhance their mission capabilities and achieve combat readiness in support of DOD's National Defense Strategy.

MCAS Yuma supports over 200,000 airfield operations annually, including 80 percent of the Marine Corps' air-to-ground aviation training. Barry M. Goldwater Range-West (BMGR-W) is one DOD's premier aviation training ranges, supporting multiple



simultaneous training missions and realistic, situational military training capabilities.

Both MCAS Yuma and BMGR-W are threatened by increased development pressure in the surrounding communities. Encroachment from development pressures exacerbates current operational limitations, and conflicts with flight corridors into BMGR-W, reducing the quality and opportunity for training. MCAS Yuma is initiating a long-term strategy to build partnerships that will act to mitigate encroachment threats and

promote mission sustainability. This project aims buffer high-noise areas, prevent changes in area land use, protect habitat for threatened and endangered species, and support the biodiversity of the region.

Proactive habitat protection achieved through this project on the land surrounding the installations will help prevent MCAS Yuma and BMGR-W from becoming havens for species, such as the federally listed Sonoran Pronghorn or sensitive species Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard, fleeing development and potentially restricting operations. The project will also protect valuable cultural resources and recreational opportunities in the surrounding area.

## BENEFIT SUMMARY

#### COMMUNITY

- Protects habitat for endangered and threatened species
- Enhances existing regional conservation planning efforts

#### MILITARY

- Avoids or reduces operational work arounds that limit training capacity
- Protects operations in existing airspace
- Increases operational safety



This project will protect MCAS Yuma's diverse mission capabilities including aerial refueling with a KC-130J refueling an F/A-18 Hornet (top) and live burn training shown with U.S. Marines and Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (bottom).

## **KEY PARTNERS**

- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Arizona Land and Water Trust
- Compatible Lands Foundation
- Friends of Desert Mountains
- Mojave Desert Land Trust
- Rivers and Lands Conservancy
- The Conservation Fund
- Wildlife Heritage Foundation
- Yuma County

## CONTACT

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE: (928) 269-2047

## FAST FACTS THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: Initiated

Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
-	-	-
-	-	

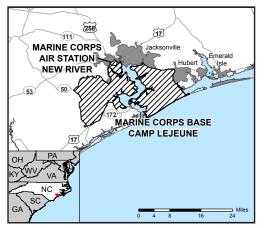
Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding. | This project has an established and funded REPI partnership but has not completed any transactions through FY 2024.



PROJECT PROFILES U.S. MARINE CORPS | NORTH CAROLINA

# MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE WITH MARINE CORPS AIR STATION NEW RIVER

The Department of Defense's largest amphibious training facility, Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune comprises 156,000 acres along the Atlantic Ocean, including 98 maneuver areas, 34 gun positions, 50 tactical landing zones, a state-of-the-art urban terrain facility, 78 live-fire ranges, and 11 miles of beach capable of amphibious operations.



Units based here include the II Marine Expeditionary Force and the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command. Adjacent to Camp Lejeune and part of this base complex is Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) New River, which supports aviation combat units of fixed-wing, rotary, and tiltrotor aircraft.

Areas near the base complex are rich in habitat and working lands, but also attract commercial and residential development. Camp Lejeune has worked with a variety

of partners within the Onslow Bight Conservation Forum to preserve buffer land near the base. The preservation of this land helps to safeguard the base's invaluable training lands, ranges, and training routes, while sustaining the North Carolina coastal plain and assisting red-cockaded woodpecker recovery.

The Marine Corps has also implemented an innovative regional approach to buffering activities for all Marine Corps installations in eastern North Carolina by creating REPI's first multi-installation agreement. The agreement facilitates collective projects with state and non-profit partners at MCAS Cherry Point, MCAS New River, and MCB Camp Lejeune.

## BENEFIT SUMMARY

#### COMMUNITY

- Supports regional planning objectives through innovative partnering and a Joint Land Use Study
- Preserves land within established conservation corridors
- Provides habitat for species
- Protects water quality and supply

#### MILITARY

- Preserves on-installation live-fire and maneuver training
- Ensures the ability to conduct helicopter training and other activities that generate significant noise





Amphibious training at MCB Camp Lejeune (top). Projects help preserve the longleaf pine ecosystem (bottom), which aids red-cockaded woodpecker recovery and sustainment.

## **KEY PARTNERS**

- Conservation Forestry
- National Fish and Wildlife Federation
- North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund
- North Carolina Coastal Land Trust
- North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation
- North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund
- Onslow County
- State of North Carolina
- The Conservation Forestry Partners
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tobacco Trust Fund
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## CONTACT

COMMUNITY PLANS & LIAISON OFFICER: (910) 451-7645

#### FAST FACTS FROM FY 2005 THROUGH FY 2024

Project Status: In Pr	ogress
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Authority		Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	22	25,240	\$51.0 million

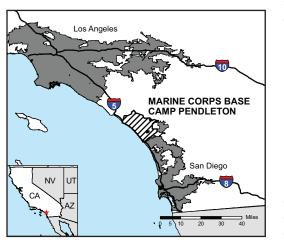


PROJECT PROFILES U.S. MARINE CORPS | CALIFORNIA

# MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON

## One of the last remaining open spaces on the Southern California coast, Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Pendleton provides a critical training area and base of operations for the Western U.S. and Pacific theater.

Home to the Marine Corps' only West Coast amphibious assault training center and one of the Department of Defense's busiest installations, Camp Pendleton hosts one of only three Marine Expeditionary Forces strategically positioned for global missions.



The base provides diverse training opportunities while playing a critical ecological role it has some of the last remaining habitat for several threatened and endangered species.

Continuous growth in San Diego, Riverside, and Orange Counties, meanwhile, threatens the open space habitat near Camp Pendleton. Through their REPI partnering efforts, local land trusts are acquiring lands and the base is receiving easements to help protect a critical wildlife

corridor that provides connectivity essential to ensuring the long-term viability of installation wildlife populations. The corridor limits further fragmentation and isolation of base-managed populations of sensitive species, while a crediting system for habitat restoration eases on-base training restrictions.

This project continues Camp Pendleton's efforts to coordinate encroachment relief with various regional planning efforts, while providing multiple secondary benefits, such as preserving water quality and flow in the Santa Margarita River watershed and passive recreational opportunities.

# **BENEFIT SUMMARY**

#### COMMUNITY

- Enhances existing regional planning efforts
- Preserves habitat for species

## MILITARY

- Preserves on-installation live-fire and maneuver training capacity
- Protects capacity for future growth in training requirements



Coastal mountains provide habitat and training (top). Amphibious training at Camp Pendleton's beaches (bottom).

## **KEY PARTNERS**

- Buena Vista Audubon Society
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Resources
- California Wildlife Conservation Board
- Center for Natural Lands Management
- Conservation Biology Institute
- Endangered Habitats Conservancy
- Escondido Creek Conservancy
- Fallbrook Land Conservancy
- Heron Pacific LLC
- Land Veritas
- Riverside County
- Riverside Land Conservancy
- San Diego Association of Governments
- San Diego County
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust For Public Land
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Warner Springs Range Habitat and Cultural Conservancy
- Western Rivers Conservancy
- Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
- Wildlands Incorporated
- Wildlife Innovations Inc.

# CONTACT

COMMUNITY PLANS & LIAISON OFFICER: (760) 725-6445

## FAST FACTS FROM FY 2007 THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: In Progress

Authority		Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	15	3,498	\$50.0 million
Other (e.g., Sikes Act, IGSA)	1	10	\$0.9 million
TOTAL	16	3,508	\$50.9 million

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding

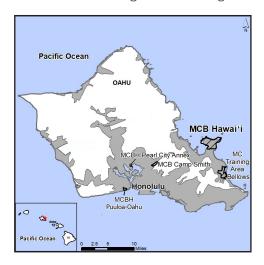


PROJECT PROFILES U.S. MARINE CORPS | HAWAI'I

# MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAI'I

#### Consisting of seven properties on O'ahu and one on Moloka'i, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH) encompasses all United States Marine Corps installations in the Hawaiian Islands.

MCBH is home to the only Marine Corps training areas and ranges between the West Coast of the United States and Japan. Due to the scarcity of training area in the Hawaiian Islands, MCBH's air station is also heavily used by other Military Services. The installation manages three training areas that provide specific land, air, sea, and



amphibious training capabilities to assist the U.S. and foreign Military Services in preparing for diverse operations, including large-scale joint operations.

Over 50 percent of the range complex is moderately to severely impacted by development pressures. The urbanization of O'ahu and increased pressure to convert agricultural land to residential areas are predicted to lead to limited working lands and increased noise complaints. Additionally, increased development of wind turbines and solar farms have presented disturbances to

surrounding communities, threats to endangered species, and military training obstacles. Through this REPI project, MCBH aims to improve partnerships with Native Hawaiian organizations, preserve and improve local habitats, and facilitate greater connection with the community in Hawai'i through enhanced knowledge and preservation of natural and cultural resources. Shared goals and benefits include reduced noise disturbances and enhanced working lands.

MCBH will ensure a holistic approach toward stated goals through increased education and engagement with encroachment partners, local land planning agencies, and state agencies.

## **BENEFIT SUMMARY**

#### COMMUNITY

- Provides habitat for endangered species
- Protects working lands that benefit the local economy

FAST FACTS THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: Initiated

#### MILITARY

- Reduces the potential for lost test and training days and the need for lessrealistic workarounds
- Protects live-fire training capabilities
- Increases operational safety





Army Sgt. Mikael Marcial competes in the Best Warrior competition in Waimanalo, Hawai'i (top). An Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter flies toward Bellows Air Force Station, Hawai'i, during Exercise Rim of the Pacific, providing a unique training opportunity (bottom).

## **KEY PARTNERS**

- City and County of Honolulu
- Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo
- North Shore Community Land Trust
- State of Hawai'i Agribusiness Development Corporation
- State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources
- Trust For Public Land

# CONTACT

COMMUNITY PLANS AND LIAISON OFFICE: (808) 257-8815

Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended				
-	-	-				
Subtotals may not sum to co	Subtratals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding 1. This project has an established and funded REPI partnership but has not completed any transactions through EV 2023					

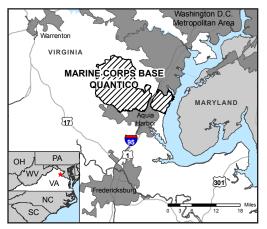
Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding. | This project has an established and funded REPI partnership but has not completed any transactions through FY 2023.



PROJECT PROFILES U.S. MARINE CORPS | VIRGINIA

# MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO

Marine Corps Base (MCB) Quantico, known as the "Crossroads of the Marine Corps," is where all Marine Corps Officers receive their initial range combat training: first by qualifying in the Officer Candidate School, followed by the Basic School and Infantry Officers Course.



The base supports the only Marine Corps air facility near Washington, D.C. and provides helicopter transport to the President of the United States. MCB Quantico also hosts the FBI Academy and the Drug Enforcement Administration training academy.

Though MCB Quantico's location near the nation's capital underscores its importance, being in such a densely populated and growing area also threatens the base with expanding encroachment.

Therefore, MCB Quantico partnered with a local conservation organization, the Prince William Conservation Alliance, to protect one of the last remaining swaths of undeveloped land in the fast-growing region.

A preserved farm was added to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries network of wildlife management areas, with MCB Quantico receiving a restrictive easement to ensure protection of the installation's boundary from future development. The Marine Corps also obtained the right to construct and preserve up to 115 acres of wetlands, and to incorporate the wetlands into a mitigation bank—a first for the Marine Corps. The property is now open to the public for fishing, hunting, and educational programs. MCB Quantico and its partners are continuing to work to protect additional lands near training areas at the base's airfield, further preserving open space and forest land.

## **BENEFIT SUMMARY**

#### COMMUNITY

Protects working lands and water resources

#### MILITARY

- Preserves live-fire training capabilities
- Protects helicopter training and operations that produce significant noise



A squad of officer candidates charge forward into the Quigley water obstacle (top). Merrimac Farm, protected with REPI and partner funds, has one of the largest patches of Virginia bluebell flowers (bottom, photo courtesy of Prince William Conservation Alliance).

## **KEY PARTNERS**

- Facquier County
- Land Trust of Virginia
- Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
- Prince William Conservation Alliance
- Stafford County
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

## CONTACT

COMMUNITY PLANS & LIAISON OFFICER: (703) 784-5323

## FAST FACTS FROM FY 2010 THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: In Progress

Authority		Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	7	996	\$6.1 million
Other (e.g., Sikes Act, IGSA)	-	_	\$0.3 million
TOTAL	7	996	\$6.4 million

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding



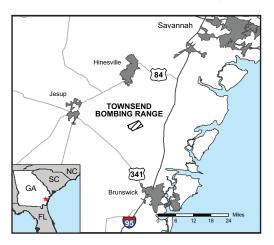
PROJECT PROFILES U.S. MARINE CORPS | GEORGIA

# **TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE**

#### A vital air-to-ground range used by the Marine Corps and the other three Military Services, Townsend Bombing Range is increasingly supporting the use of precision-guided weapons and other advanced weaponry in training.

Meanwhile, Townsend is also a key East Coast hub for Joint Tactical Air Controllers (JTACs) training. JTACs represent 80 percent of bombing calls overseas, providing critical air support to the ground forces that need it most.

Bringing together state, Federal, and other partners, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, the Townsend Range partnership has been able to reap the benefits of the protection of numerous conservation lands. The public is shielded from noise and potential



safety risks and the military can perform large force exercises and take full advantage of airspace that spans 10 counties for more realistic training at all altitudes.

Townsend and its partners are also adding major pieces to the conservation puzzle in an ecologically sensitive area. Located within the Altamaha watershed, the surrounding land boasts the highest documented number of rare plants and animals in Georgia. The area's wetlands, longleaf pine forests, and sandhills are home to

the gopher tortoise and other rare species. Preventing habitat fragmentation and increasing the Townsend Wildlife Management Area will also provide the public with recreational opportunities.

## **BENEFIT SUMMARY**

#### COMMUNITY

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- Protects working lands that benefit the economy
- Supports existing regional planning efforts, including the development of a Joint Use Land Study to better coordinate planning efforts
- Protects species and habitat

#### MILITARY

- Protects live-fire bombing, vehicle maneuver, helicopter, and night flying training that produces significant amounts of noise or requires minimal light pollution
- Prevents the loss of training days and the use of less-realistic workarounds
- Provides for future mission growth and multi-service efforts





Habitat in and around Townsend Bombing Range (top and bottom) helps preserve the range's training capability.

# **KEY PARTNERS**

- Altamaha Riverkeeper
- Compatible Lands Foundation
- Ducks Unlimited
- Georgia Conservancy
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Georgia Forestry Commission
- Georgia Ornithological Society
- Georgia Wetlands Trust Fund
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- St. Simons Land Trust
- The Environmental Resources Network
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service

# CONTACT

COMMUNITY PLANS & LIAISON OFFICER: (843) 228-7119

#### FAST FACTS FROM FY 2008 THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: In Progress

uthority		Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended		
0 U.S.C. § 2684a	14	56,113	\$78.2 million		