

U.S. Navy

## **NAVAL AIR FACILITY EL CENTRO : CALIFORNIA**

---

Originally intended to be a civilian airport for Imperial County, the Navy began leasing Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro in 1942 as a Marine Corps Air Station. It was re-established to the Navy in 1946 and designated as NAF El Centro in 1979.

NAF El Centro provides realistic training to U.S. and allied forces. Squadrons visit the installation and its associated ranges to practice



gunnery, bombing, carrier landings and air combat. Since 1967 NAF El Centro has been the winter home for the Blue Angels. In 2009 the United Kingdom's Joint Helicopter Command

consolidated all of its desert training to the facility.

NAF El Centro's total economic impact is \$110 million.

### **FAST FACTS**

---

- » Location: **Imperial County, CA (near El Centro)**
- » El Centro Ranges and Training Areas (withdrawn/owned): **56,365 acres**
- » Installation Acreage: **2863 acres**
- » Special Use Air Space: **339 square miles**
- » Military Flight Evolutions: **65,000 per year**
- » Military Personnel: **228**
- » Civilian Personnel: **303**
- » Average Daily Detachment Loading: **501 personnel per day**



**Above:** The Blue Angels practicing over the field at NAF El Centro during their winter training. (Photo by Jeff Welker, provided by U.S. Navy)

**Left:** An F/A-18F Super Hornet, assigned to the "Gladiators" of Strike Fighter Squadron 106 (VFA-106) from Naval Air Station Oceana, launches from Runway 8/26 at sunset at NAF El Centro. (Photo by Lynn Evans, provided by U.S. Navy)

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

---

Support the combat training and readiness of the Warfighter.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

---

To be the Navy's premier tactical training installation, providing world-class operations, world-class facilities and the highest quality of life for our personnel and their families.

### **CONTACT**

---

**Public Affairs Office**

(760) 339-5673

## UNIT MISSIONS

- » **Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC):** NAF El Centro provides realistic training to active and reserve aviation units and activities of the Navy's operating and training forces.
- » **U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron (Blue Angels):** Enhances Navy and Marine Corps recruiting, and credibly represents Navy and Marine Corps aviation to the United States and other countries as international good will ambassadors.

For more information, please see < <http://www.cnic.navy.mil/elcentro> >



**Above:** An MH-60S Seahawk assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Three (HSC-3) lands on a remote landing zone near NAF El Centro. (U.S. Navy photo)

## COMMANDER RANK

Captain (O-6)

## TRAINING & TESTING RANGES

- » Range 2510: Includes Targets 101 (Shade Tree), 103 (Loom Lobby) and the Parachute Drop Zone
- » Range 2512: Includes Targets 68 (Inkey Barley) and 95 (Kitty Baggage)
- » East Mesa Carrier Landing Strip

## UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- » Two crossing runways with illuminated carrier deck landing areas
- » Visual Flight Rules (VFR) only tower
- » Proximity of installation to ranges provides a low cost per evolution
- » Lack of encroachment allows field carrier landing practice to be conducted using a 600-foot pattern
- » 360 days of clear weather, guaranteeing almost no interruptions to the training continuum
- » NAF El Centro and the El Centro Ranges are home to several sensitive wildlife species, including the flat-tailed horned lizard and burrowing owl