



September 18, 2013

Dear Members of the California Delegation,

On behalf of Governor Brown, I chair the Governor's Military Council to support and grow military operations in California. Our bipartisan group, comprised of retired flag officers and civic leaders, works to underscore the unique national security value of California installations and is developing recommendations to strengthen California's support for military operations in our state. We also support public policy that keeps California a supportive environment for our military.

As you are well aware, no state is more important than California for training our military. California's bases and restricted airspace provide our military with an unparalleled training environment that have proved critical in training troops for recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The United States Marine Corps is particularly reliant on California bases for troop training. Estimates suggest that nine out of ten Marines train at bases in California before deployment.

The Marine Corps is requesting Congressional approval to expand the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms by approximately 168,000 acres. This additional land at Twentynine Palms will enable a full Marine Expeditionary Brigade to train at one time, a critical exercise that is only possible with the expansion of Twentynine Palms. Without this expansion, the future readiness of our nation's Marines will suffer.

The Marines' proposed land expansion at Twentynine Palms is the result of a long series of compromises. In particular, the Marines' current proposal limits training capabilities in order to designate an 86,000 acre recreation area in Johnson Valley for off-highway vehicle use. Approximately 43,000 acres within this area are designated for year-round exclusive recreational use, while Marine Corps access to the other 43,000 acres of this area are limited to two months per year for the purpose of conducting large-scale exercises.

Beyond the incalculable military value of expanding Twentynine Palms, the positive impact of the expansion to the local economy is significant. Analysis suggests this expansion will bring additional 110 jobs, \$4 million in salaries and an additional \$7.5 million in regional sales.

I strongly believe in the importance of providing Marines the training they need to carry out their mission. Accordingly, I ask you to support the Marine Corps' proposed expansion of Twentynine Palms.

Sincerely,

Members of the California Governor's Military Council

Honorable Ellen O. Tauscher  
Chair, Governor's Military Council

Major General Alice Astafan  
United States Air Force (Ret.)

Vice Admiral Jody Breckenridge  
United States Coast Guard (Ret.)

Lieutenant General Edward Haglon  
United States Marine Corps (Ret.)

Rear Admiral James Johnson  
United States Navy (Ret.)

Major General Dennis Kenneally  
United States Army (Ret.)

Admiral Henry Mauz  
United States Navy (Ret.)

Rear Admiral Benjamin Montoya  
United States Navy (Ret.)

Major General J. Michael Myatt  
United States Marine Corps (Ret.)

Lieutenant General Eugene Tattini  
United States Air Force (Ret.)

Thomas R. Berard

Honorable Philip E. Coyle III

Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi

Charles A. Giacchi




Dr. Mary E. Lyons

Major General David S. Baldwin  
Adjutant General, California Military Department



Assemblymember Colonel Rocky Chavez  
United States Marine Corps (Ret.)



Major General Anthony Jackson  
United States Marine Corps (Ret.)



State Senator Richard Roth  
Major General, United States Air Force (Ret.)



Joseph A. Czyzyk