

U.S. Marine Corps

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER : CALIFORNIA

The Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC) Pickel Meadow is located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, between Bridgeport, CA, and Lake Tahoe, NV. The Center occupies 54,000 acres of the Humbolt-Toiyabe National Forest. A special use permit between the Forest Service and the Marine Corps permits the use of the area for training. Elevation of training areas range from 6,800 feet to 11,500 feet above sea level.

MCMWTC Pickel Meadow was established in 1951 to provide cold weather training to Marines bound for Korea. Providing year- around



training, the installation is currently the U.S. Marine Corps' premier training facility for mountainous high altitude and cold weather operations. Its facilities can support

over 1,200 training personnel at any one time.

MCMWTC, Bridgeport has had an estimated economic impact of nearly \$80 million annually on the local economy in California and Nevada.

FAST FACTS

- » Location: **Mono County, CA (near Bridgeport)**
- » Land Area: **61,976 Winter acres; 52,340 Summer acres**
- » Special Use Airspace: **25 X 25 nautical miles²**
- » Military Operations/Sorties: **400+ per year**
- » Military Personnel: **238**
- » Civilian Personnel: **132**



Above: MCMWTC Pickel Meadow logo.

Left: Marines train to operate in medium- to high altitudes, and severe weather and terrain conditions at the MCMWTC. (U.S. Marine Corps photo)

MISSION STATEMENT

The Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center conducts unit and individual training courses to prepare USMC, Joint, and Allied Forces for operations in mountainous, high altitude and cold weather environments; and the development of warfighting doctrine and specialized equipment for use in mountain and cold weather operations.

COMMANDER RANK

Colonel

CONTACT

Command Duty Officer
760-932-1401



MCMWTC BRIDGEPORT : CALIFORNIA

MCMWTC Training: Shoot, Move, Communicate, Sustain and Survive

MCMWTC conducts six battalion level training exercises per year.

TRAINING COURSES

- » **Summer Mountain Leaders Course** - Trains students to become subject matter experts in mountain operations tactics, techniques and procedures will enable enhanced movement, control of fires, intelligence gathering, sustainment, and force protection in highly complex terrain.
- » **Winter Mountain Leaders Course**- Trains students to become subject matter experts in cold weather operations, enable enhanced movement, control of fires, intelligence gathering, sustainment, and force protection in complex snow and ice covered terrain.
- » **Mountain Operations Staff Planners Course** - Trains Battalion and higher command staffs to effectively plan combat operations in complex, compartmentalized, mountainous terrain.
- » **Mountain Medicine** - Prepare medical personnel with advanced technical and field skills needed to support their units in mountainous and/or high altitude terrain.
- » **Cold Weather Medicine**– Covers movement, survival, bivouacs routine, leadership diagnosing, treating and preventing high altitude and/or cold weather related illness and injuries and techniques of transporting casualties in mountainous and/or high altitude terrain in cold weather conditions.
- » **Mountain Survival**– Trains students to survive in a summer or winter mountainous environment as individuals or as a group in a survival situation.
- » **Mountain Scout Sniper Course** -Trains Students to be tactically and technically proficient in a mountainous environment.
- » **Mountain Command, Control, and Communications Course** - Students are taught communications considerations for employment in a mountainous environment, and communications equipment limitations and capabilities.
- » **Animal Packing/Horsemanship Course**- Teaches students how to use mules and horses to transport weapons, ammunition, supplies and wounded personnel.



Above: Marines conducting resupply mission with mules during Animal Packing Course.

Below: Marine rappelling down cliff face during summer operations.



UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- The MCMWTC is one of the Corps' most remote and isolated posts
- Conducts formal schools for individuals and battalion training in summer and winter mountain operations
- The training emphasizes development of both individual and unit mountain skills with primary emphasis on enhancing overall combat capability
- Marines at the Center are also involved in testing cold weather clothing, equipment, human performance, rough terrain vehicles, and developing doctrine and concepts to enhance the Corps' ability to fight and win in mountain and cold weather environments.

For more information, please see <<http://www.29palms.marines.mil/mcmwtc/UnitHome.aspx>>