



## Chapter 1

# General Description of the Proposed Location and Program

## 1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 1.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of creating a National Training Center at Fort Irwin is to provide an arena where a total combat environment could be simulated for use by the existing sixty-six combat brigades of the United States Army.

This purpose would be realized through the following objectives:

- o To develop and maintain adequately equipped ranges of sufficient size to realistically approximate present-day combat situations on a full-scale level.
- o To develop a trained permanent force which will represent the opposing side in the proposed combat training program.
- o To develop and utilize a system for tracking performance records of both the permanent opposing force stationed at the National Training Center and rotating United States Forces training at the Center.

Such an environment, comprising realistic maneuver areas compatible with modern battlefield requirements, warfare techniques, and future weaponry developments, would accommodate the maintenance of combat readiness during peacetime periods.

### 1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

#### 1.2.1 Location and Setting

Figure 1 illustrates the location of the Fort Irwin Reservation in Southern California. Fort Irwin covers 642,582 acres of land in square configuration measuring about 30 miles on either side. It is located in San Bernardino County on the High Mojave Desert, approximately 37 miles northeast of the City of Barstow, which is approximately half-way between the Los Angeles Metropolitan area and Las Vegas. The Fort lies within an area characterized by small to major, often parallel, mountain ranges surrounding closed drainage basins with intermittent lakebeds. The Mojave "B" - Randsburg Wash Range Complex of the Naval Weapons Center neighbors Fort Irwin to the west. The remaining post perimeter is bordered by Public Lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior. The base is 1.5 miles south of the southern border of Death Valley National Monument.

Fort Irwin is currently under license to the State of California, California National Guard, from the Department of the Army (Instrument Number DACA09-3-73-85).

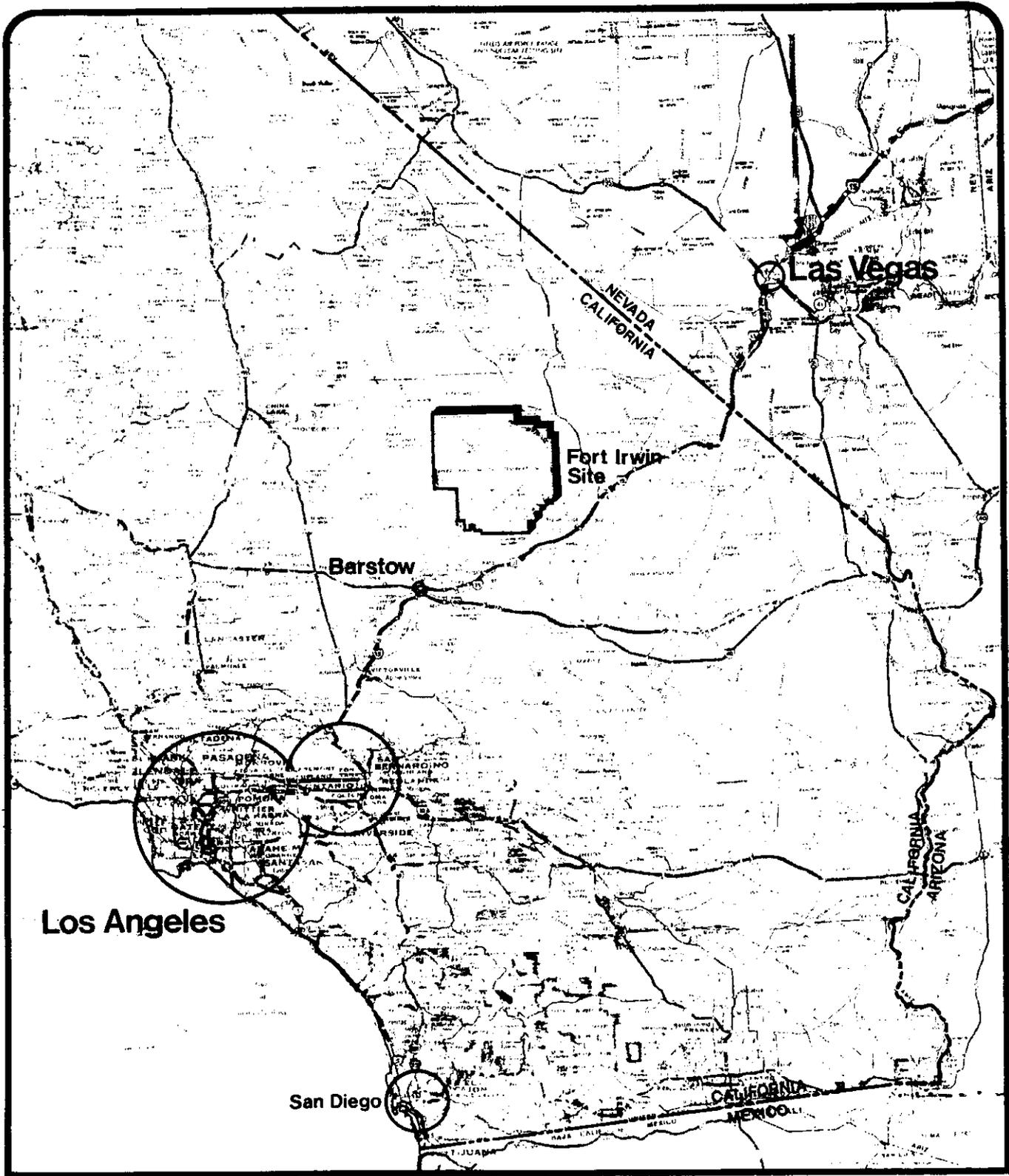
### 1.2.2 Summary of Activities

#### A. General

Beginning in 1981, a combined arms tactical unit training center would be established at Fort Irwin under the control of the Department of the Army - United States Army Forces Command. Beyond the permanent party to be stationed at the Base, the Fort would be used by combat brigades of about 3,500 personnel rotating through the reservation twenty-one times a year for approximately 15-day periods each. In addition, annual Joint Combined Readiness Exercises with the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps could be expected at the base, with ground troops numbering as many as 25,000 personnel present for a period of one month. The California National Guard will continue to utilize Fort Irwin for weekend and annual training. The population permanently employed at the base would change from a currently authorized 199 to approximately 2692 personnel with 3,932 associated dependents. A statistical breakdown of this population is found in Table 1.

To implement this national center, a series of prerequisite activities would occur.

- o Operational control for Fort Irwin currently rests with the State of California for use as a training center for the National Guard and Army Reserve. This license with the State of California would be terminated on January 1, 1981. That portion of the base now leased to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, however, would not be affected. In order to assure a smooth transition from State to Federal control, a small coordinating staff of approximately 47 people would be assigned to the post.
- o A trained unit knowledgeable and competent in the tactics and doctrines of potential adversary armed forces would be organized, equipped, and permanently stationed at the base. This force, conforming with existing Army regulations, would be used to simulate a tank battalion of about 850 personnel, to provide a realistic training challenge for the particular brigade tactical unit on rotation. For this, two troop administrative buildings must be added to the installation.
- o A stockpile of military vehicles, heavy weapons equipment and supporting items necessary to outfit the



### Site Location

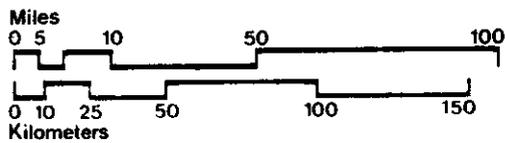


Figure 1

Table 1. Demographic Summary of Proposed Action - 1984

|                         | <u>Officers</u> | <u>Enlisted</u>  | <u>Support</u> <sup>a</sup> | <u>Civilian</u>  | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Employment at Fort      | 164             | 2,007            | 203                         | 318              | 2,692        |
| Secondary Employment    | 0               | 0                | 0                           | 745              | 745          |
| Total Employment        | 164             | 2,007            | 203                         | 1,063            | 3,437        |
| Housing - On-Post       |                 |                  |                             |                  |              |
| - Married               | 78              | 516 <sup>b</sup> | 0                           | 0                | 594          |
| - Single                | 33              | 912              | 57 <sup>c</sup>             | 0                | 1,002        |
| Sub-total (On-Post)     | 111             | 1,428            | 57                          | 0                | 1,596        |
| Housing - Off-Post      |                 |                  |                             |                  |              |
| - Married               | 53              | 488 <sup>d</sup> | 102 <sup>d</sup>            | 95 <sup>e</sup>  | 738          |
| - Single                | 0               | 60 <sup>d</sup>  | 30 <sup>d</sup>             | 136 <sup>d</sup> | 226          |
| Sub-total (Off-Post)    | 53              | 548              | 132                         | 231              | 964          |
| Total Housing           | 164             | 1,976            | 189                         | 231              | 2,560        |
| Dependents <sup>f</sup> |                 |                  |                             |                  |              |
| - On-Post               | 190             | 1,260            | 0                           | 0                | 1,450        |
| - Off-Post              | 130             | 1,182            | 246                         | 179              | 1,737        |
| Total Dependents        | 320             | 2,442            | 246                         | 179              | 3,187        |
| Population              |                 |                  |                             |                  |              |
| - On-Post               | 301             | 2,688            | 57                          | 332              | 3,378        |
| - Off-Post              | 183             | 1,761            | 392                         | 910              | 3,246        |
| Total Population        | 484             | 4,449            | 449                         | <u>1,242</u>     | <u>6,624</u> |

Notes:

<sup>a</sup>Includes 147 Mobilization and Training Equipment Site personnel; 52 Headquarters staff and 4 Post Exchange managers

<sup>b</sup>Includes 88 mobile home sites

<sup>c</sup>90 Bachelor Officer Quarters units are on base, of which 33 are for officers; assumes balance used by single support.

<sup>d</sup>Assumes 50% of off-post single personnel on a living-together arrangement basis.

<sup>e</sup>Assumes equivalent of 705 civilian jobs held by dependents of married employees.

<sup>f</sup>Excludes employed dependents; assumes average married family size of 4.

permanently stationed opposing force as well as the rotating tactical brigade would be accumulated, stored, and maintained. For this, two tactical equipment maintenance shops with ancillary facilities for the equipment pool would be constructed.

- o Instrumented and laser equipped range facilities for simulation of full-scale force-on-force maneuvering would be developed, maintained, and utilized for maneuvers. These portable facilities would be capable of: working compatibly with a similar system now in operation at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada; simulating all of the Army's direct fire weapons, day and night; following and recording for tutorial purposes maneuvers on the ground; portraying enemy electronic and air defense environments; and reproducing enemy offensive electronic warfare to thoroughly challenge electronic countermeasures employed by the U.S.
- o Electronic warfare equipment consists of communication jammers of not less than 1,500 watts power, which operate across a frequency spectrum of 30 to 76 megahertz and can effectively blank out frequencies for over a 1,000 square kilometer area (386 square miles, or 247,000 acres).
- o A coordinating management group would be gathered and assigned to the installation in advance of any Combined Readiness Exercises with other branches of the Armed Services. Their purpose would be to coordinate and oversee these occasional major training operations.
- o The existing base family housing units, 506 in number, and 88 mobile home park spaces would be rehabilitated to partially house the stationed population.
- o The sewer, telephone, power and transportation infrastructure on the Fort would be upgraded. Currently mothballed or unused facilities would be re-opened.

→ By the end of 1983, all existing post facilities would be operational, and any new construction or rehabilitation completed. Important to this proposal and key to its economic and social impact within San Bernardino County is the phasing of construction activities. The buildup of the population to be stationed at Fort Irwin would occur between October 1980 and June 1984. Facilities must be constructed and renovated in phase with the planned buildup.

## B. Training Exercises

Figure 2 shows the proposed ranges and maneuver areas at Fort Irwin. Once the National Training Center is fully operational, anticipated tactical maneuvers and range operations will generally occur within existing areas currently designated for such actions at Fort Irwin. A typical ground exercise could be expected to use any of the full range of conventional warfare weapons currently within the Army's inventory.

Training will be intensive and conducted in the field. Each combat brigade rotation totaling 3,500 troops will consist of two core battalion task forces of 750+ troops with related support forces which would train for 15 days each. Approximately nine of these days would be spent in field maneuvers, and six in preparation and follow-up, which would utilize the cantonment area.

Field exercises by the battalion task forces would begin at the company level (200+ troops) and work up to battalion level (750+ troops). They would take place in two designated areas:

- o A range for simulated warfare against the opposing force with all equipment instrumented and laser equipped to monitor performance covering an area of 30 kilometers (18.6 miles) by 25 kilometers (15.5 miles).
- o A range for live fire maneuvers with instrumented targets covering an area of 68 kilometers (42 miles) in length and from 10 to 25 kilometers (6 to 16 miles) in width. This range would require the delineation of an impact zone towards which all firing would be directed.

Exercise aircraft could be expected to fly primarily over sparsely inhabited to uninhabited areas. Low altitude simulated attacks would be conducted over the Fort's ground maneuver areas and existing gunnery ranges.

Army personnel, material, and equipment for brigade rotations and Joint Training Exercises could come from any place within the United States for these maneuvers. If they did not fly directly to Fort Irwin, they would be transported by either military or commercial means, entering the Fort Irwin area through airfields at China Lake Naval Air Field, Edwards Air Force Base, George Air Force Base, Nellis Air Force Base, or the Barstow-Daggett Airport. From these, personnel would be commercially transported over public highways to the Fort. For air training exercises, these airfields could be expected to be used as deployment air staging areas.

1.3

DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AFFECTED

Primary impact of changing the mission of Fort Irwin to a national training center would occur both within the reservation and in the Barstow marketing area. Secondary effects from construction, maintenance and military training exercises would ripple throughout San Bernardino County and the Southwest.