



TWENTYNINE PALMS MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

OUR MISSION

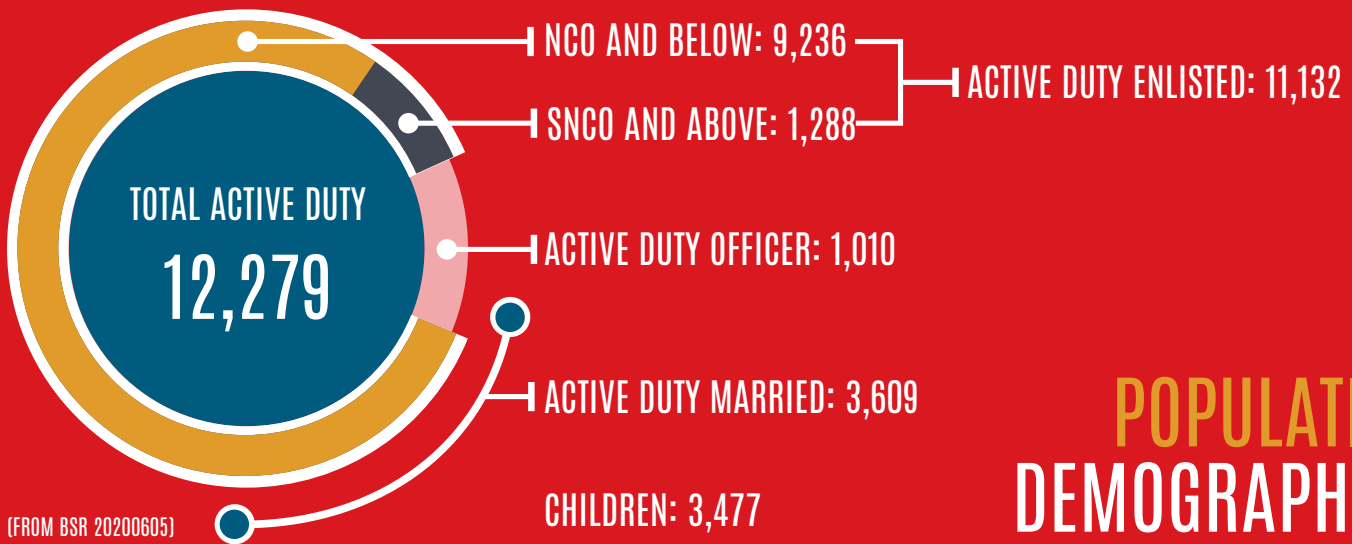
is to provide a standard of excellence in managing facilities, services and support to the operating forces, and families in order to ensure readiness of the tenant and resident commands aboard the Combat Center.

Currently, the Combat Center hosts the Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) performed by units pre-deployment. ITX focuses on the tactical application of combined-arms maneuver warfare, allowing Marines to maintain familiarity with basic military requirements.

ITX involves the largest Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) facilities within the Department of Defense. Using over 950 role players and two working villages, ITX tests Marines on urban warfare and the rigors of the desert.

These villages include shops and government buildings, and realistic role players wearing traditional clothing while speaking primarily in the region's native language. This immersive experience provides an opportunity for Marines to respond and react in mock real-life situations.

Each year, some 50,000 Active Duty and Reservists participate in multiple training events, gaining proficiency in all phases of land combat operations.



POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS



LARGEST
MARINE CORPS BASE
1,100 SQUARE MILES

GENERAL AREA INFORMATION

- ▶ GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN SOUTHERN MOJAVE DESERT
- ▶ AVERAGE RAINFALL IS LESS THAN 4" ANNUALLY
- ▶ TEMPERATURE DIPS BELOW FREEZING POINT ON APPROXIMATELY 33 DAYS PER YEAR
- ▶ TEMPERATURE RISES ABOVE 90 F ON APPROXIMATELY 155 DAYS PER YEAR
- ▶ DAILY TEMPERATURE FLUCTUATIONS CAN VARY UP TO 60 F

HISTORY

The Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (often referred to as "MCAGCC", pronounced "Muh-cag-see") was used by the U.S. Army and Navy for aviation training during World War II. Following WWII, the future was uncertain for the huge tract of land in the southern Mojave Desert. It lay dormant until 1952 when the Marine Corps took it over and designated it as "Marine Corps Training Center, Twentynine Palms". The base was re-designated in 1979 as the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center. Historical anecdotes say the base was "about the size of the state of Rhode Island, with Narragansett Bay squeezed

out." A cantankerous old warrior from Pacific campaigns dubbed it "Twentynine Stumps." "And 'The Stumps' it became to a whole generation of Marines who couldn't quite imagine what the Corps was going to do in the middle of the desert!" (Historical Sources include: U.S. Marines at Twentynine Palms, California, 1989, by the late Col. Verle E. Ludwig, USMC Retired).

In April 2006, President George W. Bush visited Marines stationed at MCAGCC. President Bush took the opportunity to thank Marines and their families for their service and



sacrifice, saying
"You bring honor
to our country. You
represent the very
best of America...
And I also want to say

something to your families. It's hard when your loved one
is overseas. I respect your sacrifice, and want to thank
you very much for your service to our country, as well."

[https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/
releases/2006/04/20060423-1.html](https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2006/04/20060423-1.html)

FACTS AND FIGURES

- ▶ Largest Marine Corps base in landmass at approximately 1,100 square miles.
- ▶ Approximately 1,267 square nautical miles in airspace.
- ▶ 27 range training areas.
- ▶ The unique geographic climate and air space allow Marines, Sailors and Joint/Coalition forces to conduct combined-arms land and air elements of warfare training that cannot be duplicated anywhere else in the world.
- ▶ Hosts the Corps' largest military occupational specialty school in military communications (MCCES).
- ▶ Hosts Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT), a training program in simulated urban cities in several Combat Center ranges, which teaches Marines and Sailors valuable skills in operation in an urban conflict area, including cultural sensitivity and language.
- ▶ Combat Center's remote, safe environment provides Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) professionals, including the FBI, Los Angeles, state agencies and many California counties, the opportunity to learn about the latest in hazardous explosive devices and how to disarm them.

REGIONAL IMPACT

Provides major stimulant to local and regional economy as the second largest employer in the county.

Mutual aid services to local community in rescue, fire, emergency, law enforcement and explosive hazard response services.

Fire department also opens up Combat Center training opportunities to firefighters throughout the region providing invaluable structural firefighting training at no cost.

STATISTICS



Combat Center's annual payroll: **\$500 Million**



Annual combined pensions of military and civilian government retirees in the Morongo Basin: **\$42 Million**



Amount of money the Combat Center generates in the Morongo Basin annually: **\$1 Billion**



Percentage of Morongo Basin residents comprised of the Combat Center military, civilian personnel and family members: **30%**



Number of local jobs supported by the Combat Center payroll and spending: **16,000**



Percentage of jobs in the Morongo Basin supported by the Combat Center: **52%**

RETIREE / VETERAN POPULATION STATS

As of 2017, there are over 1,600 military retirees residing in the local area surrounding MCAGCC Twentynine Palms. These retirees bring in a total of \$42,310,000 annually in military benefits to the local economy. The vast majority of retirees reside within the city of Twentynine Palms.

Veterans comprise 17.8% of the Morongo Basin population. Most of the Basin has a veteran population that is considerably higher than the county (6.9%), the state (6.4%) and the nation (8.7%). Many retired service members stay in the area or move here because of the proximity to the Combat Center and the services available to military retirees.



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