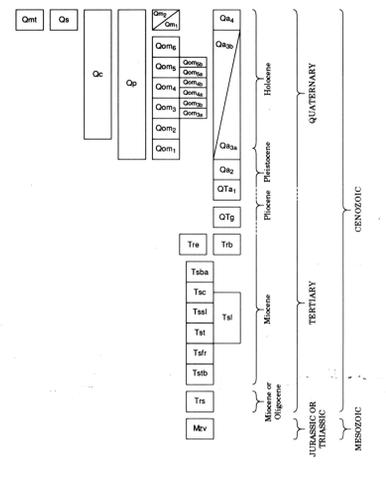


Geologic map of the Yermo Annex and vicinity, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, California. Geology mapped by B.F. Cox and G. Wilshire, 1992-1994, assisted by J.M. Dahn, 1992.

CORRELATION OF MAP UNITS

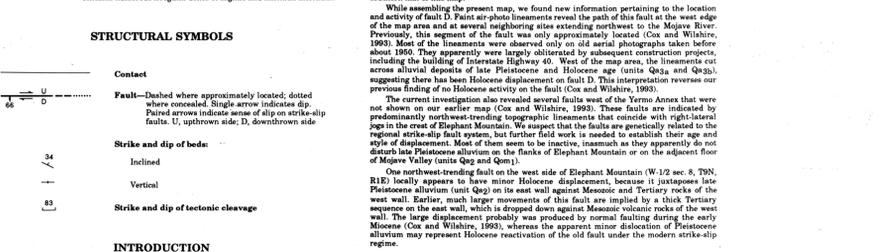


DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

- Qm1 Mine tailings (Holocene)—Laminated reddish-brown to orange-pink silt and sand deposited as a byproduct of steel processing operations. Also includes small areas of artificial fill and disturbed ground near abandoned millers. The tailings are found in two areas located northeast of Daggett and at the south end of Elephant Mountain.
- Qs Sand dunes (Holocene)—Wind-deposited sand and silt forming low dunes and sand sheets adjacent to the active channel of the Mojave River. Unit also includes climbing dunes around a low hill at north end of Elephant Mountain.
- Qc Colluvium (Holocene)—Sand, silt, and gravel deposited at the base of eroded scarps by rainwash, gully, and slumping.
- Qp Playa deposits (Holocene)—Light gray to pinkish-gray sand, silt, and clay. Forms floor of large plays at north edge of map area. Also includes thin deposits of small ephemeral ponds on poorly drained surfaces of units Qm1 and Qm2.
- Younger alluvium of the Mojave River (Holocene)—Unconsolidated yellowish-gray fluvial sand and gravel deposited within and adjacent to active wash of the Mojave River. Sand is silty, coarse to very coarse grained, moderately well sorted, angular to subrounded. Gravel contains subrounded to rounded clasts of granite and quartzite, and subangular to angular clasts of volcanic and metamorphic rocks. Unit locally is covered by unmappped thin deposits of windblown sand. Divided into:
  - Unit 2—Alluvium with little or no plant cover, forming main floor of active channel.
  - Unit 1—Alluvium with moderate plant cover, forming sand bars and low stream terraces that lie less than 1 m above floor of active channel.
- Older alluvium of the Mojave River (Holocene to Pleistocene)—Unconsolidated to weakly indurated sand, silt, and pebbles, cobbles, and gravel. Detrital composition and texture are the same as described for younger alluvium of the Mojave River. Comprises thick unit of valley fill (unit 1) and thinner deposits that drape stream terraces adjacent to Mojave River (units 2-6). Locally covered by unmappped thin deposits of windblown sand. Divided into:
  - Unit 6 (Holocene)—Unconsolidated yellowish-gray to grayish-orange sand and gravel. Unit drapes stream terraces lying about 1 m above active channel of Mojave River.
  - Unit 5 (Holocene)—Unconsolidated yellowish-gray to grayish-orange sand and gravel. Unit drapes stream terraces lying about 2-3 m above active channel of Mojave River. Locally subdivided into deposits of higher (5a) and lower (5b) terrace levels.
  - Unit 4 (Holocene)—Unconsolidated yellowish-gray to grayish-orange sand and gravel. Unit drapes stream terraces lying about 2-3 m above active channel of Mojave River. Locally subdivided into deposits of higher (4a) and lower (4b) terrace levels.
  - Unit 3 (Holocene)—Unconsolidated yellowish-gray to grayish-orange sand and gravel. Unit drapes stream terraces lying about 3-5 m above active channel of Mojave River. Deposits locally are capped by spotty, loosely packed pavement of thinly varnished pebbles. Locally subdivided into deposits of higher (3a) and lower (3b) terrace levels.
  - Unit 2 (Holocene)—Unconsolidated to weakly indurated, grayish-orange to yellowish-brown sand and gravel. Unit drapes stream terraces lying about 5-7 m above active channel of Mojave River. Deposits locally are capped by spotty, loosely packed pavement of thinly varnished pebbles.
  - Unit 1 (Holocene to Pleistocene)—Unconsolidated to weakly indurated grayish-orange to yellowish-brown sand and gravel, locally containing interbedded gray silt. Constitutes main alluvial fill of western Mojave Valley. The broad, slightly dissected upper surface of the deposits has about 1.2 m of local erosion relief and lies about 6-8 m above active channel of Mojave River. Deposits locally are capped by spotty, loosely packed pavement of thinly varnished pebbles.
- Alluvial-fan deposits (Holocene to Pliocene)—Fluvial and debris-flow deposits consisting mainly of poorly sorted silty sand and pebbles or cobbles of granite, volcanic sand and silt, and plays silt and clay cover small areas of the valley floor. The valley is bordered to the south by piedmont alluvial fans of the Newberry Mountains, and to the west by alluvial fans and volcanic buttes of the Mitchell Range.
- Unit 4 (Holocene)—Unconsolidated, unweathered, light gray to grayish-orange alluvium of active stream channels; lacks significant soil development, desert pavement, or varnish on exposed clasts.
  - Unit 3 (Holocene to Pleistocene)—Undissected to slightly dissected, grayish-orange to yellowish-brown alluvium, mostly elevated no more than 1-2 m above floors of active channels. Covered by moderate amounts of shrubby vegetation. Coarse bars and avule textures is developed where coarse alluvium is available. Includes alluvium of unit 4a where active channels are too small to map separately. Divided into:
    - Subunit 3b—Relatively undissected deposits subject to sporadic flooding. Lacks conspicuous soil development or varnish on exposed clasts.
    - Subunit 3a—Slightly dissected deposits that are rarely flooded. Slight to moderate soil development and varnish on exposed clasts.
  - Unit 2 (Pleistocene)—Moderately dissected, grayish-orange to yellowish-brown alluvium lying about 1-5 m above floors of active channels. Sparsely covered with shrubs. Locally includes colluvial aprons at margins of hills. Upper surface is a gently eroded, slightly indurated pavement of moderately to well varnished clasts. Conspicuous soil development includes vesicular A horizons as much as 3 cm thick, and argillic B horizon.
  - Unit 1 (Pleistocene and Pliocene?)—Strongly dissected, grayish-orange to yellowish-brown alluvium lying about 5-15 m above floors of active channels. Soil, pavement, and varnish are well developed, largely stripped off by erosion. Forms thin deposits capping planar-terrace ridges on flanks of Elephant Mountain.
- Gravel and conglomerate (Pleistocene to Miocene?)—Thick fluvial and debris-flow deposits of old alluvial fans, consisting mainly of poorly sorted silty sand and pebbles or cobbles of granite and volcanic sand and silt, and plays silt and clay cover small areas of the valley floor. The beds of the alluvium are generally reddish-orange to grayish-orange and grayish-orange-pink, slightly to moderately indurated. Clasts typically angular and composed predominantly of volcanic and metamorphic rocks. Locally contain buried soils with thick petrocalcic horizons. Strongly eroded, forming ridges with rounded crests.

- Tri Rhodacite of Elephant Mountain (Miocene)—Pale-red to gray porphyritic rhodacite, containing small phenocrysts of plagioclase, feldspar, and hornblende in a glauy to microcrystalline groundmass. Forms extensive and narrow intrusive bodies (dikes and plugs) at Elephant Mountain; also includes an outlying small body near the west entrance to Yermo Annex.
- Trib Rhodacite breccia and sandstone (Miocene)—Structureless to well-bedded breccia and pebbly sandstone containing clasts of porphyritic rhodacite identical to rhodacite of Elephant Mountain. Includes structureless autobreccia along margins of plugs and dikes. Well-bedded fluvial deposits apparently consist of reworked proclastic materials.
- Sedimentary and volcanic rocks (Miocene)—Diverse assemblage of fluvial and lacustrine sedimentary rocks intertongued with extrusive volcanic rocks. Correlated with Pechardite Formation of neighboring areas. Divided into:
  - Tbaa Basalt—Fine-grained vesicular olivine basalt; dark gray to brownish-gray; vesicles partly filled with zeolite minerals and calcite. May include shallow-intrusive bodies as well as flows.
  - Tbc Conglomerate and sandstone—Reddish-brown to pinkish-gray conglomerate, breccia, and sandstone and minor siltstone and claystone. Consists mostly of fluvial and debris-flow deposits, locally interbedded with laminal and avalanche breccia. The deposits are mainly composed of granitic detritus, mixed with lesser amounts of metamorphic debris.
  - Tbd Limestone—Thin-bedded to thick-bedded cherty micritic limestone, locally grading into calcareous sandstone and silty sandstone. Fresh surfaces are yellowish gray or grayish-orange. Resistant, forming prominent ridges.
  - Tbe Sandstone and limestone—Yellowish-gray, fine- to coarse-grained sandstone, interbedded with micritic limestone.
  - Tbf Tuff—White to yellowish-gray ash tuff, locally interbedded with tuff breccia and silty sandstone. Biotite dikes commonly present in minor amounts. Includes air-fall tuff and reworked stream-deposited tuff.
  - Tbg Red felsite—Reddish-purple aphanitic siliceous rock; typically flow-laminated and autocreted. Contains sparse small phenocrysts of plagioclase and biotite. Locally intertongued with ash tuff.
  - Tbh Tuff breccia and felsite flows—Light gray to pale-purple tuff breccia and autocreted felsite flows, interbedded with minor amounts of ash tuff and debris-flow breccia.
  - Tbi Red sandstone (Miocene or Oligocene)—Variegated reddish-brown and pale-greenish gray volcanic sandstone; medium- to coarse-grained; locally present in minor amounts. Correlated with Jackhammer Formation of neighboring areas.
  - Tbj Metavolcanic rocks (Mesozoic)—Extrusive rocks, including abundant siliceous tuff, intertongued with sparse flows or sills of andesite or basalt. Indurated siltstone, sandstone, and conglomerate locally present in minor amounts. Judging from the characteristic tectonic cleavage that generally is nearly parallel to steeply dipping foliation layering. Some rocks are sericitized; many others may contain metamorphic epidote and chlorite. Judging from the greenish color, sparse veins of white quartz as much as 5 cm thick are present. Unit locally cut by abundant faults and fractures and contains numerous irregular zones of argillite and limonitic alteration.

STRUCTURAL SYMBOLS



INTRODUCTION

The Yermo Annex of the Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) lies between Interstate Highways 15 and 40 about 15 km east of Barstow, California (see index map). This map presents the results of a new geologic survey of the annex and surrounding areas, and is intended to serve as a geologic map for geotechnical and hydrologic operations at the MCLB. The study was funded jointly by the National Geologic Mapping Program of the U.S. Geological Survey and by the Department of the Navy, represented by the Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

Data for the map were obtained from aerial photography and field observations. Three sets of aerial photographs were correlated with the Daggett 15-minute quadrangle (Dibblee, 1970) and of the Nabo and Yermo 7.5-minute quadrangles (McCallum, 1965). Hills west of the Yermo Annex (Elephant Mountain and Mitchell Range) were mapped by Lambert (1987). Alluvial deposits similar to those that underlie the Yermo Annex have been dated by paleontologic and isotopic studies in neighboring areas (summarized in Reynolds and Reynolds, 1985, 1991). The present map of the Yermo Annex is an extension of a 1992 geologic map of the area around MCLB (Nabo Annex, Cox and Wilshire, 1993). The area covered by the two maps overlaps for about 2 km in the vicinity of Elephant Mountain. Substantial revisions within the area of overlap have been incorporated into the present map.

PREVIOUS STUDIES

There have been no previous detailed geologic surveys of the Yermo Annex. The general geologic setting of the area is shown by maps of the Daggett 15-minute quadrangle (Dibblee, 1970) and of the Nabo and Yermo 7.5-minute quadrangles (McCallum, 1965). Hills west of the Yermo Annex (Elephant Mountain and Mitchell Range) were mapped by Lambert (1987). Alluvial deposits similar to those that underlie the Yermo Annex have been dated by paleontologic and isotopic studies in neighboring areas (summarized in Reynolds and Reynolds, 1985, 1991). The present map of the Yermo Annex is an extension of a 1992 geologic map of the area around MCLB (Nabo Annex, Cox and Wilshire, 1993). The area covered by the two maps overlaps for about 2 km in the vicinity of Elephant Mountain. Substantial revisions within the area of overlap have been incorporated into the present map.

GENERAL SETTING

The Yermo Annex lies at the west end of Mojave Valley, a large intermontane plain in the central Mojave Desert (see index map). This geologic map covers the valley floor around the annex and extends into neighboring uplands north and west of the valley. Mojave Valley is filled with Quaternary-age alluvium deposited by the Mojave River, a regionally intermittent stream with detrital mountain headwaters south of the Mojave Desert. The river deposits are important because they contain the main ground-water resources in the region. Minor alluvium also crops out discontinuously south of the Mojave River. The north edge of the valley is bordered to the south by piedmont alluvial fans of the Newberry Mountains, and to the west by alluvial fans and volcanic buttes of the Mitchell Range.

RIVER AND PLAYA DEPOSITS OF MOJAVE VALLEY

The landforms and sedimentary deposits of Mojave Valley reflect the dynamic alluvial history of the Mojave River. During Pleistocene and early Holocene time, the river filled the west end of the valley with a large fan-shaped lobe of sand, silt, and pebble gravel that is represented by our map unit Qm1. This unit forms a broad, north- and northeast-sloping surface that underlies the buildings and storage lots of the Yermo Annex. The same alluvial unit also crops out discontinuously south of the Mojave River. The north edge of the lobe blocked a tributary alluvial-fan drainage between the Mitchell Range and the Calico Mountains, causing a playa to form at the north edge of the map area. Alluvium in the uppermost several meters of the lobe is about 2,500-2,000 years old, as determined by four radiocarbon ages measured on detrital charcoal (Reynolds and Reynolds, 1985, 1991; sites 176-19, 176-23, 176-24, and 176-33). Data from water wells indicate that the river deposits are as much as 110-140 m thick in western Mojave Valley near the Yermo Annex (Peter Martin, written communication, 1994). The deep alluvium penetrated by the wells is undisturbed, but it may include deposits as old as middle Pleistocene.

ALLUVIAL-FAN DEPOSITS

Alluvial fans flank the Mitchell Range and Newberry Mountains at the west and south sides of the map area. The fans consist of remobilized alluvium of sand, silt, and gravel deposited by ephemeral streams and debris flows. Some elevated, deeply eroded alluvial-fan deposits may be as old as Pliocene or even late Miocene units (Q7a1 and Q7a2). However, the more widespread, relatively undisturbed, younger alluvial-fan deposits (units Q6a1 and Q6a2) are late Pleistocene and Holocene in age, broadly corral with the valley fill and terrace deposits of the Mojave River. The toes of the fans have generally retreated into the valley since the Mojave River incised its channel. This is most evident along the south side of the valley, where the fans have expanded northward less than several hundred meters, partly burying low hills and ridges composed of old river deposits (unit Qm1).

CONTRASTS BETWEEN FAN AND RIVER DEPOSITS

Previous geologic maps of western Mojave Valley (McCallum, 1965; Dibblee, 1970; Bortugno and Spittler, 1986) do not consistently distinguish between deposits of the Mojave River and those of alluvial fans, probably because alluvial fans, probably being of similar mixtures of sand, silt, and gravel. We have distinguished the river and fan deposits on this map only because they have different origins, but also because they have distinct physical characteristics that may affect their engineering properties and their potential value as sources of ground water and construction materials. This differentiation is readily made in the field on the basis of sediment color, texture, and composition.

The alluvial-fan deposits are composed of poorly sorted mixtures of angular rock detritus derived from nearby mountains, including abundant fragments of volcanic and metamorphic rocks. By contrast, the river deposits are moderately to well sorted and contain abundant relatively light-colored sandstone and conglomerate, and sparse flows or sills of andesitic or basaltic rocks. These rocks have been correlated with similar metamorphic rocks of Late Triassic to Early Jurassic age that are found in neighboring mountains south of the Yermo Annex (Cox and Wilshire, 1993).

ROCKS WEST OF THE YERMO ANNEX

Beyond the narrow fringe of alluvial-fan deposits, the Mitchell Range directly west of the Yermo Annex consists of Mesozoic-age structural rocks overlain by a Tertiary-age sequence of continental sedimentary and volcanic rocks. These rocks were described in detail in a previous report (Cox and Wilshire, 1993). The metamorphic rocks (map unit Mv) crop out extensively west of Elephant Mountain. They consist of siliceous lavas and pyroclastic rocks, with well-interbedded sandstone and conglomerate, and sparse flows or sills of andesitic or basaltic rocks. These rocks have been correlated with similar metamorphic rocks of Late Triassic to Early Jurassic age that are found in neighboring mountains south of the Yermo Annex (Cox and Wilshire, 1993).

FAULTS

Tertiary sedimentary and volcanic rocks crop out on the flanks and crest of Elephant Mountain. They include a thin basal unit of reddish sandstone (unit Tr) correlated with the Jackhammer Formation of Oligocene or early Miocene age. This unit is overlain by a thick succession of tuff and tuff breccia, felsite flows, lacustrine limestone, sandstone, conglomerate, and basalt, all correlated with the early Miocene-age Pechardite Formation (Cox and Wilshire, 1993). The Pechardite-equivalent strata are unconformably overlain by rhodacite (unit Tri) that form the scenic buttes of Elephant Mountain. The rhodacite intrusions and sandstone are inferred to be early or middle Miocene in age (Cox and Wilshire, 1993). They include a small outlier of intrusive rhodacite that is surrounded by Quaternary alluvium near the west entrance to the Yermo Annex (S-12 sec. 9, T29N, R1E).

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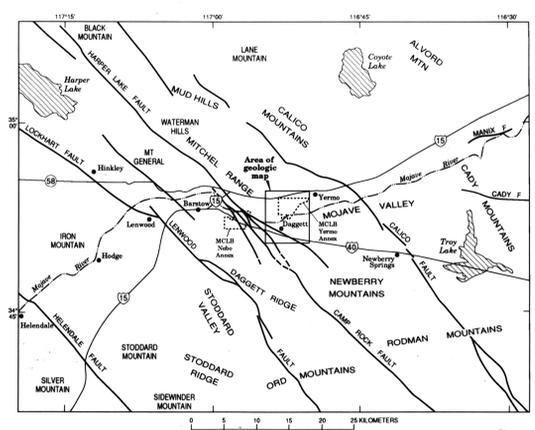
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INDEX MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF STUDY AREA

GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE YERMO ANNEX AND VICINITY, MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE, BARSTOW, CALIFORNIA

By  
Brett F. Cox and Howard G. Wilshire  
1994

This report is preliminary and has not been reviewed for conformity with U.S. Geological Survey editorial standards and with the North American Datum of 1983. Any use of trade, product, or firm names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.