

NEWCOMERS

Whether you arrive during the day or night, weekday or weekend, your first stop should be the 24-hour arrival point at the Edwards' High Desert Inn lodging office, Bldg. 5602, 602 Honts, just off Manzanita Way in the base housing area. Should you need directions or information upon arriving at Edwards, a security forces gate guard will be happy to assist you.

In-processing is conducted at the Military Personnel Flight office, 125 Methusa Rd., located in the main base area. You should visit the MPF Manning Control Unit as soon as possible after visiting the 24-hour arrival point. Ask your sponsor to escort you. You must take your personnel records and all other documents that you may have hand-carried.

The Manning Control Unit will arrange an appointment for your in-processing, which takes about two hours and includes financial processing. At the same time, you will be scheduled for several appointments, including the newcomer's briefing, traffic safety, drug and alcohol, human relations and education briefings and a records review. A uniform must be worn when in-processing.

In the event of an emergency while en route to Edwards, travelers should call their new unit of assignment. If that information is unknown, call the intro manager at (661) 277-2276 or DSN 527-2276 during the day, or the 24-hour arrival point at (661) 277-3302/3394/4101 or DSN 527-3302/3394/4101 at any hour.

An F/A-22 Raptor model soars from the front of the AFFTC headquarters building.

Photo by Thomas Powell





Edwards Air Force Base.
Photo by John Wilson



The Edwards Riding Center offers stables and horse services for Team Edwards members.
Photo by 2nd Lt. Tony Wickman



Photo by John Wilson



Photo by Michael Yncera

CHILDCARE

• Free childcare for newcomers

A maximum of 20 hours of free childcare per child is available through the Air Force Aid Society to parents of all ranks who are making a permanent change of station move to or from Edwards. The childcare is available within 60 days of arrival or departure and is provided by Family Childcare Program providers. Parents may apply for childcare by bringing a copy of their orders and a valid ID to the family support center at 550 S. Bailey Ave. Call the center at (661) 277-0723 or DSN 527-0723. Families who do not yet have orders should visit the center to arrange confirmation of their PCS status.

• Child Development Center

1208 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 275-TOTS or DSN 525-TOTS

The CDC, located in the housing area, provides developmental care for children 6 weeks to 5 years old for both military members and Department of Defense and NASA civilians. The CDC is open Monday through Friday and is closed all federal holidays.

Hourly care and part-day enrichment programs are available. Saturday hourly care is offered once each month. Breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks are served on a regular basis. All meals are in accordance with U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines.

Planned activities include dramatic play, blocks, art, music, reading and writing centers, indoor and outdoor gross motor play, science and language. As part of the creative curriculum, all children are exposed to a variety of developmental activities to promote their social, physical and cognitive growth.

• Teen Center

1000 Kincheloe Ave.
(661) 275-TEEN or DSN 525-TEEN

The Teen Center, designed to allow teens a place of their own, provides after-school and weekend activities for teens ages 13 to 18 in grades seven through 12. The center is an affiliated member of the Boys and Girls Club of America and offers many B&GCA programs, as well as Air Force and Edwards-unique programs.

The Keystone Club, a B&GCA program sponsored by the Taco Bell Foundation, provides teens ages 14 to 18 leadership opportunities within the base community. Activities include fund raising, volunteerism, team building, participation in national conventions and discussion of issues most important to base youth.

The Congressional Awards Program allows teens and young adults the opportunity to be rewarded for reaching personal goals set throughout the year in four different areas of achievement. The program strives to develop and enhance positive personal qualities such as responsibility, citizenship and the ability to plan and organize. Participants receive certificates and medals of recognition for reaching their goals.

The Youth of the Year Program, a B&GCA initiative sponsored by Reader's Digest, recognizes teens ages 14 to 18 for overall excellence. Each teen selected will represent their individual club in state and national competitions. Award winners may receive up to \$15,000 in scholarships for post-secondary education.

The Youth Employment Skills, or YES program, sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society, provides high school teens, specifically dependents of parents serving in the active duty military, the opportunity to earn a post-secondary school grant of up to \$1,000 by volunteering at base agencies.

Teens on the Move, a sponsorship program run in coordination with the Family Support Center, helps teens moving from one base to another move smoothly, and quickly adjust to life in the Edwards community. Incoming teens may be matched to Edwards teen sponsors to receive information on base life from a peer's perspective before arriving.

The center features game tables, music, lounge and homework areas, Internet accessibility and video games. The center arranges programs such as a teen club, glow bowling and monthly movie education days.



Photo by John Wilson

• **Youth Activities Center**

Main center, 24 Lathrop Drive
 (661) 275-KIDS or DSN 525-5437
 Annex 1208 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
 (661) 275-PLAY or DSN 525-7529

The Youth Activities Center is the focal point for all youth activities at Edwards. A wide range of supervised programs is available to youth ages 5 to 18. Youths 13 and older may find additional programs available through the Teen Center.

The YAC offers an array of youth, pre-teen and teen activities including dances, holiday and family events, picnics and trips. Professional instruction is available through the center for ballet, tap dance, gymnastics and karate. The center relies on both youths and parents to take an active role in shaping the programs.

The School Age Program provides before and after-school childcare and is facilitated by both the Youth Activities main center and annex. The annex provides programming for students in kindergarten through second grade, while the main center provides programming for students in third through sixth grade. Activities include arts, music, dramatic play, outdoor play, science, math and reading. Transportation to and from the base schools is provided. Summer camp programs are also available. Students must have completed kindergarten to register for camp programs.

The General Youth Program provides after-school activities for children ages 9 to 12. On non-school days and during the summer, activities are provided Monday through Friday, noon-6 p.m., and Saturday 7-10 p.m.

The center also facilitates the Youth Sports and Fitness Program for children ages 5 to 18. The program offers a wide range of sports activities throughout the year and provides children a chance to compete and gain instruction and confidence in such sports as flag football, basketball, baseball, softball and soccer.

Cortez Armstrong (left) and Raymond Thomas (right) ride their tricycles at the Child Development Center.

Photo by Thomas Powell



• **Family Childcare Program**

311 14th St.
 (661) 275-4FCC or DSN 525-4322

The Edwards Family Childcare Program offers an alternative option for quality childcare in a home environment. Licensed providers are trained in child development theory and techniques, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, food handling and other related areas. Fire safety, environmental health and family childcare officials conduct inspections on all homes prior to recommending certification. Throughout the certification period, unannounced monthly inspections are conducted to ensure the health, safety and well being of the children being cared for.

A referral list of licensed providers is available through squadron first sergeants, at the Family Child Care office, the Child Development Center and the Family Support Center. The referral list is also available on the 95th Services Division Web site at www.edwardsservices.com.

All persons providing childcare in their home for more than 10 hours per week must be licensed. Applications and information on becoming a childcare provider, or personal assistance in finding quality in-home childcare, is available at the FCC office. The office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30-9:30 a.m. and on Wednesday 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



EMERGENCY SERVICES



Friendly fire fighter Ken Young escorts all the children from the Child Development Center during a routine monthly fire drill. Young said a friendly fire fighter is on hand to

familiarize the children at the CDC with fire fighters so in an actual emergency the children do not get scared or hide from them.

Photo by Master Sgt. Anne Ward

COMMUTING

The two primary commuting routes to Edwards' main base are California State Highway 14, also known as the Antelope Valley Freeway, for people living in Lancaster, Palmdale and other cities and towns to the south, and California State Highway 58 for people living north or east of Edwards. Highway 58 is the main route to reach the Air Force Research Lab.



Speed limits along these roads are in the 65- to 70-mph range, making it practical to live relatively far from base. Traffic is rare, but—as is common at all bases—it can back up at the gates during periods of increased security.

There is no public transportation serving Edwards at this time, though carpooling is encouraged. A minimum commute to base is roughly 20 minutes.

Background image: aerial photo by Bobbi Garcia

EMERGENCY SERVICES

EMERGENCIES: 911

NON-EMERGENCIES

95th Security Forces Squadron:

(661) 277-3340/3341/3343 or DSN 527-3340/3341/3343

Chaplain

Duty hours: (661) 277-2110 or DSN 527-2110

After-duty hours: (661) 277-3040 or DSN 527-3040

All on-base emergencies can be reported by calling 911. If using a cell phone, it is not recommended to dial 911, as the call will be relayed to the location of the cell phone service provider. Emergency cell phone calls should be made to the base fire department's communication center at (661) 277-4540 or 277-4541.

Paramedic treatment and ambulance service is available 24 hours a day by dialing 911. The 95th Security Forces Control Center is open 24 hours a day. Counseling as provided by a base chaplain is available at any time.

Fire department emergency response is provided by a network of five fire stations located across the base. Fire Station 1 provides service to the flightline; Station 2 to the base housing area; Station 3 to the southern portion of the base; Station 4 to the Air Force Research Lab, propulsion directorate; and Station 5 to the northern portion of the base. Fire prevention training is available by calling (661) 277-3643/4621 or DSN 527-3643/4621.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

• **Civilian Personnel Flight**

36 N. Wolfe Ave.

(661) 277-3840 or DSN 527-3840

The Civilian Personnel Flight has many types of positions available including student positions and a summer employment program. Positions range from professional and technical to administrative and trade occupations. CPO offers entry level and senior level management positions. Positions are open to all U.S. citizens.

For more information about civil service employment, go to careers.edwards.af.mil or call the 24-hour job information line at 800-997-2378. Some positions are listed on the Air Force Personnel Center Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil or call their job information line at 800-699-4473.

• **Human Resources Office**

36 N. Wolfe Ave.

(661) 275-9675 or DSN 525-9675

Information about non-appropriated fund employment is available at the Human Resources Office or by writing to 95 MSG/SVH, 36 N. Wolfe Ave., Edwards AFB, CA 93524-6745. NAF employment is open to off-duty military as well as family members. The 95th Services HRO employs more than 300 people and offers opportunities from entry-level laborer to technical and mid-level management positions. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis from all qualified applicants and are kept on file for 90 days.

FINANCE

5 S. Wolfe Ave.

(661) 277-4550/2441 or DSN 527-4550/2441

The Financial Services Office serves all government agencies, military and civilian personnel on base by certifying funding and providing financial management liaison between Department of Defense organizations, commercial vendors and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

The customer service lobby hours are 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday. The busiest times are usually 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Customer Service can also be contacted via e-mail at customer.service@edwards.af.mil.

The Air Force Aid Society is available for emergency financial assistance and can be contacted through the Family Support Center at 277-0723, or after duty hours at 277-3040.

FIREARMS REGISTRATION, STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

105 E. Yeager Blvd.

(661) 277-3526 or DSN 527-3526

All base residents that maintain firearms must register their weapons with the 95th Security Forces Squadron by completing an Air Force Form 1314 in three copies with their unit commander's signature, address, home phone number and work phone number. Personnel possessing firearms must comply with all federal, state and local laws, ordinances and military regulations on registering, storing, bearing, possessing and using firearms.

All firearms owned by or in the custody of personnel who reside in the dormitories or in Desert Villa temporary lodging facilities, while on temporary duty or in the process of a permanent change of station, must be registered and stored at the 95th SFS armory immediately upon arrival to the base. Family housing residents will maintain firearms in their homes with their commander's approval. Housing residents storing reloading components or ammunition in their homes must notify the installation fire department at (661) 277-3124 or DSN 527-3124.

Ammunition must be stored and locked separately from any weapon.

Transporting privately-owned firearms on base is prohibited except to and from authorized storage and shooting areas, namely the Rod and Gun Activity and the 95th SFS Combat Arms range. When transporting firearms, they must be cleared, safe and unconcealed with the breech open and must be in the trunk or other secured compartment closest to the rear of the vehicle. Transporting firearms on bicycles, motorcycles or any other two or three-wheeled vehicle is prohibited.

HELPING RESOURCES

- **Airmen's Attic** •

550 S. Bailey Ave.
(661) 277-2246 or DSN 527-2246

The Airmen's Attic is part of Family Services and offers a variety of free clothes items and small household items such as dishes, pots and pans. Donations are always accepted.

- **American Red Cross** •

2715 E Ave. P
Palmdale, Calif.

(661) 267-0650 Monday to Friday, during business hours
(661) 277-3040 After business hours, Saturday, Sunday and holidays

Emergency services are available on a 24-hour basis. American Red Cross services include, but are not limited to, emergency communication, financial assistance, counseling and guidance, referrals and information regarding veteran benefits, first aid, youth programs, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, water safety training, blood programs, disaster preparedness and relief.

Military personnel on temporary duty or unaccompanied tours are encouraged to instruct family members to contact their local American Red Cross when a family emergency arises, and to provide the service member's rank, social security number and unit of assignment. This will expedite the process of contacting the military member.

- **Chapel Food Closet** •

Chapel 2, 10 Park Dr.
(661) 277-2110 or DSN 527-2110

The Chapel Food Closet is available to service members experiencing financial hardship and looking for assistance in obtaining food items. Referrals should be made initially through first sergeants.

- **Equal Employment Opportunity** •

307 E. Popson Ave.
(661) 277-3338 or DSN 527-3338

It is the policy of the United States Air Force to provide equal opportunity in employment for all persons, to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, sex (including equal pay), religion, national origin, age (40 and over), disability or in retaliation for having participated in activity protected by the various civil rights statutes. EEO also assures that individual complaints are fairly and thoroughly investigated and kept confidential.

Mediation/facilitation is available as a form of Alternate Dispute Resolution used to improve the efficiency of the Federal EEO complaint process by attempting early informal resolution of EEO complaints. Employees have 45 days from the date of the alleged incident to contact the EEO Office. Employees may also contact the EEO Office to utilize ADR in resolving other workplace disputes.

- **Legal Office** •

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
1 S. Rosamond Blvd.
(661) 277-4310 or DSN 527-4310

Legal assistance is offered through the Staff Judge Advocate's office, located in the Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters building. Judge advocates provide advice and assistance to all active duty and retired members of the U.S.

- **Family Support Center** •

550 S. Bailey Ave.
(661) 277-0723 or DSN 527-0723

The Family Support Center supports the Air Force mission by supporting the Air Force "family." The FSC serves all active duty, Department of Defense civilians, Guard, Reserves, Retirees and their family members. The FSC provides individual consultations, workshops and products to help people remain mission ready and enjoy a high quality of life. Watch the Commander Access Channel, Channel 6, read the Desert Wings, FSC monthly calendar and the calendar on the Year of the Family Web site at www.edwards.af.mil/yofam or drop by the FSC to learn more about current programs.

Key programs available at the center include the following:

- Air Force Aid Society assistance is available 24 hours, 7 days a week for active duty Air Force members and their spouses who need funds for emergencies or for humanitarian purposes. Non-emergency appointments can be scheduled during regular office hours. Call the command post at 277-3034 for after duty hour emergencies. Assistance is normally in the form of interest-free loans or grants. The Air Force Aid Society also provides funds to support a variety of community enhancement programs that include various childcare programs as well as programs for expectant mothers and new parents.
- Career focus provides employment and self-development workshops and assistance for military spouses, family members and civil service employees and their families. A computer resource room and extended library complement the classes and individual consultations.
- Family life education offers classes such as change management, effective parenting and couples' communication to assist with family and relationship issues.
- Family readiness helps families prepare for extended temporary duty and deployment separation. FSC offers several methods for keeping in touch with loved ones, two monthly meetings of Hearts Apart, a support group and several special incentives for active members of Hearts Apart. Children are welcome to attend with a parent.
- Family Services is a volunteer group within the FSC. Family Services volunteers prepare sponsor packages, loan video and brochures about other bases and loan small household goods for inbound and outbound personnel.

Armed Forces, their dependents, as well as Reserve and National Guard military members on Title 10 Status.

Notary service and powers of attorney are available Monday through Friday at various hours. Walk-in legal assistance, excluding last wills and testaments are available every Monday from noon-1 p.m. Legal assistance appointments are available every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call 277-4310 and press "0" for the receptionist to make an appointment.

Assistance is also available in filing claims for loss or damage to personal property during a move. Claims

They also maintain the Airmen's Attic supported by donations of clothing and small household goods. A layette and car seat are available for E-4 and below and those in need.

- Information and referral provides links to agencies and resources on and off base. If you need additional help finding a service do not hesitate to call the FSC.

- Married Airmen Sharing Together is a volunteer organization. MAST accepts donations of furniture and appliances for loan back out to the community.

- Personal financial management provides counseling and workshops on financial needs, debt reduction, budget development, investments, Thrift Saving Plan and car buying.

- Relocation assistance provides pre-departure information to help you make better plans before you depart for your next duty station and help you become familiar with your new community. Air Force Crossroads, the official community Web site of the Air Force, www.afcrossroads.com and Standard Installation Topics Exchange System, www.dmdc.osd.mil/sites offer up-to-date information about bases, schools and housing, as well as a chat room and information for youth and spouses.

Relocation offers workshops to include sponsorship training, Smooth Move and Spouse Welcome. Spouses are invited to attend a spouse welcome and get a short briefing on local services plus a tour of Lancaster and Palmdale and a free lunch. The Antelope Valley Chamber of Commerce sponsors this tour. Childcare may be arranged if requested early. Call to sign up.

- Transition Assistance Program (TAP) provides Pre-Separation Counseling, monthly Department of Labor TAP seminars, individual assistance, computer and library resources, information and referral, and a variety of classes and workshops to help acquire and develop skills for a smooth transition to civilian life and work.

- Volunteer resource offers information about opportunities to volunteer and serve. This program serves as the base central coordinating point for volunteerism.

- Women, Infant and Children nutrition clinic is held weekly at the Family Support Center as a convenience to base residents, excluding weeks with a holiday.

If you need assistance and are not located near a Family Support Center please call Family Support Center Operations, HQ AFPC/DPPTF at (800) 581-9437.

briefings are held weekly. Filing a claim is by appointment only. If damage to household goods are noted on a Department of Defense Form 1840 at the time of delivery, a claim may be made any time within two years of the delivery date. For any damage discovered after delivery, a DD Form 1840R must be filed within 70 days of delivery.

Military Volunteer Income Tax Assistants offer tax preparation help during the tax season. They can prepare, review, provide guidance and electronically file federal and state income taxes free of charge. Appointments may be made by calling 275-ETAX.

• Life Skills Center •

30 Nightingale Rd.
(661) 277-5291 or DSN 527-5291

The Life Skills Flight consists of the Life Skills Center, Family Advocacy and Demand Reduction. Life Skills Center offers mental health services such as command directed evaluations, individual and couples counseling, crisis intervention and overseas clearances.

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Treatment program is also provided through the Life Skills Center. ADAPT provides substance abuse evaluations and outpatient alcohol treatment.

Family Advocacy provides evaluations and supportive services for families experiencing spouse or child abuse/neglect. Family Advocacy also maintains the New Parent Support Program, which provides support and education to first time parents.

Demand Reduction provides substance abuse testing, education and prevention services to prevent substance abuse.

Finally, the Life Skills Flight offers ongoing supportive classes for anger management, couples communication, stress management and parenting classes.

• Military Equal Opportunity •

307 E. Popson Ave.
(661-) 277-4440 or DSN 527-4440

The Military Equal Opportunity office is located in the C wing of Bldg. 1400. MEO focuses on human relations issues by assisting commanders to improve mission effectiveness by countering the adverse effects of discrimination, sexual harassment and human relations conflicts. MEO keeps commanders informed on matters of discrimination based on race, religion, sex, national origin or color.

Discrimination complaints may be filed by military members and their dependents, and a referral service is available for problems outside the scope of MEO's responsibility. MEO provides human relations education to all military or civil service personnel on arrival at Edwards. Human relations education and briefings are also available by request for individual units and work centers as needed.

MEO also conducts Unit Climate Assessments for all AF units assigned or attached to Edwards to help commanders assess their organization's equal opportunity and treatment environment.

• Tax Assistance •

(661) 275-ETAX

The Edwards Military Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program annually provides free assistance in completing and filing federal and state income tax returns. Active duty, retired military members, Reservists and National Guard on Title 10 status and military dependents are eligible. The program is coordinated through the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate and involves training local volunteers through the Internal Revenue Service and the California Franchise Tax Board.

HOMETOWN NEWS RELEASE

Public Affairs

1 S. Rosamond Blvd.

(661) 277-3510/4127 or DSN 527-3510/4127

Newcomers are encouraged to complete a Department of Defense Form 2266, Hometown News Release Information, to share the news of their permanent change of station and assignment with friends and family in their hometowns. By simply completing the form on Page 65 and sending or delivering it to Public Affairs, a news release will be generated and sent to media outlets for possible publication in your relatives' communities.

- **Military family housing**

The Edwards Housing Office welcomes written or telephone inquiries regarding both on- and off-base housing. For written inquiries, include state, member's rank and number of dependents with their ages and gender and send to 95 CEG/CEH, 402 S. Forbes Ave., Edwards AFB, CA 93524-1800.

Family housing units at Edwards consist of 400 units for officers and 1,361 for enlisted members. The floor plans represent a few of the units available. All units include ranges, refrigerators, dishwashers and garbage disposals. Connections for washers and dryers, both gas and electric, are provided. Maintenance concerns are handled by Chugach Management Services, the family housing maintenance contractor, by calling (661) 258-4461 or (661) 258-4462.

Quarters are assigned according to grade and family size in accordance with Air Force Instruction 32-6001.

- **Unaccompanied housing for officers**

Bachelor officer quarters consist of 58 apartment-style units, with priority being given to key and mission essential personnel.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS SHIPMENTS

20 W. Popson Ave.

(661) 277-3486/7897 or DSN 527-3486/7897

The Traffic Management Office Household Goods Section arranges for the movement of personal property and other effects for both the arrival and departure from Edwards and surrounding areas. The primary mission of the household goods element is to provide entitlement counseling to military and civilian members, quality assurance inspection of shipments and other detailed assistance that pertains to the shipping and storage of personal property.

HOUSING

Edwards Housing Office

402 S. Forbes Ave.

(661) 277-4506 or DSN 527-4506

Consolidated Dorm Management Office

141 W. Popson Ave.

(661) 277-6783 or DSN 527-6783

- **Unaccompanied housing for enlisted members**

Airmen through senior airmen are required to live in base dormitories if unaccompanied. Two and three-story dormitories each house between 32 to 70 members, while maintaining unit integrity.

Most dormitories are centrally located within walking distance of the Joshua Tree Inn Dining Facility, Oasis Community Center, Aerobic and Aquatics Center and the Fitness and Sports Center. However, the dormitory for medical personnel is located adjacent to the Edwards Clinic and Dental Clinic. Single rooms are assigned based upon rank and unit. Bathrooms may be shared by roommates or adjacent rooms.

Application for dormitory housing should be made after arrival at

Edwards. Unaccompanied junior noncommissioned officers are not authorized for on-base housing. Unaccompanied senior NCOs are authorized residence in one of 16 apartment-style units, similar to the bachelor officers' quarters, on a space-available basis.

- **Mobile home park**

Edwards maintains a centrally located 188-space mobile home park for privately-owned mobile homes. Both personnel with families and unaccompanied members are allowed to reside in the park; however, families have first priority. Advance applications may be submitted on DD Form 1746. State whether you require a lot for a single or double mobile home or are looking to purchase an existing mobile home. Mobile home park residents, though residing on base, receive basic allowance for housing.

- **Off base**

Members assigned to Edwards may choose to reside in one of two metropolitan areas, Lancaster or Palmdale, which are 35 to 45 minutes south of the base, or in other small communities that offer affordable

area. Edwards' newest family housing area for officers and senior NCO's

Photo by John Wilson





housing closer to the base. These areas include Boron, California City, Mojave, Rosamond and Tehachapi. Housing personnel are ready to assist customers with personalized listings of rentals and real estate as well as information regarding living in off-base communities.

LODGING

• **High Desert Inn**

Bldg. 5602, Manzanita Way
(661) 275-ROOM or DSN 525-ROOM

The Edwards High Desert Inn has various lodging accommodations available to military personnel. The Inn is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For members who have families and who have not been assigned permanent housing, there are limited apartment-type quarters available in the Desert Villa section of the housing area. Each of the 50 units has cooking facilities, a queen-size bed and a twin-size bed in the bedroom, and a couch that converts into a double bed and a chair that converts into a single bed in the living room. Cost is \$34 per night. For unaccompanied members, hotel-like quarters are available at the High Desert Inn. Cost ranges from \$25 to \$37 per night, depending on rank.

Outside the 1+1 dormitories.
Photo by Thomas Powell



MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE

• **95th Medical Group**
30 Nightingale Rd.
661-277-7118 or DSN 527-7118

Primary, special, preventive care services are provided. Current services include: aerospace medicine, paramedic service, dental/oral surgery, family advocacy/life skills, force health management, bioenvironmental, family practice, immunizations/allergy, laboratory, drug demand program, nutritional counseling, optometry, pediatrics, pharmacy, physical therapy, physiological support and radiology.

Prevention programs focus on women's health and breast care, public health, substance abuse and a variety of topics offered through programming at the Health and Wellness Center. Medical support is also provided to the NASA Dryden and Air Force Research Laboratory communities. A TRICARE Service Center is located at the Edwards Clinic campus.

Edwards Clinic operating hours:

- Primary Care Clinic: Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Wednesday: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Ancillary Services (Lab, X-ray, Pharmacy): Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday: 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Appointments: All beneficiaries at the Edwards Main Clinic may be scheduled by calling the central appointments line at 277-7118 during normal duty hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The central appointment call-in line is available for active duty at 7:30 a.m., all other appointment lines open at 8 a.m. Same-day appointments for active duty members have priority, including Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members on active orders. After-hours care for non-emergency, acute care is available when the clinic is closed, and is facilitated by a local answering service that coordinates acute care with the on-call physician to provide prompt patient service. After-hours care is accessed by calling 277-2330.

Paramedic-level ambulance service is available 24 hours a day for life-threatening situations by dialing 911. The paramedics respond to all

on-base 911 calls and provide on-scene and in-transit advanced life support. The service provides emergency transportation to local community hospitals. Paramedic crews maintain Kern County, California and national Paramedic rescue licenses and work under the direction of the Kern County Emergency Medical Services.



Capt. (Dr.) Brian Black (left) and Shona Wood (right) clean the teeth of a patient.

Photo by Michael Yncera

• **Dental Clinic**
30 Nightingale Rd.
(661) 277-2872 or DSN 527-2872
Operating hours: Monday-Friday,
7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The Dental Clinic provides comprehensive dental care for active duty members, including a periodic dental examination and cleaning. Although family members are not authorized routine dental care at the base clinic, emergency treatment is available.

The TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan has been established to ensure family members have access to affordable dental care through off-base providers. To enroll in the program, visit the Military Personnel Flight customer service.

• **Flight Surgeon's Office**
Col. John P. Strapp Aerospace Medicine Facility
55 N. Wolfe Ave.
(661) 277-2575 or DSN 527-2575
Operating hours: Mon, Tues,
Thurs and Fri 7 a.m.-4 p.m.,
Wednesday 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

Flight Medicine appointments are made by calling 277-2575. The Flight Surgeon's Office provides medical care for military members and Department of Defense civilians on flying or special operational duty

status, as well as their dependents. The Flight Surgeon's Office also serves other active duty members, including those assigned to various flying squadrons and center staff agencies, as well as their families.

The unit conducts specialty physicals for Army, Marine and Reserve service members, as well as occupational physicals for specific career fields, and provides support for NASA operations. Additionally, the Optometry Clinic is located with Flight Medicine and is able to offer a full range of optometric services to enrolled beneficiaries. For optometry appointments call 277-3187.

• **Health Care**
TRICARE Service Center
30 Nightingale Rd.
(800) 242-6788
Managed Care Office
30 Nightingale Rd.
(661) 277-6969/2662 or
DSN 527-6969/2662

The TRICARE Service Center manages beneficiary enrollment, provides information on the TRICARE program and links family members with TRICARE health providers in the local area. Representatives also provide authorization for health services requiring prior approval. Community hospitals participating in TRICARE include Antelope Valley Hospital, located approximately 35 miles from the base at 1600 W. Ave. J in Lancaster, and Lancaster Community Hospital, located approximately 40 miles from the base at 43830 10th Street West in Lancaster.

The TRICARE health care program serves active duty and retired military personnel, their families and their survivors. TRICARE combines civilian and military medical resources. It's designed to improve timely access to health care, maintain the same high quality of care, offer more services and a full range of specialists, host a choice of providers and control health care costs.

Because TRICARE offers options designed to fit a spectrum of lifestyle and health care needs, the program includes four health care plans: TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Standard, TRICARE Extra and TRICARE For Life.

MILITARY PERSONNEL FLIGHT

125 Methusa Ave.

(661) 277-2276/3186 or DSN 527-2276-3186

The Military Personnel Flight customer service center is the central information and referral point for personnel matters. The customer service staff provides identification cards for service members, dependents and retirees; maintains personnel records; manages applications for the dependent dental plan and updates the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System, or DEERS. Additionally, the customer service center provides referral to the people and agencies that can assist best in numerous situations.

NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

See Page 41. (On Base section)

NEWS AND INFORMATION

See Pages 42 and 43. (On Base section)



Photo by Thomas Powell

PETS

All animals must be registered within 10 working days of arrival by presenting a current rabies certificate or scheduling vaccinations at the Edwards Veterinary Treatment Facility. An Edwards rabies and identification tag will be issued upon proper proof of immunization. Owners will confine pets at their residence or exercise them under the owner's immediate control, leash or positive control at all times. No pets will be left unattended in motor vehicles. A limited number of animals are allowed in Desert Villa guest quarters, and dogs and cats are not allowed in the dormitories. Abandoning animals on Edwards is prohibited.

- **Adopt-a-Pet at Edwards Team Rescue and Kennels**

615 S. Forbes Ave.

661-275-2423

APET is a private, nonprofit organization. Its mission is to adopt unclaimed family pets released from quarantine from the 95th Security Forces Squadron Wildlife and Animal Control Facility. APET is a one-stop resource center to Edwards for pet hotels, pet sitters, boarding, grooming and training information.

- **Animal Control**

4979 Baker-Nun Rd.

(661) 277-7138 or DSN 527-7138/7139

The 95th Security Forces Squadron Wildlife and Animal Control Facility works with the base veterinary clinic in

registering, immunizing, controlling and impounding lost pets on base. Regulations and fines are outlined in Air Force Flight Test Center Instruction 31-25, Control of Pets. Hours of operation vary. For more information, call (661) 824-4464.

- **Stables**

101 Landfill Rd.

(661) 275-PONY or DSN 525-7669

The Edwards Riding Stables have 53 stalls for private boarding of up to 74 horses, complete with feed and tack storage rooms. Stables are open daily to those boarding horses. The cost to board a horse begins at \$25 per month with an \$80 deposit. These fees help maintain the stable facilities. Horse owners are responsible for feeding their horses and cleaning their stalls.

Other facilities include a clubhouse with patio and barbecue areas, two storage barns, a lighted main riding arena, a jumping arena, trail arena, two large exercise pens and four-horse and two-horse trailers for stable borders' use.

The stables sponsor horse shows, parades and desert trail rides.

Horses stabled on base at the Edwards Riding Stables must undergo a minimum of five days quarantine and have a current Coggins Test as well as other immunizations. Call the Outdoor Recreation office at (661) 275-RENT or DSN 525-RENT before bringing a horse to the base.

- **Veterinary Treatment Facility**

900 Kincheloe Ave.

(661) 275-PETS or DSN 525-PETS

The Edwards Veterinary Treatment Facility provides services for small animals, including health certificates, vaccinations and medical, surgical and laboratory procedures as mission permits. Limited services are available for horses. Emergencies involving life or limb-threatening injuries will be seen during normal duty hours, depending on the availability of a veterinarian. Emergencies occurring after duty hours may be referred to a civilian veterinarian. The facility is open Monday through Friday during duty hours with variable evening hours.

Vickie Coutts, president of Adopt-a-Pet at Edwards Team Rescue and Kennels, plays with Riley, a dog up for adoption.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Wes Auldridge



PHONE INFORMATION

• Base Operator/Information

(661) 277-1110 or DSN 527-1110

The area code for Edwards and the surrounding area, including Rosamond, Lancaster, Palmdale, Mojave, Tehachapi, Bakersfield and Gorman, is 661. Phone prefixes for Edwards include 277 and 275 for work centers, 276 for NASA Dryden and 258 for the housing areas. The Defense Switched Network, or DSN, prefix is 527 for commercial 277 numbers and 525 for commercial 275 numbers. When dialing from base phones established with a 277 or 275 prefix, it is only necessary to dial 7 or 5, respectively, and the last four digits of the destination number.

POSTAL SERVICES

• Military Postal Service Center Office

20 W. Popson Ave.

(661) 277-4395 or DSN 527-4395

Monday through Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

• U.S. Postal Service Main Post Office

1000 Kincheloe Ave.

(800) 275-8777

Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

• U.S. Postal Service Postal Station

20 W. Popson Ave.

(800) 275-8777

Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 2-4:30 p.m.

On-base postal services are handled by the Military Postal Service Center Office, with the exception of delivery to family housing areas, the maintenance of post office boxes and retail mailing services, all of which are handled by the U.S. Postal Service.

Newcomers can forward mail to the general delivery address managed by the Military PSC Office until they find permanent housing. The address is: General Delivery, PSC Box 1998, Edwards AFB, CA 93524.

Lobby areas for both post office and PSC boxes are open 24 hours a day.

UPS express mail services are available at Outdoor Recreation, located at 1100 Kincheloe Ave. and accessible at (661) 277-3546 or DSN 527-3546.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

• Muroc Joint Unified School District

17100 Foothill Ave.

North Edwards, Calif.

(760) 769-4821 or (661) 258-4356/4178

The Edwards community boasts two elementary schools, a middle school and senior high school. On-base public schools fall under the jurisdiction of California's Muroc Joint Unified School District.

• Elementary schools

Kindergarten through second grade:

Bailey Elementary

1565 Bailey Ave.

(661) 258-6432

Third through fifth grade:

Branch Elementary

1595 Bailey Ave.

(661) 258-4411, Ext. 24 or 400

Sixth through eighth grade:

Edwards Middle School

1577 Payne Ave.

(661) 258-4411, Ext. 500

A child must be 5 years of age on or before Dec. 2 of that school year to be eligible for kindergarten, and he or she must be 6 years old on or before Dec. 2 to be eligible for first grade.

Upon enrollment, parents must provide a birth certificate, a current or transfer report card from the previous school, the student's social security card, a current physical with a doctor's signature (or proof of the physical in the previous school's records) and an immunization record for each child. The law requires proof of polio, diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis or DTP and measles immunizations.

Registration is held most weekdays 1-3 p.m. throughout the year.

• High school

Ninth through 12th grades:

Desert High School

1575 Payne Ave.

(661) 258-4411, Ext. 26

Parents are required to accompany students during registration and must provide shot records (proof of measles, polio and DTP immunizations), a withdrawal form and the last report card from the previous school. Students arriving after the school year has begun should register at the counseling office as soon as possible after arrival. Students who arrive on base prior to the beginning of the school year have an opportunity to plan their schedules. Counseling sessions begin in August.

Honors, advanced placement, college preparatory and laboratory science classes complement a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities, from drama and yearbook to volleyball and wrestling and Junior ROTC. Spanish is the only foreign language offered. With roughly 400 students, Desert High offers sufficient opportunity for all students to become involved.

• Parent organizations

Parents have the opportunity to support and advise Edwards' schools through the Parent Teacher Association and the Parents' Advisory Council. More information on joining the PTA or PAC is available through the schools.



The Rocketman, Maj. James Clegern launches a rocket on the playground of Desert View Elementary School as he shares his interests in science and space.

Photo by Thomas Powell

SONIC BOOMS

See Page 48. (On Base section)

SPONSOR PROGRAM

Newcomers to Edwards are encouraged to take advantage of the sponsor program within their respective organizations. If you have orders to Edwards and do not yet have a sponsor, call your gaining orderly room or the Military Personnel Flight at (661) 277-2276 or DSN 527-2276.

SPOUSE WELCOME

Family Support Center

550 S. Bailey Ave.

(661) 277-0723 or DSN 527-0723

The Family Support Center offers a spouse welcome forum to bring together spouses new to the base and representatives from the Muroc Unified School District, 95th Services Division, the Base Education Center, TRICARE managed health care, the Officers' Wives Club and the Enlisted Wives Club.

In conjunction with local chambers of commerce, the FSC's spouse welcome offers a free tour of downtown Lancaster, Palmdale and Rosamond each month, highlighting shopping and services and providing a free lunch. Free childcare may be available during tours.

TRANSPORTATION

There are three major commercial airports within 100 miles of Edwards. Los Angeles International, located in Inglewood off Interstate 405, one hour and 45 minutes south of Edwards, is one of the world's busiest airports and traffic congestion in the vicinity is often a factor to consider.

Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport, located in Burbank, is an hour-and-a-half straight shot south from the base along State Highway 14 and Interstate 5.

Ontario International Airport, located about two hours south in San Bernardino County off Interstate 15, is a less-congested means of connecting to air travel. Newcomers arriving by air, rail or bus should ask for

assistance from their sponsor. Late-night arrival by commercial means is not advised.

A commercial shuttle is available from the Los Angeles International Airport to Palmdale and Lancaster, approximately 80 miles, at the current rate of \$41 one way. However, there is no shuttle to Edwards from Palmdale and Lancaster. Reservations may be made by calling (661) 945-2529. Other commercial shuttles may be available but can be expensive and few go to Edwards. Check with airport ground transportation for more information.

The 95th Transportation Squadron provides an on-base taxi service for official government business Monday through Friday, 5 a.m.-7 p.m. For more information, call (661) 277-2620 or DSN 527-2620.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND SMOG TEST

• Pass and Registration

105 E. Yeager Blvd.

(661) 277-7403 or DSN 527-7403

• Auto Skills Center

200 Methusa Ave.

(661) 277-4275/2836 or DSN 527-4275/2836

Vehicle registration decals are obtained from the 95th Security Forces Squadron, Pass and Registration Section. Vehicles, including motor scooters and motor bikes, must be registered on the installation within 10 working days of arrival.

To register a vehicle on base, the owner must present vehicle registration, a valid driver's license and military or civilian ID card, as well as proof of current insurance in accordance with Air Force Instruction 31-204, paragraph 3.2, and Air Force Flight Test Center Instruction 31.28, paragraph 2.6. If the insurance is not issued under the name of the registering individual, the actual policy is required to verify policy coverage of the registering individual.

Vehicles registered outside the state of California must have proof of a smog test before registering, as required by the Federal Clean Air Act of 1990, Section 118d. Smog tests may be accomplished at the Auto Skills Center;

appointments are necessary. Cost is \$25.

An F-22 Raptor in full afterburner during flight testing at Edwards AFB. U.S. Air Force photo

WEATHER

Sun and wind, not heat, are the primary year-round characteristics of Edwards' weather. Skies above Edwards are sunny more than 350 days per year. Winds usually pick up in the afternoon from the southwest to the west and can become strong at times, particularly in the spring. Edwards' clear skies, desert climate and 2,300-foot elevation result in a 30 to 40-degree difference between

daytime and nighttime temperatures. Cool evening temperatures and low humidity make the hot summer months surprisingly comfortable. Precipitation is rare between April and October and only accumulates approximately five inches per year. Snow flurries occasionally fall, but rarely stick to the ground. The chart below shows average temperatures and precipitation.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Average High	57	61	65	73	81	91	99	97	91	79	66	57
Average Low	31	35	39	45	52	59	66	64	57	47	36	30
Precip. (in.)	1.10	1.14	0.95	0.28	0.10	0.04	0.14	0.20	0.24	0.27	0.59	0.78