

# Marine helicopter training coming to Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport

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BULLHEAD CITY — Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport will be the home base for a U.S. Marines helicopter training program later this month, the Mohave County Airport Authority announced Thursday.

The airport will be welcoming HMLAT 303, a light attack helicopter squadron, which is scheduled to conduct training operations from Aug. 9-19. The U.S. Marine Corps squadron is based at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

According to the airport authority, the training operation will consist of daily and nightly operations of the Bell UH-1Y “Venom” and AH-1Z “Viper” helicopters. A total of six helicopters and about 120 military personnel will be operating at the airport during the training.

The Marines selected Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport for training based on the excellent flying weather, available training facilities and ramp space, the airport authority said in a press release.

Day and night training operations in the area will be an excellent benefit to pilots, as they will gain experience with elevated terrain and high temperatures.

“We fully support military training operations, and look forward to working with the HMLAT 303 squadron to accomplish their training goals,” Airport Director Jeremy Keating said.

The U.S. Marines will host an open house at Signature Flight Support on Thursday from 8 to 10 a.m. Signature Flight Support is at 2550 Laughlin View Drive, Building 40, on airport property. This is an opportunity for the public to view the helicopters up close and to learn more about the operation.

The Marines helicopter training is the latest in a series of military programs that have chosen Laughlin/Bullhead International for an operations center. Most notably, the airport has twice hosted the U.S. Navy’s Training Wing 4 pilots for extensive training. Training Wing 4 is based in Corpus Christi, Texas.

For more information, contact airport administration at 928-754-2134.