

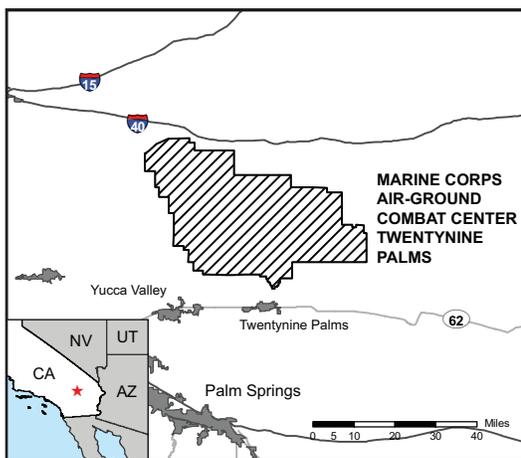


U.S. MARINE CORPS :

# MCAGCC TWENTYNINE PALMS : CALIFORNIA



**N**inety 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

## FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2016

- » Acres preserved: **3,275**
- » Transactions conducted: **7**
- » Total funds expended: **\$3.4 million**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

## CONTACT

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