

# Welcome Aboard VMU-1 Watchdogs

## 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 strengthen or rebuild relationships.

Disclaimer: Information is distributed in this email as information of common interest for military members and their families/contacts. Use of this information does not advertise nor imply endorsement of any commercial activity or product by the Department of Defense, U.S. Marine Corps, or this command.



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
MARINE UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE SQUADRON- 1  
MARINE AIR CONTROL GROUP-38, 3D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING  
MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING COMMAND BOX 788281  
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA 92278-8281

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1000  
CO

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1  
To: All newly assigned personnel

Subj: WELCOME ABOARD TO MARINE UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE SQUADRON 1,  
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 family of Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1 (VMU-1). As the Commanding Officer of VMU-1, I want to ensure your transition is a smooth, positive experience. My focus as you join the Watchdog family is on you and your family's well-being in the important quality of life areas of housing, education, training, recognition and community partnerships.

2. I look forward to greet you and your family upon your arrival. I encourage you to contact your sponsor or the Family Readiness Officer (760) 830-6788 with any questions you may have prior to your arrival.

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

J. B. BARRANCO



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM  
MARINE UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE SQUADRON- 1  
MARINE AIR CONTROL GROUP-38 , 3D MARINE AIRCRAFT WING  
MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING COMMAND BOX 788281  
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA 92278-8281



## *Welcome Aboard Message from the VMU-1 Family Readiness Officer*

On behalf of the Commanding Officer, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Watchdog Family. My name is Elaina Avalos, and I am the VMU-1 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 one 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 is our Welcome Aboard Package for VMU-1 and 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.

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,

*Elaina M. Avalos*

Elaina M. Avalos  
Family Readiness Officer  
VMU-1 Watchdogs

MAGTFTC MCAGCC  
Twentynine Palms, CA  
elaina.avalos@usmc.mil  
760-830-6788 - Office  
760-583-2431 - Mobile

# VMU-1

## *Standard Release Form for Videotaping or Photography*

Dear Parent or Guardian,

VMU-1 uses photographers from time to time to videotape/photograph children at our events. These videotapes/photographs may be used in community newsletters, audiovisual presentations, on our website or other electronic publications or other similar ways.

Your child may or may not be included in some or all of the videotape/photography sessions. We will not use a photograph of your child unless you give consent. To give your consent, please complete the form below and return it to the FRO, Elaina Avalos. We thank you for your support.

### VIDEO/PHOTO RELEASE FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHILD'S NAME

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am the parent or legal guardian of the above children and I give VMU-1 and anyone VMU-1 authorizes, the right and permission to use, without charge, videotape or photographs featuring my child/children. I understand these pictures may be used in publications or presentations that have a large audience.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**, I give consent for my child to be videotaped or photographed.

\_\_\_\_\_ **No**, I do not give consent for my child to be videotaped or photographed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**RETURN THIS FORM TO THE FAMILY READINESS OFFICER**



## ***What is The Mass Communication Tool via Marine Online?***

The Mass Communication Tool via Marine Online (MOL) is a web-based tool that is as a way to communicate official command information to a large number of contacts simultaneously. What exactly does that mean? Well for instance, when I have a return time at the end of deployment, I can use MOL to notify all spouses and family members very quickly and simultaneously. This system avoids the delays and inaccuracies caused by using a phone tree.

What are official command communications?

- ◆ Information on family briefs such as Pre-Deployment or Return and Reunion briefs
- ◆ Return of unit notices including dates, times and locations
- ◆ Family day information
- ◆ Requests for volunteers

Mass Communication will NOT be utilized used for

- ◆ Sales at the Exchange
- ◆ Movie theater and bowling information
- ◆ Special base event flyers

***NO CLASSIFIED OR CASUALTY WILL BE PASSED VIA THIS TOOL***

Who will be notified through the MCT?

- ◆ Every Marine has the option to add up to four individual contacts.
- ◆ Distribution of official command communications to spouses is automatic.
- ◆ All other contacts must have written authorization from the squadron member.
- ◆ Contacts must be at least 18 years of age.

Is the MCT secure?

- ◆ The data collected will be stored securely in accordance with Marine Corps regulations.
- ◆ The information will not shared with any outside sources and only used for notifications associated to your Command.

*"Marines take care of their own - period. This enduring pledge between Marines is never more sacred than during time of war. Just as every Marine makes a commitment to the Corps when they earn the title Marine, the Corps makes an enduring commitment to every Marine - and an enduring commitment to their family."*

*- General Conway, 34th CMC Planning Guidance*

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.defenselink.mil/mtom), and Military Student.org, at [www.militarystudent.dod.mil](http://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](http://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*

Dr. Dana Queener

School Liaison

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](http://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](http://www.health.mil/inTransition)



# *Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Connections*

## *Chamber of Commerce*

Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce  
760-366-3723 [www.joshuatreechamber.org](http://www.joshuatreechamber.org)

Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce  
760-367-3442 [www.29chamber.org](http://www.29chamber.org)

Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce  
760-365-6323 [www.yuccavalley.org](http://www.yuccavalley.org)

## *Government Offices*

Twentynine Palms  
760-367-6799 [www.ci.twentynine-palms.ca.us](http://www.ci.twentynine-palms.ca.us)

Yucca Valley  
760-369-7207 [www.yucca-valley.org](http://www.yucca-valley.org)

## *Libraries*

Joshua Tree 760-366-8615 [www.joshuatreefol.org](http://www.joshuatreefol.org)

29 Palms 760-367-9519 [www.sbcounty.gov/library/home/](http://www.sbcounty.gov/library/home/)

Yucca Valley 760-228-5455 [www.yuccavalleyfol.org](http://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](http://www.ci.palm-springs.ca.us)

Los Angeles International Airport 310-646-5252  
[www.lawa.org/lax](http://www.lawa.org/lax)

Ontario International Airport 909-937-2811  
[www.lawa.org/welcomeONT.aspx](http://www.lawa.org/welcomeONT.aspx)

## *Ground Transportation*

Morongo Basin Transit Authority MBTA 760-367-7433  
[www.mbtabus.com](http://www.mbtabus.com)

Amtrak 800-872-7245 [www.amtrak.com](http://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

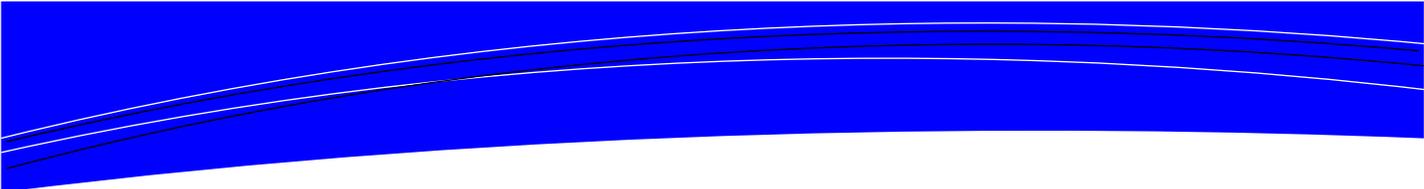


## Transportation to USMC Base - Twentynine Palms

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

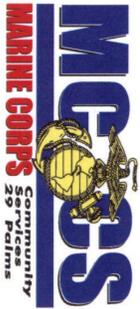
American Red Cross  
760-830-6685  
1-877-272-7337

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



# MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER

Charlie's Coffee House  
 C&E Exchange  
 Barber Shop/Sprint  
 1983  
 GRIFFIN

Officer's/SNCO Pool  
 East Gym & Fitness Center  
 1598  
 Sandy Hills Lane Bowling Center & Snack Bar  
 1584  
 VILLAGE CENTER  
 Protestant Chapel  
 1541  
 1551

Paintball  
 Outdoor Adventures  
 1262  
 Stables

Naval Hospital  
 Ship Store  
 1142  
 SMOKETREE

- Food and Hospitality Division
- Retail Operations Division
- Personnel/Employment Division
- Recreation/Sports
- Education
- Marine & Family Services
- Other

