



MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE CANTONMENT AREA EXPANSION

DATE: April 2024

BACKGROUND

March Air Reserve Base (MARB) is an invaluable economic engine in Western Riverside County. It is critical for the local community to not only protect MARB from future base realignment and closure rounds but it is equally essential to foster growth at MARB by advocating for new missions. A significant step in that effort would be the expansion of the cantonment area of the base (i.e. the secured area within the base that serves as a permanent military installation), which would bring additional units and missions to MARB and thus further enhance the base's stature within the nation's defense system. Expanding the cantonment area is the first step to securing a joint base designation. Identifying MARB as March Joint Reserve Base better reflects the existing operations at MARB.

The cantonment area currently encompasses an area of approximately 2,100 acres and includes units and missions that are critical to MARB's function and help secure its place in the nation's defense structure. However, there are some additional facilities outside the fence line that would benefit from the security afforded to units inside the cantonment area.

- U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) Training Center: Adding the center to the cantonment area would be a major step toward facilitating the "Joint" base designation mentioned above.
- Base Commissary: expanding MARB's perimeter along the Heacock Channel would provide for the possibility of having the Base Commissary inside the fence line. This would facilitate adding a new gate and base access via Heacock Street.
- Base Exchange: a new building will need to be constructed within closer proximity to the Base Commissary.

March JPA supports cantonment area expansion efforts and is currently working with MARB to swap a vacant March JPA parcel (Parcel J-2) adjacent to the base, with a federal island identified as Parcel A-8. March JPA is also in support of the Base's desire to locate a new Base entryway at Riverside Drive directly south of Northeast Corner properties.