



San Clemente Island & San Nicolas Island Naval Restricted Areas

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Economic Benefit of the Military in South Coast Region



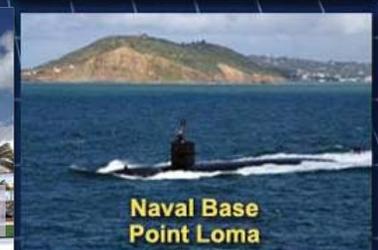
Active Duty 103,000
DoD Employees 139,000
DoD Retirees 88,000

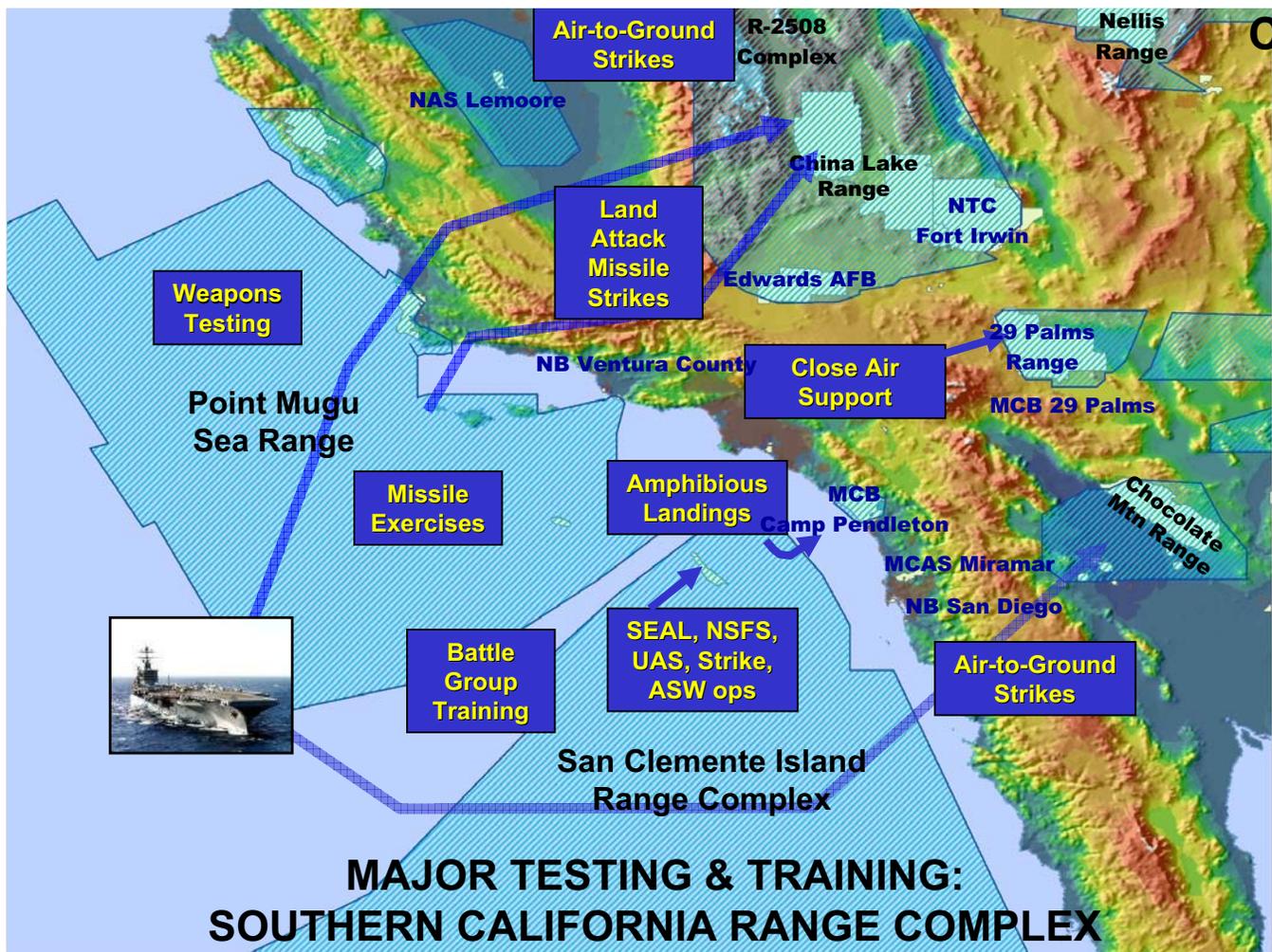


Total estimated Economic Impact
\$34.8 Billion Annually



With 27.5% of all jobs in
San Diego region attributed
to DoD





Current Operations

Critical Importance to National Security

- **San Clemente Island**
 - ***SWAT 1 Safety Zone (Northwest SCI)***
 - Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT), Small Arms Range, Land detonations
 - Small craft Over-the-Beach, live-fire insertions/extractions
 - Surface Training Exercises & Air Operations
 - ***Wilson Cove Security Zone/Safety Zone (East SCI)***
 - Underwater Research, Development, Tests and Evaluation
 - Small Arms Live Fire Surface Danger Zone
 - Ship Radiated Noise Measurements & Sonobuoy Quality Assurance Tests
- **San Nicolas Island**
 - ***Alpha Area Restricted Zone (North SNI)***
 - Missile over-flights and launches

Note: No access allowed in these two Safety Zones. No fishing allowed in this Restricted Zone



Mission Summary

- Maintain our capability to fulfill national security obligations
 - Military Readiness
 - Research, Development, Test and Evaluation
 - Training Ranges
 - Installations
- Consistent with national security mission requirements, promote highest level of environmental stewardship



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DoD Proposal for SCI

- New 100% closed Naval Safety Zones at SCI present a unique “win-win” opportunity
- Combines effective enforcement through safety zones, with excellent environmental management made possible by:
 - SOCAL Range Complex Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP)
 - Cooperative Research Agreements (CRAs)

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DoD Proposal (cont'd)

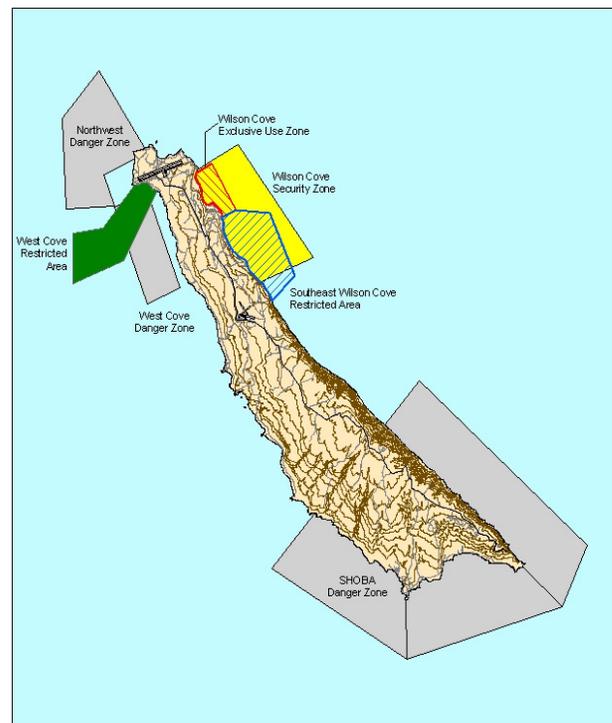
- Consistent with #5 of MLPA Design Considerations
 - “In developing MPA proposals, consider how existing state, local and federal programs address the goals and objectives of the MLPA and south coast region....”
- Safety Zones will be codified into Federal Law
- Near tidal areas managed under INRMP
- SOCAL EIS environmental compliance and mitigation measures in the associated compliance documentation for the SOCAL Range Complex.
- Naval Restricted Areas are NOT MPAs, but will help meet the same goals

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SOCAL Range Complex: National Defense Restricted Areas

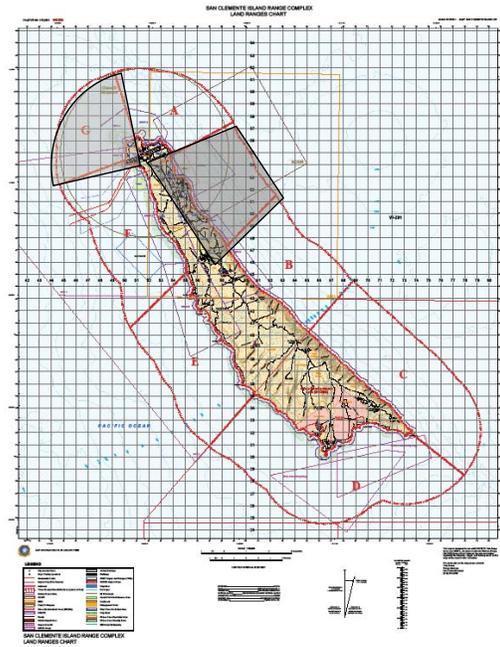
- **A Multidimensional Training Range Environment**
 - All deploying C3F Carrier and Expeditionary Strike Groups train on the SOCAL Range Complex
 - Support s training for all warfare areas and extensive Research, Development, Test and Evaluation
- **Unique training terrain**
 - Ideal mix of shallow (littoral) & deep water training environment and critical shallow water bathymetry
 - Only instrumented deepwater tracking and communication range for ship, air and submarine anti-submarine warfare (extension into shallow water shelf)
 - Supports unique Expeditionary Training Exercises for Marine Corps unit level and joint amphibious operations
 - Unique airfield terrain supports only location for Fleet Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP)
 - Extensive military airspace (including Class D)
 - Unique sea to land configuration for live-fire SEAL team full mission profiles
- **Close proximity to Fleet homeports and military families, air stations, and bases in San Diego and other training ranges in the Southwest**





Operational Requirement to Expand Offshore Restrictions at San Clemente Island

- Entire Island will be surrounded by Safety Zones
- Shaded Areas will be closed 100% of the time for operational reasons
- Non-Shaded Areas will be closed part of the time and managed via SCI website
- Will be noticed in Federal Register and expected to go into effect mid-2009
- Shaded Areas are NOT MPAs, but will help meet MLPA goals



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USCG Safety Zone

Def: A *Safety Zone* is a water area, shore area, or water and shore area to which, for safety or environmental purposes, *access is limited to authorized persons, vehicles, or vessels* (33 Code of Federal Regulations § 165.20)

General regulations (33 Code of Federal Regulations § 165.23)

- No person may **enter** a safety zone unless authorized by the COTP or the District Commander;
- No person may bring or cause to be brought into a safety zone any **vehicle, vessel, or object** unless authorized by the COTP or the District Commander;
- No person may **remain** in a safety zone or allow any vehicle, vessel, or object to remain in a safety zone unless authorized by the COTP or the District Commander; and
- Each person in a safety zone who has notice of a lawful order or direction **shall obey the order or direction** of the COTP or District Commander issued to carry out the purposes of this subpart.



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Safety Zone Enforcement



- Enforcement options:
 - US Coast Guard (San Diego Office, District 11 & PacArea)
 - Commanding Officer Naval Base Coronado
 - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between USCG and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept



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Environmental Benefits

Restricting public access in the areas designated as federal military Safety Zones would support the goals of the MLPA through the protection of marine resources.



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SOCAL Range Complex EIS

- Environmental Compliance – analyzed 16 resource areas, including cumulative impacts and appropriate mitigation:
 - (1) geology/soils; (2) air quality; (3) hazardous materials and wastes; (4) water resources; (5) acoustic environment (in air and water); (6) marine plants and invertebrates; (7) fish (sonar, underwater detonations, essential fish habitat); (8) sea turtles (sonar, underwater detonations, ship strikes, live fire); (9) marine mammals (sonar, underwater detonations, ship strikes); (10) seabirds; (11) terrestrial biological resources; (12) cultural resources; (13) traffic; (14) socioeconomics; (15) environmental justice/protection of children; (16) public safety.
- ROD signed 21 Jan 09 – culmination of a 12-year effort at a cost of approx \$10 million

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SOCAL EIS (cont'd)

- Compliance with Environmental Laws (not inclusive)
 - Marine Mammal Protection Act
 - Endangered Species Act (marine and terrestrial)
 - Coastal Zone Management Act
 - Migratory Bird Treaty Act
 - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
 - Rivers and Harbors Act
 - Clean Water and Clean Air Acts
 - National Historic Preservation Act

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SOCAL EIS (cont'd)

- Mitigation pertinent to protection of marine environment
 - Navy studies on sedimentation/erosion associated with watersheds and appropriate management practices to protect water resources
 - Fish – buffer zones around kelp beds, avoidance of hard-bottom habitats/floating plants/algal mats, implementation of long-term near shore monitoring program
 - Sea turtles – exclusion zones for underwater detonation activities, SOP to prevent ship strikes, live-fire mitigation measures
 - Marine Mammals – extensive mitigation measures (see EIS/ROD)
 - Sea/migratory birds – procedures to eliminate bird strike hazards, controlled demolition activities
- No significant adverse impacts to birds or sea turtles, no long-term impact to marine plants or invertebrates, no long-term changes to species abundance or diversity, no loss or degradation of sensitive habitats
- EFH (NMFS) – With mitigation, no significant short or long-term impacts
- ESA(NMFS/FWS) – Biological Opinion/not likely to jeopardize existence
- MMPA (NMFS) – Letter of Authorization/least practicable adverse impact

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SCI Natural Resources Management, INRMPs, & CRAs

- **Natural Resources Management Program**
- Primarily dictated through our Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan or INRMP
 - An INRMP is an ecosystem-based plan that addresses the conservation of natural resources while ensuring minimal impact to the military mission
 - INRMP addresses marine environment out to 300 yards
 - Currently funded for revision (incorporate SOCAL EIS)
- Current marine program includes T&E species surveys & habitat monitoring
 - Black and White Abalone Surveys
 - Marine Mammal Surveys
 - Intertidal, Subtidal, Kelp Forest Surveys
 - Bight '08
- **Cooperative Research Agreements or CRAs**
 - Mechanism for researchers to conduct research on CNRSW installations including SCI
- **Waters around San Clemente Island are already designated as an Area of Special Biological Significance**

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DoD Proposal for SNI

- Use existing restricted area ALPHA
- Under current regulations, fishing is prohibited in area ALPHA and will now be enforced
- No new regulations needed
- Naval Restricted Areas are NOT MPAs, but will meet the same goals

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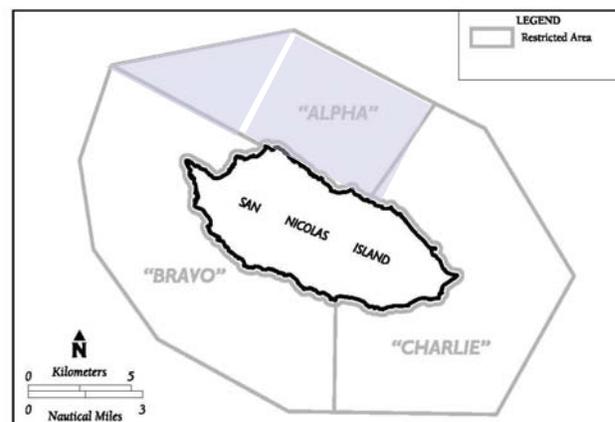
Current Offshore Restricted Areas at San Nicolas Island

33 CFR 334.980 - Pacific Ocean; around San Nicolas Island, Calif., Naval Restricted Area.

§ B(2)(a) “The waters of the Pacific Ocean around San Nicolas Island, Calif., extending about 3 miles seaward from the shoreline”.

Divided into three zones:

§ (3) “Dredging, dragging, seining, anchoring and other fishing operations within ALPHA section of the area are prohibited at all times”.



Surface Restricted Areas at San Nicolas Island

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Why not call Federal Military Closure Areas MPAs?

- Federal military closure areas are not State MPAs
 - Designated in Code of Federal Regulations via federal rulemaking action by US Coast Guard or Army Corps of Engineers
- DFG has no authority to regulate military activities
- Creates public perception that military activities are banned
- There have been attempts to regulate military activities or seek court injunctions to prohibit the Navy from training in certain areas
 - Even with explicit exemption language in National Marine Sanctuary and National Marine Monument regulations
- MPAs won't add additional protection
 - Existing offshore federal military closures at SNI and SCI (Safety Zones initiative underway w/USCG)
- National security concern
 - MPA designation could adversely affect critical military training and research activities

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What is the benefit for California?

- Protects the marine resources
- Very large areas that meet the design criteria
- Meets the goals of the MLPA
 - Goal 1 (Protect natural diversity and ecosystem functions)
 - Goal 2 (Sustain and restore marine life populations)
 - Goal 4 (Protect representative and unique habitats)
- Consistent with #5 of MLPA Design Considerations
- Gives other stakeholders more flexibility in designing the rest of the MPA network
- Codified under federal law (and permanent)
- Effective enforcement

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