

U.S. Marine Corps

MCAS YUMA : ARIZONA

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma is located in the Sonoran Desert at the Southwest corner of Arizona near the Mexico border. The installation originated as 'Fly Field' in 1928 when the federal government took a land lease from Yuma County on 640 acres of desert terrain.

Today, MCAS Yuma conducts about 200,000 operations annually, making it the busiest air station in the Marine Corps. It supports roughly



80% of the Marine Corps air-to-ground aviation training and controls 60% of all Marine Corps ranges. Annually, the Station hosts numerous units and aircraft (over 15,000 personnel and 371 aircraft) including U.S. and North

Atlantic Treaty Organization forces for various training exercises.

Since December 2012, MCAS Yuma has been home to the first operational F-35B Joint Strike Fighter Squadron in the Marine Corps.

MCAS Yuma is the scheduling authority for the Bob Stump Training Range Complex, providing tactical aviation training on the Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR) West, Kofa Range, and the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range (CMAGR). MCAS Yuma is the responsible steward of the BMGR-W and CMAGR.

FAST FACTS

- » Location: **City of Yuma and Yuma County, AZ**
 - » Land Area: **1,216,000 acres**
 - » Special Use Airspace: **7,085 square nautical miles**
 - » Military Personnel: **4,427 active duty**
 - » Civilian Personnel: **2,172**
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Above: A Sonoran Pronghorn at MCAS Yuma. (U.S. Marine Corps photo)

Left: U.S. Marines participating in the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course exercise prepare to load onto a CH-46 Sea Knight aircraft. (U.S. Marine Corps photo)

MISSION STATEMENT

Provide aviation ranges, support facilities and services that enable MCAS Yuma's tenants, other Marine Corps commands, visiting military and interagency forces to enhance their mission capability and combat readiness.

CONTACT

Public Affairs:
(928)269-2275

UNIT MISSIONS

- » **Marine Aircraft Group-13 (MAG-13):** Provides combat-ready aviation forces capable of short notice worldwide deployment to Marine Air Ground Task Force, fleet, and unified commanders. Part of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (3rd MAW) based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California. MAG-13 includes Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-13, four Marine Attack Squadrons (VMA-211/214/ 311/513), and Marine Wing Support Squadron-371. VMFA-121 will be the first squadron of F-35 Joint Strike Fighters at MCAS Yuma with VSTOL capabilities.
- » **Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1 (MAWTS-1):** Provides standardized advanced tactical training and certification of unit instructor qualifications that support Marine aviation training and readiness to provide assistance in the development and employment of aviation weapons and tactics. Conducts Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) courses twice a year, bringing to Yuma thousands of U.S. Marines from around the globe for training.
- » **Marine Fighter Training Squadron-401 (VMFT-401):** Improves the Marine Corps' air-to-air combat readiness by employing current threat tactics against Marine Corps pilots. VMFT-401 is a component of the 4th MAW. It is the only aggressor squadron in the Marine Corps and takes part in training exercises in Yuma and throughout the United States.
- » **Marine Air Control Squadron-1 (MACS-1):** Provides control for anti-aircraft warfare operations and continuous all-weather air traffic control services. MACS is a fleet Marine Force unit subordinate to Marine Air Control Group-38 of the 3rd MAW.
- » **Combat Logistics Company-16 (CLC-16):** Provides intermediate maintenance and supply support for tactical engineer, motor transport, ordnance, and utilities equipment for tenant and augmented commands in the greater Yuma area.
- » **Branch Medical Clinic Yuma (BMC Yuma):** Operates as an outpatient ambulatory healthcare facility. BMC Yuma is a TRICARE Prime clinic, which serves active, reserve and military retiree and their family members.
- » **Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (H&HS):** Responsible for the day-to-day operations aboard the air station to ensure all tenant commands are provided operational support and community services. H&HS also provides crucial aerial search and rescue support for tenant and visiting commands, as well as, the local surrounding community.
- » **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron-4 (VMU-4):** Cannon Air Defense Complex within the BMGR is temporarily home to a detachment of RQ-7B Shadow unmanned aerial vehicles designed for reconnaissance and surveillance operations.



Above: Students from Carver Elementary School interact with volunteer service members and advanced technology, such as the remote ordnance robot shown above. (U.S. Marine Corps photo)

COMMANDER RANK

Colonel

MILITARY TRAINING RANGES

Bob Stump Training Range Complex, which includes:

- » Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR) West
- » Kofa Range
- » Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range
- » Collectively comprises over 10,000 square miles of special-use airspace and over 2,000 square miles of underlying land used for bombing and gunnery ranges.

UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- » Busiest Air Station and only joint-use air station in the Marine Corps
- » Nearly 100% of USMC aviation units deploying overseas conduct training on MCAS Yuma managed ranges immediately prior to deployment
- » Provides Sector Control for FAA (only one in DoD)
- » Air Station proper is more than 7 square miles