

NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER AND FORT IRWIN

CALIFORNIA

LOCATION

Fort Irwin is located in San Bernardino County in the State of California. It lies in the High Mojave Desert, approximately 37 miles northeast of the city of Barstow, which is the nearest population center. Barstow is approximately halfway between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, being 152 miles southwest of Las Vegas and 134 miles northeast of Los Angeles. The north boundary of Fort Irwin lies 1 ½ miles south of the boundary of Death Valley National Monument, and its west boundary coincides with that of the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake.

San Bernardino County, with a land area of over 20,000 square miles, is the largest county in the contiguous 48 states. More than 10 million people live within 100 miles of this area. The eastern boundary of the county is formed by the Colorado River and the states of Nevada and Arizona. The county is bordered on the south by the California counties of Orange and Riverside; Inyo County forms the north boundary, with Los Angeles and Kern Counties bordering the west. Ninety-three percent of San Bernardino County and all of Fort Irwin lie in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) as defined by the Bureau of Land Management.

SIZE

Acres: 636,331.32

Building Square Footage: 7,079,430 SF

Plant Replacement Value (PRV): \$ 2,131,860,000

HISTORY

On August 9, 1979, the Department of the Army announced that Fort Irwin had been selected as the site for the National Training Center. With over 1000 square miles for maneuver and ranges, an uncluttered electromagnetic spectrum, airspace restricted to military use, and its isolation from densely populated areas, Fort Irwin was an ideal site for a National Training Center. The National Training Center was officially activated October 16, 1980 and Fort Irwin returned to active status on July 1, 1981.

Since its activation, the National Training Center has witnessed many firsts. The first unit to train against the Opposing Force at the NTC were from 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division in January 1982. Infantry and engineer units first augmented the Opposing Force in 1984. June 1984 saw the first use of M1 Abrams tanks and M2 Bradley fighting vehicles on the National Training Center battlefield. The first armored cavalry squadron rotation occurred in November 1984. Units from the 101st Airborne Division participated in the first light force rotation in March 1985. The 197th Infantry Brigade participated in the first extended rotation with brigade operations in June 1985. The first urban terrain

mission was conducted at the National Training Center Pioneer Training Facility in December 1993.

The National Training Center and Fort Irwin continue to serve as the Army's premier training center. Officials from many countries have visited the National Training Center and use it as a model to build their own training centers. As in the past, Fort Irwin pits soldiers against a harsh environment, but now adds a determined and formidable opposing force. As during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm, the National Training Center and Fort Irwin continue to train units to fight and win on the battlefield.

MISSIONS

To provide realistic joint and combined arms training focused on developing soldiers, and leaders and units of America's Army for success on the 21st Century battlefield. Additionally, the NTC provides a vital source of experience based information and data essential to doctrine, equipment, training and force development. Assist Brigade Task forces achieve proficiency in their mission essential tasks (METL), improve their ability to synchronize and employ the combined arms teams, and enhance their combat readiness.

MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS

11th Armored Cavalry Regiment
 National Training Center
 Theater Support Command
 Weed Army Hospital
 Operation Group
 Air Force (Leach Lake Range)
 San Diego VETS

Criminal Investigation Division
 Joint Intel, EOD, and DARR
 540th MSB, and 1/221 CAV NG
 AFTRS/DEF MEDIA CTR
 NTC Exercise Support Command
 Nevada Ops, and USA JTE Element
 NASA

POPULATION

	Authorized
Military	4,968
Civilian	1,070
Contractor	2,243
Student	0
Other	543
TOTAL	8,824