



U.S. Marine Corps

## CHOCOLATE MOUNTAIN AERIAL GUNNERY RANGE : CALIFORNIA

Department of Defense aviation combat crews have trained at the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range (CMAGR) and within its airspace since World War II. The range is managed by Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and is located east of the Salton Sea in southeastern California. The CMAGR withdrawal was renewed in 2014 and the range area was permanently transferred to the Department of the Navy to be used in perpetuity as long as military range requirements exist.



The Range provides excellent opportunities for military training with its varied terrain and special use airspace. The CMAGR is critical to the support of realistic training.

The CMAGR is the centerpiece of the Bob Stump Training Range Complex and can support multiple training operations concurrently.

The CMAGR is a live-fire aviation training range that provides training for air combat maneuvering and tactics; air-to-air gunnery; airborne laser system operations; close air support; and air-to-ground bombing, strafing, and rocketry.

The CMAGR also supports ground training to include air defense, air control, communications, demolition

operations, as well as the support of small arms and artillery. Naval Special Warfare Command (NAVSPECWARCOM) (Navy SEALs) use a portion of the CMAGR for desert warfare training.

### FAST FACTS

- » Location: **Riverside and Imperial Counties, CA**
- » Land Area: **459,000 acres**
- » Special Use Airspace: **700 square miles**

For more information, please see <<http://www.mcasnyuma.marines.mil>>



**Above:** Members of Marine Wing Support Squadron-371 refuel a MV-22 Osprey at a tactical forward refueling point in the CMAGR. (U.S. Marine Corps photo)

**Left:** A rifleman provides security as a CH-53 Super Stallion descends during a training exercise in the CMAGR. (U.S. Marine Corps photo)

### UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- » Created during World War II to provide American aircrews with much needed training in aerial gunnery and bombing
- » Live-fire tactical aviation training range that is of paramount importance to Marine Corps training
- » Part of Bob Stump Training Range Complex
- » Overseen by Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Range Management Department
- » Contains portions of the Chuckwalla Desert Wildlife Management Area, including habitat for the endangered Desert Tortoise

### CONTACTS

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