



Welcome Aboard VMU-3 Phantoms

Acknowledgement

Materials have been drawn from a variety of sources in creating this guide, including Sister Services, Marine units, and website resources. Regardless of source, all the material was selected to help military members and their families prepare for what is sometimes the most challenging part of a military career

A PCS Move is a unique time for everyone. While it may be a source of emotional strain for all family members, it can also be a time to work together to strengthen or rebuild relationships.

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE SQUADRON- 3
MARINE AIR CONTROL GROUP-38, 3D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING
MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING COMMAND BOX 788283
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA 92278-8283

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1000
CO

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3
To: All newly assigned personnel

Subj: WELCOME ABOARD TO MARINE UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE SQUADRON 3,
MARINE AIR CONTROL GROUP-38, 3RD MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, TWENTY-
NINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA

1. It's with great pleasure that I welcome you to the beautiful "Golden State of California," and the family of Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3 (VMU-3). VMU-3 is one of the newest units in the Marine Corps. Your presence adds to the growth of the squadron as we progress to full operational capabilities over the next year. We will focus our efforts on being able to support combat operations around the globe.

2. As the Commanding Officer of VMU-3, I want to ensure your transition is a smooth, positive experience. My focus is on you and your family's well-being in the important quality of life areas of housing, education, training, recognition and community partnerships.

3. I look forward to greet you and your family upon your arrival. I encourage you to contact your sponsor or our unit at (760) 830-9347 with any concerns you may have prior to your arrival.

4. Again, welcome to your new home, I hope you will take full advantage to discover the wonderful and exciting opportunities found in California.

T. G. BURTON



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM
MARINE UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE SQUADRON- 3
MARINE AIR CONTROL GROUP-38 , 3D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING
MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING COMMAND BOX 788283
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA 92278-8283



Welcome Aboard Message from the VMU-3 Family Readiness Officer

On behalf of the Commanding Officer, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Phantom Phamily. My name is Gisela Lemon, and I am the VMU-3 Family Readiness Officer. I am here to assist you and your family in all areas of morale and readiness while in CONUS and deployed.

The Marine Corps has defined family as any entity the Marine is born into, sworn into, or married into. Our Commandant's message is that a Marine makes an enduring commitment to the Corps and the Corps, in turn, makes an enduring commitment to every Marine-and to his/her family.

This VMU-3 Welcome Aboard Package contains information on the Twentynine Palms area, as well as various important phone numbers. In the addition, please complete the Unit, Personal, and Family Readiness Program Contact Authorization form or [NAVMC 11654](#). This form must be completed within 10 business days of checking into the Command. This information is requested to assist the Commanding Officer in his quest to support for Marines, Sailors, and their families by providing them information, referrals and official command communication in compliance with Marine Corps Order 1754.9.. Please be assured that all personal information will be kept in the strictest compliance with all policies regarding Personally Identifiable Information and the Privacy Act of 1974.

Please take the time to examine the Welcome Aboard Package that has been assembled for you. In it you will find details regarding the Family Readiness program, as well as valuable information about the local community that can support you in your transition. You will be surprised at what you can find in the desert if you take the time to look!

If there is anything further I can help you with, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting you during your check in process.

Warmly,

Gisela Lemon

Gisela Lemon
Family Readiness Officer
VMU-3 Phantoms

MAGTFTC MCAGCC
Twentynine Palms, CA
gisela.lemon@usmc.mil
760-830-9363
760-957-6623

Planning Your Move

When you receive Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders, you're bound to have mixed feelings. You're likely to be excited about the upcoming change and the chance to meet new people and see new places. But you're also likely to feel stressed about the logistics of the move and about helping family members -- especially children and teenagers -- with the transition. Fortunately, there are steps you can take and resources available to help you make plans, stay organized, help your children -- and keep a step ahead while you move.

Best Practices

Gaining a sense of control over your move can help ease the stress. Whether this is your first move or your fifteenth, it's a good idea to:

Create a "command center" for your move. This is a central location for the details -- including "to-do" lists -- that relate to your move. This is also the place to keep all of your important documents (orders, medical records, Powers of Attorney, wills, birth certificates, passports, last statements for accounts if they aren't electronic). A large accordion-pleated binder works well for this. Even if you're keeping lists and other documents on your computer, be sure to make hard copies for your command center.

Prioritize. Rather than trying to do it all at once, make an "A" list, a "B" list, and a "C" list, depending on what needs to be done first. This can help you focus on the "deal-breakers" -- what's most important to get done.

Once you have orders in hand, contact your installation's Transportation Office to find out what is needed to set up the move. If the service member is deployed, the spouse will need a Power of Attorney to take care of the details. Be sure to access the "It's Your Move" pamphlet and other helpful official information about moving at www.defenselink.mil/specials/itsyourmove.

Visit your current installation's relocation office for information to help you with the move.

Contact the Automated Housing Referral Network at www.ahrn.com. This site, sponsored by the Department of Defense (DoD), is designed to accelerate the process of securing housing for relocating service members and their families. You can find out about the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) at the DoD site at <https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem>.

Connect with friends who have lived on your new installation or are living there now. They'll be able to answer many of your questions from a first-hand perspective. Ask friends at your current installation for names of people they know at your new location.

Find out about the new community. Check with your current installation's relocation office to find out if your new installation can send you a "welcome aboard" package. If you aren't near an installation now, contact your new Family Readiness Officer. You can also:

Find out about motor-vehicle related requirements in your new state at Get It Together, a service provided at licenseinfo.org/find-flash.asp.

Access the Web site for the Chamber of Commerce that serves your new town or area.

See if your new town has a Web site by using the town and state as search terms.

Go to the Citysearch site at www.citysearch.com for more information about your new community, including locations of the nearest ballparks and recreation areas.

Resources

Check out these helpful links!

MilitaryHOMEFRONT

www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil

This site includes two helpful tools for planning a move. Search Military Installations for information about programs and services for over 250 military installations and communities. Create a customized plan and calendar using Plan My Move. This tool also includes checklists, contact lists, and other resources to help with a smooth transition.

MilitaryOneSource.com

www.militaryonesource.com

This free 24-hour service, provided by the Department of Defense, is available to all active duty, Guard, and Reserve members and their families. Consultants provide information and make referrals on a wide range of issues, including relocation. You can reach the program by telephone at 1-800-342-9647 or through the Web site.

Military Youth on the Move

<http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/myom>

Military Youth on the Move is an easy-to-use DoD Web site that reaches out to kids and teens with creative ways to cope with moving. Military Youth on the Move gives kids a safe place to go for information and advice on issues such as adjusting to a new school, saying goodbye to friends, and getting involved in a new community.

Helping your children and teenagers

No matter what age your children are, there are steps you can take to help them with the transition. Keep in mind that from the very beginning -- when you first get PCS orders -- it's important to:

- *Acknowledge your children's feelings.* Make sure they know that it's OK to feel anxious about the move. Even though you'll be busy, it's important to make time to sit and talk about what the move will mean for everyone.
- *Be a role model with a positive attitude.* Try to convey to your child that, even though moving can be hard, it's also an adventure. Although it's important to acknowledge the stresses of moving, it's also important to focus on the good things about relocating: expanding your community of friends and learning about new places.



Helping younger children

- *Give your child pictures of the new installation and surrounding area.* Young children benefit from having a concrete idea of where they will be. Try to find photographs of your new community -- the installation, library, school, and recreation areas -- print them out, and give your child a folder to keep them in.
- *Try to keep routines intact.* Even though you'll be extremely busy organizing the details of the move, it's important to keep in mind that children are comforted by the routines of daily life. By continuing to have your usual Friday-night popcorn, bedtime reading, Saturday walk to the library -- or whatever rituals you enjoy together -- you will reassure your child that many of the important things in life stay the same, even when you're getting ready to move.
- *Help a younger child make an address book with pictures, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses.* An older child or teenager will appreciate an address book, too. Knowing that they will be able to stay in touch with old friends easily can help make the move feel less stressful.
- *Visit online resources with your child* that are specifically written for military children. MilitaryStudent.org at www.militarystudent.dod.mil offers a "Kid's Guide to Moving" for 6- to 12-year-olds.

Helping teenagers

Relocating can be especially stressful for teenagers, whose emotional states are often in some sort of turmoil even without the knowledge of a coming move. It's important to make sure your teenager is included in the decisions she can be included in from the start. It's also important to make sure your teenager understands the details of the move. "Helping Your Teenager Cope with Relocation," available on the Military OneSource Web site, offers strategies for parents relocating with teenagers.

- *Encourage your teenager to attend relocation briefings.* Some installations may have relocation workshops for children and teens. Check your installation's relocation office or family support center to see what's available.
- *Tell your teenager about the move as soon as possible.* You may be tempted to delay breaking the news, but it's best to tell your teenager right away. Knowing about the move well ahead will give your teenager time to prepare emotionally and to start planning.
- *Suggest that your teenager visit online resources for teenagers in military families,* including Military Teens on the Move, a Department of Defense site at www.defenselink.mil/mtom, and Military Student.org, at www.militarystudent.dod.mil (click on "teens").

If your child has special needs

If your child has special needs, you will have some extra steps to take as you get ready to move. Be sure to:

- *Contact the coordinator or advisor for your service branch.* This is your Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) coordinator (for the Navy and Marine Corps), your Special Needs Advisor (Army), or for the Air Force, the Special Needs Coordinator (SNC) and Family Member Relocation Clearance Coordinator (FMRCC).
- *Connect to the Department of Defense's MilitaryHOMEFRONT Special Needs/EFMP module.* Go to www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil and click on "Troops & Families," then on "Special Needs/EFMP."
- *Talk with a Military OneSource consultant at 1-800-342-9647* about special-needs concerns. The program can help you with a wide range of issues, including finding respite care and advocates within the school system at your new location, state contact information. It can also help you find medical professionals, and give you contact information for national networks and coalitions that provide support and information for families with special-needs children.

Twentynine Palms

Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center

School Liaison



While military children don't go to war, their experiences can be traumatic. From moving across the country, to making new friends, to dealing with a parent's deployment, these ordeals can add stress to their young lives. We are here to lessen that burden on parents and children alike.

The School Liaison Program is here to serve as a communication link between the local school district and the installation. We will also strive to provide the most current and relevant information to assist you in your transition to Twentynine Palms and throughout your stay aboard MCAGCC.

New To Twentynine Palms?

If you are new to California, some requirements may be different than your previous state. The following websites will provide an extensive amount of information.

California Required Immunizations:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Pages/default.aspx>

Course Standards:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Pages/default.aspx>

High School Graduation Requirements:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gS/hs/hsgrgen.asp>

California High School Exit Exam:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/>

To learn more about the schools in your area and their track record, visit these websites:

Blue Ribbon Schools:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/br/>

Performance Statistics:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/>

Contacting the School Liaison Office

G-5 Community Plans and Liaison Office

Phone: 760-830-1574

Website

<http://www.marines.mil/unit/29palms/G5/SL/Pages/default.aspx>

Local Elementary, Junior High and High Schools

Twentynine Palms

29 Palms Elementary 74350 Playa Vista Twentynine Palms, CA.
Condor Elementary 2551 Condor Road, Twentynine Palms, CA.
Oasis Elementary 73175 El Paseo Drive, Twentynine Palms, CA.
Palm Vista Elementary 74350 Baseline Road Twentynine Palms, CA.
29 Palms Junior High 5798 Utah Trail, Twentynine Palms, CA.
Monument High School 72770 Hatch Road, Twentynine Palms, CA.
Twentynine Palms High School 72750 Wildcat Way Twentynine Palms, CA.

Joshua Tree

Friendly Hills Elementary 7252 Sunny Vista Rd , Joshua Tree, Ca.
Joshua Tree Elementary 6051 Sunburst Dr. Joshua Tree Ca

Landers

Landers Elementary 56450 Reche Rd., Landers, Ca.

Yucca Valley

Joshua Springs Christian School (Elementary/Junior High/High School)
57373 Joshua Lane Yucca Valley, Ca.
Onaga Elementary 58001 Onaga Trail Yucca Valley CA
Yucca Mesa Elementary 3380 Avalon Ave. Yucca Valley, CA.
Yucca Valley Elementary 7601 Hopi Trl., Yucca Valley, Ca.
La Contenta Middle School 7050 La Contenta Road Yucca Valley, CA.
Sky Continuation High School 59273 Sunnyslope Dr. Twentynine Palms Ca
Yucca Valley High School 7600 Sage Avenue, Yucca Valley, Ca.

Morongo Valley

Morongo Valley Elementary 10951 Hess Blvd. Morongo Valley Ca

KIDS ACTIVITIES & SERVICES
ABOARD MCAGCC, 29 PALMS



Baby playtime 6mos-2 yrs
 YMCA (bldg 696) 830-7481

Bowling All ages
 Sandy Hills Lanes (bldg 1584) 830-6422

Boy Scouts #78 (base den) Grades 6-12
 Clint 660-3091; Wendy 830-6255 / 367 -3106

Cub Scouts # 78 (base den) Grades 1-5
 Karen W 368-3164; Wendy 830-6255 /367-3106

Fitness & Fun Ages 1-5
 YMCA (bldg 696) 830-7481

Girl Scouts (local contact)
 Kevin & Teresa 361-9426
 Brownies Grades 1-3
 Junior Girl Scouts Grades 3-6
 Cadet Girl Scouts Grades 7-9
 Susan Wade – Girl Scouts of San Gorgonio 367-4695

Kinder Time Ages 3-4 830-7481

Kinder Ready Ages 4-5 830-7481

Lap Time Ages 0- 2
 Library (bldg 1528) 830-6875
 Wednesdays from 10: 30-11:00 am

Library Programs & Services All ages
 Library (bldg 1528) 830-6875
Summer Reading Program form 6/22 – 7/27
(for those in grades 1-6 in school for 2007-8)
Pre-register 29 May -9 June.
The library offers monthly programs of all kinds.
Call for program specifics.

Movies All ages
 Sunset Cinema (bldg 1510) 830-7269

Pools 830-6212
 Family Pool bldg 697
 Officer's Pool bldg 1573
 Training Tank bldg 1508

Story Hour Ages 3-5
Summer Reading Program + Kindergarten
 Library (bldg 1528) 830-6875
 Tuesdays from 10:30 -11:30 am

Tiny Tots Ages 2-3
 YMCA (bldg 696) 830-7481

Toys for Tots TBA

YMCA Programs (bldg 696) 830-7481
 Baby Playtime (6 mos -2yrs)
 Fitness & Fun (formerly Mommy& Me) (1-5 yrs)
 Kinder Time (3-4 yrs)
 Kinder Ready (4-5 yrs)
 Tiny Tots (2-3 yrs)

Youth Activity Center (bldg 692) 830-3227 ext 269

Youth Sports
 Community Center (bldg 1004) 830-3910 / 3380

Youth Sports has sports activities throughout the year. Contact them for current information.

This information is provided for you by
 Information & Referral
 at the Village Center, 830-6344



This information is subject to change. To verify or update program information please call the Appropriate activity.

Updated 27 January 2009



Taking care of yourself

In order to navigate the adventure (and the boxes) ahead, you need to take all the steps you can to take care of yourself. Be sure to:

Ask for help. There are many resources available to help you, including other families on your installation. People will be happy to give you a hand by watching your children as you pack or even helping with some of the nitty-gritty details. Every military family knows the challenges of making a move and the importance of support from friends.

Make a point of spending time with friends and co-workers before you leave. Although you may feel as though you can't squeeze one more thing into your schedule, it's important to connect in person before you go.

Make time every day for some exercise. This can simply be a twenty-minute walk. Exercise, even for this amount of time, can be a great mind-clearer and stress-reducer.

Be sure to drink lots of water. It can be easy to become dehydrated when you're preoccupied with the details of a move. Try to keep water bottles at several locations in your home as you plan and pack.

Eat well. You may be so busy that you forget to eat meals -- which can lead to tiredness and lack of energy. Think about making a supply of sandwiches a day ahead and keeping them in the fridge along with some chopped up fruit and vegetables. Energy bars can come in handy, too -- you can keep one in your pocket or bag for emergencies.

Watch your back! You and other family members are likely to be lifting boxes on both ends of your move. It's important to understand the basics about keeping your back healthy in spite of lifting. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons public information site at orthoinfo.aaos.org provides detailed information about safe lifting. Click on "spine" in "By Body Part," then click on "how to prevent back pain," then on "preventing back pain at work and home."



Are You a Service Member in Transition? *Are you concerned about your mental health treatment?*

Have you have received new orders? Are you looking at an upcoming change in status, relocation or return to civilian life? If so, and if you are currently receiving mental health care, transferring to a new provider can be easy.

inTransition is a voluntary program to support you as you move between health care systems or providers.

***inTransition* Coaching & Support Program**

When you contact *inTransition*, you will be assigned your own coach who will:

- Coach you one-on-one as you go through your transition
- Connect you with your new provider
- Empower you with tools to continue making healthy life choices

All *inTransition* coaches are skilled counselors. They understand today's military culture and issues. They understand

and respect the importance of your privacy. They are with you every step of the way.

Ask Your Provider or Call Today

Ask your provider for more details or to get you started with the *inTransition* coaching and assistance program.

Or simply call the toll free numbers:

1-800-424-7877 Inside the United States;

1-800-424-4685 Outside the United States toll-free;

1-314-387-4700 Outside the United States collect.

www.health.mil/inTransition



Twentynine Palms

Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center

Connections

When you arrive in Twentynine Palms, be sure to stop by the Village Center, Bldg 1551, to visit the Relocation Assistance Office . We can give you maps and brochures about the local area and attractions. If you are still awaiting the arrival of your household goods, we can also provide you with a Loan Locker. The Loan Locker consists of basic household items such as pots and pans, plates and utensils, and even a coffee maker! You will be able to utilize the Loan Locker for 30 days or until you're household goods reach the high desert. You will also want to sign up for the next Welcome Aboard Brief. The Welcome Aboard Brief will let you know everything there is to do on and off base while you're stationed at MCAGCC.

INFORMATION ABOUT MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER AND THE COMMUNITY OF 29 PALMS:

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center is the largest Marine Corps base in the world: covering over 900 square miles it is larger than some countries. The premier training facility sits nestled in the quiet desert paradise of Twentynine Palms, and together, makes up one of the most unique living environments in the western United States. From rock climbing to perusing the local art galleries, Twentynine Palms has something for everyone.

BASE INFORMATION:

<http://www.marines.mil/unit/29palms/> - MCAGCC home page
http://www.militarynewcomers.com/29PALMS/resources/06_local.html - Newcomer's Guide
<http://www.marines.mil/unit/29palms/g5/> - *Observation Post* online base newspaper
<http://www.mccs29palms.com/> - 29 Palms Marine Corps Community Services
<http://www.nhttp.med.navy.mil/> - Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital
<http://www.commissaries.com/> - Commissary information
<http://www.lincolnmilitary.com/29palms/> - Lincoln Military Housing

COMMUNITY INFORMATION:

<http://www.ci.twentynine-palms.ca.us/Home.2.0.html> - City of 29 Palms
<http://www.virtual29.com/> - Community Information
<http://visit29.org/> - 29 Palms Tourism
<http://www.oasisofmurals.com/> - The murals of 29 Palms
<http://www.desertfun.com/> - Local Radio Stations
<http://www.deserttrail.com/> - Community newspaper

SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES:

<http://www.ca.gov/> - California state website
<http://www.visitcalifornia.com/> - California tourism
<http://www.joshuatreevillage.com/> - Joshua Tree Village
<http://www.joshuatreetraveler.com/> - Joshua Tree Traveler
<http://www.nps.gov/jotr/> - Joshua Tree National Park
<http://www.yucca-valley.org/> - Yucca Valley
<http://www.bigbearinfo.com/> - Big Bear Lake
<http://www.desert-hot-springs.us/> - Desert Hot Springs
<http://www.ci.palm-springs.ca.us/> - City of Palm Springs
<http://www.palm-springs.org/> - Palm Springs tourism

Twentynine Palms MCAGCC Cont.

HOUSING:

The Family Housing Office works with Lincoln Military Housing to get you situated in base housing aboard MCAGCC. You can find the DD 1746, Application for Assignment to Housing, by clicking on the link to the Family Housing Office website. When the site opens, click on the *Moving to MCAGCC* link to find the DD 1746. Family Housing can be reached by phone at 760-830-6611. Lincoln Military Housing is available at 760-368-4500.

<http://www.marines.mil/unit/29palms/g4/> - Family Housing Office

<http://www.lincolnmilitary.com/29palms/> - Lincoln Military Housing

HOME RENTALS/SALES:

Contact the Housing Office and speak to the Housing Referral Specialist regarding available apartments/houses for rent or sale in the Twentynine Palms area. The Housing Referral Specialist can customize a search according to your family size, BAH, and any other special needs you may have. Call 760-830-1706 for more information.

Looking for off-base housing? Try the **new** Automated Housing Referral Network <http://www.ahrn.com>.

http://www.ci.twentynine-palms.ca.us/Twentynine_Palms_Realtors.110.0.html - Realtors in 29 Palms

http://www.homegain.com/local_real_estate/CA/twentynine_palms.html - 29 Palms real estate information

<http://www.militarybyowner.com/>

<http://www.pcsamerica.net/>

<http://www.apartmentfinder.com/>

<http://www.realtor.com/>

TEMPORARY LODGING:

If housing isn't immediately available to you, you can stay at The Sleepy Tortoise Lodge aboard MCAGCC. Call 760-830-6583 for more information and reservations. If temporary lodging isn't available, you can call the Family Housing Office at 760-830-6611 for a list of hotels in the local area.

<http://www.mccs29palms.com/pages/foodHospitality/lodging.html> - Sleepy Tortoise Lodge

<http://www.stay29.com> - Innkeepers Association of Twentynine Palms

EMPLOYMENT:

Finding a job in the high desert can be a little tricky. The Family Member Employment Assistance Program can make the job hunt easier for family members of active duty personnel. Call 760-830-7225 for more information.

<http://www.mccs29palms.com/pages/mFamServices/croLibrary.html#cro> - Career Resources Office

<http://www.mccs29palms.com/pages/mccsEmployees/naf.html> - MCCS 29 Palms job openings

<https://chart.donhr.navy.mil/> - Department of the Navy Civilian Human Resources

<http://www.usajobs.com/> - All DoD job openings

<http://www.edd.ca.gov/eddgen.htm> - California Employment Development Department

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT OFFICE:

TMO can assist you with personal property, travel claims and other information regarding the shipment and receipt of your household goods.

<http://www.marines.mil/unit/29palms/g4/tmo>

IMPORTANT PET INFORMATION:

Base Veterinarian

The base veterinary clinic offers both sick call and vaccination appointments for military pets. Call 760-830-6896 for more information.

<http://www.mccs29palms.com/pages/retailServices/services.html#animal>

Importing Pets to the United States

When you are PCS-ing from an overseas military installation to Twentynine Palms, your pet will need to meet certain importation requirements when entering the United States. The following websites will outline specific importation regulations and requirements for the United States and the state of California.

<http://www.cdc.gov/animalimportation/index.html> - Center for Disease Control

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/ - State pet importation regulations

<http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/permits.htm> - California Animal Health Branch

<http://www.virtual29.com/a-z/dog&catK.html> - Pet Kennels

Twentynine Palms MCAGCC Cont.

Chamber of Commerce

Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce
760-366-3723 www.joshuatreechamber.org

Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce
760-367-3442 www.29chamber.org

Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce
760-365-6323 www.yuccavalley.org

Government Offices

Twentynine Palms
760-367-6799 www.ci.twentynine-palms.ca.us

Yucca Valley
760-369-7207 www.yucca-valley.org

Libraries

Joshua Tree 760-366-8615 www.joshuatreefol.org

29 Palms 760-367-9519 www.sbcounty.gov/library/home/

Yucca Valley 760-228-5455 www.yuccavalleyfol.org

Licensing Services

Driver's License 800-777-0133

Marriage License 760-366-5770

Pet Registration—Twentynine Palms 760-367-0157

Pet Registration—Yucca Valley 760-369-7207

Post Office
800-275-8777
760-830-6640 (off base)

Transportation Airports

Palm Springs International Airport 760-318-3800
www.ci.palm-springs.ca.us

Los Angeles International Airport 310-646-5252
www.lawa.org/lax

Ontario International Airport 909-937-2811
www.lawa.org/welcomeONT.aspx

Ground Transportation

Morongo Basin Transit Authority MBTA 760-367-7433
www.mbtabus.com

Amtrak 800-872-7245 www.amtrak.com

Utilities

Electricity

Southern California Edison Company 800-872-4555

Gas

Southern California Gas Company 800-427-2200

If your house has a propane tank, call the company listed on the tank.

Telephone

Verizon 800-483-1000

Cable Companies

Time Warner Cable 760-365-0200

Direct TV 760-228-0561

Waste

Burrtec 760-367-9168

Water

Hi-Desert Water District 760-365-8333

Joshua Basin Water District 760-363-6615

Twentynine Palms Water District 760-367-7546



Transportation to USMC Base - Twentynine Palms

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) is about fifty-five miles northeast of Palm Springs. The drive takes about 1.5 hours traveling through the towns of Morongo Valley, Yucca Valley and the town of Twentynine Palms. The entrance to the base is five miles from the town. There are a number of options for transportation to the base. Consider these options – ask a Volunteer.

Here are some options:

- **TAXI:** A taxi will cost from \$130 - \$150 for the fifty five mile, 1.5 hour ride. Be sure to negotiate the fare before you leave the airport. Contact the 'taxi dispatcher' at the taxi stand near the airport main entrance. Some drivers are more willing to negotiate than others as it is a three hour round-trip for the driver. If traveling on orders you should be reimbursed later. Always get a receipt. Do not use scab / unauthorized taxis - they can be a ripoff and cost more!
- **Share a taxi?** Ask around the USO if anyone else wants to share a taxi fare to the Base!
- **MBTA Bus Service** (public transportation): Route #15 direct bus service from airport to MCB. Departure: Fri 7 p.m.; Sat 12 noon, 6 p.m.; Sun. 6 p.m. Fare: Fr.Sa.Sun. \$20, \$25 round trip. Mon-Fri with connection in Yucca Valley, departs: 7:50 a.m., 10:10 a.m., 4:50 p.m. Fare \$10.
- No holiday bus service, correct change only. Ask Volunteer for location of bus pickup stop.
- **RENTAL CARS:** Enterprise Car Rental has a special one-way rate of \$70 including all taxes and fees dropping car off on base. Fill gas tank before return. Some age restrictions and other qualifications have been relaxed. Driver must have a valid driver's license and credit card, not a friends credit card. Check with the Volunteer or Enterprise Rental counter near the USO. Other car rental companies do not have one-way rentals and cars must be returned to the PSP.
- **S.O.S. - FREE RIDES:** A volunteer organization (not affiliated with the USO), Soldiers Organized Services, ('S.O.S.') provides free transportation from the airport to 29 Palms using volunteer drivers. For information telephone S.O.S. 760-799-5488, ask for Erica. If you receive a recording, leave a message and she will return your call. It may take an hour or two for her to locate a driver and be available to pick up at the airport. Consider all options.
- **MORE FREE RIDES:** Civilians or military personnel driving to Twentynine Palms frequently call or stop by the USO to see if anyone needs a ride. Ask the Volunteer on duty.
- **BASE VAN PICK-UP:** If attending communications school, TDY or PCS, in some cases the receiving organization will send a driver and van to pick personnel to take to 29 Palms. Large groups arriving may have a prearranged van or bus to provide service. Check with the volunteer on duty for phone contact with new organization. This service is generally not available when returning from leave. If there is a van or bus at the airport picking up other authorized military, sometimes space is available. Check with Volunteer on duty or van driver.



Hotels in the MCAGCC area

On Base:

Sleepy Tortoise Lodge/TLF
Twilight Dunes RV Park
Bldg 690
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278
760-830-6583

Off Base:

Best Western Garden Inn and Suites
71487 29 Palms Highway,
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
760-367-9141

Motel 6
72562 29 Palms Highway,
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
760-367-2833

Circle C Lodge
6340 El Rey Avenue,
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
760-367-7615

Country Inn
71829 Twentynine Palms Hwy,
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
760-367-0070

Harmony Motel
71161 Twentynine Palms Highway,
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
760-367-3351

Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites
71809 29 Palms Highway,
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
800-465-4329

Sunnyvale Garden Suites Hotel
73843 Sunnyvale Drive,
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
760-361-3939

Fairfield Inn and Suites
6333 Encelia Avenue,
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
760-361-5000

29 Palms Inn
73950 Inn Avenue,
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
(760) 367-3505

High Desert Motel
61310 29 Palms Hwy
Joshua Tree, CA 92252
(760) 366-1978

Best Western Yucca Valley Hotel & Suites
56525 29 Palms Hwy,
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
(760) 365-3555

California Castle
53910 RIDGE RD,
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
(760) 333-8368

Desert View Motel
57471 Primrose Dr.,
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
(760) 365-9706

Yucca Inn & Suites
7500 Camino del Cielo Trl,
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
(760) 365-3311

Oasis of Eden Inn and Suites
72562 29 Palms Hwy,
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
760-365-6321

Super 8
57096 29 Palms Highway,
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
760-228-1773

Financial Management
Program
760-830-7342

Retired Activities Office
760-830-7550

Exceptional Family
Member Program [EFMP]
760-830-7740

HRO
Human Resource Office
760-830-7281
760-830-7287

Career Planner
760-830-6171
760-830-7242

DEERS
760-830-5365

DAV
Disabled American Veteran
760-830-4131

The Village Center Bldg 155



760-830-6344/7479
Toll Free: 1-877-727-5300

**Mon - Fri:
0730-1630**
**Sat, Sun & Holidays:
Closed**

***"Bringing People and
Services Together"***

RMD
Religious Ministries
Directorate
760-830-6304

Relocation Assistance Program
760-830-4028

FOCUS
(Families OverComing Under
Stress)
760-830-3817
760.830.3818

American Red Cross
760-830-6685
1-877-272-7337

Navy Marine Corps Relief
Society (NMCRS)
760-830-6323

Family Readiness Program
Training
760-830-4163

Information and Referral
760-830-6344/7479
Toll Free:
1-877-727-5300

Marine Corps Family Team
Building (MCFTB)
760-830-3110

30 Things To Do

1. Go bowling at the Bowladium. 367-9502
2. Check out the Hi-Desert Nature Museum at the Community Center in Yucca Valley. www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org
3. Join in story hour at the Twentynine Palms San Bernardino Branch Library. 367-9519
4. Set aside a night for spectacular star gazing in your own backyard.
5. Ride the AerialTram to the top of Mt. San Jacinto in Palm Springs. www.pstramway.com
6. Children's Discovery Museum in Rancho Mirage. www.cdmod.org
7. In August, check out Yucca Valley's outdoor concert series. 369-7211
8. Grab an ice cream at Foster's Freeze in downtown 29 Palms, Two Mile & Adobe Rds.
9. Grab your swimsuit and head to the pool at Luckie Park. 367-7562
10. Visit the Joshua Tree National Park Visitor's Center in 29 Palms and learn all about the park. www.nps.gov/jotr
11. See a movie at the Smith's Ranch Drive-In Theatre; pay per person for 2 movies. 367-7713
12. Check out the Wild West shootout reenactment by the Pioneertown Posse. www.pioneertown-posse.org
13. Grab a bite to eat at Pappy & Harriet's while visiting Pioneertown. www.pappyandharriets.com
14. Look for petroglyphs along the Barker Dam trail in Joshua Tree National Park. www.nps.gov/jotr/
15. Skateboard at the 29 Palms Concrete Skate Park in Luckie Park. 367-7562
16. Take in a show at Theatre 29. www.theatre29.com
17. See a play or concert at Blak Box Theatre/Hi-Desert Cultural Center. www.hidesertplayhouse.com
18. Take a rock climbing class at the Joshua Tree Rock Climbing School. 1-800-890-4745
19. Geocaching is the new craze, there are local sites and it's free! www.geocaching.com
20. Visit the Old Schoolhouse Museum in 29 Palms. www.29palmshistorical.com
21. Check out the meerkats right here in the Morongo Valley. www.FellowEarthlings.org
22. Visit the Integratron in Landers for the acoustical experience of a sound bath. www.integratron.com
23. Go fishing in Joshua Tree Lake. www.jtlake.com
24. Hit the trails on a horse. www.visit29.com
25. Sign up for a class at the Creative Center in 29 Palms. www.29palmscreativecenter.com
26. Take a class at the Desert Institute. www.joshuatree.org
27. Critique the art at the 29 Palms Art Gallery. www.29palmsartgallery.com
28. Drive around town to see why 29 Palms is nicknamed "Oasis of Murals". www.oasisofmurals.org
29. Watch a movie in Luckie Park during the summer months. 367-7562
30. Walk around Desert Christ Park in Yucca Valley. www.desertchristpark.org

*Area code is 760 unless otherwise noted.

R&R in the High Desert!

Joshua Tree National Park www.nps.gov/jotr/

- Visit the Oasis Visitor's Center.
- Explore the park and its wildlife.
- Tour Key's Ranch.
- Take on one of the many other wonderful trails or learn to rock climb with the Joshua Tree Rock Climbing School.
- Make your way back to Twentynine Palms to Smith's Ranch Drive in Theater, one of the last drive-ins around.

Take a Day Trip

- Have breakfast at Crossroads Café on your way to:
- Gubler's Orchids www.gublers.com
- The Integratron www.integratron.com
- Giant Rock
- Have dinner at Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace www.pappyandharriets.com
- Make your way back to Twentynine Palms to the Bowladium and enjoy a game of bowling.

Have a Relaxing Day in Twentynine Palms

- Enjoy an early breakfast at Wonder Garden Café.
- Tee off at Roadrunner Dunes Golf Course <http://roadrunnerdunes.com/golfCourse.php> or explore Desert Winds Golf Course aboard MCAGCC <http://www.mccs29palms.com/pages/gymsRec/desertwinds.html>.
- Take a tour of the Oasis of Murals. Stop by the Chamber of Commerce for a guide. www.oasisofmurals.org
- Have lunch at the 29 Palms Inn. www.29palmsinn.com
- Explore the city's history at the Old School House Museum. www.29palmshistorical.com
- Take a relaxing stroll at the Oasis of Mara.
- Enjoy a hearty meal at The Rib Company.

JOSHUA TREE

CMC EARTHWORKS- Artists from around the world celebrate the uniqueness of our Mojave Desert environment.	366-3791
INSTITUTE OF MENTALPHYSICS- Spiritual studies & special retreats in a Frank Lloyd Wright inspired Center.	365-3880
JOSHUA TREE & SOUTHERN RAILROAD MUSEUM- RR cars & miniature engines. (by appointment)	366-8503
JOHSUA TREE NATIONAL PARK- Driving tours, camping, hiking and rock climbing in our nearby National Park.	367-5500
JTNP HIKING & ROCK CLIMBING- Stop by the Park's Visitor center for more information about these activities.	367-5525
NOAH PURIFOY JUNK ART- Renowned outdoor exhibit of an artist who made use of the junk he found in the desert.	

YUCCA VALLEY

CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER	365-5464
COLEMAN MUSEUM- Collection of antique camping gear by famous manufacturer in Yucca Valley's famous Old Town	228-2299
DESERT CHRIST PARK- Outdoor assemblage of religious statuary by well known local artist, Atone Martin.	
HI-DESERT NATURE MUSEUM-Featuring hi-desert flora & fauna samples of interest to old & young alike.	369-7212
HUTCHINS MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM- Collection of vintage & contemporary Harley Davidson Motorcycles.	365-6311
OLD TOWN ANTIQUE MARTS- Numerous interesting & varied antique shops at the west end of Yucca Valley.	
SWAP MEET- buy anything at the old Yucca Valley Drive-in theatre beginning early every Saturday & Sunday.	
WARREN'S WELL- Vintage watering hole for cattle drivers taking herds to seasonal grazing areas "up north".	365-1877
YUCCA VALLEY SUMMER CONCERTS- Saturday evening concerts-in-the-park with open lawn seating (seasonal).	369-7211

HOMESTEAD VALLEY

GIANT ROCK- Seven-story high Indian ceremonial rock close to a reputed 1950's extraterrestrial landing site.	
GUBLER'S ORCHIDS- Commercial farm offering visitors tours of its facility. Site of its Annual Orchid Festival.	364-2282
INTEGRETRON- Mind & body healing in a unique structure by George VanTassle containing no metal parts.	364-3126
JOHNSON VALLEY OHV AREA- "Exercise" all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles on this ancient dry lake bed.	
MORONGO BASIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY- Extensive collection of historical records & things from around the Basin.	365-1877
WHITE ROCK RANCH- Owners & volunteers work year round to rehabilitate abused and abandoned horses.	364-3482
WILLIE BOY GRAVE SITE- Depicted in a 1969 fact-based Robert Redford movie, "Tell Them Willie Boy is Here."	

PIONEERTOWN

PAPPY & HARRIET'S PIONEERTOWN PALACE- A famous tavern with great food & great live music on the weekends.	365-5956
PIONEERTOWN-Famous Hollywood western movies & TV series were produced here in the 1940's & 50's.	
PIONEERTOWN MOUNTAINS- Part of a 20,000 acre area that is the largest non-profit wilderness in Southern California.	365-7105

MORONGO VALLEY

BIG MORONGO CANYON PRESERVE- Eight easy nature trails & some of the best bird watching in California.	363-7190
GROVES CABIN THEATRE- Award winning live theatre featuring talented locals. Seasonal with limited seating.	365-4523
MEERKAT PRESERVE- Visit & feed these loveable furry creatures year round, by appointment only.	363-1344

*Presently under construction.

Area code is 760 unless otherwise noted.

UNDER 100 MILES

35 mi. MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE

- AMBOY CREATER- Hike in from the edge of old Route 66 to view the interior of this ancient black volcano. 760-326-7000
ROY'S PLACE ON OLD RT 66- Active relic of the National Trails Hwy when it was the "king of roads".
MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE- Pristine shifting Kelso sand dunes & the Kelso Depot are attractions. 760-252-6100
MITCHELL CAVERNS- Provides visitors with a 1 ½ hour tour through this unique limestone wonderland. 760-928-2586

60 mi. DESERT HOT SPRINGS

- CABOTS LODGE MUSEUM- Featuring a record of the early days & development of Desert Hot Springs. 760-329-7610
SPAS & RESORTS- Numerous spas & personal treatment services help relax both body & mind. 760-329-6403

71 mi. COACHELLA VALLEY

- PALM SPRINGS AIR MUSEUM- Collection of static & operational World War II era military aircraft. 760-778-6262
PALM SPRINGS VILLAGE FEST- Every Thursday evening "main" street is closed down for this Street Fair. 760-320-3781
LIVING DESERT- 1200 acre world given over to the nurturing & display of exotic desert plants & animals. 760-346-5694
WINDMILL FARM TOURS- From its experimental beginnings in 1980, this farm boasts over 4,000 windmills. 760-251-1997

73 mi. LUCERNE VALLEY

- WOLF MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY- Spend some time with these noble creatures of the wild (by appointment). 760-248-7818

96 mi. OAK GLEN

- FAMOUS APPLE PIES- Stop at this
quaint community en route to San Diego & sample their apple pies. 760-765-1857

UNDER 200 MILES

106 mi.

- ALPINE VILLAGE REOSRT- Head high into the Santa Rosa National Forest for unusual visitor experiences. IDYLLWILD
888-659-3259

107 mi. CHIRIACO SUMMIT

- GEORGE PATTON MUSEUM- WWII Allied & Axis battle tanks & a museum dedicated to our US Army. 760-227-3483

108 mi. BIG BEAR

- YEAR ROUND RESORT AREA- Boating, fishing, camping & skiing in the San Bernardino National Forest. 800-424-4232

111 mi. BARSTOW

- CALICO GHOST TOWN- Knott's Berry Farm founder helps you experience California's early gold rush days. 866-819-7654
RT 66 MUSEUM- Famous National Trails Highway-favored early route between Chicago and Santa Monica. 760-255-1890

123 mi. SALTON SEA

- SALTON SEA STATE PARK- Learn the fascinating history of this semi-natural desert bound body of water. 760-393-3052
SALVATION MOUNTAIN (Niland)- Large hand painted hillside often referred to as the "Watts of the Desert".

140 mi. TEMECULA

- SOCAL'S WINE GROWING REGION- Tour 22 SoCal wineries & sample the varied fruits of their labors. 800-801-6586
MT. PALOMAR OBSERVATORY- Another 28 miles from the wineries brings you to this famous observatory. 760-742-2119

165 mi. LOS ANGELES

- LABREA TAR PITS- Large ancient tar pit in mid LA & a museum displaying its animal victims. 23-934-7243
LA COUNTY MUSEUM- Major metropolitan museum featuring permanent & traveling art exhibits. 323-857-6000
UNIVERSAL STUDIOS- Universal offers tours showing the major inner workings of this famous studio. 800-UNIVERSAL
WARNER BROTHERS STUDIOS- This tour takes you behind the scenes of many movies & TV shows.

172 mi. BORREGO SPRINGS

- ANZA BORREGO STATE PARK- Landscapes ranging from barren earthen hills to vegetated desert vistas. 760-767-5311

186 mi. LAKE HAVASU

- LONDON BRIDGE- A Colorado river resort featuring the famous bridge transported here in the 1950's. 928-453-3444

UNDER 300 MILES

216 mi. RED ROCK CANYON STATE PARK

- RED ROCK CANYON SP- Experience the breathtaking landscape of this outstanding State Park. 661-942-0662

(mileages are approximate)

