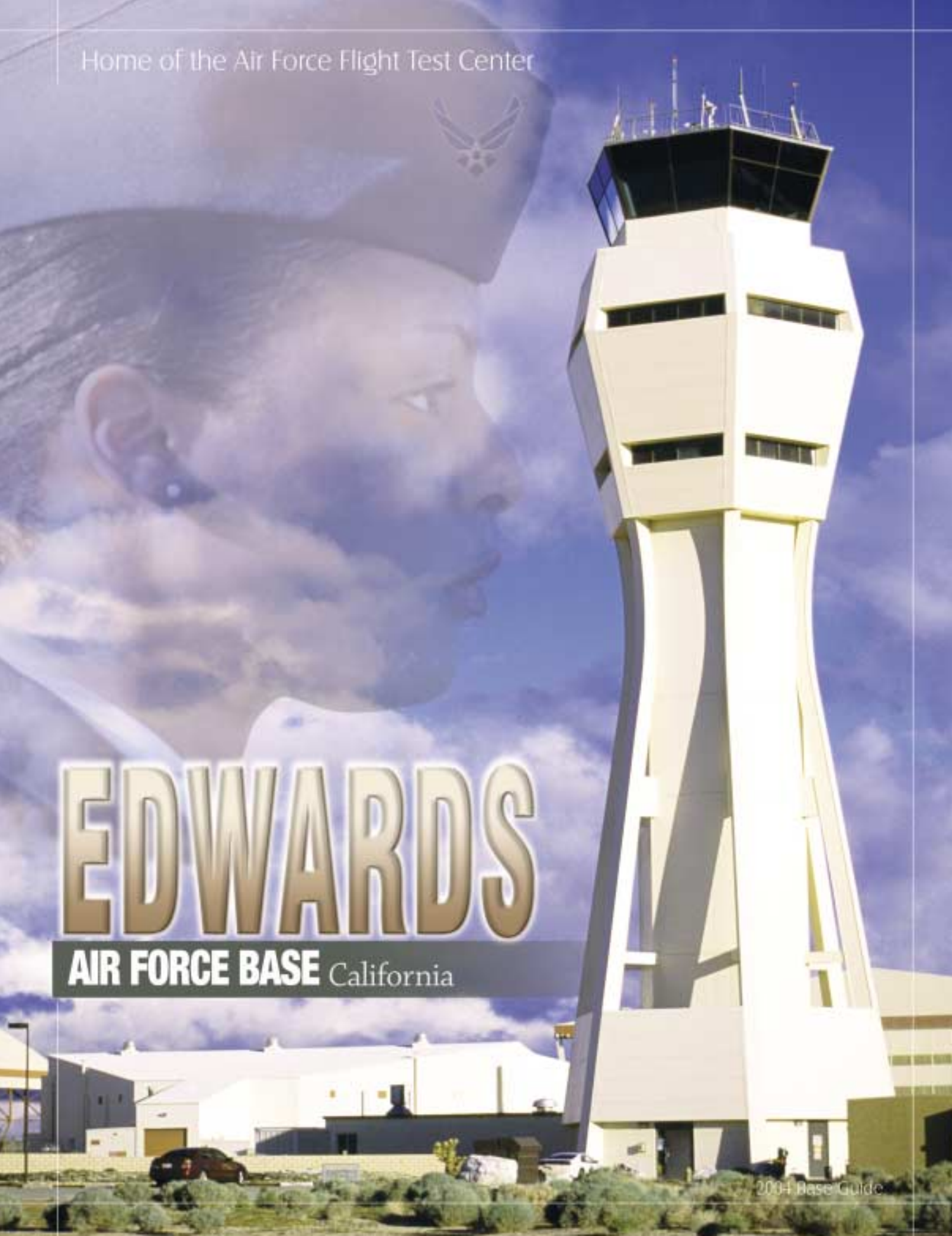
Home of the Air Force Flight Test Center



# EDWARDS

## AIR FORCE BASE California

2004 Base Guide

# QUICK REFERENCE LIST

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# EDWARDS
## AIR FORCE BASE
*A Guide for 2004*
## Air Force Flight Test Center

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An F-22 Raptor makes a low pass over Edwards Air Force Base.
U.S. Air Force photo

Bobbi Garcia, who works for Rohmann Services in support of the Air Force Flight Test Center, took this photo of a B-2 completing a mission over the Pacific Ocean. The photo, which appeared in the December 30th, 2003 Aviation Week and Space Technology, won the magazine's photo contest.
Photo by Bobbi Garcia

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Base Map, Southern California Map

Military Buyer's Guide

# Welcome to EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE & The Air Force Flight

*Welcome to Edwards Air Force Base and the Air Force Flight Test Center! Whether you are here for a short visit or being assigned for a tour of duty, I sincerely hope that your stay is enjoyable.*

Edwards is where tomorrow's Air Force is tested, and all of us who live and work here are extremely proud of this installation, its rich history and the role it has had in the advancement of military air power and state-of-the-art aviation in general.

From the development of America's first jet aircraft, the Bell XP-59A Airacomet, to our nation's newest air dominance fighter, the F/A-22 Raptor, and soon the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, Edwards has been home to virtually every aircraft to enter the Air Force inventory since World War II.

Edwards was where the sound barrier was first broken by Capt. Chuck Yeager in the Bell X-1 on Oct. 14, 1947, and where other X-planes pushed that record to two, three, four, five and six times the speed of sound and beyond. It was here that the X-15 probed the threshold of space and where the Space Shuttle first took wing and then landed on its initial return from earth orbit.

Edwards is also home to the Air Force Research Laboratory's Propulsion Directorate, Detachment 7, the U.S. Marine Corps MAG 46 Detachment Bravo, NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center and considerable test activity conducted by America's commercial aerospace industry.

Our unique combination of geography and climate makes Edwards a true national asset.

# Test Center

But the real strength of Edwards is the men and women who work here—their energy, commitment and professionalism. The motto of the Air Force Flight Test Center is "Ad Inexplorata," which translates from the Latin into "Toward the Unexplored." While you're at Edwards, I hope you'll get to know them and come to understand just exactly what that motto means to all who serve here.

Again, a hearty welcome and best wishes from all of us for a most enjoyable stay.

WILBERT D. PEARSON, JR.
Major General, USAF
Commander

# HISTORY

## The Natural Setting

A parched and forbidding wilderness to those who first see it, the northwestern Mojave Desert is a land of coyotes and kangaroo rats, of ragged greasewood and, of course, Joshua trees. It is a harsh land of sometimes stunning contrasts—a land of griddle-hot days and bone-chilling nights, of violent dust storms, bewildering mirages and mesmerizing sunsets.

Until the Southern Pacific Railroad arrived in 1876, the desert was populated mostly by occasional prospectors drifting endlessly in pursuit of elusive mineral wealth. In 1882, the Santa Fe Railroad ran a line westward out of Barstow toward Mojave and built a water stop at the edge of an immense dry lakebed, roughly 20 miles southeast of Mojave. The lonely water stop was known simply as "Rod," and the lakebed was then called Rodriguez Dry Lake.

By the early 1900s, "Rodriguez" had been anglicized into "Rodgers," which was then shortened to "Rogers." First formed in the Pleistocene Epoch and featuring an extremely flat, smooth and concrete-like surface, Rogers Dry Lakebed is a playa—or pluvial lake—that spreads out over 44 square miles, making it the largest such geological formation in the world.

Its parched clay and silt surface undergoes a timeless cycle of renewal each year, as water from winter rains is swept back and forth by desert winds, smoothing it out to an almost glass-like flatness.

The Corum's tiny one-room general store eventually grew into the Muroc Mercantile Company and Post Office, a landmark at Muroc until 1953.

## • The Homesteaders 1900's

In 1910, the Corum family settled at the edge of this lakebed. In addition to raising alfalfa and turkeys, they located other homesteaders in the area for a fee of $1 per acre. As those settlers moved in, the Corum brothers earned contracts for drilling water wells and clearing land. They also opened a general store and post office.

Their request to have the post office stop named "Corum" was disallowed because there was already a Coram, Calif. So they simply reversed the spelling of their name and named it "Muroc." Small, isolated homesteads dotted the land over the next 20 years.

## • The Airmen Arrive 1930's

The early homesteaders thought of Rogers Dry Lakebed as a wasteland. However, a visionary airman commanding March Field, Lt. Col. H.H. "Hap" Arnold, saw it as a one-of-a-kind "natural aerodrome"—one that could be acquired at virtually no cost to the taxpayer.

Thus, in September 1933, the Muroc Bombing and Gunnery Range was established by Arnold. This remote training site, now a small enclave within present-day Edwards, served the Army Air Corps' bombers and fighters for several years.

With the arrival of World War II, a permanent base sprang up for the training of combat flight crews. In July 1942, it was activated as a separate post and designated Muroc Army Air Base.

Throughout the war years, B-24s thundered through the Muroc skies and P-38s strafed the targets on the range as bomber crews and fighter pilots prepared to do battle overseas.

Muroc Bombing and Gunnery Range, 1963

## • Strange Shapes in the Sky 1940's

In the meantime, wartime development of military aviation overwhelmed Wright Field in Ohio with an immense volume of flight test work. It was necessary to find a remote location with good flying weather where a new top-secret airplane could safely undergo tests.

In the spring of 1942, a site was chosen alongside the north shore of Rogers Dry Lakebed, about six miles away from the training base at Muroc. A wooden hangar and rudimentary facilities sprang up and on Oct. 1, 1942, Bell test pilot Bob Stanley lifted the wheels of the Bell XP-59A Airacomet off the enormous, flat surface of the dry lakebed. The turbojet revolution had arrived. America's first jet plane was shortly joined by a second, the famed Lockheed XP-80 Shooting Star.

As revolutionary as these two experimental fighter planes were, the natural runways of the lakebed served them well. The first-generation turbojet engines had a nasty habit of flaming out, and the Airacomet required an extremely long takeoff roll.

During the postwar years, all of America's first generation of jets—both Air Force and Navy—underwent testing at Muroc, and the great lakebed served as a welcome haven to countless pilots in distress.

The success of these programs attracted a new type of research activity to the base in late 1946. The rocket-powered Bell X-1 was the first in a long series of experimental airplanes designed to prove or disprove aeronautical concepts—to probe the most challenging unknowns of flight and solve its mysteries.

On Oct. 14, 1947, Capt. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager flew the small bullet-shaped airplane to become the first human to exceed the speed of sound. With the X-1, flight testing at Muroc began to assume two distinct identities. Highly experimental research programs—such as the X-3, X-4, X-5 and XF-92A—were typically flown in conjunction with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, or NACA, and were conducted in a methodical fashion to answer largely theoretical questions. Then, as now, the great bulk of flight testing at Muroc focused on evaluations of the capabilities of aircraft and systems proposed for the operational inventory.

In December 1949, Muroc was renamed Edwards Air Force Base in honor of Capt. Glen W. Edwards, who was killed a year earlier in the crash of the YB-49 Flying Wing.

By that time, the base had already become the reigning center of American flight research and on June 25, 1951, this fact was finally officially recognized when its test community was designated the U.S. Air Force Flight Test Center, or AFFTC. That same year, the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School moved to Edwards from Wright Field, Ohio.

Its curriculum focused on the traditional field of performance testing and the relatively new field of stability and control, which had suddenly assumed critical importance with the dramatic increases in speed offered by the new turbojets.

Capt. Glen W. Edwards

Below, the Bell XP-59A Airacomet rolls out for its maiden flight, ushering in the turbojet revolution.

Below, Capt Charles "Chuck" Yeager and the supersonic mission's project engineer, Capt. Jack Ridley, stand before the Bell X-1 hanging beneath the mothership B-29.

## • THE GOLDEN AGE OF FLIGHT TEST 1950's

The decade of the1950s was a remarkable period in the history of aviation, and there was no better evidence of this than what transpired at Edwards. If the concept seemed feasible—or even just desirable—it was evaluated in the skies above the sprawling 301,000-acre base.

The experimental rocket planes, for example, continued to expand the boundaries of the high-speed and stratospheric frontiers.

As the decade opened, the first-generation X-1 reached Mach 1.45 (957 mph) and a 71,902-foot altitude, representing the edge of the envelope. The D-558-II Douglas Skyrocket soon surpassed these marks. In 1951, Douglas test pilot Bill Bridgeman flew it to a top speed of Mach 1.88 (1,180 mph) and a peak altitude of 74,494 feet. Then, in 1953, Marine test pilot Lt. Col. Marion Carl flew the same plane to an altitude of 83,235 feet.

On Nov. 20, 1951, NACA's Scott Crossfield became the first man to reach Mach 2 as he piloted the Skyrocket to a speed of Mach 2.005 (1,291 mph). Less than a month later, Maj. Chuck Yeager topped this record as he piloted the second-generation Bell X-1A to a top speed of Mach 2.44 (1,650 mph) and, just nine months later, Maj. Arthur "Kit" Murray flew the same airplane to a new altitude record of 90,440 feet.

These records stood for less than three years. In September 1956, Capt. Iven Kincheloe became the first man to soar above 100,000 feet, as he piloted the Bell X-2 to a then-remarkable altitude of 126,200 feet. Flying the same airplane just weeks later on Sept. 27, Capt. Mel Apt became the first to exceed Mach 3, accelerating to a speed of Mach 3.2 (2,094 mph). His moment of glory was tragically brief, however. Just seconds after attaining top speed, the X-2 tumbled violently out of control and Apt was never able to recover.

With the loss of the X-2, the search for many of the answers to the riddles of high-Mach flight had to be postponed until the arrival of the most ambitious of the rocket planes—the truly awesome North American X-15.

Meanwhile, the turbojet revolution had reached a high plateau at Edwards, as aircraft such as the famed "Century Series" of fighters—the F-100 Super Sabre, F-102 Delta Dagger, the Mach 2 F-104 Starfighter, F-105 Thunderchief and F-106 Delta Dart—made supersonic flight seem almost commonplace.

Incorporating many advances made possible by the experimental research programs, each of these aircraft was a dazzling technological achievement and, indeed, as a group, they defined the basic speed and altitude envelopes for fighters, which are still in effect to this day.

The "Century Series" Fleet of turbojet fighters in flight, including the F-100, F-101, F-102 and F-104.
1957 NASA photo

Capt. Milburn G. "Mel" Apt sits in the cockpit of the X-2. Next to him is Capt. Iven C. Kincheloe.
1956

X-15A with test pilot, Pete Knight.
1965 NASA photo

It fell to Maj. Robert M. "Bob" White to explore some of the new X-15's remarkable capabilities. He launched from a B-52 mother aircraft on March 7, 1961, and using only 50 percent of the thrust of his XLR99 rocket engine, became the first pilot to exceed Mach 4. In subsequent flights, Maj. White became the first to break Mach 5 and 6 as well. It had taken mankind nine years to get from Mach 1 to Mach 3 (1947-1956); White and the X-15 rocketed past the next three Mach numbers in just eight months.

## • The Space Age

1960's

The 1960s ushered in a new emphasis on space flight. The Test Pilot School, for example, was re-designated the Aerospace Research Pilot School as it moved into the business of training future astronauts.

High above the flightline, the X-15 was beginning to explore hypersonic and exoatmospheric flight. Indeed, in July 1962, it became the first—and, so far, only—airplane to fly in near space as it soared above 314,000 feet, winning astronaut wings for its pilot, Maj. Robert M. White. With Maj. William J. "Pete" Knight at the controls on Oct. 3, 1967, the highly modified X-15A-2 ultimately reached a top speed of Mach 6.72 (4,520 mph), which remains the highest speed ever attained by an airplane.

While space-related activities captured the public's imagination, test pilots at Edwards were also continuing to expand the frontiers of atmospheric flight in air-breathing, jet-powered aircraft such as the XB-70 Valkyrie and the YF-12 and SR-71 Blackbird. The mammoth, 500,000-pound Valkyrie proved itself capable of sustained triple-sonic flight operations at altitudes above 70,000 feet.

In the meantime, the mysterious Blackbirds, now described as first-generation "stealth" aircraft, provided even more dazzling performances as they routinely cruised at speeds in excess of Mach 3 and at altitudes well above 80,000 feet.

With the decline of the military manned space mission in the early 70s, the Aerospace Research Pilot School was once again re-designated the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School. This change was more than symbolic. Based on a survey of graduates still active in the flight test business, the school completely revamped its curriculum to reflect major changes that had recently taken place in the aerospace world.

Experience had shown that the proliferation of increasingly sophisticated onboard avionics, sensor and fire-control systems would be a constant and that supervising modern test programs would increasingly require strong management skills. Thus, the school replaced its space-oriented phase of curriculum with a whole new battery of courses focusing on systems tests and test management.

The Space Shuttle Discovery's drag chute deploys to slow its landing.
2002 NASA photo

A block 30 F-16 from the 416th Flight Test Squadron drops a Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) during testing.
Photo by Tom Reynolds

## • The Modern Skies

**1970's**

New aircraft types arrived in the 1970s: the F-15 Eagle with its advanced engine and fire-control system; the single-engine F-16 Falcon with its revolutionary "fly-by-wire" flight control system; and the B-1 Lancer with its multitude of highly sophisticated offensive and defensive systems.

These planes more than bore out the prophecy concerning the ever-increasing importance of systems testing and integration. Moreover, another major new element of complexity was soon introduced into the flight test process.

At a remote location in 1978 and 1979, an AFFTC test pilot and a pair of flight test engineers were engaged in proof-of-concept testing with Lockheed's "low-observable" technology demonstrator, dubbed "Have Blue." The successful conduct of these tests led immediately to the development of a new subsonic attack aircraft that was designated the F-117A Nighthawk.

Another aerospace revolution—the stealth revolution—was underway.

**1980's**

The 1980s opened with one of the most dramatic episodes in all of Edwards' history. At 10:20 a.m. on April 14, 1981, the wheels of the Space Shuttle Columbia touched down on Rogers Dry Lakebed. Astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen had successfully landed the first orbiting space vehicle ever to leave the Earth under rocket power and return on the wings of an aircraft. The era of reusable space vehicles had dawned.

In the meantime, flight testing itself had evolved into a remarkably complex process that led to a similar revolution in the Flight Test Center's ability to acquire and process flight data. In fact, the extraordinary number of costly flying hours required to test and integrate all of the new systems under the traditional "fly-fix-fly" method had forced the AFFTC to rethink its whole approach to the business of testing. Thus, the decade also saw the development of sophisticated new facilities at Edwards that met the challenges of the new technologies.

The Integration Facility for Avionic Systems Test, the Benefield Anechoic Facility and the Test and Evaluation, Modeling and Simulation Facility—all part of the Avionics Test and Integration Complex, permitted the testing and integration of new and complex software-intensive systems on the ground before they were taken into the air.

Spectacular events have become almost commonplace at Edwards over the years, but they have always represented only a small part of the Flight Test Center's workload. The primary job has always been to assure that American aircrews go into combat with the most effective and reliable operational aircraft in the world.

The capabilities of existing aircraft such as the F-15 and F-16 have been continually refined and expanded, even as totally new aircraft and systems incorporating radical new technologies are developed for future operational use.

The dual-role F-15E, for example, was developed in the 1980s and went on to demonstrate truly remarkable combat effectiveness in the Persian Gulf conflict of the early 90s. The Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infrared for Night, or LANTIRN, system revolutionized air-to-ground combat operations during the same conflict by denying our adversary the once comforting sanctuary of night.

The late 1980s also witnessed the arrival of the first giant flying wing to soar over the base in nearly 40 years. The thin silhouette, compound curves and other low-observable characteristics of the B-2 Spirit represented third-generation stealth technology, following the SR-71 and F-117.

A Global Hawk Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

F-22 Raptor

## 1990's and beyond

The new bomber, by far the most sophisticated and complex airplane ever built, was soon followed in the early 90s by the arrival of the YF-22A and the YF-23A, both of which would soon give a new definition to the term "air superiority."

The two prototype fighters were the first airplanes to blend stealth with agility and high-speed, supersonic cruise capability. The YF-22A was selected to become the Air Force's new advanced tactical fighter after a brief demonstration and validation risk reduction flight test program. Now named the Raptor, the F/A-22 is undergoing evaluation at the AFFTC.

A new group of research projects came to Edwards in the 1990s. Global Hawk, an unmanned aerial vehicle that has been used extensively in Afghanistan as well as Iraq, made its first flight at Edwards in February 1998 and has gone on to fill a critical role in America's war on terrorism. The X-24, X-33, X-34 and X-38, a series of new lifting bodies, technology demonstrators and half scale models that might make space flight, research and development safer and more economical, were tested here by NASA during the decade.

The new millennium brought new projects with worldwide impact. The X-35A and X-32A, competing models for the Joint Strike Fighter program, made their first flights in September and October 2000. The X-35A won the competition in 2001 and will eventually be built in various versions for America's flying armed services and for foreign air forces as well. Also new is the Airborne Laser Program, currently undergoing development and modifications at Edwards.

## • Where We Stand Today

Flight testing at Edwards has come a long way since the first olive-drab XP-59A lifted off from the lakebed more than 60 years ago. Over the years, the U.S. Air Force and the world of aerospace have continued to meet the future in the clear blue skies above the base. Every single aircraft to enter the Air Force's inventory—and a great many that failed to do so—has been put through its paces at Edwards, as well as Navy and Army aircraft.

Arguably, more major milestones in flight have occurred at this base than anywhere else in the world. The demands of the global war against terrorism and the ever-accelerating pace of technological change over the past half-century has been daunting, but the Edwards flight test community repeatedly demonstrates its ability to adapt to these changes and to master the many challenges they impose.

The turbojet revolution, the space revolution, the systems revolution and now the stealth revolution have imposed seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Each barrier, however, has been overcome through a combination of technical skill, daring ingenuity and skillful management.

Indeed, the Air Force Flight Test Center's unique blend of natural, technical and human resources has transformed it into something much more than just a benefit to the Air Force; it is an irreplaceable national asset.

The X-35 Joint Strike Fighter is disassembled at Edwards AFB and placed on a truck headed for the Smithsonian Institute's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC.
U.S. Air Force Photo by Thomas Powel

# MISSION

An AIM-9 Sidewinder missile begins its early separation from an F-22 Raptor during a launch test over Edwards AFB.
Photo by Judson Brohmer

## • Air Force Flight Test Center

The Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., is the Air Force Materiel Command center of excellence for research, development, test and evaluation of aerospace systems for the United States and its allies. It operates the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School and is home to NASA's Dryden Research Center and considerable test activity conducted by America's commercial aerospace industry.

From the development of the country's first jet aircraft to the Air Force's newest fighter, the F/A-22 Raptor, the test forces at Edwards have played a role in the development of virtually every aircraft to enter the Air Force inventory since World War II. With the center's capability of just-in-time testing, Edwards can provide real-time solutions during combat operations. This combat support establishes the Flight Test Center's direct and tangible link to the warfighter.

Guiding this considerable tasking is the Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters. Led by a two-star general and his command section, Flight Test Center staff agencies include comptroller, contracting, environmental management, history, information technology, inspector general, intelligence, plans, protocol, public affairs, safety, small-business office and the staff judge advocate office.

The two major organizations carrying out the center's mission are the 412th Test Wing and the 95th Air Base Wing, with more than 5,500 service members and government employees.

The 412th Test Wing manages the center's flight operations programs and functions. In doing so, it manages all engineering support for manned and unmanned aerospace vehicle test programs. With many different types of planes operated by the 412th aircrews, the Edwards flight line takes on an almost expeditionary aerospace force look.

The aircraft flown here include the B-1B, B-2, B-52, C-12, C-17, NKC-135, KC-135, CV-22, F-15, F-16, F/A-22, F-117, T-38 and T-39. Additionally, the Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle and L-23 glider are tested at Edwards. The Airborne Laser 747 test platform is currently undergoing development and modifications for testing and in 2005 the X-35 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft will be tested here.

The 412th Test Wing also programs, develops, operates and maintains engineering technical services and facilities to support testing, and operates and manages logistic support.

The Test Wing's support-side counterpart, the 95th Air Base Wing, runs Edwards like a small town, delivering a quality of life that makes the base a great place to live and work. The Air Base Wing maintains the security, roads, buildings, transportation and community support services that make the flight-test mission possible. It provides the housing, childcare, recreational activities and medical care that affect every person on base. Without the Air Base Wing, the Flight Test Center could not succeed in helping to keep our Air Force the world's finest.

# Test Wing and Air Base Wing structure:

412th Test Wing

- U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School
- 412th Operations Group (OG)
    - 410th Flight Test Squadron
    - 411th Flight Test Squadron
    - 412th Flight Test Squadron
    - 412th Operations Support Squadron
    - 416th Flight Test Squadron
    - 418th Flight Test Squadron
    - 419th Flight Test Squadron
    - 452nd Flight Test Squadron
- 412th Maintenance Group (MX)
    - 412th Component Maintenance Squadron (CMS)
    - 412th Equipment Maintenance Squadron (EMS)
    - 412th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMXS)
    - 412th Maintenance Operations Squadron (MOS)
- Electronic Warfare Directorate (EW)
- Engineering Directorate (EN)
- Project Management Directorate (DR)
- Resource Management Directorate (RM)

95th Air Base Wing

- AFFTC Museum (MU)
- Chaplain Office (HC)
- Command Post (CP)
- Military Equal Opportunity (ME)
- Plans & Programs Office (CA)
- 95th Mission Support Group (MSG)
    - Logistics Readiness Division (LRD)
    - Support Squadron (MSS)
    - Security Forces Squadron (SFS)
    - Services Division (SV)
- 95th Medical Group (MDG)
    - Medical Support Squadron (SGS)
    - Medical Squadron (SGO)
    - Aerospace Medicine Squadron (SGP)
- Civil Engineer/Transportation Directorate (CE)
    - Engineering Division (CEC)
    - Explosive Ordinance Disposal Division (CED)
    - Fire Protection Division (CEF)
    - Housing Office (CETH)
    - Resources Division (CER)
    - Transportation Division (CET)

F-22 Raptor.
U.S. Air Force photo

A KC-135 refuels an F-22 Raptor.
USAF photo by Kevin Robertson

A KC-135 refuels a B-2 Spirit.
U.S. Air Force photo

CV-22 Osprey.
Photo by Thomas Powell

C-17.
U.S. Air Force photo

Background image: Photo by Master Sgt. Stefanie Doner

A C-130J Hercules sits in the Benefield Anechoic Facility for defense systems testing.
U.S. Air Force photo by Thomas Powell

## • Developmental test and evaluation

Edwards' contribution to the U.S. fighting forces results from test and evaluation—the bedrock of the Air Force Flight Test Center's existence.

The fundamental purpose of test and evaluation, known as T&E, is identifying risks that need to be reduced or eliminated before a system is sent to field bases. Here, the major type of test and evaluation is developmental.

Developmental T&E, known as DT&E, occurs as early as possible in the test and evaluation process and involves close collaboration with the system developer when it's still practical and affordable to change design. It serves as a bridge between system designers and operational users.

Operational test and evaluation, known as OT&E, usually done at other bases, takes a system shaped by DT&E and determines whether it's effective and suitable for its intended task.

The present Air Force test and evaluation philosophy employs combined DT&E and OT&E to increase efficiency and to ensure participation by operational testers prior to major acquisition milestones. The center relies on the combined test force to carry out this mission.

A combined test force, known as CTF, is an integrated product team consisting of three independent groups—a contractor test team, an Air Force developmental test team and an Air Force initial operational test team—working together to meet respective taskings. The purpose of the CTF concept is to minimize duplication and accomplish required test programs while conserving resources.

Besides flight test facilities, the Flight Test Center has an array of ground test facilities. The Avionics Test and Integration Complex, which includes the massive Benefield Anechoic Facility, allows for complete testing of a fully integrated avionics suite in a simulated flight environment, including electronic threats and computer software checkout.

For example, when aircraft systems are tested for integration with other on-board functions, a plane is placed inside the BAF's anechoic chamber—the world's largest electronically secure and quiet environment that realistically simulates an outdoor range. The benefit of this and other modeling and simulation is safer, less expensive testing.

Other aircraft test resources at Edwards range from general support aircraft to extensively modified weapon systems with a full range of instrumentation. Some of the center's flight test engineering capabilities focus on propulsion, human factors, manned and unmanned aerospace vehicles, access to space, weapon delivery and parachute equipment.

## • LINKED TO GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

These and other disciplines directly link Edwards to a vision for the 21st century America's Air Force. Global vigilance, reach and power—and its six core competencies: air and space superiority, global attack, rapid global mobility, precision engagement, information superiority, agile combat support, command and control.

How?

- By ensuring weapons systems—needed to control what moves through air and space—perform as advertised.
- By ensuring long-range combat platforms can reach beyond friendly borders and can respond effectively in any crisis.
- By ensuring airlift and aerial refueling aircraft can move forces and firepower anywhere in the world at any time.
- By ensuring fighters and bombers can successfully apply selective force against specific targets.
- By ensuring intelligence-gathering planes and unmanned aerial vehicles can deliver powerful knowledge.
- By ensuring Edwards troops are trained thoroughly to join an air expeditionary force deploying to a global hot spot.

As the Air Force transforms into an expeditionary aerospace force, the center will march in step with its T&E mission.

A NATO Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft flies with three f-16 Fighting Falcons during a test mission.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tom Reynolds

# ASSOCIATES

## 18th Space Control Squadron

12 Laboratory Rd.
(661) 277-8672 or DSN 527-8672

18th SPCS, located at Edwards since 1994, is an Air Force Space Command geographically separated unit of the 21st Operations Group, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. The mission of the squadron is direct support to the U.S. commander in chief and Space Command's space control mission through optical space surveillance, including detection, tracking, identification and special signature collection of near-space and deep-space objects.

To accomplish the unit's mission, the squadron controls a network of optical sensors in four worldwide locations. Three ground-based electro-optical deep-space surveillance, or GEODSS, units are located in Socorro, N.M.; Diego Garcia; and Maui, Hawaii. In addition to GEODSS sensors, the squadron operates the Maui Space Surveillance System and the transportable optical system, Moron Air Base, Spain. 18th SPCSS operators control GEODSS remote telescopes from Edwards.

## 31 Test and Evaluation Squadron

60 N. Wolfe Ave.
(661) 277-2366 or DSN 527-2366

The 31st Test and Evaluation Squadron, established in 1917, is the home of Air Combat Command Operation's maintenance, engineering and air crew experts who test, assess and evaluate effectiveness and suitability of new U.S. Air Force weapons systems designs.

The Desert Pirates, as they are called, are the sole ACC organization at Edwards and are part of the 53rd Test and Evaluation Group, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and the 53rd Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

The 31st represents the operational combat user during early flight testing to ensure the warfighter receives the world's best operational systems.

The unit is manned with operations, maintenance and engineering experts who plan and conduct tests, evaluate effectiveness and suitability and influence system designs with an operational perspective. Unit personnel are integrated into the F/A-22, B-1, B-2, B-52, Global Hawk and Airborne Laser programs. Their results and conclusions support Department of Defense acquisition, deployment and employment decisions.

## Air Force Audit Agency at Edwards

90 Farrell Dr.
(661) 277-2899 or DSN 527-2899

The Edwards Area Audit Team provides the Air Force Flight Test Center, Air Force Research Laboratory's Propulsion Directorate, Plant 42 and March Air Reserve Base, Calif., independent, objective and quality audit services. These audit services promote the economy and efficiency of operations; evaluate programs and activities to assist management in achieving desired results; and assess fiduciary stewardship and accuracy of financial reporting.

The Airborne Laser's System Integration Lab (left) and Ground Pressure Recovery Assembly at Edward's South Base Complex.
Courtesy photo

## Air Education and Training Command, Studies and Analysis Squadron, Detachment 1

118 South Wolfe Ave.
(661) 277-3501 or DSN 527-3501

Detachment 1, AETC SAS is a component of headquarters AETC and supports all agencies in the Department of Defense and NATO in the development, assessment and analysis of training systems during the acquisition process. At Edwards, Detachment 1 assists in the development of maintenance training for brand new acquisition systems, such as the Joint Strike Fighter and augments the mission of Detachment 5, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, through training assessment.

The Airborne Laser, the world's largest first attack laser aircraft, demonstrates its ability to refuel with help from an Edwards NKC-135E tanker crew during a test in the California skies.
Courtesy photo

## Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Detachment 111

15 S. Muroc Dr.
(661) 277-2208 or DSN 527-2208

AFOSI, Detachment 111, provides special investigative services for the protection of Air Force and Department of Defense personnel, operations and material at Edwards. The unit strives to detect and provide early warning of worldwide threats to the Air Force, identify and resolve crime that threatens Air Force readiness or good order and discipline, combat threats to information systems and technologies, and detects/deters fraud in the acquisition of USAF prioritized weapons systems.

F-22 Raptor
U.S. Air Force photo

## Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Detachment 5

192 E. Yeager Blvd.
(661) 277-3617 or DSN 527-3617

Detachment 5, a component of the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., helps to ensure the nation's warfighters have the right tools to accomplish the mission effectively. The detachment focuses on operational testing of production representative systems, the critical follow-on process to the Air Force Flight Test Center's developmental test and evaluation emphasis. AFOTEC personnel work closely with the Test Center's combined test forces from concept development through system employment by injecting operational realism into flight test programming.

## Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Detachment 6

365 N. Flightline Rd.
(661) 275-3568 or DSN 525-3568

Detachment 6, which became operational Oct. 1, 2001, is the newest of AFOTEC's detachments and is responsible for the operational test and evaluation of the Air Force's new air superiority fighter, the F/A-22 Raptor. The Detachment 6 charter is to evaluate the effectiveness and suitability of the F/A-22 in an operationally realistic environment to ensure our warfighters receive the best overall air combat vehicle possible.

Detachment 6 personnel at Edwards include logisticians, engineers and pilots who work with the Air Force Flight Test Center's F/A-22 Combined Test Force. Detachment 6 also has personnel at AFOTEC Headquarters at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., including the F/A-22 operational test program manager, logisticians, analysts and operations support staff to provide coordination between locations.

F-117 Nighthawks
U.S. Air Force photo

## Air Force Plant 42 Production Flight Test Installation

Palmdale, Calif.

Air Force Plant 42 is a government-owned, contractor-operated facility with proximity to both the concentration of aerospace industry in Los Angeles and the high-speed corridors and resources of the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards. The facility is uniquely situated to fully support the nation's newest and most advanced commercial and military aerospace systems. Air Force Plant 42 is one of four Air Force plants located throughout the United States and differs in that it hosts three major defense contractors: Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman.

The mission of Air Force Plant 42 is to provide industrial facilities for production, modification, and depot maintenance and flight test of U.S. aerospace systems.

Air Force Plant 42 is composed of the following military units as well as the three DoD contractors mentioned above:

- Aeronautical Systems Center, Detachment 1
  2503 E. Ave. P
  Palmdale, Calif.
  (661) 272-6770

  Detachment 1, a component of ASC, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, provides command and control of Air Force Plant 42, airfield complex and industrial facilities used for production, modification, depot maintenance and flight test of U.S. aerospace systems. The unit provides security, airfield management, maintenance and engineering support, fire protection, crash and rescue, recovery and safety, information management, and contract and property management.

- 410th Flight Test Squadron/F-117 Combined Test Force
  15th St. E. and Ave. P
  Palmdale, Calif.
  (661) 572-5190

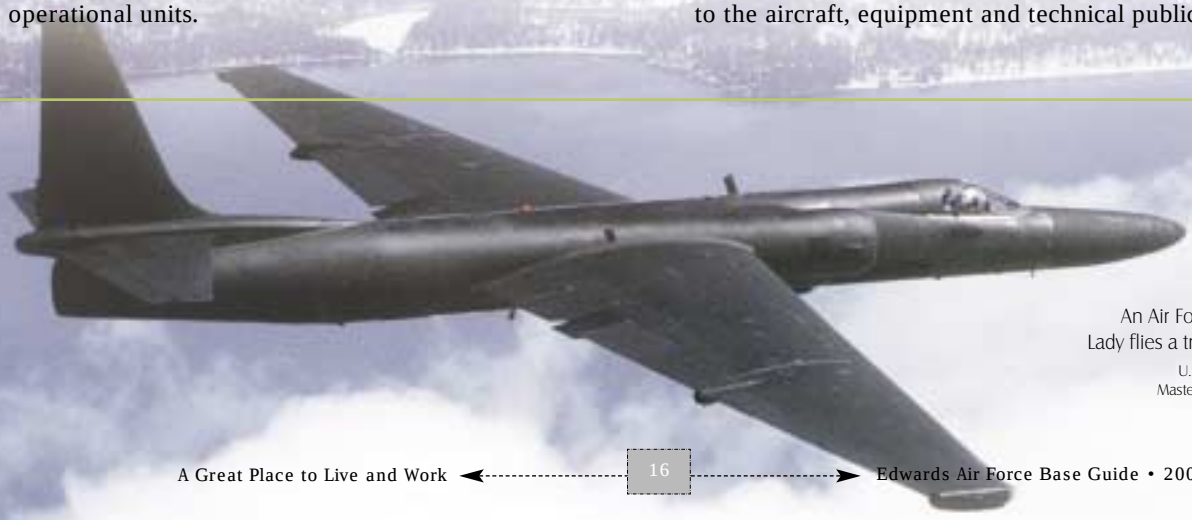
  The 410th Flight Test Squadron, a part of the 412th Test Wing and Air Force Flight Test Center, provides operational F-117A support by conducting all developmental test and evaluation and depot maintenance acceptance flights prior to return to operational units.

- 645th Materiel Squadron, OL-Detachment 4
  1011 Lockheed Way
  Palmdale, Calif.
  (661) 572-1266

  Detachment 4 of the 645th Materiel Squadron, a component of Aeronautical Systems Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, provides on-site management, direction and control over the acquisition, modification, maintenance, testing, training and logistics support of special purpose aircraft and other sensitive, high-priority projects as directed by the Air Force.

- Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Detachment 2
  2030 E. Ave. M
  Palmdale, Calif.
  (661) 277-4000

  Detachment 2, a unit of Warner Robins ALC, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., is the sole Air Force unit responsible for planning, conducting and reporting on all U-2 flight test programs. The unit conducts U-2 developmental and operational mission support and post-depot maintenance acceptance flights. The unit also provides quality assurance oversight of depot and flight test maintenance activity and validates technical changes to the aircraft, equipment and technical publications.



An Air Force U-2 Dragon Lady flies a training mission.
U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Rose Reynolds

## Air Force Research Laboratory, Propulsion Directorate, Detachment 7

Public Affairs Office
5 Pollux Dr.
(661) 275-5465 or DSN 525-5465
www.pr.afrl.af.mil

Development of rocket propulsion technologies for current and future Air Force space and missile systems is the responsibility of the Air Force Research Laboratory's Propulsion Directorate at Edwards Air Force Base.

The Air Force Research Laboratory, headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, encompasses all Air Force research and development with directorates and facilities throughout the United States.

The directorate here has devoted its efforts to the discovery, development and application of scientific and engineering answers to national defense rocket propulsion needs for more than 50 years.

More than 250 scientists, engineers, technicians and support staff advance this technology area. They are assisted by additional on-site contractors and base support organizations.

The Propulsion Directorate is the development center for all Air Force rocket and missile propulsion technologies including propellants, combustion, characterization of exhaust plumes, and the materials and structures unique to rocket propulsion. Nearly every U.S. rocket-propelled system used today for tactical operations, ballistic launch, space launch and space operations can trace its technology back to this facility.

The directorate's unique state-of-the-art research equipment and physical assets cover more than 65 square miles of Edwards. They include static rocket test stands capable of holding test firings up to 10 million pounds of thrust.

Known historically as the 'Rocket Site,' its current efforts are devoted to a national master plan for rocket propulsion technology research involving all military services, NASA and the rocket industry. Called IHPRPT or Integrated High Payoff Rocket Propulsion Technology, this research, coupled with advanced propulsion concept demonstrations will push the advancement of rocket propulsion technology into the new century.

## Area Defense Counsel

20 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 277-2809 or DSN 527-2809

The Area Defense Counsel, the equivalent of a public defender, serves to advocate for military members involved in administrative or punitive action taken by commanders. The counsel focuses on legal issues pertaining to military justice such as letters of reprimand, Articles 15, courts-martial and medical or flying evaluation boards.

## Army and Air Force Exchange Service

W. 240 Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 258-1078

In a continuing effort to improve quality of life at Edwards Air Force Base, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service provides the community with services, products and retail facilities from the Shoppette complex with a Class Six and Pizza Hut to a car care center with 24-hour credit card reader gas dispensers and Enterprise Car Rental.

Located in the 73,000-square-foot Base Exchange complex is military clothing sales, beauty and barbershops, a same-day optical shop, a florist, a video arcade, cellular phone store, alterations shop, a General Nutrition Center and an Armed Forces Bank. Additionally, the exchange food court houses Anthony's Pizza, Baskin Robbins, Popeye's Chicken, Robin Hood and Taco Bell Express.

AAFES provides other food franchises, concessions and snack bars, including Burger King, the Thai Garden restaurant and cafeterias at South Base, NASA and at Mary's Place located in Bldg. 1600. For further shopping convenience, AAFES features a Shoppette complex with a Class Six, dry cleaners and laundromat. There is also a Troop Store with a barbershop on base.

## Civil Air Patrol Edwards Air Force Base Composite, Squadron 84

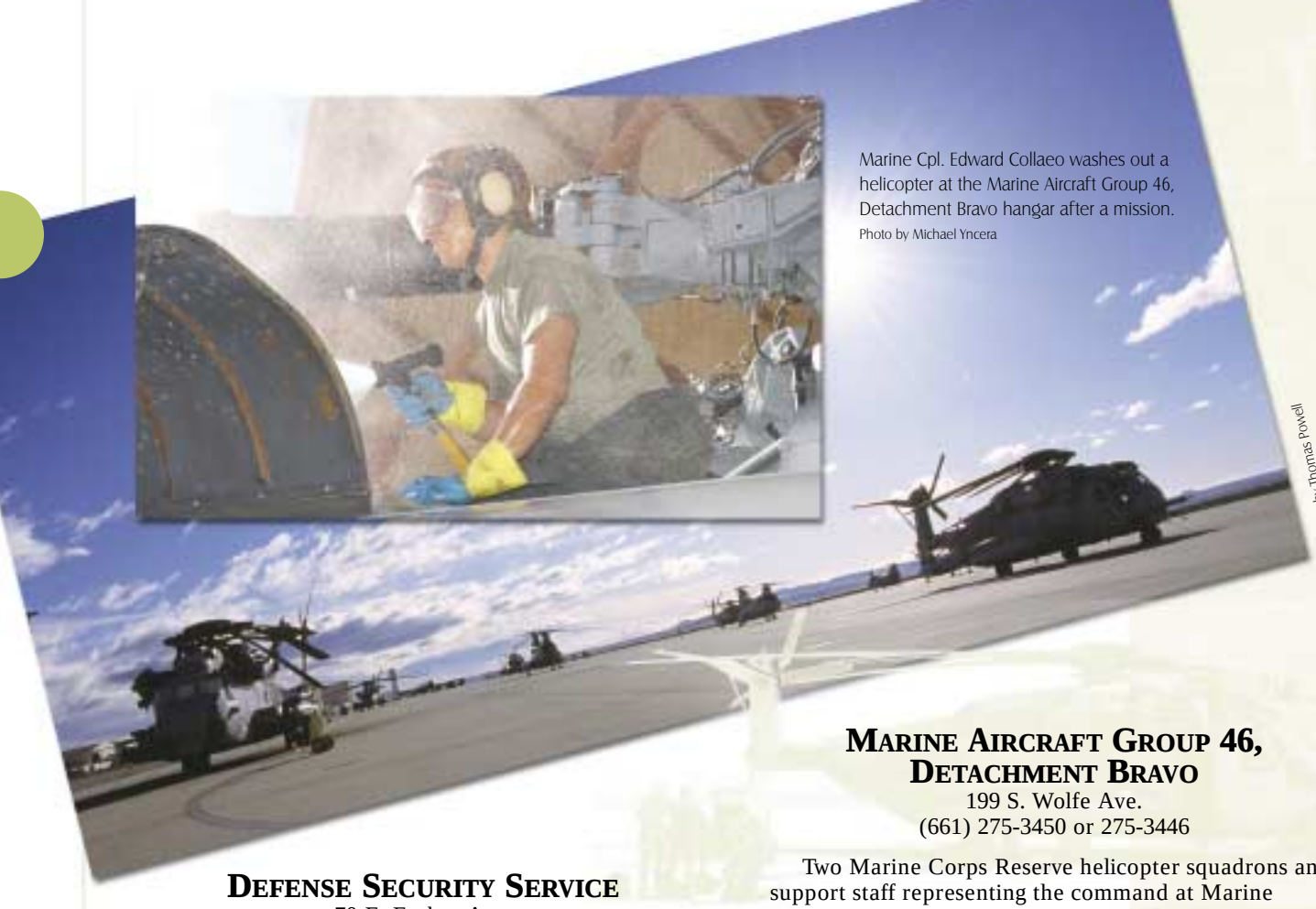
Muroc Manor, Bldg. 16
Rest Road, South Base
(661) 277-6543 or DSN 527-6543

The Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and has three missions: fostering internal and external aerospace education; operating a cadet program including aerospace education, leadership training, physical fitness, moral leadership and an opportunity to learn to fly; and supporting emergency services through search and rescue, disaster relief and humanitarian services.

## Defense Commissary Agency

312 W. Fitzgerald Ave.
(661) 277-4589 or DSN 527-4589

The Defense Commissary Agency aims to ensure military readiness and retention of quality personnel by providing a valuable part of the military compensation package. The Edwards Commissary strives to enhance quality of life by providing groceries and household supplies at-cost resale value. The commissary is open Tuesday through Friday 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. A full-service deli, bakery and meat counter is available.



Marine Cpl. Edward Collaeo washes out a helicopter at the Marine Aircraft Group 46, Detachment Bravo hangar after a mission.
Photo by Michael Yncera

Photo by Thomas Powell

## Defense Security Service

70 E. Forbes Ave.
(661) 277-4865, 277-3287 or 277-8753

The Defense Security Service conducts personnel security investigations for civilian, military and industrial personnel who require access to classified Department of Defense information.

## Federal Aviation Administration High Desert Terminal Radar Approach Control

100 E. Sparks Rd.
(661) 258-6300 or DSN 527-2023

The FAA's High Desert TRACON, radio call sign Joshua Approach, provides mission-related air traffic control services to Department of Defense and DoD-sponsored aircraft within the entire R-2508 airspace complex, encompassing nearly 25,000 square miles.

The TRACON's Department of Transportation, FAA civilian personnel also provide air traffic control services to civil aircraft within and outside the special-use airspace.

## Marine Aircraft Group 46, Detachment Bravo

199 S. Wolfe Ave.
(661) 275-3450 or 275-3446

Two Marine Corps Reserve helicopter squadrons and support staff representing the command at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., relocated to Edwards in May 1999 following the closure of Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Calif. There are more than 350 Marines and sailors with about half living in the local area and the others commuting from their homes throughout California and the United States.

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 769—or HMH-769—operates 11 CH-53E Super Stallions. Their mission is to transport heavy equipment, weapons and supplies during ship-to-shore movements and amphibious assaults.

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764—or HMM-764—operates 13 CH-46E Sea Knights. Their mission is to transport combat troops in initial assault waves and follow-on stages of amphibious operations ashore.

Both squadrons primarily support Marines at Camp Pendleton and 29 Palms—both located in California while assisting Team Edwards with VIP transport, medical evacuations, photo and shuttle landing support and other assistance during base and community emergencies.

## Contractors

- **Ace Engineering, Inc.** (SABER), (661) 277-1750
- **AMPB Security Services**, (661) 277-3714
- **Bell-Boeing Company** (CV-22), (661) 277-6868, Ext. 2788
- **The Boeing Company**,(661) 275-3169/FAX (661) 277-0650
- **Chugach Management Services, Inc.**, (Family Housing Maintenance), (661) 258-1044
- **E-Med Tech, Inc.** (AFRL Ambulance and EMTs), (661) 275-5333
- **ERC** (AFRL Research in Propulsion Sciences), (661) 275-6178
- **General Electric**, (661) 277-7347
- **Integrated Technology Works, Inc./Teltara, Inc.**, (joint venture custodial services), (661) 258-4181
- **JT3** (J-TECH), (661) 277-9107
- **J. Torres Company** (refuse/recycling), (661) 277-3867
- **Linker Services** (Food Service), (661) 258-4021
- **Lockheed Martin Marietta** (F/A-22), (661) 277-5804

## NASA Dryden Flight Research Center

Public Affairs Office, Lilly Dr.
(661) 276-3449
www.dfrc.nasa.gov

The Dryden Flight Research Center, NASA's primary installation for aeronautical flight research, was created in 1946. Dryden is NASA's "Center of Excellence" for atmospheric flight operations. Its charter is to research, develop, verify and transfer advanced aeronautics, space and related technologies.

In addition to carrying out aeronautical research, the center also supports the space shuttle program as a backup landing site. Dryden's history dates back to late 1946, when 12 employees arrived at what is now Edwards Air Force Base from the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory, Hampton, Va. Their goal was to prepare for X-1 supersonic research flights in a joint NACA-Army Air Forces-Bell Aircraft program. The NACA was NASA's predecessor.

Since the days of the X-1, the first aircraft to fly faster than the speed of sound, the center has grown in size and significance and is associated with many important milestones in aviation: supersonic and hypersonic flight, wingless lifting bodies, fly-by-wire, supercritical and forward-swept wings and space shuttles.

Dryden continues to pioneer programs that support NASA's Aerospace Technology Enterprise by contributing to revolutionary leaps in technology, access to space at reduced cost and global civil aviation.

The Airborne Science Program supports the requirements of NASA's Earth Science Enterprise. Dryden maintains and operates two ER-2s and a DC-8. These aircraft collect data for many experiments in support of projects serving the world scientific community. Included in this community are NASA, other government agencies, academia and private industry.

Dryden has been the site of 49 space shuttle landings since the first orbital flight in April 1981. After an Edwards' landing, shuttle orbiters are serviced at Dryden for ferry flights back to Kennedy Space Center in Florida atop one of NASA's two modified Boeing 747 Shuttle Carrier Aircraft. Although KSC is the primary landing site for all shuttle missions, Dryden remains an alternate landing site for missions when bad weather hits Florida or in case of a post-launch or other emergency.

Along with research and support aircraft, Dryden assets include a high-temperature and loads-calibration laboratory; aircraft flight-instrumentation capability; a flow-visualization facility to study flow patterns; a data-analysis facility to process flight research data; and remotely-piloted vehicle flight research expertise.

In addition, Dryden's Research Aircraft Integration Facility simultaneously checks aircraft flight controls, avionics, electronics and other systems. It is the only facility of its type in NASA and is designed to speed up and enhance systems integration and preflight checks on research aircraft. From a handful of engineers who established the center in the late 1940s, Dryden now employs approximately 1,300 civilian and contract workers.

## U.S. Army Veterinary Service

900 Kincheloe Ave.
(661) 275-PETS or DSN 525-7387

The U.S. Army Veterinary Service provides comprehensive veterinary care to all government-owned animals such as the 95th Security Forces Squadron's military working dogs, and to all service members' privately-owned animals through the Veterinary Treatment Facility. The service ensures disease prevention and control programs on base and the compliance of all commercial and military food establishments with sanitary standards. The service also maintains a liaison with local veterinary professional organizations in order to provide assistance during civic emergencies.

- **Lockheed Martin Fort Worth** (F-16), (661) 277-4216/FAX (661) 277-2645
- **N & N Travel Services**, (official travel only), (661) 277-3160
- **Northrop/Grumman** (B-2), (661) 275-0004/FAX (661) 266-5360
- **Northrop/Grumman** (RAC), (661) 275-0609
- **Pratt & Whitney**, (661) 275-4193/FAX (661) 258-6523
- **Raytheon Aerospace**, (661) 277-9777 or 277-9790
- **Spiral Technology**, (AFRL Advanced Research and Engineering Support), (661) 275-5678
- **Sverdrup Technology**, (AFRL Research Operations Support Services), (661) 275-5618
- **TYBRIN**, (661) 277-0096
- **J.K. Hill & Associates, Inc.**, (661) 277-3522
- **Veridian Engineering**, (661) 277-9537 or (661) 277-2764

# 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

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

• **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.

• **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 rountine 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.mi.

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.

**• 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. 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

**• 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.

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.

## 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

- **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.

- **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

I-area, Edward's 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.

Outside the 1+1 dormitories.

Photo by Thomas Powell

## 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.

• **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) cleen 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.

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

- **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.

## 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

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

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.

## 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 |

# ON BASE

Actors Donald Faison (blue) goes up against Dean Cain (white) during the second annual National Basketball Association Entertainment League game.
U.S. Air Force photo by Lewis Mitchell

## JANUARY

**Job Fair.** Sponsored by the Family Support Center. At this biannual event employers accept applications and resumés from the Edwards community.

## MARCH

**Annual Workforce Awards Banquet.** Honoring the outstanding Air Force Flight Test Center company grade officer, enlisted and civilian award winners. Traditionally held in March or April.

**Heartlink.** Sponsored by the Family Support Center. This biannual program is designed to help acclimate new Air Force spouses (of five or less years) to life with the Air Force.

**Miss Edwards Pageant.** Sponsored by the 95th Services Division and held at the Stripes Lounge. Categories include Little Miss, Junior Miss and Miss.

## APRIL

**Month of the Edwards' Child.** During April, various events and activities are held to honor all Edwards' children.

**Travel Fair.** Sponsored by Information, Tickets & Travel and held at the Oasis Community Center. Representatives will be available to provide information on hotels, resorts, airlines, cruises, tour companies and more.

**Volunteer Recognition Luncheon.** Sponsored by the Family Support Center. This annual event pays tribute to the numerous volunteers at Edwards.

## MAY

**Edwards' Sports Day.** Sponsored by the 95th Services Division, Sports Day aims to enhance morale and provide all of Team Edwards an opportunity to engage in sports and other physical activities. Squadrons and organizations compete in a number of events, including softball, volleyball, horseshoes and track and field.

**"Concerts in the Park"** series begins for the summer season. Held monthly at Andrews Park, the entire base community is invited to bring picnic dinners, lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy an evening of music performed by live bands. The free concerts are sponsored by the 95th Services Division.

**Family Force Forum.** Different base community organizations meet to determine ways to maximize quality of life issues for military families at Edwards.

**Spouse Appreciation Day.** Sponsored by the Family Support Center. Events are designed to recognize military spouses and show appreciation for their support.

**Talent Extravaganza.** Sponsored by the 95th Services Division and held at Stripes Lounge. Local winners go on to the Air Force level competition.

## JUNE

**Artist-Craftsman contest.** Sponsored by the Skills Development Center.

## JULY

**Summer Bash.** Sponsored by the 95th Services Division, this is an Air Force Materiel Command program celebrated at Edwards every July 4 at Wings Field near Arnold Park. Activities include entertainment, free carnival rides, family games, bouncy castles, sports competitions and a fireworks display to celebrate Independence Day.

**Photography contest.** Sponsored by the Skills Development Center.

Retired Brig. Gen Chuck Yeager salutes Maj. Gen. Doug Pearson, commander of the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards, after stepping from an F-15 Eagle Oct. 26 at the Edwards Open House and Airshow. The event marked Yeager's final military supersonic flight. (Courtesy Photo)

The Edwards AFB Open House and Airshow

## SEPTEMBER

**Fall Festival.** Presented by the 95th Services Division, the festival celebrates the autumn holidays with costumes, dance contests, live entertainment, games and free carnival rides.

**Heartlink.** Sponsored by the Family Support Center. This biannual program is designed to help acclimate new Air Force spouses (of five or less years) to life with the Air Force.

**Job Fair.** Sponsored by the Family Support Center. At this biannual event employers accept applications and resumés from the Edwards community.

**Pancho Barnes Party.** Sponsored by the Company Grade Officer's Council, in honor of the memory of Pancho Barnes, record-setting aviator and local legend. The party is held at the ruins of her ranch, the "Happy Bottom Riding Club"—a desolate location made lively by efforts to bring barbecue and live music together under a desert night sky. The event benefits the Flight Test Historical Foundation, which strives to preserve the history of flight test at Edwards.

**Travel Fair.** Sponsored by Information, Tickets & Travel and held at the Oasis Community Center. Representatives will be available to provide information on hotels, resorts, airlines, cruises, tour companies and more.

## OCTOBER

**Make a Difference Day.** Sponsored by the Family Support Center. Volunteers basewide gather to help spruce up Edwards.

**Open House and Air Show.** A basewide effort, including NASA Dryden and other base associates, to present to the general public the men, women, technology and aircraft systems that comprise the aerospace frontier at Edwards. The Air Force Flight Test Center demonstrates its mission through static and aerial displays of nearly every aircraft in the Air Force inventory. This event is typically held in late October.

## NOVEMBER

**412th Test Wing Turkey Day.** Held the Friday before Thanksgiving for test wing personnel to kick off the holiday season.

**Car Show & Craft Fair.** Sponsored by the Skills Development Center. This annual event features both classic and special feature cars, trucks and motorcycles as well as vendors with crafts and home items.

**Military Family Month.** Events sponsored by the Family Support Center are designed to show appreciation to all Edwards' military families.

## DECEMBER

**Edwards' basewide holiday party.** Presented annually by the 95th Services Division and held at the Oasis Community Center. All of the Edwards community is invited to celebrate the holiday season with entertainment, free food and beverages, pictures with Santa, crafts and coloring contests.

**Holiday Cookie Drive.** Sponsored by the Family Support Center. Several hundred cookies are baked in the homes of Team Edwards members from across the base. The cookies are packaged and given to airmen living in the dorms.

**Truckload of Toys.** Sponsored by the Family Support Center. Each year the communities surrounding the base donate a truckload of toys to be given to children living at Edwards.

Aircraft and exhibits on display at the Air Force Flight Test Center Museum
Photos by Thomas Powell

Photo by John Wildon

Photo by John Wildon

**•Air Force Flight Test Center Museum**
405 S. Rosamond Blvd.
(661) 277-8050

The museum features exhibits, displays and videos depicting the history of Edwards and the Air Force Flight Test Center, including aircraft static displays, models, biographies and aviation paraphernalia. The museum also has a gift shop with T-shirts, aviation books and souvenirs. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

# Attractions

**•Flight Line Tour**
Public Affairs Office
1 S. Rosamond Blvd.
(661) 277-3517

The current policy is to allow flight line tours to large pre-existing groups of 20 people or more. Reservations for these two-hour windshield tours are required and should be made at least a month in advance. Tours begin at the Air Force Flight Test Center Museum. They include an introductory presentation and an orientation video.

**•NASA Dryden Tour**
Visitor's Center
Lilly Drive, Bldg. 4825
(661) 276-3460/3446

NASA Dryden offers a 90-minute walking tour of its facilities, resources and aircraft. Call for more information and tour availability.

# Special Events

• **Tops in Blue.** The Air Force's traveling variety show dazzles the Edwards community with lively dance, song and humor with tones of nostalgia, patriotism and service.

• **Space Shuttle Landings**

Edwards continues to be an alternate emergency-landing site for space shuttle flights and, with its large dry lakebed, will be a contingency site on all orbital missions during the entire life of the space program. The decision to land at Edwards is made 90 minutes prior to estimated landing time.

• **Motion Picture Support**

Edwards' proximity to the filmmakers and studios of Hollywood make it a frequent choice of directors and production agencies for on-scene motion picture, television and music video filming. Edwards supports several major motion picture events each year, which often result in free screenings for the base population.

Actor and professional wrestler, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and actress Kelly Hu visited Edwards during free screenings of their film, The Scorpion King.
Photo by Carlos Rolon

## Chapel Community and Religious Activities

Chapel 1: 15 N. Popson Ave.
(661) 277-2110
Chapel 2: 10 Park Dr.
(661) 277-2110

There are two base chapels: Chapel 1, located on the main base; and Chapel 2, located in the family housing area. The chapel staff maintains normal duty hours at Chapel 2; however, a duty chaplain is available on a 24-hour basis by calling the command post at (661) 277-3040. The chapel staff and volunteers host groups of men, women, youth and children in Bible study, religious initiation, instruction, social ministry, confirmation and service, as well as personal growth, parenting guidance and marriage enrichment. Protestant and Roman Catholic worship services are held regularly at both chapels. Jewish and Eastern Orthodox services are held periodically.

Chapel 2.
Photo by Thomas Powel

## Childcare

**Free childcare for newcomers**

A maximum of 20 hours of free childcare per child through the Air Force Aid Society is available 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.

**•Anthony's Pizza**
Base Exchange Food Court
240 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 258-4034
Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Offers a variety of pizzas and pasta meals.

**•Base Operations Snack Bar**
235 S. Flightline Rd.
(661) 258-5696
Daily, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.
Offers grill and sandwich items for breakfast and lunch.

**•Baskin Robbins**
Base Exchange Food Court
240 Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 258-1078, extension 256
Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Offers ice cream desserts, frozen beverages and special-occasion ice cream cakes.

**•Burger King**
240 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 258-5987
Monday through Friday, 6 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Offers breakfast, lunch and dinner fast-food items.

**•Cactus Café**
Corner of Wolfe Avenue and Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 275-CAFE
Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Offers a breakfast menu and daily lunch specials, grill items and sandwiches.

Club Muroc

**•Club Muroc**
275 Manzanita Way
(661) 275-CLUB
**Lunch:** Monday through Friday 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
**Dinner:** Monday through Thursday, 5:30-8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 5:30-9 p.m.
Club Muroc is a consolidated club with an officers' lounge and an enlisted lounge, Pancho's and Fogleman's respectively, a dining room, ballroom and poolside lanais. Banquet and catering services are available and reservations may be made by calling or visiting the catering office. Social hour is offered at the club on Wednesday and Friday evenings. A check-cashing service is available to club members Monday through Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Membership information is available at the club office or by calling 275-PLUS.

Joshua Tree Inn Dining Facility

**•Joshua Tree Inn Dining Facility**
130 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 275-TREE
**Breakfast:** Monday through Friday, 5:30-7:45 a.m., Saturday and Sunday, 6-9 a.m.
**Lunch:** Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
**Dinner:** Monday through Friday, 4-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 4-7 p.m.
**Midnight meal:** Monday through Sunday, 11 p.m.-1 a.m.
**In-Flight Kitchen:** 24 hours daily (661) 275-3776
**Family Nights:** Each Wednesday and Sunday, 4-7 p.m., family members of enlisted personnel in the pay grade of E-1 through E-4 are exempt from paying the surcharge.
Back-to-back winners of the AFMC Gold Plate award for 2002 and 2003, and winner of the 2002 Air Force Hennessy award, the Joshua Tree Inn dining facility provides full food service to all military personnel and authorized guests. Enlisted personnel and officers receiving Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) will be assessed the proportional surcharge, based on the subtotal of entrees selected. Low calorie/healthy choice entrees are offered during all meal periods.

Joshua Tree Inn Dining Facility

**•Mary's Place**
300 E. Yeager Blvd.
(661) 258-5215
Monday through Friday, 6 a.m.-6 p.m.
Offers a breakfast menu and daily lunch specials, grill items and sandwiches.

**•NASA Dryden Cafeteria**
Lilly Drive, Bldg. 4825
(661) 276-3270
Monday through Friday, 6 a.m.-2 p.m.
Offers breakfast and lunch menus, hot entrees, grill items and sandwiches. Located adjacent to the NASA Dryden Visitor's Center.

Oasis Pizza & Deli

**•Oasis Pizza & Deli**
(Located in the Oasis Community Center)
205 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 275-DELI
Lunch: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Dinner: Monday through Thursday, 4-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 4-10 p.m., Sunday, 4-8 p.m.
Offers deli-style sandwiches, pizza, salads, barbecue ribs and daily lunch specials.

**•Pizza Hut**
1100 Kincheloe Ave.
(661) 258-4907
Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

**•Popeye's**
Base Exchange Food Court
240 Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 258-1078, extension 257
Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Offers fast-food chicken meals with an assortment of side dishes.

**•Robin Hood Sandwich Shoppe and Deli**
Base Exchange Food Court
240 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 258-4034
Monday through Sunday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Offers a variety of submarine sandwiches and salads.

**•Rocket Room**
Air Force Research Lab
2 Pollux Dr.
(661) 275-5589
Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Offers breakfast and lunch menus, hot entrees, grill items and sandwiches.

**•Sandbagger Grill**
111 Crest Dr.
(661) 275-SAND
Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday through Sunday, 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Offers breakfast and lunch menus, hot entrees, grill items, sandwiches and salads. Located at the Muroc Lake Golf Course.

**•South Base Snack Bar**
Birk Flight Test Facility
120 East Jones Rd.
(661) 275-0213
Monday through Friday, 6 a.m.-2 p.m.
Offers a breakfast menu and daily lunch specials, grill items and sandwiches.

Strikezone Snack Bar

**•Strikezone Snack Bar**
(At the High Desert Lanes Bowling Center)
205 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 275-ZONE
Sunday through Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday, 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday, 2-10 p.m.
Offers a breakfast menu and daily lunch specials, grill items and sandwiches.

**•Taco Bell Express**
Base Exchange Food Court
240 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 258- 1078, extension 257
Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Offers Mexican fast-food items.

**•Thai Garden**
W. Fitzgerald Blvd., near the Base Exchange
(661) 258-0186
Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m.-8:30 a.m.
Offers a variety of Thai food.

Base Exchange Food Court

## Education and Training

125 Methusa Ave.
(661) 277-6071

The Education and Training, E&T, Flight is the focal point for the education and training of all Department of Defense personnel at Edwards. The E&T staff works with commanders, managers, supervisors, organizational training managers and individuals to optimize training and education opportunities. In addition, E&T provides program oversight for the Civilian Wellness Program and the Civilian Employee Assistance Program.

**•Education Office**
125 Methusa Ave.
(661) 277-2713

The Education Office provides a variety of education programs offering associate through master's degrees, education guidance, counseling services, military tuition assistance and the civilian Academic Degree and Certificate Training program.

**•Colleges**

Seven colleges have offices on base and offer classes and degree programs to the Edwards community. Graduate institutions include California State University Fresno, California State University Northridge and Webster University. Bachelor's degree institutions include Chapman University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Southern Illinois University. Cerro Coso Community College offers associate degrees and courses that transfer to both California State University and the University of California. Disciplines offered include business administration, social science, applied math, computer science, psychology, criminal justice, computer information systems, professional aeronautics, technical operations management, aviation business administration, aeronautical science, industrial technology, mechanical and electrical engineering and human resource management. Call the Education Office at 277-2713 for a brochure with extended information on schools and degrees.

**•Professional Military Education:** The Education Office staff works with commanders, First Sergeants and Unit Training Managers to arrange for military members and eligible civil service employees to attend the NCO Academy, Senior NCO Academy, Air and Space Basic Course, Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and Air War College. Recruiting for on-base seminars in the latter two schools is conducted annually starting in May.

**•Training Office**
125 Methusa Ave.
(661) 277-6073

The Training Office provides services to enable Edwards military and civilian members to obtain needed engineering, scientific, technical, logistics, maintenance, managerial, supervisory and administrative training. Training Office staff assist management in assessing needs, advocate for and assist in the creation of Individual Development Plans, determine optimum delivery methods and conduct and/or administer training.

Library

Students in the Aerospace Vehicle Test Course experience zero gravity during a ride in the NASA KC-135 also known as the "vomit comet". The AVTC trains students to become space flight-test engineers..
Courtesy Photo

## Emergency Services

See pages 24-25. (Newcomers section)

## Employment Opportunities

See page 25. (Newcomers section)

## Helping Resources

See pages 26-27. (Newcomers section)

Photos by John Wilson

## Library and Children's Library

• **Main Library**
5 W. Yeager Blvd.
(661) 275-BOOK
Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.,
Friday 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.,
Saturday and Sunday 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

• **Children's Library**
1100 Kincheloe Ave.
(661) 275-READ
Monday through Thursday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.,
Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.,
Saturday and Sunday 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

The base library stocks an assortment of learning materials, including books, periodicals, videotapes, cassettes and music CDs. Computers are available for literature searches, and CD ROMs, which aid in the search for periodicals and newspapers. Computers with Internet access, typewriters and a copy machine are accessible to the public for personal use at the main library. The library also offers Inter-Library Loan services for books not available locally.

The Children's Library has books, electronic games and older periodicals available for checkout. Newer games are available, but may not be checked out of the library. The library has a children's story hour at 3 p.m. on Wednesdays for older elementary students and a story hour at 10 a.m. on Fridays for preschool age children. The Children's Library also has a summer reading program that runs from mid June to late July for children of most ages. Call the library for exact times, dates and locations.

## Lodging

See page 29. (Newcomers section)

## Military Personnel Flight

See page 31. (Newcomers section)

## Natural disaster preparedness

• **Civil Engineer Readiness Division**
225 Rosamond Blvd.
(661) 277-4433

Earthquakes are the primary type of natural disaster most likely to occur at Edwards. Despite being located between the first and third largest fault lines in California, the San Andreas and the Garlock respectively, the base has no historical record of ever sustaining damage due to an earthquake. Occasionally during the spring rainy season, the base may be subject to flash flooding. Both earthquakes and flash flooding give little or no warning and can compromise the well-being of the community, the ability to operate and even the structural integrity of homes and buildings. Strong winds are also common and have been known to cause local damage.

The Civil Engineer Readiness Division suggests the following steps be taken to prepare for a major earthquake:

**Develop a family plan**

• Decide where your family can reunite if separated.
• Be familiar with the safe spots in each room so that you can seek protection under sturdy tables and desks or against walls. Avoid danger spots such as near windows, mirrors, hanging objects and tall, unsecured furniture.
• Know where the gas, water and electricity turnoff sites are and how to shut them off.
• Secure water heaters and appliances.
• Maintain a three-day emergency food and water supply. Create a survival kit, including a flashlight, portable battery-operated radio, extra batteries, prescription medicine, first-aid supplies, clothing and sanitation needs. A small kit should also be placed in each vehicle.
• Keep current on first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation skills.

**After the earthquake**

• Check yourself and those around you for injuries. Don't move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger.
• Check utility leaks and broken electrical and sewage lines. Survey your house for cracks and signs of damage.
• Check water and food supplies. Remember emergency water can be found in water heaters, melted ice cubes, the toilet tank and canned vegetables.
• Use a portable radio for instructions and news reports.
• Do not drive your car unless necessary. Roads need to be clear for emergency vehicles.

The secret to success in surviving a natural disaster is the ability to plan. The Civil Engineer Readiness Division provides earthquake information to the base populace upon request.

**Information**

Straight Talk Center and Rumor Control, available by calling (661) 277-3510, are managed by the Office of Public Affairs and provide the facts concerning rumors or incidents happening on base and within the Air Force.

Family Services, located inside the Family Support Center at 550 S. Bailey Ave., offers a variety of information and literature concerning family matters, what to expect when moving to another base, transition assistance and the job search upon separating from the service.

Oasis Community Center, located at 205 Popson Ave., provides a full spectrum of brochures highlighting activities and attractions off base.

Marquees, or electronic bulletin boards, are operated by the 95th Services Marketing Division and are located at the North, South and West gates, as well as on Fitzgerald Boulevard and Forbes Avenue. The five marquees collectively provide community announcements and information in routine or emergency situations. For details on how to submit information for posting on base marquees, call (661) 277-4240.

Members of the Edwards Blue Eagle Honor Guard.
Photo by Thomas Powell

## MEDIA REFERRAL

Public Affairs Office
1 S. Rosamond Blvd.
(661) 277-4127

Members of the media should be immediately referred to Public Affairs without comment in order to ensure media receive prompt assistance and that the base speaks with one voice.

- **Print**

**Air Force Flight Test Center Update**, a product of the Office of Public Affairs, 1 S. Rosamond Blvd., is a bi-monthly publication highlighting advances in flight test and aerospace programs as they progress and are achieved here. The Update serves a mission-minded, trade readership.

**Desert Wings**, a product of the Public Affairs Office, serves as the Edwards community newspaper and is delivered throughout main base and the housing areas every Friday morning at no charge. Community members may suggest news leads and submit stories and items of interest through their unit public affairs representative, by contacting the Desert Wings staff via e-mail at afftc.pa.desertwings@edwards.af.mil or by calling (661) 277-2345. The deadline for all submissions to the Desert Wings is noon the Friday before the desired publication date.

**Dryden X-Press**, a product of NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, is a regular publication that serves to inform employees, media, the general public and retirees about the people and projects of Dryden.

**Report to Stakeholders**, a product of Edwards Environmental Management, is a monthly publication designed to inform the general public of environmental clean-up actions being taken on base.

- **Radio**

Reception varies widely on base and in the surrounding communities. These are some of the stations that can be heard on base.

FM

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 88.1 | KCRY | Mojave | National Public Radio |
| 88.9 | KTLW | Lancaster | Religious-Español |
| 93.5 | KLKX | Palmdale | Classic Rock |
| 93.9 | KZLA | Los Angeles | Country |
| 94.7 | KTWV | Los Angeles | Smooth Jazz |
| 95.5 | KLOS | Los Angeles | Rock |
| 97.7 | KIIS | Lancaster | Contemporary Hits |
| 98.7 | KYSR | Burbank | Adult Contemporary |
| 99.1 | KGGI | San Bernardino | Urban Contemporary |
| 100.3 | KKBT | Los Angeles | R & B/Hip-Hop |
| 103.1 | KTPI | Palmdale | Country |
| 104.3 | KBIG | Los Angeles | Adult Contemporary |
| 105.5 | KOSS | Rosamond | Lite Rock |
| 106.3 | KGMX | Palmdale | Adult Contemporary |
| 106.9 | KCEL | California City | Variety |

AM

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 610 | KAVL | Lancaster | Sports |
| 640 | KFI | Los Angeles | Talk |
| 710 | KSPN | Los Angeles | Sports |
| 980 | KFWB | Los Angeles | News |
| 1070 | KNX | Los Angeles | News |
| 1110 | KDIS | Los Angeles | Children's (Radio Disney) |
| 1150 | KXTA | Los Angeles | Sports |
| 1340 | KAVC | Mojave | Religious |
| 1380 | KWJL | Lancaster | Standards |
| 1470 | KUTY | Palmdale | News/Talk-Español |
| 1540 | KMPC | Los Angeles | Sports |

## Adelphia Cable

*Basic Cable Channel Line-up*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 02 | CBS | KCBS Los Angeles |
| 03 | HAL/AV3 | Hallmark Channel/Local Programming |
| 04 | NBC | KNBC Los Angeles |
| 05 | WB | KTLA Los Angeles |
| 06 | EAFB | Commander's Access Channel (Edwards only) |
| 07 | ABC | KABC Los Angeles |
| 08 | PBS | KCET Los Angeles |
| 09 | IND | KCAL Los Angeles |
| 10 | TWC | The Weather Channel/TV Guide |
| 11 | FOX | KTTV Los Angeles |
| 12 | AVBN | AV Buyers Network/Leased Access |
| 13 | UPN | KCOP Los Angeles |
| 14 | KHIZ | KHIZ Barstow |
| 15 | HSN | Home Shopping Network |
| 16 | PIN | PIN/KPAL |
| 17 | PBS | KLCS Los Angeles |
| 18 | IND | KSCI Long Beach |
| 19 | TBN | KTBN Santa Ana |
| 20 | TELE | KVEA Corona |
| 21 | UNIV | KMEX Los Angeles |
| 22 | IND | KWHY Los Angeles |
| 23 | IND | KJLA Los Angeles |
| 24 | IND | KRCA Riverside |
| 25 | KFTR | TELEFUTURA Ontario |
| 26 | PAXNET | KPXN San Bernardino |
| 27 | TBS | Turner Broadcasting System |
| 28 | HBO | HBO (Premium Channel) |
| 29 | HBOP | HBO Plus (Premium Channel) |
| 30 | HBOSG | HBO Signature (Premium Channel) |
| 32 | CRT | Court TV |
| 33 | IND | KXLA Los Angeles |
| 34 | IND | KAZA Los Angeles |
| 35 | CMT | Country Music Television |
| 36 | CSPAN | House of Representatives |
| 37 | GA | Adelphia Government Access |
| 38 | IND | KDOC Los Angeles |
| 55 | AMC | American Movie Classics |

*The following are Expanded Basic Channels*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 39 | TLCW | The Learning Channel |
| 40 | THCW | The History Channel |
| 41 | CNN | Cable News Network |
| 42 | FNC | Fox News Channel |
| 43 | DSC | Discovery |
| 44 | NGC | National Geographic Channel |
| 45 | CNBC | Consumer/Business News |
| 46 | MSNBC | All News Network |
| 47 | ESPN2 | 24-Hour Sports |
| 48 | ESPN | 24-Hour Sports |
| 49 | FSW | Fox Sport West |
| 50 | FSW2 | Fox Sport West 2 |
| 51 | TNN | The National Network |
| 52 | SCI-FI | Sci-Fi Channel |
| 53 | USA | USA Network |
| 54 | TNT | Turner Network Television |
| 56 | HGTV | Home & Garden Television |
| 57 | A&E | Arts & Entertainment |
| 58 | LIFE | Lifetime Television |
| 59 | FOOD | Food Network |
| 60 | APL | Animal Planet |
| 61 | ABCFAM | ABC Family Channel |
| 62 | DISNEY | Disney Channel |
| 63 | NICK | Nickelodeon |
| 64 | TOON | The Cartoon Network |
| 65 | MTV | Music Television |
| 66 | BET | Black Entertainment Television |
| 67 | VH1 | Video Hits One |
| 68 | COM | Comedy Central |
| 69 | E! | Entertainment Television |
| 70 | GALA | Galavision |
| 96 | TRAVL | The Travel Channel |
| 99 | FX | FX Network |

- **Television**

Adelphia Cable
Palmdale, Calif.
(661) 265-6637

Cable outlets offer all major Los Angeles television broadcast channels as well as major cable channels. The cable system serving the base is owned and operated by Adelphia Cable in Palmdale, and offers pay TV programming, including HBO, Cinemax, The Disney Channel and Showtime. Pay-per-view programming is also available. Adelphia newscasts on Channel 3 are the only newscasts devoted solely to the Antelope Valley audience.

A "Commander's Access Channel," Channel 6, is included in the cable TV basic package for base residents and provides 24-hour mission-related notices, community and duty briefs, as well as video programming including Air Force TV News and local historical videos. Instructional information is also provided in emergency situations. While informational slides are showing, Channel 6 also broadcasts Edwards Headline News and Air Force Radio News.

- World Wide Web

Edwards Air Force Base public Web site is accessible to the general public via the Internet at www.edwards.af.mil.

Centernet is an Intranet accessible to only ".mil" and ".gov" users at centernet.edwards.af.mil.

Base Bulletin, a product of the Information Technology Directorate, is accessible via Centernet and features daily Air Force Flight Test Center notices, duty and community briefs, as well as classifieds. The bulletin has limited availability in print.

## Pets

See page 31. (Newcomers section)

## Phone information

See page 32. (Newcomers section)

## Postal services

See page 32. (Newcomers section)

## Private organizations

There are many private organizations at Edwards that are self-supporting and raise funds to enhance the quality of life for many Team Edwards members. For more information, as well as a complete listing of these organizations, call 277-3433.

## Public schools

See page 32. (Newcomers section)

# RECREATION

**•Aero Club**
South Base, Bldg. 320
(661) 275-AERO

The Aero Club offers flight and ground instruction toward earning a private pilot's license, as well as aircraft rental to all members. The club has virtually exclusive use of the South Base runway for easy access to clear blue California skies. Since all club aircraft are registered with the Air Force, they are authorized to land at nearly all U.S. military bases and can be used for temporary duty travel. The club participates in fly-ins, proficiency competitions and a variety of other aviation-related activities.

**•Skills Development Center**
200 Methusa Rd.
(661) 275-ARTS

The Skills Development Center helps to improve and enhance hobby skills for members of the Edwards community. Arts & Crafts resale, woodworking, ceramics, pottery, instructional classes and picture framing are some of the things offered at the Skills Development Center. The staff members are happy to offer assistance and guidance with your hobbies. Annual events include the Artist-Craftsman Contest in June, photography contest in July, and the Car Show & Craft Fair in November.

**•Auto Skills**
(661) 275-AUTO

The Auto Hobby Shop offers equipment, tools, supplies and working space for self-help maintenance and repair to automobiles and other vehicles. More than 10 stalls are available for major and minor auto repairs as well as all the standard equipment necessary for auto repair work.

Long pants are required in the work area and children are not permitted access for safety reasons. Services offered at the center include brake drum and rotor turning, computerized wheel balancing and air conditioning maintenance. California smog testing and repair is also available.

**•FamCamp**
Coliseum Drive and Lathrop Street
(661) 275-CAMP

FamCamp features 25 full hook-up slots for recreational vehicles, as well as shower and restroom facilities. Thirty-six overflow slots without hook-ups are also available.

Payments for use of the camp are made at FamCamp or Outdoor Recreation.

**•High Desert Lanes Bowling Center**
205 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 275-BOWL

High Desert Lanes Bowling Center is a 20-lane facility equipped with pin spotters with automatic scoring. Bowling programs, such as glow bowling (glow in the dark bowling) and Colorama, are available for all ages, in addition to daily league competition and open bowling. Arrangements may also be made to hold parties at the center. The Strikezone Snack Bar (275-ZONE) provides quick and convenient dining, and the pro shop offers balls, shoes and ball measuring and drilling, as well as special orders.

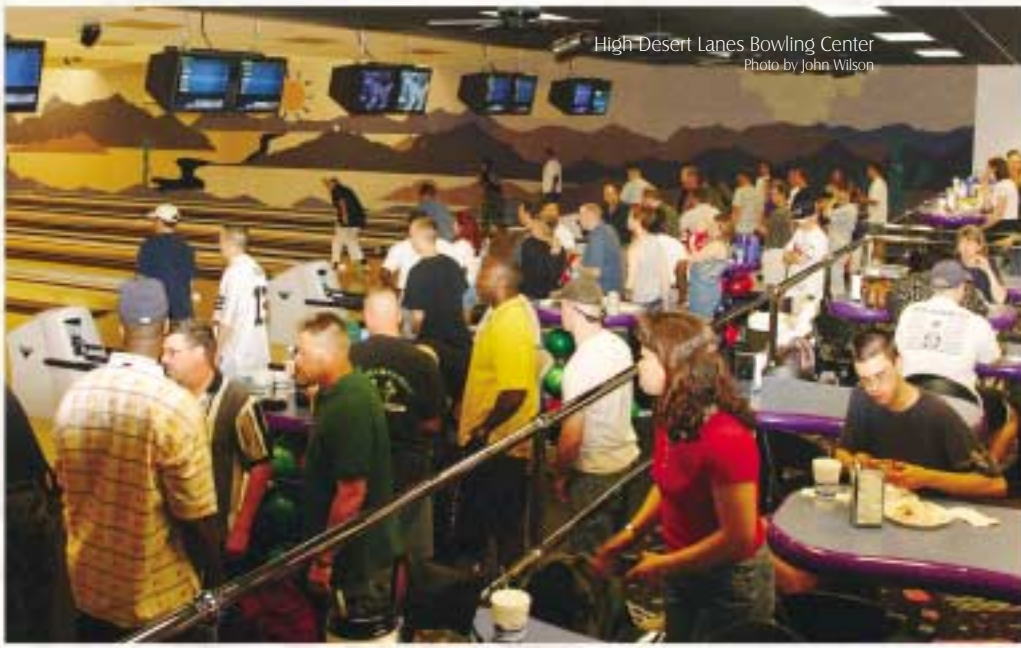
**•Information, Tickets and Travel**
1100 Kincheloe Ave.
(661) 275-TRIP

Information, Tickets and Travel provides discounted tickets for cultural attractions in addition to arranging dozens of tours each year in and around southern California. Tickets for popular Los Angeles and San Diego area attractions include Disneyland, Universal Studios, Knott's Berry Farm, Sea World and Six Flags Magic Mountain. Park guides are also available as well as staff assistance in planning itineraries for exploring scenic and historic sites abundant in the Antelope Valley. Information, Tickets & Travel is also a full service Travel Agency, offering airline tickets, hotels, cruise and vacation packages and group cruises and tours at a discount throughout the year.

**•Muroc Lake Golf Course**
111 Crest Dr.
(661) 274-PUTT

Edwards Muroc Lake Golf Course offers a championship 185-acre, 18-hole, par-72 golf course. The facility includes a pro shop with the latest equipment, a driving range, and chipping, pitching and putting practice greens. Base intramural league matches, holiday and monthly tournaments and an active men's golf association are available for interested players. The club is a part of the Southern California Golf Association, which provides handicapping service. A local handicap service is also available. The on-site Sandbagger Grill provides short-order breakfast and lunch.

Muroc Lake Golf Course
Photo by Thomas Powell



High Desert Lanes Bowling Center
Photo by John Wilson

Oasis Community Center
Photo by John Wilson

Spinning classes are offered at the Oasis Aerobic Center.
Photo by Micahel Yncera

Children taking a gymnastics class at the Youth Activities Center
Photo by John Wilson

**•N and N Travel**
20 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 277-3160
N and N Travel provides arrangements for official travel only. Members traveling on official orders, in temporary duty or permanent change of station status, can arrange air, car and hotel reservations.

**•Oasis Community Center**
205 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 275-CNTR
The Oasis Community Center features a variety of leisure-time activities and programs for the base community. The facility offers a game room with pool and ping-pong tables, foosball and video games; lounge areas and separate conference rooms that have the latest audio and video capabilities and computer access; and Stripes Lounge has a state-of-the-art music and video entertainment system. The center sponsors tournaments, talent shows and educational classes.

**•Outdoor Recreation**
1100 Kincheloe
(661) 275-CAMP
Outdoor Recreation offers a variety of information and outings for those looking for excitement outdoors.
Programming includes anything from ocean to mountain, from sea kayaking and white water rafting to rock climbing and snow skiing. Custom trips such as backwoods nature hikes are also available.

**•Parks**
Arnold Park, located at the end of Coliseum Drive, features playground equipment, covered picnic areas, a stage and restrooms. The park often hosts community gatherings in the spring and summer months and is available for rent through Outdoor Recreation.
Branch Memorial Park, located near South Base off Lancaster Boulevard, features picnic areas, as well as Branch Pond. Branch Pond is open for fishing to individuals with valid base fishing licenses. The park is available for rental through Outdoor Recreation at 275-CAMP.

**•Riding stables**
See "Stables" on page 31. (Newcomers section)

**•Rod and Gun Activity**
210 Adams Way
(661) 275-TRAP
The Rod and Gun Activity, located adjacent to the small arms range south of Rosamond Boulevard, offers outdoor sporting fun including archery, trap, skeet, rifle, pistoling and paintball. Competitive shooting and social events are held regularly and the facility can be reserved for group functions such as paintball tournaments. Base hunting and fishing licenses can be purchased year round.

**•Skills Development Center Crafts**
200 Methusa Rd.
(661) 275-ARTS
The Skills Development Center offers a wide variety of programs, assistance and equipment in ceramics, framing, woodworking, and other arts, crafts and hobbies for all interests and skill levels. Instructional books, kits and supplies are available, as well as classes on cake decorating, cross-stitch, quilting, stained glass, flower arranging and toll painting. Custom services such as plaque and trophy engraving; T-shirt and cap designs are also available.

**•Oasis Aquatic and Aerobic Center**
207 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 275-SWIM
(661) 275-BFIT
The Oasis pool is an indoor Olympic-sized pool open throughout the year to all Edwards personnel and their families, and is staffed by qualified lifeguards at all times. Admission is free to all pools; there is a charge for instructional classes. The center offers American Red Cross lifeguarding classes, water safety instruction, swimming lessons for all levels, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid, as well as water aerobics classes. The base has two outdoor pools open seasonally: the Club Muroc pool, located at 275 Manzanita Way, open Memorial Day through Labor Day; and the Sonic Splash pool, located at 24 Lathrop Dr., also open Memorial Day through Labor Day.
Free aerobics classes are offered to all Edwards personnel Monday through Saturday. Classes include Cardio Kick Box, Step Aerobics, Total Body Conditioning, Yoga, Pilates, and Spinning®. A new schedule is provided monthly.

**•Stripes Lounge**
205 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 275-CLUB
Stripes Lounge, located within the Oasis Community Center, offers evening and late night entertainment, dancing and socializing. The lounge is wired with a state-of-the-art audio and video entertainment system. Karaoke and dance contests, pool tournaments, movie nights and Football Frenzy are held in Stripes. Stripes is also the location for performances and events such as the Talent Extravaganza and the annual basewide holiday party.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

## Shopping & Services

**Members First Plus Program**

Formerly known as Club Membership and Preferred Plus!, Members First Plus participants receive special discounts on food, services, programs and goods. Special member events are also scheduled throughout the year.

If you were a club member at your previous base, you'll need to transfer your membership to the Edwards program by calling (661) 275-PLUS, or 275-CLUB, or stop by Club Muroc at 275 Manzanita Way.

**• Air Force Flight Test Center Museum Gift Shop**
See "Air Force Flight Test Center Museum," page 36.

**• Banking**

• Armed Forces Bank
Base Exchange, 240 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 258-0183

Armed Forces Bank specializes in military banking and has served active duty, retirees and civilians since 1907. Customers can bank worldwide by phone, Internet, mail and ATM. In addition, the bank has a 24-hour account information line and a call center with representatives available 24 hours a day to assist customers. Services offered include free checking, classic checking, interest-bearing checking, savings accounts, loans and certificates of deposit.

• Edwards Federal Credit Union
10 South Muroc Dr.
(661) 258-4407/277-9639/277-9640
44288 N. 10th St. West, Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 945-6626/(877) 256-3300 Toll-Free

Edwards Federal Credit Union offers members a full range of financial services including share draft (checking) accounts, competitive savings plans, audio response services, online banking and bill pay services, low rate loans for mortgages, automobiles, mobile homes, recreational vehicles, emergencies, household furniture and more. After converting to a community credit union in March 2003, EFCU membership is now open to all who live, work or attend school in the Antelope Valley Community. For more information, visit the EFCU Web site at www.edwardsfcu.org.

• ATMs

EFCU provides ATM access to members via the Armed Forces Financial Network, CO-OP Network, and Star, Visa, Plus, Discover and American Express networks. Three of the Credit Union's nine ATMs are located on base: at the Edwards Main Office, 10 South Muroc Drive, adjacent to the Commissary at 390 W. Fitzgerald Blvd., and at the Main Lodging Office—602 Honts, Building 5602, just off Manzanita Way.

**• Barbershops**
Troop Store, 20 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 277-4297
Base Exchange, 240 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 277-2946

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service operates two barbershops.

Above, the jewelry counter and below, the Flower Shop, both located at the Base Exchange. Photos by John Wilson

**• Base Exchange**
240 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 258-1078
Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

The 73,000-square-foot Base Exchange complex is conveniently located near the family housing area. Departments include clothing for men, women and children, as well as cosmetics and toiletries, office and stationery supplies, shoes, luggage, jewelry, giftware, housewares, electronics, hardware and appliances. The complex also contains military clothing sales, the Armed Forces Bank, a food court, beauty and barbershops, a same-day optical shop, a florist and a General Nutritional Center. For food court information, see "Dining," pages 38-39.

**• Beauty shop**
Base Exchange, 240 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 258-5371
Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m., closed on Sunday.

The Beauty Shop offers men, women and children hair-cutting and styling services. A variety of hair care products are also available.

**• Car Care Center and Gas Station**
Lancaster and Fitzgerald Boulevards
(661) 258-5091
Monday through Friday 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Car Care Center and Gas Station are centrally located between main base and the housing areas. The center offers retail and automotive services and gasoline service islands that operate 24 hours a day with use of credit cards. Cash and checks can also be used during manned operating hours.

**•Class Six**
1100 Kincheloe Ave.
(661) 258-0709
Monday through Friday 6 a.m.-12:30 a.m., Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m.-12:30 a.m.

Class Six, located in the Shoppette, offers a variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages for sale. Alcoholic beverages will only be sold to those of legal drinking age.

**•Commissary**
312 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 277-4589
Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Located next to the Base Exchange, the Commissary offers all the conveniences of a mid-sized modern supermarket. The Commissary is closed Mondays and federal holidays.

**•Dry Cleaners**
Carousel Cleaners
7211 Kincheloe Ave.
(661) 258-4606
Open Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and closed on Sunday.

**•Flower Shop**
Base Exchange, 240 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 258-5084
Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m., closed Sunday.

The Flower Shop offers a variety of flower and balloon arrangements and bouquets, and delivery to almost anywhere in the United States.

**•GNC**
Base Exchange, 240 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 258-1923
Monday through Saturday 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

GNC, or the General Nutrition Center, features a large variety of dietary supplements.

**•Laundromat**
1320 Payne Ave.
Daily 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
Coin-operated, large washers and dryers are available for use.

**•Military Clothing Sales**
Base Exchange, 240 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 277-8136
Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m., closed on Sunday.

Military Clothing Sales carries a full line of Air Force uniforms and miscellaneous items for Army and Marine service members.

**•Muroc Lake Golf Course Pro Shop**
111 Crest Dr.
(661) 275-PUTT
Opens at 6:30 a.m. during summer months and 7 a.m. during winter months, closes at sunset.

The Muroc Lake Golf Club offers a well-stocked pro shop with the latest golf merchandise and sport clothing.

**•Optical Shop**
Base Exchange, 240 W. Fitzgerald Blvd.
(661) 258-4541
Monday through Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., closed Sunday.

The optical shop fills prescription glasses and contact lens orders, and custom fits frames for existing lenses. Sunglasses and eyewear accessories are also available.

**•Shoppette**
1100 Kincheloe Ave. (661) 258-0709
Monday through Friday 6 a.m.-12:30 a.m., Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m.-12:30 a.m.

Located at the center of the family housing area, the Shoppette offers a movie rental section and convenience shopping with extended hours.

**•Thrift Store**
1320 Payne Ave.
(661) 277-4294
Wednesday and Friday 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Thursday 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

The volunteer-operated and managed Thrift Store allows community members to purchase and consign for items such as clothing, housewares, furniture and electronics.

**•Troop Store**
20 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 258-4797
Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Located within walking distance of base dormitories, the Troop Store offers a limited video rental section and convenience shopping for basic food items and toiletries.

Above, the Optical Shop. Below, the Deli at the Commissary.
Photos by John Wilson

## Sonic booms

A distinguishing characteristic of Edwards is the large "booms" first heard here in 1947. Those booms are known as sonic booms. A sonic boom sounds similar to thunder and is caused by an object moving faster than sound; about 750 mph at sea level. An aircraft traveling through the atmosphere continuously produces air pressure waves similar to the water waves produced by a ship's bow. When an aircraft exceeds the speed of sound, these pressure waves combine and form shock waves, which travel forward from the generation or "release" point.

As an aircraft flies at supersonic speeds, it is continually generating shock waves, dropping sonic booms along its flight path, similar to someone dropping objects from a moving vehicle. The sound heard on the ground as a sonic boom is the sudden onset and release of pressure after the build-up by the shock wave or "peak overpressure." Duration of a sonic boom is brief and is less than a second—100 milliseconds—for most fighter-sized aircraft.

The Air Force's new air superiority fighter, the F-22 Raptor, flew in excess of 60 degrees angle of attack during flight testing at Edwards. The thunderous sonic booms heard on Edwards AFB are generated by aircraft like the F-22 Raptor.
Courtesy photo

## Sports and fitness

• **Fitness and Sports Center**
210 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 275-GYM1
Monday through Friday 5 a.m.-11 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

• **Family Fitness Center**
1100 Kincheloe Ave.
(661) 275-GYM2
Monday through Friday 4:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

The Fitness and Sports Center features the latest in equipment and facilities for one-stop training including free weights and cardio and Hammer Strength equipment, as well as personal trainers. The facility features saunas in the men's and women's locker rooms, three racquetball courts, an outside track, jogging and biking trails, as well as a number of mountain bikes for check-out at no cost. The service counter provides racquet restringing and a towel service. Massage therapy is also available for a fee by appointment only.

The Family Fitness Center, centrally located in the housing area, offers lifecycles, treadmills, free weights and Cybex equipment for convenient workouts.

• **Health and Wellness Center**
210 W. Popson Ave.
(661) 275-HAWC
Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., closed Saturday and Sunday.

The Health and Wellness Center offers numerous programs aimed at preventative health and wellness. Through programs such as cholesterol screenings; skin cancer screenings; nutritional and behavioral impact education; stress reduction workshops; smoking cessation seminars and mammograms and prostate/testicular exams, the HAWC promotes individual and organizational vitality, health, well being, competence and professional growth and development.

## Theater

Corner of Yeager Boulevard and South Muroc Drive
(661) 275-SHOW

The 932-seat motion picture theater provides Edwards' military personnel and their families mainstream movies slightly delayed from initial release at an affordable rate for the whole family. Evening features start at 7 p.m. Check the movie schedule that is printed each week in the base newspaper, The Desert Wings, or call the theater to hear a pre-recorded movie schedule. The theater may also be used for large community gatherings and commander's calls.

## Weather

See page 33. (Newcomers section)

## Youth

• **Youth Activities Center**
24 Lathrop Dr.
(661) 275-KIDS
Summer months Monday through Friday noon-6 p.m., school year Monday through Friday 2 p.m.-6 p.m., weekends vary depending on activity.

The Youth Activities Center is the focal point for all youth activities at Edwards. A wide range of supervised and organized activities is available to youth ages 5-18. The center offers an array of youth, pre-teen and teen programs including dances, holiday and family events, picnics and trips. Professional instruction is available through the center for ballet, tap, gymnastics and karate. The center relies on both youth and parents to take an active role in shaping programs.

School-age care is available for children ages 5-12 before and after school. The youth center provides transportation to and from the schools for this program.

• **Youth Sports**

The Youth Sports Program is facilitated through the Youth Activities Center and offers children a chance to compete, gaining instruction and confidence in a number of sports including flag football, basketball, baseball, softball and soccer.

• **Teen Center**
1320 Payne St.
(661) 275-TEEN
Monday through Thursday 3-6 p.m., Friday 5-10 p.m., Saturday 6-11p.m., closed on Sunday.

The Teen Center is designed to give teens a place to go to after school and on the weekends. The center features pool tables, foosball tables, Internet access, a Dance Revolution machine, video games, study areas and a meeting room. The Teen Program arranges activities such as paintball, glow bowling and social awareness education.

• **Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts**

Current points of contact for scouting organizations may be obtained by calling (661) 277-3433.

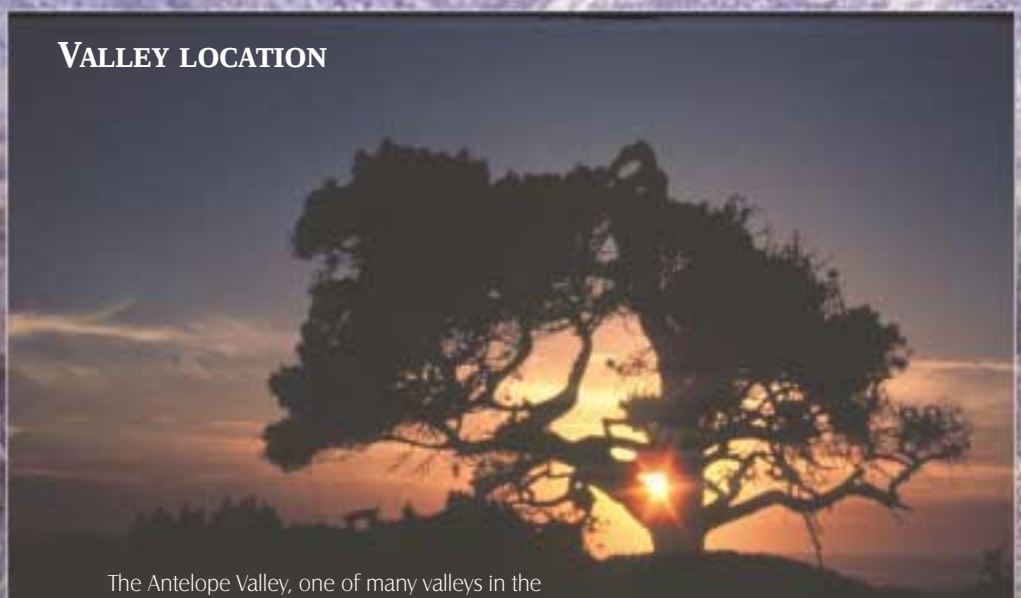
Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts troops on base promote character, social and skill development; citizenship training; sportsmanship; physical and mental fitness and pride in a growing mind and body for boys and girls in first through 12th grade.

A member of the Girl Scouts carries a flag.
Photo by Thomas Powell

# OFF BASE

The Antelope Valley is a grand expanse of blue skies and sunshine radiating in every direction from Edwards Air Force Base. To the south and west are majestic mountains and to the north and east, the endlessness of the Mojave Desert.

## VALLEY LOCATION



The Antelope Valley, one of many valleys in the Mojave Desert, is bordered by the San Gabriel Mountains to the south, the Tehachapi Mountains to the west, the greater Mojave Desert to the north and Victor Valley to the east. Rosamond, Mojave, California City, Boron and the greater part of Edwards lie in Kern County in the northern part of the valley. Lancaster, Palmdale, Quartz Hill, Littlerock and the southern most sliver of Edwards lie in Los Angeles County in the southern and central part of the valley. The eastern part of the valley falls within San Bernardino County.

## ORIGIN AND HISTORY

Thousands of years ago in the unrecorded past, an area of some 2,400 square miles dropped or was depressed about 100 feet below the surface of a vast coastal plain. When underground movement jarred the plain upward, the sunken area rose and became what is now known as the Antelope Valley.

The Paiute Indians were the first known human inhabitants of the area. The first white visitors were most likely Spanish navy deserters, members of the Portola party traveling in the valley's vicinity in 1769. In pursuing these deserters, Lt. Pedro Fages, one of Spain's Catalonia volunteers, reached the southern end of the Antelope Valley in 1772. His diarist reports that Indians were seen lurking behind what were thought to be date palms, but were actually Joshua trees.

The year 1776 brought Father Francisco Garces and three Indian guides from the San Gabriel Mission. Garces recorded his views of the vast land that was then called El Tehon Rancheria, or the Badger Ranch, of the Cuabajoy Indians.

In 1834, Kit Carson and Gen. John C. Fremont came through the valley and remained long enough to establish what is today known as Fort Tejon Road. Wildlife was so plentiful at the time that it was said three geese were killed with one shot at Lake Elizabeth. Grass and desert growth was luxuriant and pools of water stood in many places over the valley floor.

The first determined settlers chose the Lake Elizabeth region and the foothills of the Tehachapi Mountains. The general area became known as the Antelope Valley because of the immense herds of these animals. Yet hunters and severe winters in the late 1800s decimated the herds.

The Southern Pacific Railroad between San Francisco and Los Angeles was completed in 1876 with the rails from Los Angeles placed as far inland as Soledad Canyon to the south of the valley. The frantic race between the two large opposing

work forces ended with the ceremonial driving of the golden spike to join the rails and heralded the opening of the Antelope Valley to the outside world.

By 1890, the Antelope Valley was in a very prosperous condition, especially in the southern portion of Lancaster and Palmdale. Land seekers and settlers came in large numbers. Many families with financial means settled in the eastern segment of the valley to begin raising grain and fruits and related agricultural products.

The year 1898 was a year of "firsts" for the valley. The previous year borax was discovered in the United States, and in 1898 it was found that an immense deposit of borax lay beneath the desert landscape of the Antelope Valley. Within the same 12 months, gold was discovered in Rosamond. Men working the mines made their way to and from work across what was known then as Rodriguez Dry Lakebed on a V-shaped wagon rigged with sails.

The age of aviation came to the Antelope Valley in the 1930s when the Army Air Corps began training operations on the shores of the dry lakebed at the Muroc Bombing and Gunnery Range, now Edwards Air Force Base. During World War II, the dry lakebed "floated" a huge wooden battleship—the Muroc Maru—constructed to train bombardiers in the use of bombsites. Runways now bisect the lakebed.

Today the Antelope Valley has learned to successfully blend the traditional pursuits of business, commerce, industry, agriculture and mining with the technology of the aerospace frontier, while remaining a place where people prefer to live and visitors return time and time again. This high desert area is known for its contributions to the defense of the nation with its close proximity to existing Department of Defense facilities, including Edwards, Air Force Plant 42 and China Lake Naval Weapons Center.

Photos by John Wilson

# ANNUAL EVENTS

## MARCH

**Almond Blossom Festival**
Quartz Hill, Calif.
(661) 722-4811

This unique local festival features a myriad of blooming almond trees on nearby Quartz Hill. The event also hosts the Almond Festival parade, one of the oldest parades in the Antelope Valley. The event is held the second weekend in March.

Courtesy photo

## APRIL

**California Poppy Festival**
Lancaster City Park
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 723-6077

Celebrating Lancaster's most colorful seasonal visitors, the California Poppy, this annual event offers continuous family entertainment; wildflower arts and photo contests; an arts and crafts bazaar; environmental booths; unique cuisine; and free "Poppy Express" shuttle buses to and from the California Poppy Reserve.

## JUNE

**Tehachapi Valley Arts Association**
Springtime Fair
Tehachapi City Park
Tehachapi, Calif.
(661) 822-4180

The two-day fair features arts, crafts, food booths, games and entertainment. The event is typically held the second weekend in June.

**Indian Powwow**
Indian Hill Campground
Tehachapi, Calif.
(661) 822-1118

This cultural and religious gathering of Native Americans features dance competitions, craft and skill demonstrations and story telling. The event is ordinarily held the fourth weekend in June.

## AUGUST

**Mountain Festival and Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association Rodeo**
Tehachapi City Park and Rodeo Grounds
Tehachapi, Calif.
(661) 822-4180

The biggest attraction for the year in Tehachapi is its Mountain Festival, coupled with the rodeo. The festival and rodeo feature an arts-and-crafts fair, more than 100 vendors, a pet parade, a Saturday night western dance and classic car show. The festival and rodeo are held the third weekend in August each year.

**Antelope Valley Fair and Alfalfa Festival**
Avenue H, Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 948-6060
www.avfair.com

In 2004, fair officials plan to move the event from the old Avenue I location to the newly constructed fairgrounds at Avenue H and the Antelope Valley Freeway. The annual fair features concerts, carnival rides, livestock competition, bake-offs and children's shows. Also included in the weeklong festivities are displays from Edwards and other local aerospace organizations. The fair is held each year in late August through early September.

## SEPTEMBER

**Aerospace Walk of Honor Celebration**
Lancaster Boulevard
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 723-6053
www.cityoflancasterca.org

The ceremony attracts visitors to Lancaster Boulevard for the unveiling of granite monuments honoring Edwards' test pilots whose aviation careers are marked by significant flight test achievements. The annual event is held in September in conjunction with the Society of Experimental Test Pilots convention.

**Fiddling Down The Tracks Fiddle Contest**
Tehachapi City Park
Tehachapi, Calif.

Contestants of all ages perform throughout the day. Food and craft booths are available. This is typically held the third weekend of September. Admission is free.

**Rosamond Armed Forces Appreciation Day and Parade**
Diamond Street
Rosamond, Calif.
(661) 256-3248

Downtown Rosamond celebrates and honors the armed forces with festivities that include a float parade and guest speakers. The event is on the third Saturday in September.

**Tehachapi Valley Arts Association Fall Harvest Festival**
Tehachapi City Park
Tehachapi, Calif.
(661) 822-4180

The two-day fair features arts, crafts, food booths, games and entertainment. The event is typically held the third weekend in September.

**Valyermo Annual Fall Festival**
St. Andrew's Abbey
Valyermo, Calif.
(661) 944-2178

Held each year during the last weekend of September, the festival features music, crafts and food on the shady grounds of the abbey, home to an order of Benedictine monks. The event, which routinely draws 20,000 visitors annually, is free. However, there is a $4 parking donation.

## OCTOBER

**Palmdale Fall Festival**
McAdam Park
Palmdale, Calif.
(661) 267-5611
www.cityofpalmdale.org

This family celebration features crafts, fine arts, games, live entertainment, international food booths and an aerospace exhibit. The event is held the second weekend in October each year.

# ATTRACTIONS

**Aerospace Walk of Honor**
Lancaster Boulevard
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 723-6053
www.cityoflancasterca.org
The Aerospace Walk of Honor features granite monuments honoring Edwards Air Force Base test pilots whose aviation careers are marked by significant flight test achievements.

**Blackbird Airpark**
25th Street East and Avenue P
Palmdale, Calif.
(661) 277-8050
The Blackbird Airpark, dedicated in September 1991, is the world's only display of a Lockheed SR-71A together with its Blackbird predecessor, the A-12, and the once secret D-21 drone. A recent addition is the Lockheed U-2D aircraft. The park is open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

**Calico Ghost Town**
Yermo, Calif.
(800) 862-2542
The Calico Ghost Town treats spectators to gunfight reenactments, historical shops and mines. Camping facilities and RV hookups are available. It is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, except for Christmas.

**Devil's Punchbowl**
28000 Devil's Punchbowl Road
Pearblossom, Calif.
(661) 944-2743
Devil's Punchbowl is a 1,300-acre park with a system of hiking trails, including a one-mile loop down a 300-foot canyon. A visitor's center features an exhibit of native animals such as snakes, antelopes and owls. Picnic facilities are available.

**Exotic Feline Breeding Compound**
Mojave-Tropical Road
Rosamond, Calif.
(661) 256-3332
www.cathouse-fcc.org
A wildlife compound dedicated to preserving rare and endangered felines, the compound is home to more than 40 cats from 15 different species. The compound has an adopt-a-cat program to encourage community members and visitors to become foster parents to the cats. The compound is closed on Wednesdays.

**Kern River Whitewater Rafting**
Lake Isabella, Calif.
(866) 578-4386
www.kernrivervalley.com
The river is a favorite place for whitewater rafting and holds tours May through September. Children under age 8 are not permitted. The area also boasts fishing, hiking, camping and skiing. The Web site offers a calendar of events.

**Lake Isabella, Calif.**
(760) 379-5236
Lake Isabella, created in 1953 when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dammed the Kern River, flourishes as a tourist center for fishing, boating, camping and picnicking. Boats for fishing or lake exploration may be rented at marinas along the shore. Detailed information is available at www.kernrivervalley.com.

**Lancaster JetHawks Baseball**
45116 Valley Central Way
Lancaster, CA
(661) 726-5400
www.jethawks.com
The Lancaster JetHawks are the California League Class-A farm team for the Arizona Diamondbacks and provide baseball enthusiasts local entertainment at the Lancaster Municipal Stadium, known as The Hangar.

**Lancaster Performing Arts Center**
750 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, CA
(661) 723-5950
www.lpac.org
The center provides top-quality entertainment as well as the finest symphonies, ballet troupes, holiday performances, such as "The Nutcracker" and "A Christmas Carol," and musical performances of every kind, including jazz, classical, pop and more.

**Los Angeles County Raceway**
6850 E. Ave. T
Palmdale, Calif.
(661) 533-2224
This quarter-mile drag strip, featuring National Hot Rod Association drag racing and the annual Palmdale meet, is open 365 days a year. Schedules and information can be found at www.lacr.net.

**Palmdale Playhouse**
38334 10th St. East
Palmdale, Calif.
(661) 267-5685
www.cityofpalmdale.org
The Palmdale Playhouse features a 350-seat theater and provides a wide variety of entertainment in its season lineup: country, jazz, dramas, children's programs and dance.

**Tehachapi Loop**
Tehachapi, Calif.
Railroad fans flock to the Tehachapi Loop where the spiraling Southern Pacific main line makes a 360-degree turn as it climbs from the valley to the mountains. More details may be found at www.tehachapi.com.

**Twenty Mule Team Museum**
26962 Twenty-Mule Team Road
Boron, Calif.
(760) 762-5810
The Twenty Mule Team Museum features a 20-mule team wagon display, a replica of that used more than 100 years ago for long distance hauling purposes. The center also offers extensive insights on the many different ways borax is used and how it is excavated from California's largest open-pit mine. The museum is open seven days a week, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Willow Springs International Motor Sports Park**
3500 75th St. West
Rosamond, Calif.
(661) 256-2471
The raceway hosts a 600-acre complex of six racetracks embracing nearly every conceivable motor sports discipline. Schedules and more information can be found at www.willowspringsraceway.com.

**Wind Turbines**
Tehachapi Mountains
Tehachapi, Calif.
(661) 822-4180
The Tehachapi area is the world's largest producer of wind-generated electricity and hosts a mountainside of turbines. A wind turbine captures the energy of the wind to drive a generator. As the generator turns, it produces electricity.

Photos by John Wilson

## Churches

Nearly all faiths and denominations are represented in the Antelope Valley area. Local chambers of commerce listed on the following pages can provide detailed information.

## Boron, Calif.

**Population:** 3,002
**Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Bldg.:** 23
**Elected official:** Chamber of Commerce President Randy Smith
**School system:** Muroc Unified School District, (661) 258-4178
**Chamber of Commerce:** 26962 Twenty Mule Team Road, Boron, CA 93516
(760) 762-5810
www.rnrs.com/20MuleTeam

Located northeast of Edwards along California State Highway 58, the community of Boron is the site of a giant open-pit mine from which the extracted element, borax, lends the town its name. The pit, the largest in the Western Hemisphere, is owned and operated by the U.S. Borax and Chemical Corporation and employs a great deal of the community. Edwards employs the remainder. The town is also home of the Col. Vernon P. Saxon Jr. Aerospace Museum.

The townspeople tuck themselves into the preservation of the rich history of both Boron and Edwards. Kern County provides the community's branch library, fire station and sheriff department. The U.S. Post Office is centrally located on Boron Avenue.

## California City, Calif.

**Population:** 11,100
**Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Bldg.:** 17
**Elected official:** Mayor Larry Adams
**School system:** Mojave Unified School District, (661) 824-4001
**Chamber of Commerce:** 8001 California City Blvd., California City, CA 93505
(760) 373-8676
http://city.California-city.ca.us

Starting out as a private commercial development, the community was incorporated in 1961 and ranks as the third largest incorporated city in terms of land area in California.

Located northwest of the base along Highway 58 and a northern jaunt on California City Boulevard, the small community offers all the enhancements of the original developer's grand vision: easy shopping, an 18-hole golf course and a central park offering swimming, boating, fishing, illuminated tennis courts, basketball and volleyball courts, picnic facilities, barbecue pits, children's playgrounds, bicycle rentals and a marina facility.

## Lancaster, Calif.

**Population:** 126,052
**Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Bldg.:** 29
**Elected official:** Mayor Frank Roberts
**School system:** Antelope Valley Union High School District, (661) 948-7655; Eastside Union School District, (661) 946-2813; Lancaster School District, (661) 948-4661, Westside Union School District, (661) 948-2669
**Chamber of Commerce:** 554 W. Lancaster Blvd., Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 948-4518
www.cityoflancasterca.org

A thriving, civic-spirited community, Lancaster has enjoyed unprecedented growth and prosperity in the last decade. During this time, Lancaster has grown to be the commercial and business center of the Antelope Valley and promises to continue such growth.

With proximity to the Los Angeles metropolitan area and yet clean air and blue skies, the community is an affordable choice conveniently located near much of Southern California's attractions and aerospace industry employment. Lancaster has a council-manager/administer form of government with five elected council members and 230 full-time employees. All public safety services, including police and fire, are provided by the County of Los Angeles, while the sheriff's department performs contract-based services, and the fire department performs under a Fire Protection District approach.

## Mojave, Calif.

**Population:** 3,863
**Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Bldg.:** 35
**Elected official:** Unincorporated
**School system:** Mojave Unified School District, (661) 824-4001
**Chamber of Commerce:** (661) 824-2481 or call the Kern Economic Development Corporation at (661) 862-5150
www.kedc.com

Mojave sits at the junction of California Highways 14 and 58 and to some is a gateway to such popular spots as Mammoth and the Eastern Sierras, Las Vegas, Eastern Mojave Desert and to the Los Angeles Basin. But Mojave itself is the location of several natural wonders and historical sites that include mining ghost towns and more.

Anyone driving through Mojave is certain to notice the Mojave Airport. Known to many as the civilian flight test center, the airport is unique in its locale and environmental conditions and is known both for its flight test activities and for the maintenance and storage services provided to the airline industry.

Background image: Photo by Thomas Powell

## North Edwards, Calif.

**Population:** 1,343
**Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Bldg.:** 9
**Elected official:** none
**School system:** Muroc Joint Unified School District, (661) 258-4356

North Edwards is an unincorporated bedroom community just north of Edwards along Highway 58. School-age children go to school at Edwards. Housing is affordable, though shopping convenience is limited.

## Palmdale, Calif.

**Population:** 123,717
**Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Bldg.:** 39
**Elected official:** Mayor James Ledford
**School systems:** Antelope Valley Union High School District (high schools), (661) 948-7655; Palmdale School District (elementary and junior high schools), (661) 947-7191; Westside School District (elementary and junior high schools), (661) 948-2669
**Chamber of Commerce:** 817 E. Avenue Q-9, Palmdale, CA 93550 (661) 273-3232
www.cityofpalmdale.org

Located 60 miles north of Los Angeles along California State Highway 14, Palmdale's biggest industry and employer is aerospace. Thousands of residents are employed at Air Force Plant 42 Production Flight Test Installation and Edwards Air Force Base.

Plant 42 is a huge complex including more than eight million square feet of covered space. Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and The Boeing Co. have billions of dollars in aerospace projects there. Producers, manufacturers, wholesalers, government and business services make up 76 percent of the city's employment force. Natural resources also provide employment in the fields of sand, gravel, rock and cement production.

A community of almost 125,000 residents, Palmdale has a civic foundation in the Larry Chimbole Cultural Center, Palmdale Playhouse and Poncitlan Square, a park fashioned after one in Poncitlan, Mexico, Palmdale's sister city.

## Quartz Hill, Calif.

**Population:** 16,984
**Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Bldg.:** 35
**Elected officials:** none
**School system:** Westside School District, (661) 722-0716
**Chamber of Commerce:** 42043 50th Street West, Quartz Hill, CA 93536 (661) 722-4811
www.quartzhillchamber.org

Quartz Hill, a small, primarily residential and unincorporated community, is situated just four and a half square miles west of Lancaster and Palmdale. Residents enjoy the rustic qualities of the town with horseback riding on many trails, fishing in the nearby California Aqueduct and a view of nature. The community is known for its almond orchards and the annual almond festival parade.

## Rosamond, Calif.

**Population:** 14,950
**Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Bldg.:** 19
**Elected official:** Mayor Edward Cole
**School system:** Southern Kern Unified School District, (661) 256-5000
**Chamber of Commerce:** 2861 Diamond Street, Rosamond, CA 94560 (661) 256-3248

Just a straight shot west of Edwards along Rosamond Boulevard, the small community of Rosamond is a mecca for rockhounds with its cradling and abundant hillside landscape of beautiful rocks—especially at Gem Hill, located four miles north of the community.

Kern County provides fire and police protection in addition to supporting a community recreation building and park with a lighted baseball diamond. Agriculture pertinent to the area includes alfalfa, sugar beets, potatoes and onions. The community also hosts a community/senior center.

## Tehachapi, Calif.

**Population:** 11,400
**Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Bldg.:** 45
**Elected official:** Mayor Mariana Teel
**School system:** Tehachapi Unified School District, (661) 822-2100
**Chamber of Commerce:** P.O. Box 401, Tehachapi, CA 93581 (661) 822-4180
www.tehachapi.com

Located in the mountains about 45 miles from the base and about 4,000 feet above sea level, Tehachapi offers a cool alternative to the warm Mojave Desert summers.

Tehachapi has a rural atmosphere with farming as a way of life for many residents. Award-winning livestock are common in the area as well as famous apples, pears and cherries.

Area residents visit Tehachapi year round for the Mountain Festival, the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association Rodeo in August, the apple and pumpkin harvest in the fall and the cool mountain breezes in the summer.

## Victorville, Calif.

**Population:** 72,500
**Miles from Air Force Flight Test Center Headquarters Bldg.:** 55
**Elected official:** Mayor Terry Caldwell
**School system:** Victor Valley Union High School District, (760) 955-3200; Victor Elementary School District, (760) 245-1691
**Chamber of Commerce:** P.O. Box 997, Victorville, CA 92392 (760) 245-6506
http://vvchamber.com

Located to the east of Edwards in the high desert of Victor Valley, Victorville is accessible via Interstates 15 and 395, conveniently linking the city with all other areas of Southern California. The community encompasses approximately 68 square miles and has experienced an annual growth in population of nearly 19 percent.

## Colleges

• **Antelope Valley College**
3041 West Avenue K
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 722-6300
Antelope Valley College offers a diverse selection of two-year academic and vocational programs.

• **California State University Bakersfield**
Antelope Valley College Campus
43909 30th St. West
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 952-5000
Cal State University Bakersfield offers a variety of classes here in the Antelope Valley.

## Hospitals

• **Antelope Valley Hospital**
1600 West Ave. J
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 949-5000

• **Lancaster Community Hospital**
43830 10th St. West
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 948-4781

• **High Desert Hospital**
44900 N. 60th St. West
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 948-8581

## Museums

• **Antelope Valley African-American Museum**
416 W. Lumber
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 723-0811
The museum highlights the beginning of mankind and continues depicting mankind through today with artifacts, sculptures and international art.

• **Antelope Valley Indian Museum**
15701 East Ave. M.
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 942-0662
www.avim.av.org
Originally built as a private home, the museum is built into and around the rocks of Piute Butte in the Mojave Desert. The museum highlights the valley's Indian culture.

• **Lancaster Museum/Art Gallery**
44801 Sierra Hwy.
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 723-6250
The museum and gallery feature a variety of local, regional and international art and historic exhibits. The gallery hosts a rotating exhibit, a juried all-media art exhibition and a student art exhibition.

• **Twenty Mule Team Museum**
26962 Twenty Mule Team Road
Boron, Calif.
(760) 762-5810
otto.ccis.com/home/cunningham
The museum embraces both the history of aerospace as forged at Edwards and the history of the famous Borax Twenty Mule Team days—all in a renovated house that used to be near a borax mine campsite.

• **Western Hotel Museum**
557 West Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 723-6250
www.cityoflancasterca.org/Parks/westernhotel.htm
Lancaster's oldest structure displays Antelope Valley artifacts. Still visible on a sidewalk behind the museum are the footprints of a young Frances Gumm, better known as Judy Garland, from the days of her childhood in Lancaster.

Background image: Photo by John Wilson

Antelope Valley Mall

## Parks and Recreation

• **Lancaster National Soccer Center**
43000 30th St. East
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 723-6098
www.lancastersoccercenter.com

This 160-acre complex with 34 fields attracts regional and national tournaments to Lancaster, in addition to serving local youth and adult soccer teams.

• **Lancaster City Park and Big 8 Softball Complex**
43011 N. 10th St. West
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 723-6276
www.cityoflancasterca.org/Parks/pra.htm

The park features the Stanley Kleiner Activity Center, a children's playground and tennis center with eight lighted courts. The one of the largest of all softball complexes in California, the Big 8 is known as the "Softball Tournament Destination Location."

• **Saddleback Butte State Park**
Avenue J and 170th St. East
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 942-0662
www.calparksmojave.com

Hiking is available through park trails. Camping is also available for a fee at any of 40 campsites.

• **Red Rock Canyon State Park**
California State Highway 14
Mojave, Calif.
(661) 942-0662

Located 23 miles northeast of Mojave, the park features spectacular red and gray sandstones that have eroded into a variety of shapes.

## Shopping

Lancaster and Palmdale provide base personnel extensive shopping opportunities. Both feature virtually every national and regional retail store, making it unnecessary to travel outside the Antelope Valley for most goods and services.

Lancaster's main shopping area is located on Valley Central Way just off California State Highway 14 at exits for either avenue I or J, about 30 minutes from base housing. Palmdale's primary shopping area is anchored by the Antelope Valley Mall, the area's only covered shopping mall, located on West Avenue P, just off the California State Highway 14 at the exit for 10th Street, about 40 minutes from base housing.

Also popular are the outlet stores in Barstow, located one hour west of the base off California State Highway 58, and in Ontario, about one and a half hours south of the base near the intersections of interstate highways 10 and 15.

Large mall complexes in the Los Angeles area are one to two hours away via California State Highway 14.

## Transportation

• **Antelope Valley Airport Express**
42540 6th St. East
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 945-2529
www.avairportexpress.com

AV Airport Express offers the only airport shuttle to Los Angeles International Airport form the Antelope Valley.

• **Antelope Valley Transit Authority**
1031 West Ave. L-12
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 945-9445
www.avta.com

The AV Transit Authority provides local public bus transportation primarily within Palmdale and Lancaster. Commuter transit between the Antelope Valley and the Los Angeles metropolitan area is also available. Dial-a-ride service is offered for senior citizens and disabled individuals.

• **Greyhound Bus Company**
44812 N. Sierra Hwy.
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 945-2827

• **Metro-Link**
(800) 371-5465

Built in the aftermath of the 1994 Northridge earthquake, the Metro-Link stations and commuter train service provide residents with a convenient and affordable mode of travel to the Los Angeles area.

• **Palmdale Airport**

Currently, there is no commercial passenger flight travel in the Antelope Valley; however, developers are working to attract commercial flights to the Palmdale Airport.

# BEYOND THE LOCAL AREA

Hollywood

San Diego

Los Angeles

Las Vegas

## Community Profiles

### BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.

Chamber of Commerce
1725 Eye St.
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 327-4421
www.bakersfield.org/chamber

Bakersfield is located in the County of Kern and is the county seat. The city of Bakersfield is located at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley, which is partially surrounded by three mountain ranges. The Temblor Range is to the west, the Tehachapis to the south and the Sierra Nevadas to the east. The Kern River flows through the valley adding natural beauty to the area. Bakersfield was designated an All-America City in 1990 by the National Civic League.

Kern County is the leading oil-producing county in the continental United States and the fourth most productive agricultural county in the nation. Grapes, citrus, cotton, market milk and almonds are the top five crops.

### HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

Chamber of Commerce
7018 Hollywood Blvd.
Hollywood, CA 90028
(323) 469-8311
www.hollywoodchamber.net

Hollywood is famous as a movie-making town and the home of many stars.

Some of its attractions include Mann's Chinese Theatre, the Walk of Fame, Hollywood studio and backlot tours and live filming.

Mann's Chinese Theatre is renowned for hosting the handprints and footprints of the entertainment industry's major stars imprinted in concrete in front of the theater, located at 6925 Hollywood Blvd. A section of the Walk of Fame, where more than 2,000 famous celebrities' names are engraved in stars along the sidewalk, is also found on Hollywood Boulevard.

Many sightseeing tours are also available to get a sneak peek at film studios and backlots, Hollywood landmarks and celebrity homes.

ABC, CBS and NBC television studios offer a variety of audience participation shows. Advance application is recommended as some shows have waiting lists up to six months. Ticket requests must include a stamped return envelope and must indicate the name of the desired show and the desired date.

**California Division of Tourism**
1102 Q St., Suite 6000
Sacramento, CA 95814
(800) 862-2543
gocalif.ca.gov

From Edwards, all of California is just a drive away. The California Office of Tourism can provide a wealth of information regarding the myriad of activities and outdoor recreation offered by the Golden State.

### BARSTOW, CALIF.

Chamber of Commerce
409 E. Fredericks St., P.O. Box 698
Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 256-8617
www.barstowchamber.com

Barstow is located approximately 50 miles east of Edwards, midway between the popular tourist destinations of Southern California and Las Vegas, Nev. Situated at the crossroads of Interstates 15 and 40, and state highways 58 and 247, the community provides outlet mall shopping with more than 115 outlet stores.

### LAS VEGAS, NEV.

Chamber of Commerce
3720 Howard Hughes Pky.
Las Vegas, NV 89109-0937
(702) 735-1616
www.lvchamber.com

Las Vegas is a city that never sleeps and boasts nightlife as its biggest attraction. The city draws more than 35 million visitors annually to its gambling tables, slot machines and big-name entertainment at luxurious hotel-casinos along the famous strip.

While much of Las Vegas is restricted to those 21 years and older, it is possible for the whole family to enjoy a visit. Activities for children range from fast-action video arcades and water parks to magnificent show productions and the natural and man-made wonders in and around Las Vegas.

Also within the vicinity of Las Vegas is Lake Mead, just a 30-minute drive away from the city. Sailing, water skiing, wind surfing, motor boating, fishing, swimming and canyon exploring are all available for the outdoors enthusiast. Hoover Dam, which created the lake, is considered one of the engineering wonders of the world and may be toured daily.

Las Vegas is located about four hours northeast of Edwards, a nearly straight shot along California State Highway 58 through Barstow to Interstate 15 East across the state line.

## Los Angeles, Calif.

Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce
350 S. Bixel St.
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 580-7500
www.lachamber.org

Los Angeles is California's largest city, both in population and in territory—nearly 470 square miles, roughly the same size as Edwards AFB. The city ranks second in city and metropolitan area population in the United States.

Los Angeles is a collection of many communities, each with its own identity and character. The area thrives on tourism, world trade and highly diversified industries—predominantly oil, electronics, finance, entertainment, real estate, aircraft and aerospace.

Even with 3.8 million residents, Los Angeles is hardly a city in the traditional sense. It lacks a concentrated urban center and rather sprawls on in every direction, from the sea to the Hollywood hills. A dense network of interstates grid the basin and support the flux of traffic from dawn 'til dusk.

## San Diego, Calif.

San Diego Visitor
Information Center
2688 East Mission Bay Dr.
San Diego, CA 92109
(619) 276-8200
www.infosandiego.com

Nicknamed "America's Finest City," San Diego is one of the most popular stops for tourists visiting California. For more than 200 years, this city has attracted visitors from all over the world.

San Diego Bay is a large natural harbor that is pivotal for commerce and for the military presence in the area. The bay is home to the Navy's 3rd Fleet, which houses and maintains its ships and subs in the harbor. The U.S. Naval and Marine Training Centers and the U.S. Naval Air Station surround the bay.

San Diego is located approximately 180 miles south of Edwards, a straight southern jaunt along Interstate 15 through San Bernardino and Riverside.

## Amusement parks & attractions

**• Disneyland**
1313 Harbor Blvd.
Anaheim, Calif.
(714) 781-4400
disney.go.com/Disneyland

One of America's favorite amusement parks is located in Anaheim, approximately 130 miles south of Edwards. Disneyland features eight different theme areas: Adventureland, Critter Country, Fantasyland, Frontierland, Main Street, U.S.A., Mickey's Toon Town, New Orleans Square and Tomorrowland. Each area features rides and exhibits to match its theme. Adjacent to Disneyland is Disney's California Adventure theme park, as well as the new Downtown Disney District.

**• Knott's Berry Farm**
8039 Beach Blvd.
Buena Park, Calif.
(714) 220-5200
www.knotts.com

This family attraction, located approximately 130 miles south of Edwards, features a variety of thrill rides and theme areas, including Old West Ghost Town, Camp Snoopy, Fiesta Village, Indian Trails, Wild Water Wilderness and The Boardwalk. Next to Knott's Berry Farm is Knott's Soak City U.S.A. water park.

**• San Diego Zoo**
2920 Zoo Dr.
Balboa Park
San Diego, Calif.
(619) 234-3153
www.sandiegozoo.org

The San Diego Zoo is one of the largest zoos in the world and encompasses more than 100 landscaped acres of tropical and subtropical vegetation. More than 4,000 animals from 800 species, some of which are the rarest specimens in the world, can be witnessed in their unique habitats without bars in moated enclosures. A children's zoo allows children to pet the gentler animals.

**• Sea World**
500 Sea World Dr.
San Diego, Calif.
(619) 226-3901
www.seaworld.org

Sea World is one of California's most popular marine parks. The park's 135 acres are home to a vast array of sea life including Shamu, the world-famous, two-ton killer whale. Live shows include the antics of dolphins, sea lions and walruses. There are also several attractions including the Shark Encounter, a 280,000-gallon attraction featuring a 57-foot, walk-through acrylic tube running the length of the sharks' habitat. It contains hundreds of sand tiger, bonnet-head, blacktip and whitetip sharks.

**• Six Flags Magic Mountain**
26101 Magic Mountain
Parkway
Valencia, Calif.
(661) 255-4100
www.sixflags.com/magicmountain

Spread out over 260 acres, the amusement park offers more than 100 shows, attractions and rides to keep the whole family entertained. Adjacent to the amusement park is Six Flags Hurricane Harbor.

**• Universal Studios**
100 Universal City Plaza
Universal City, Calif.
(800) UNIVERSAL
www.universalstudios.com/unicity2

Universal Studios allows visitors to sneak a peek behind the scenes of movie making. Tram rides through backlots and studios; costumes and props; sound stages and special effects demonstrations reveal the secrets of hit movies and television shows. Next door is Universal City Walk, featuring entertainment, dining and shopping.

## Baseball

Three Major League Baseball teams call Southern California home.

- **Anaheim Angels**: (888) 796-4256, www.angelsbaseball.com
- **Los Angeles Dodgers**: (800) 636-3437, www.dodgers.com
- **San Diego Padres**: (877) 374-2784, www.padres.com

## Beaches

*The beautiful and diverse terrain along the California coast offers a wealth of activities to enjoy, many of which are accessible from California's Pacific Coast Highway, or California State Highway 1.*

*To the north, the water and weather are rough, giving the coastline a rugged character. To the south, the water is calmer, the beaches are wider and the climate more temperate.*

**•Catalina Island**
Visitors Bureau and Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 21
Avalon, CA 90704
(310) 510-1520
www.visitcatalina.org

Twenty-two miles across the ocean from mainland Los Angeles is Catalina Island. Discovered more than 400 years ago as a hideout for smugglers and pirates, the island is one of Southern California's most popular resorts. Avalon is the island's only city, and Avalon Bay is the site of the island's most famous landmark, the Casino Building. The island can be reached by sea or air, and there are a variety of express services available.

**•Los Angeles County**
beaches.co.la.ca.us

Popular Los Angeles-area beaches include Malibu, Santa Monica, Venice, Manhattan and Long Beach. Los Angeles County beaches offer swimming, surfing, sand volleyball, bike and roller blade paths, piers, fishing and numerous concessions. Public restrooms and showers are usually available.

**•Monterey, Big Sur and Morro Bay, Calif.**
www.mpcc.com, www.bigsurcalifornia.org, www.morro-bay.net

Big Sur is a favorite stretch of California coastline, between the towns of Carmel and Lucia. For approximately 50 miles, Pacific Coast Highway 1 winds between the Pacific Ocean and a redwood forest. The Santa Lucia Mountains rise steeply from the ocean, and the canyons contain groves of trees. Summer fogs can linger most of the day; the best time to experience the route is in the afternoon.

Ocean life—whales, dolphins, sea lions and frolicking sea otters—stems off the coast and is a common site to see. Sea otters are found in great numbers from Monterey Bay to Morro Bay, while sea lions are commonly seen near the shore or on the rocks. Whale watching is a popular pastime during the winter. Many seaside communities offer excursions to catch a close-up view of the California gray whale's annual 6,000-mile migration.

## Military lodging

The following listing is not complete, but presents some of the more popular military lodging opportunities in and around Southern California.

**Camp Pendleton**
**Marine Corps Base**
San Diego, Calif.
(760) 725-5194/725-5304

Camp Pendleton's Ward Lodging is located 40 miles north of San Diego on Interstate 5.

**Camp San Luis Obispo**
San Luis Obispo, Calif.
(805) 594-6500

This California Army National Guard post is located five miles north of the city of San Luis Obispo on Pacific Coast Highway 1.

**China Lake**
**Naval Air Weapons Station**
China Lake, Calif.
(760) 939-2383

China Lake is located 60 miles almost directly north of Edwards Air Force Base.

**Coronado**
**Naval Amphibious Base**
San Diego, Calif.
(619) 437-3860

The island of Coronado and the naval base are located five miles south of San Diego. The accommodations are close to Coronado Beach, Sea World and a myriad of other San Diego attractions.

**Fort Irwin**
**National Training Center**
Fort Irwin, Calif.
(760) 380-4599

The center is located roughly 55 miles northeast of San Bernardino and north on Interstate 15 near Barstow.

**Nellis Air Force Base**
Las Vegas, Nev.
(888) AF-LODGE

Nellis Air Force Inn is located eight miles northeast of Las Vegas.

**North Island**
**Naval Air Station**
San Diego, Calif.
(800) NAVY-INN

North Island's Navy Lodge is located five miles southwest of San Diego.

**Point Mugu**
**Naval Air Station**
Point Mugu, Calif.
(805) 989-8407

Point Mugu is located eight miles south of Oxnard and 40 miles north of Santa Monica on Pacific Coast Highway 1.

**Port Hueneme**
**Naval Construction**
Oxnard, Calif.
(800) NAVY-INN

Port Hueneme's Navy Lodge is located 25 miles southeast of Santa Barbara.

**San Diego**
**Naval Submarine Base**
San Diego, Calif.
(619) 553-9381

The submarine base's Dolphin Lodge and Inn is located within the city limits of San Diego.

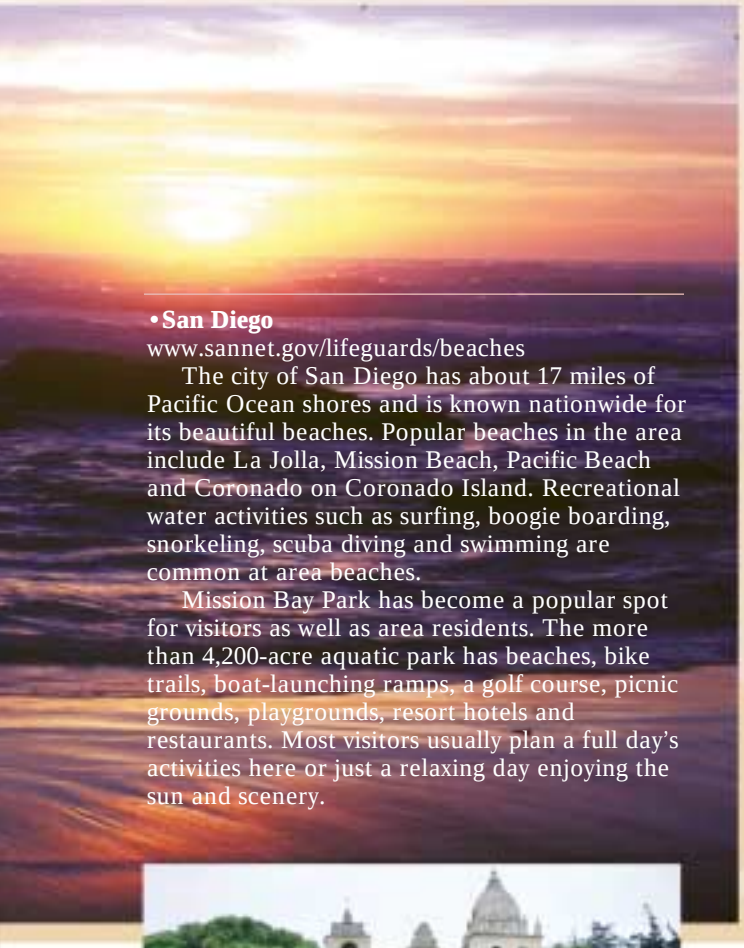
**Travis Air Force Base, Calif.**
(888) AF-LODGE

Travis' West Wind Inn is located 45 miles northeast of San Francisco.

**Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.**
**(888) AF-LODGE**

Vandenberg AFB, located 22 miles south of Santa Maria, offers accommodations at the Vandenberg Lodge.

Photos by John Wilson



**•San Diego**
www.sannet.gov/lifeguards/beaches

The city of San Diego has about 17 miles of Pacific Ocean shores and is known nationwide for its beautiful beaches. Popular beaches in the area include La Jolla, Mission Beach, Pacific Beach and Coronado on Coronado Island. Recreational water activities such as surfing, boogie boarding, snorkeling, scuba diving and swimming are common at area beaches.

Mission Bay Park has become a popular spot for visitors as well as area residents. The more than 4,200-acre aquatic park has beaches, bike trails, boat-launching ramps, a golf course, picnic grounds, playgrounds, resort hotels and restaurants. Most visitors usually plan a full day's activities here or just a relaxing day enjoying the sun and scenery.

## Missions

www.ca-missions.org/contact.html

In 1768, fearing Russia or Britain would establish outposts in California, the Spanish formulated a plan of colonization by founding missions, forts and pueblos to secure the land for the Spanish crown.

Father Junipero Serra officiated the founding of the first establishment in San Diego. Eventually, a chain of 21 California missions would extend from San Diego to the San Francisco area. Communities have developed around most of the missions, and each continues to perpetuate the flavor of the Spanish era in its individual way.

Every mission has distinctive architecture and restful gardens. Many have rooms and even formal museums filled with picturesque artifacts, which help visitors visualize the era when the missions were California's only points of Western European-style civilization.

The missions are open to the public. Some offer individually guided tours, while others provide self-guided literature. Nominal admission charges or donations are requested.

## Museums

**•Getty Center**
1200 Getty Center Dr.
Los Angeles, Calif.
(310) 440-7300
www.getty.edu/museum

The Getty Center unites the J. Paul Getty Trust's museum, institutes and grant program in the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains. The centerpiece of the 110-acre complex is the museum and its collections of pre-20th century European paintings, drawings, illuminated manuscripts, sculpture, decorative arts and photographs.

**•L.A. County Museum of Art**
5905 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, Calif.
(323) 857-6000

The L.A. County Museum of Art is a five-building complex housing paintings, sculpture, costumes, textiles and decorative art from around the world. The collections include more than 150,000 works and span the history of art from ancient times to the present. In addition to presenting more than 30 exhibitions each year, the museum also sponsors concerts, film programs and lectures that complement its collections.

**•Movieland Wax Museum**
7711 Beach Blvd.
Buena Park, Calif.
(714) 522-1155
www.movielandwaxmuseum.com/mwm.html

Visitors can see their favorite film stars—at least wax-molded figures of them—one block north of Knott's Berry Farm. Some of the most memorable scenes in motion pictures are recreated in detail.

**•Natural History Museum of L.A. County**
900 Exposition Blvd.
Los Angeles, Calif.
(213) 763-3466
www.nhm.org

The Natural History Museum has detailed habitats of African, North American and exotic mammals; birds, insects and marine life; dinosaur displays and prehistoric fossils; and mineral and cut gemstone collections. The Pavilion of Wings lets visitors walk among hundreds of free-fluttering butterflies. History galleries depict life in California from 1540 to the present.

**•San Diego Aerospace Museum**
**Aerospace Historical Center**
Pan American Plaza
Balboa Park, Calif.
(619) 234-8291
www.aerospacemuseum.org

The history of aviation from the dawn of flight to the age of space travel is depicted through displays featuring early gliders, a Kitty Hawk Flyer, a Spirit of St. Louis replica, barnstorming, early mail planes, World War II aircraft, modern fighters and a NASA space capsule.

## Parks and recreation

**Big Bear Lake**
Big Bear Chamber of Commerce
630 Bartlett Rd.
Big Bear, Calif.
www.bigbeartourist.com

Big Bear Lake and Valley are located about 30 miles northeast of San Bernardino in the San Bernardino Mountains. Camping and horseback riding are popular in the summer. Hunting and fishing are permitted in season.

**Death Valley National Park**
Death Valley, Calif.
(760) 786-3200
www.nps.gov/deva

Death Valley, located on the eastern edge of California, encompasses more than three million acres and has elevations ranging from 282 feet below sea level to 11,049 feet above sea level.

**Sequoia and King's Canyon National Parks**
Three Rivers, Calif.
(559) 565-3341
www.nps.gov/seki

Home of the largest trees in the world, King's Canyon and Sequoia National Parks are open year round. Bus tours within the parks are available daily in the summer.

**Yosemite National Park**
Yosemite National Park, Calif.
www.nps.gov/yose/home.htm

Yosemite's landscape spans about 1,189 square miles of park land. Visitors can witness Yosemite Falls, which plummet 2,425 feet—11 times higher than Niagara and Half Dome, a structure halved by moving ice masses millions of years ago. The park is in central California on the western slope of the Sierra Nevadas and serves as a getaway for hiking and camping activities.

## Vineyards

**Antelope Valley Winery**
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 722-0145
www.avwinery.com

Located in Lancaster at the intersection of Avenue M and 20th Street West, this is a family-owned winery specializing in the production of premium quality proprietary and varietal wines. Antelope Valley Winery is open seven days a week.

**Lake County**
Lakeport, Calif.
www.lakecountywinegrape.org

Lake County surrounds Clear Lake, the largest natural lake in California. The vineyards are planted throughout Lake County from the agriculturally rich valley at near 1,400 feet elevation, to the rocky red volcanic soil around Mt. Konocti, at above 2,000 feet elevation.

**Napa Valley**
Napa, Calif.
www.freerun.com/napavalley/mwinerie.htm

Wine is made all over California, but the term "Wine Country" is associated with Napa and Sonoma Counties. The area is located northeast of San Francisco and became famous for the hundreds of wineries found in the region. State Road 29 runs throughout the valley and passes many well-known vintners. From Edwards, head north on California State Highway 58 to Bakersfield. From there, call individual wineries for specific directions.

**Paso Robles Wine Country**
Paso Robles, Calif.
www.pasowine.com

Paso Robles Wine Country is one of the fastest growing premium vineyards and winery regions in California, with the number of bonded wineries and wine-grape acres in Paso Robles more than doubling between 1993 and 2002.

Paso Robles is situated 20 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean, literally halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. It is in the center of the Central Coast wine region, which spans from Monterey County to the north and south to Santa Barbara County.

**Santa Barbara County Wine Country**
Santa Barbara, Calif.
www.sbcountywines.com

Santa Barbara County has a history of winemaking and wine-grape growing spanning 200 years, with the area enjoying a renaissance in the last 25 years. There are now more than 62 wineries in Santa Barbara County, located primarily in the Santa Ynez and Santa Maria Valleys. Most of the wineries are small businesses, run by individuals or families. More than a million cases of wine are produced annually.

## Skiing

Beyond the coastline, California features ski slopes and invites residents and visitors to take to the white-topped mountains in the San Bernardino National Forest, San Gabriel Mountains and the Sierra Nevadas. Skiing is as close as one hour away from Edwards.

**Bear Mountain Ski Resort**
Big Bear Lake, Calif.
(800) BEARMTN
www.bigbearmountainresorts.com

**June Mountain Ski Resort**
June Lake, Calif.
(888) JUNEMTN
www.junemountain.com

**Mammoth Ski Resort**
Mammoth Lakes, Calif.
(800) MAMMOTH
www.mammoth-mtn.com

**Mount Baldy Ski Resort**
Upland, Calif.
(909) 981-3344
www.mtbaldy.com

**Mountain High Ski Resort**
Wrightwood, Calif.
(888) 754-7878
www.mthigh.com

**Snow Summit Ski Resort**
Big Bear Lake, Calif.
(888) SUMMIT
www.bigbearmountainresorts.com/

**Snow Valley Ski Resort**
Running Springs, Calif.
(909) 867-2751
www.snow-valley.com

# CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Supporting the Edwards Air Force Base mission through sound environmental stewardship

Rogers (pictured below) and Rosamond dry lakebeds are two unique natural resources that help make Edwards the premier flight test facility. The lakebeds are among the lowest points in the Antelope Valley and collect seasonal rain and snow runoff from surrounding hills and also from the San Gabriel Mountains to the south and the Tehachapi Mountains to the west.
Photo by Bobbi Garcia

At Edwards, the mission and the natural environment go hand in hand. The unique physical environment makes the high desert an ideal place for flight test activities. Helping the flight testers maintain access to the air, land and water for testing and other operations, while not upsetting the delicate balance of the desert ecosystem, is the mission of Environmental Management.

To effectively accomplish its mission, Environmental Management adopted a four-pillar approach. Appropriate personnel are consulted during the planning and implementation stages of all test programs and construction projects at Edwards.

The four pillars:

**Cleanup:** The identification, investigation, management and cleanup of hazardous waste sites aim to protect human health and the environment.

**Conservation:** Environmental assessments are provided for test programs and construction projects to survey potential impact. Efforts to manage the protection and preservation of natural resources and cultural and historic sites at Edwards also fall within the conservation pillar.

**Pollution prevention:** Processes are developed to minimize the use of hazardous materials, the generation of hazardous waste and the deposition of solid waste in a landfill. Pillar efforts emphasize reusing and recycling programs.

The Joshua Tree (pictured in the background), found only in the Mojave Desert, is in fact not a tree at all but rather a large yucca, part of the lily family. It is one of the Mojave Desert's oldest and most distinctive plants, and may live for more than 150 years.

A coyote pauses alongside Popson Avenue with Hangar 1414 in the background. Team Edwards members are reminded to view wildlife from safe distances.
Photo by Phil Kocurek

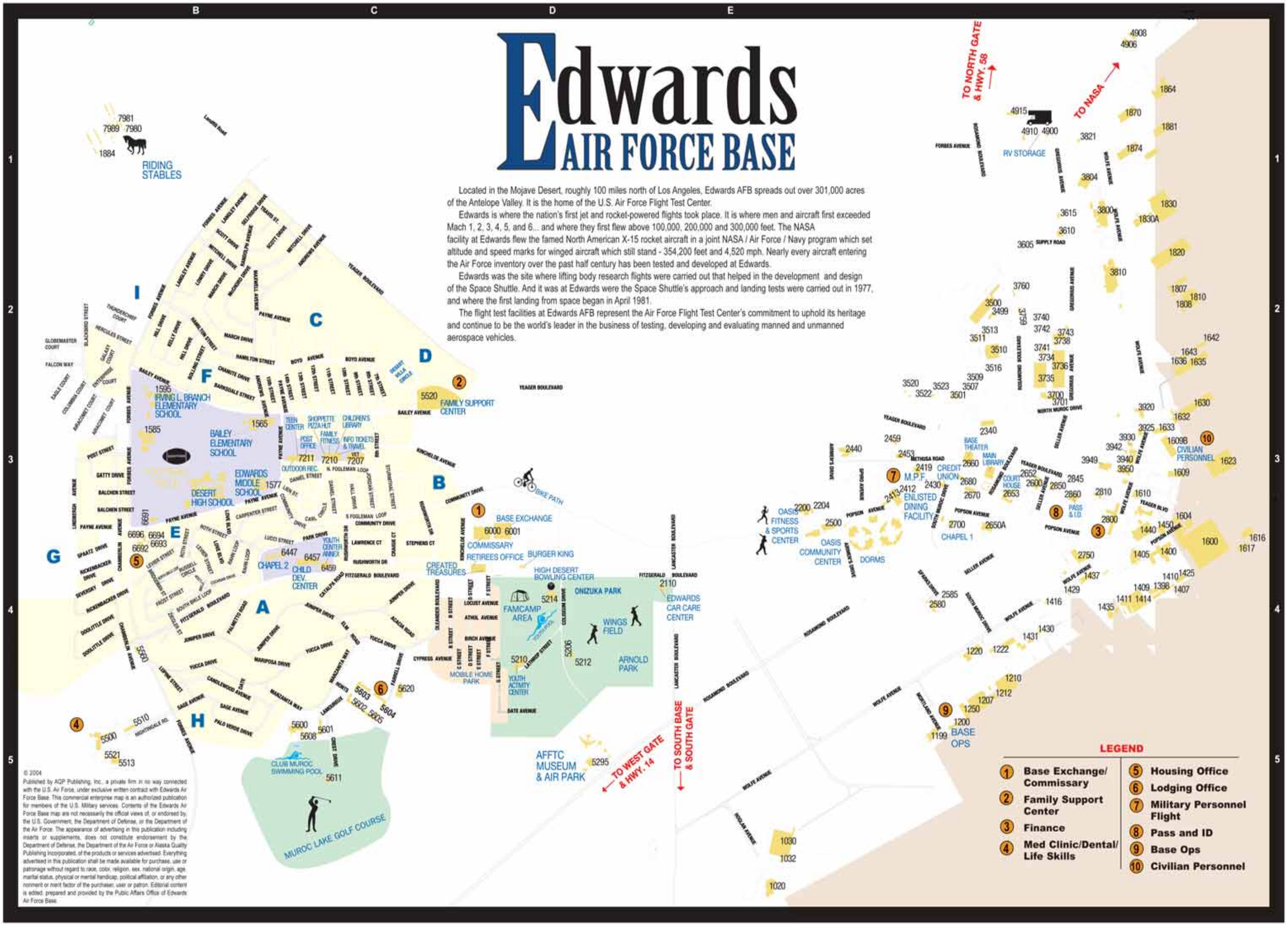
# Edwards AIR FORCE BASE

Located in the Mojave Desert, roughly 100 miles north of Los Angeles, Edwards AFB spreads out over 301,000 acres of the Antelope Valley. It is the home of the U.S. Air Force Flight Test Center.

Edwards is where the nation's first jet and rocket-powered flights took place. It is where men and aircraft first exceeded Mach 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6... and where they first flew above 100,000, 200,000 and 300,000 feet. The NASA facility at Edwards flew the famed North American X-15 rocket aircraft in a joint NASA / Air Force / Navy program which set altitude and speed marks for winged aircraft which still stand - 354,200 feet and 4,520 mph. Nearly every aircraft entering the Air Force inventory over the past half century has been tested and developed at Edwards.

Edwards was the site where lifting body research flights were carried out that helped in the development and design of the Space Shuttle. And it was at Edwards were the Space Shuttle's approach and landing tests were carried out in 1977, and where the first landing from space began in April 1981.

The flight test facilities at Edwards AFB represent the Air Force Flight Test Center's commitment to uphold its heritage and continue to be the world's leader in the business of testing, developing and evaluating manned and unmanned aerospace vehicles.

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