Welcome
Aboard!
Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital

A Message from the CO

Captain Robert J. Engelhart, MSC, USN

Welcome to the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, Twentynine Palms! We are a community hospital dedicated to providing quality health care services to all who are entrusted to our care… Marines and Sailors assigned to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center and their families, as well as to our retired shipmates and their families.

The staff of Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms represents the best in Navy Medicine. Our mission is "To provide quality health care to all entrusted to our care," and your health care team here at Naval Hospital, Twentynine Palms will excel at that mission and deliver world-class health care. We will work diligently to surpass your expectations and our staff will strive to make this hospital your choice for health care for you and your family.

We want and need your feedback. In each clinic area we have a Customer Relations Representative who is available to you when you visit the clinic. I also have appointed a full-time Customer Relations Officer who serves as my Special Assistant, and who can be contacted at (760) 830-2475.

For our Medical Department colleagues, an assignment to Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms can be professionally challenging and highly rewarding. Join our team of professionals in California's high desert to be a part of our crew of Superstars. Ask your detailer if you qualify for orders to the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital.

From the Desk of the XO

Captain Alan R. Rowley, MC, USN

Welcome! Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms is a modern Military Treatment Facility strategically situated in the pristine high desert of Southern California. Morale is consistently high, the hospital-community relationships are excellent and access to care is exceptional. Our healthcare teams stand equal to the best found anywhere. Our leadership is very approachable and interested in you, personally.

This hospital is just the right size for quickly getting to know all staff. Therein lies one of the greatest joys of working here: feeling like part of a big family. We also deliver a broad spectrum of services in addition to comprehensive primary care for all ages. These services include Orthopedics, General Surgery, Obstetrics, Optometry and Mental Health. We also have a fully staffed Emergency Medicine Department.

Centrally located, you can be in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Big Bear Resorts or San Diego within 3 hours by car. The entire Palm Springs area is within an hour drive. However, there is no reason to leave the immediate area, if you are looking for recreational opportunities, and enjoy minimum traffic and some of the clearest air in California!

This may well prove your best assignment ever!

From the Desk of the Command Master Chief

HMCM (SS/SW/FMF) Stephen R. Mitchell

Welcome aboard! You have received orders to a great command, The Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, located in the high Mojave Desert. You will be joining a great team of Corpsmen, Nurses and Doctors who pride themselves on providing the best possible care to our patients at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, and we look forward to your contribution to our mission.

The environment of the Mojave Desert is a challenging one… it gets hot during the summer and cold during the winter, with a very short Fall and Spring season. However, because of our location we are about a three-hour drive from most of the attractions in Southern California… San Diego, Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, Universal Studios, Magic Mountain, etc. In addition, we are located next door to the Joshua Tree National Park and a one-hour drive from Palm Springs.

This Welcome Aboard CD should explain most everything you need to know about our command and the area. In addition, a sponsor assigned to help in your transition to this command should have contacted you by now. Every attempt is made to assign sponsors commensurate with the same level of experience of reporting personnel. If you haven't heard from your sponsor please give me a call at (760) 830-2424 or DSN 230-2424.

Again, welcome aboard! I am looking forward to you joining our team.

You have orders to Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms...
What Do You Do Now?

How do I get assigned a Command Sponsor?

Upon receipt of orders this command automatically assigns incoming personnel a sponsor. At that point the sponsor is required to contact the incoming member via letter or phone. A welcome aboard package is also sent to the incoming member upon receipt of orders.

Phone numbers for requesting a Command Sponsor:

Commercial: (760) 830-2651
DSN: 230-2651

Mailing Address for requesting a Command Sponsor:

Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms
MAGTFTC
Head, Manpower Management
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278

Lodging Information

BEQ: (760) 830-7294

BOQ: (760) 830-6642

Temporary Lodging Facility: (760) 830-6573

Twentynine Palms Inn: (760) 367-3505

Best Western: 1-800-528-1234 or (760) 367-9141

Motel 6: (760) 367-2833

About the Command Sponsor Program

The Command Sponsorship Program is designed to establish a contact for the newly reporting staff member to Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms. Command sponsors are assigned by Directorate and are chosen based on the newly arriving staff members background and experience in mind. If you have received orders to this command and have not been assigned a sponsor, please

Mission Statement

To deliver quality health services for all entrusted to our care

Vision Statement

To be the hospital of choice for patients and the workplace of choice for staff

Guiding Principles

We do what is right for the patient.
We promote teamwork with our military, civilian, and contract personnel.
We promote equal opportunity and value diversity.
We operate on a basis of mutual trust, respect, and personal accountability.
We value teaching, mentoring, and education.
We foster a climate that supports performance improvement, innovation and creativity.
We recognize staff contributions, initiatives, and professional excellence.

Clinical Practice Goal

We will use the best clinical practices to deliver quality, preventive, and curative health services.

Best Business Practice Goal

Through best business practices and efficient coordination of care, we will optimize resources, improve performance, and achieve the best possible outcomes for our patients.

People Goal

We will promote an environment where all staff are appropriately assigned, well trained, supported, and recognized.

About the Hospital

Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital, commissioned on July 9, 1993, is a state-of-the-art, 160,000 square foot facility. The architectural firm who designed the hospital was awarded the Secretary of Defense's "Excellence in Design" award for a medical facility in 1994. The hospital contains 30 beds and has room to expand to 40. The hospital has an Emergency Medical Department, three operating rooms, a Multi-Service Ward for inpatient care and in the spring of 2003 will have seven newly constructed Labor, Delivery, Recovery, Postpartum (LDRP) suites. The hospital also has a modern full-service Pharmacy, Laboratory, Radiology Department and a Physical Therapy Clinic.

Medical specialities available include Family Practice, Pediatrics, Obstetrics/ Gynecology, General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Orthopedics, Optometry and Mental Health Services.

For more information about Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms, visit the Web page at http://www.nhtp.med.navy.mil.

The Hospital's Bachelor Enlisted Housing

Base Housing Types

Adobe Flats housing for E4 -- E-5

Condor Heights housing for E2 -- E3

Shadow Mountain housing for E6 -- E9

Desert View Terrace housing for E2 -- E3

Fairway Heights housing for E6 -- E9

Sun Flower Terrace housing for E2 -- E3

Joshua Heights housing for E2 -- E9

Ocotillo Heights housing for E6 -- 05

Vista Del Sol housing for E2 -- E5

For detailed housing information visit http://www.29palms.usmc.mil

Marine Corps Community Services

Auto Hobby Shop -- 830-7527
Hours: Wednesday - Friday 12 - 8 p.m., Saturday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., closed Monday, Tuesday and holidays.
Work on your vehicle with diagnostics, lifts, paint booth, tools and more. Nominal fee for bay use.

Camp Wilson Fitness Center -- 830-4353
Hours: Monday - Friday 5 a.m. - 10 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Hours are flexible depending on the needs of the Combined Arms Exercise (CAX) Commander.
Cardiovascular equipment, free weights and weight loaded machines.

Community Center -- 830-3380
Hours: Monday - Friday 12 - 9 p.m., closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays.
Weekend rental of the Center is available for $10 per hour upon approval. Please submit a letter of request to facility manager. The Community Center has four meeting rooms, a gym, a cardio room, a burner for warming food, two microwaves and an outdoor patio for barbeques. Community Center space is available for almost any function during the week or weekends. Reservations are required.

Desert Winds Golf Course -- 830-6139
Hours: Monday - Sunday and holidays 6:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
18 holes, driving range, new clubhouse and pro shop. Golf schools available from a PGA Pro. Call for details.

The Desert Winds Golf Course Club House

East Gym and Fitness Center -- 830-6440
Hours: Monday - Friday 5 a.m. - 10 p.m., holidays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., closed Saturday and Sunday. Please note: ***West Gym*** is open on weekends.
Cardiovascular equipment, strength training, free weights, racquetball and basketball, spa, sauna, body composition testing and 'one stop' personal training at 830-6440.

Information Tickets and Tours (ITT) -- 830-6163 ext. 252
Hours: Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., closed Sunday and holidays.
Discounts on regional attractions, trips, charters, and more. Special events each month. Call ITT for prices.

Lake Havasu Cottages -- 830-6163 ext. 252
Office hours: Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays.
Crazy HOurse Campground at Lake Havasu provides a perfect setting for nine vacation rentals. Situated on

a small island in Lake Havasu, the campground provides the ideal combination of privacy and proximity to town. The unites are fully stocked with all of the conveniences of home including full sized refrigerators, stoves/ovens, microwave ovens and coffee makers at only $35 per night Sunday through Thursday and $45 Friday and Saturday. Requires a $50 refundable deposit.

Outdoor Adventures -- 830-7235
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., Saturday 8 - 11:45 a.m., closed Sunday and holidays.
Recreational rentals: camping, skiing, fishing, softball, flag football, horseshoes, volleyball equipment, grills, canoes, tables, chairs, punch bowls, party equipment and more.

Single Marine Program -- 830-4767
Special events and fun tours designed especially for single Marines and Sailors. Call your SMP Coordinator for more information at
. Sign up and pay for trips at ITT in the Main Exchange, Building 1533.
Visit the SMP website at http://www.29palms.usmc-mccs.org/Nav/smp.htm

Skeet Range -- 830-6420
Located on DelValle Road, across from Subway
Hours: Contact Outdoor Adventures at 830-7235 for hours of operation.

Sports Program -- 830-6857
Hours: Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sign up for intramural sports or reserve MCAGCC fields and outdoor courts. Football, basketball, softball, tennis, bowling, swimming, golf, cross country, volleyball, soccer, racquetball, and more.

Stables -- 830-7235
This self-care boarding facility for horses includes stall, tack locker, round pen, pasture, two arenas, covered shoeing area, wash racks and miles of trails.

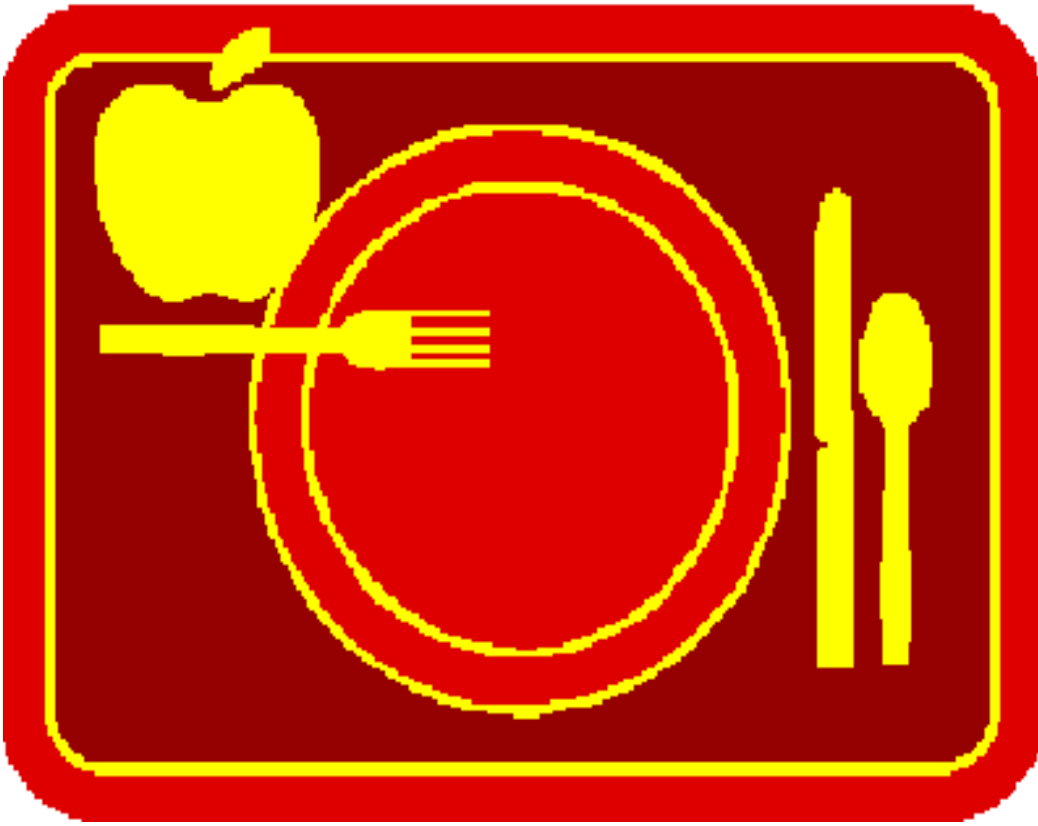
Sunset Cinema -- 830-7269
Show times: Monday - Friday 6 and 9 p.m., Saturday, Sunday and holidays 2, 6 and 9 p.m.
First run movies seven days a week free to authorized patrons. Excellent snack bar and friendly staff.
Movie schedule published weekly in Observaton Post.

Sunset Cinema

Swimming Pools
Training Tank -- 830-6212
Hours: 11 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., Lap Swimming 7-10:45 a.m., Unit Training 1-4 p.m.
Officer/SNCO Pool -- 830-7250
Call for hours during season.
Bldg. 697 Family Pool -- 830-6727
Call for hours during season.

West Gym and Fitness Center -- 830-6451/830-3009
Hours: Monday - Friday 4:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., closed holidays.

Dining Facilities



Bowling Center Snack Bar
Burger King
Catering Office
Charlies Coffee House
Combat Center Officers' Club
Domino's Pizza
Duffer's Retreat
JASM Espresso Junction
Quick Break Sandwiches
Rice King
Subway Sandwiches
Taco Bell
Warrior Club
Mobile Canteens

Clubs

Blood Stripes (NCO Club)
Combat Center Officers' Pub
Excursions (Enlisted Club)
Hashmarks (SNCO Club)

Shopping and Services

5th Street Zone -- 830-8454
Hours: Sunday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 - 12 a.m.
All Hands! Enjoy video games, juke box, billiards, free movies showing daily and internet services.

JT Automotive - Auto Service Station -- 830-6693
Merchandise, Parts and Service Hours: Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Sunday and holidays. Gas Hours: Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., closed holidays. Automated (credit card only) gas pumps available 24 hours a day.

Barber Shops
MCX Mall -- 830-6163 ext. 250
Hours: Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
C&E Complex -- 830-4101
Hours: Monday - Thursday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 7 a.m. - 2 p.m., closed Saturday and Sunday.
Camp Wilson -- 830-7821
Hours: As Designated by CAX Commander.

Beauty Shop (MCX Mall) -- 830-6163 ext. 249
Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Appointments suggested, but walk-ins are welcome.

Free weights, strength machinery, cardiovascular equipment and 'one stop' personal training at 830-6440.

Wood Hobby Shop -- 830-7214
Hours: Wednesday - Friday 12 - 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., closed Monday, Tuesday and holidays.
Wood and tools are available to make entertainment centers, plaques, cabinets, shelves and more. Nominal fee for tool use. Patrons must attend a free 30-minute safety class prior to using the facility. This class is held every Wednesday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 11 a.m.

C&E Exchange -- 830-4104
Hours: Monday - Thursday 6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Friday 6:30 a.m. 3 p.m., closed Saturday and Sunday.
Food, beverages, sundries, books and more. Located between Charlies Coffee House and the Barber Shop.

Camp Wilson Exchange -- 830-7821
Hours: Monday - Sunday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Food, beverages, sundries, books, music and more.

Command Video -- 830-6163 ext. 254, After 4 p.m. 830-5637 ext. 254.
Hours: Monday - Sunday 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Rent VHS or DVD for only 99 cents on Wednesdays! Rent 10, get one free. Kids' movies (excluding new releases) are always free with a regular rental and rentals are always for two days. One free rental on your birthday.

Dry Clener, Laundry & Tailor Shop -- 830-6860/6011
Hours: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., closed Sundays and holidays.
Any cleaning and tailoring; shoe and boot repair.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car -- 830-6752
(across from the Naval Hospital)
Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday 8-11 a.m., closed Sundays and holidays.
Rental cars for patrons 21 and over. Call in advance for reservations.

Garden and Patio Shop -- 830-6163 ext. 255
Hours: Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Patio furniture, grills, hardware, gardening supplies and pet supplies.

Hospital Exchange Ship's Store -- 830-2039
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays.
Flowers, magazines, gifts, food and beverages.

Hospital Ship's Store

Marine Palms Exchange -- 830-5610/5611
Hours: Sunday - Thursday 7 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Food, beverages, toiletries and more, located next door to Burger King.

Military Clothing -- 830-6560
Hours: Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., closed Sundays and holidays.
Uniforms, chevrons, medals, 782 gear and more. Located next door to the Center Library.

Military Communications Center -- 830-4690
Hours: Monday - Friday 11 - 12 a.m. Saturday and Sunday 10 - 12 a.m.
Enjoy internet service, fax machine, copies, mailboxes & giftwrap. Send or receive money through Western Union. UPS & Fed Ex shipping available.

Ocotillo Exchange -- 830-5614
Hours: Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., closed holidays.
Convenient shopping for Ocotillio and Fairway Heights housing. Food, beverages, music and sundries. Fresh coffee in the mornings.

Optical Shop -- 830-6163 ext. 226
Hours: Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., closed Sundays and holidays.
Just bring in your eyeglass prescription for frames and lenses. Military Star Card accepted.

Phone Centers -- 830-6163 ext. 204
Hours: Open 24 hours.
Located beside Subway Sandwiches and at Camp Wilson beside the Exchange. Rows and rows of pay phones for your convenience.

Sandy Hill Lanes Bowling Center -- 830-6422
Currently closed for renovation

Sato Travel -- 830-6622/6692
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
This full service travel agent offers services from airline tickets to cruise and vacation packages. Sato Travel is located next to TMO on Del Valle off First Street. Ask about military and special rates.

Seven Day Store/Package Store -- 830-6163 ext. 256
Hours: Monday - Saturday 5 - 12 a.m., Sunday and holidays 7 - 12 a.m.
Snacks, personal items, magazines, music and toiletries. Beer, wine and spirits can be purchased from 7:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.

U-Haul -- 830-6337
Hours: Monday - Sunday 8 a.m. 6 p.m.
Friendly service. Easy rental and drop off. Appliance and piano dollies, blankets, boxes, dollies and car transports.

Veterinary Services -- 830-6896
Hours: Call for appointment.
Examinations and vaccinations for your pets.

Laundromats
Bldg. 1500 (behind Training Tank) -- 830-6163
Hours: 6 - 12 a.m. seven days a week.
Bldg. 5415 (Camp Wilson) -- 830-7821
Hours: 24 hours, seven days a week.
Main laundromat has coin operated washers and dryers, including a large capacity washer.

Main Exchange Mall (MCX)

Main Exchange Mall (MCX) -- 830-6163
Hours: Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday, Sunday and holidays 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
One stop department store shopping. Purchase with cash, credit cards, Military Star or layaway. If we don't have it, you can order it. Check out the Special Order Office located near cosmetics. UPS shipping and gift wrapping. Check Cashing department includes full service free check cashing and Western Union.

Community Support

Career Resource Office -- 830-7225
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and Family members Employment Assistance Program (FMEAP)
When it comes to career transitions, CRO is hear for you. Helping service members as well as family members build their resume for employment. MCCS and CRO make available a great career enhancing opportunity in becoming an Office Automation Specialist through the MOUS (Microsoft Office User Specialist) program. Call for work shop schedules and seminars.

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) -- 830-7740
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
This program assists service members in providing for the special needs of their exceptional family member before, during and after relocation required by a change of duty assignment.

Information and Referral (I&R) -- 830-6344
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Information and Referral is the gateway to information. The staff will answer your questions and/or direct you to appropriate resources both on and off base. Computer kiosk with internet access available for your convenience.

New Parent Support Program (NPSP) -- 830-7622
Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
This program provides supportive and caring services to Marine Corps and Navy families with children through age 5.

Personal Financial Management Program (PFMP) -- 830-7342
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Prevention and Education -- 830-6905/4950
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Provides preventive education on abuse problems, either of people or substance. Offers Stress Management, Suicide Prevention, Domestic Violence Prevention and Drug Demend Reduction.

Relocation Assistance Program (RAP) -- 830-4028
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Make smart moves, both inbound and outbound. Contact our office to receive information on your new surroundings or to schedule one on one consultation.

Retired Activities -- 830-7550
Hours: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
The Retired Activities Office is available to assist retirees and their family members with local regulations, policies or entitlements, benefits and privilges.

Volunteer Program -- 830-4262
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Build resume experience, develop valuable skills and benefit your community.

Child, Youth and Teen Programs

Bright Beginnings -- 830-3227 ext. 252
Hours: Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Extended Hours Plan: Monday - Friday 5:15 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Provides child care for children 6 weeks to 3 years old.

Family Child Care -- 830-3227 ext 232
Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Certified military spouses to provide child care services in their homes.

New Horizons -- 830-3227 ext. 222
Hours: Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Extended Hours Plan: Monday - Friday 5:15 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Provides childcare for children 3 years to Kindergarten.

Open Recreation Program -- 830-3227 ext. 273
Hours: Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Programs for children ages 6-12 who are family members of MCCS eligible patrons. Special events each month.

School Age Care Program -- 830-3227 ext. 273
Hours: Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Extended Hours Plan: 5:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Provides care for children in 1st through 6th grades. After school transportation to child care program provided for Twentynine Palms Elementary and Condor.

Teen Program -- 830-3227 ext. 273
Hours: Monday - Thursday 6 - 8 p.m., Friday 6 - 10 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
a place for kids in grades 7-12 to hang out (18 year olds must still be in high school).
Free teen shuttle service. Must call by 4 p.m. the day of pick up.

Youth Sports -- 830-3227 ext. 272
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
For children ages 3-18, this program ranges from instructional to competitive sports.

Library

Lifelong Learning

Center Library -- 830-6875
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., closed holidays.
Award winning facility with free internet, videos, DVDs, audio cassettes, computers and free events for all ages and, of course, books.

Education Office -- 830-6881
Hours: Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays.
Provides educational opportunities, tuition assistance, career guidance, counseling, DANTES exams, military classification exams, and a resource room. On-base schools include Copper Mountain College (CMC), Chapman University (CU), and National University (NU).

Copper Mountain College

Intervention and Treatment

Family/Individual Counseling -- 830-6345
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Family, marital and personal counseling.

Domestic Violence Intervention -- 830-6345
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Parenting classes, anger management, domestic abuse intervention programs, and one-on-one counseling.

Substance Abuse Counseling Center (SACC) -- 830-6376
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Confronting and treating substance abuse problems.

Marine Corps Family Team Building (MCFTB)

Administration -- 830-8456
Hours: Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

CREDO -- 830-4989
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Targets married and single service members, reservists on drilling status, family members and retirees, CREDO offers the Personal Growth Retreat, Spiritual Growth Retreat, Marriage Enrichment Retreat, Unit Team Building Workshop, Teen Weekend and Family Weekend. All retreats are free. Call for upcoming retreats. Food and lodging are provided for all retreats and transportation for Personal Growth Retreat. To register call CREDO Camp Pendleton at (760) 725-4954 (DSN 365), or toll free at 1-877-548-5407. You may also visit the web site at: www.29palms.usmc.mil/misc/credo.

Key Volunteer Network -- 830-4163
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Key Volunteer Network serves as a communication link between the unit and its families. Training is required to become a Key Volunteer, but taking the training does not obligate you to become a volunteer. The hospital's OMBUDSMAN is Mrs. Monica Shaw who can be reached at (760) 361-9474, FAX: (760) 830-2182 or Pager at (800) 459-0827.

Lifestyles, Insights, Networking, Knowledge & Skills (LINKS)
Hours: 24 Hour Voice Message
LINKS targets Marine and Navy spouses who have been married less than five years and are new to the Marine Corps or Navy. LINKS helps transistion new spouse from the civilian world to understanding the military world. Classes are held periodically and lasts for two days usually on the last Tuesday and Wednesday of each month. Please leave a message to schedule a session. Time for these sessions are 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Evening session time will be announced at the time of session. All sessions are held at the LINKS house #2 Desert Dr. (Marine Palms

Housing). Free childcare on the spot by CDC (Child Development Center). To sign up for a session call and leave a message at 830-3705.

Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) -- 830-6464
Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Reaches Marines and Sailors who are engaged or married. PREP teaches problem solving, building fun and friendship into your relationship and how to raise concerns constructively. Learn how to gain and maintain a safe environment to talk about sensitive subjects using the speaker/listener technique.

Spouse Leadership -- 830-4163
This Seminar is a trainign class for spouses who are already in a position of leadership by way of volunteering or contributing in some way to the MCAGCC community. This seminar will be held in October 2003. Call for details.

Family Readiness Officer Training
FRO training will be done as needed. All training is held at the Village Center Building 1551. Advanced registration is necessary to insure that we prepare adequate materials and correct diplomas. Please call Barbara Greenbush at 830-4163 to register or for more information.

Welcome Aboard!

Religious Ministries

Protestant

Christ (Protestant) Chapel Bldg 1541
For more information call (760) 830-6464

Worship Services:
9:45 Protestant Divine
11:30 Gospel
6:00 Contemporary

Sunday School:
Meets in Bldg 1551
The Village Center
11:00 Sunday School Chapel

For registration or information, call
Director of Religious Education:
Brad White-Findeisen
(760) 830-4463

Protestant Choir rehearsals
Adult Men's Gospel - Mon 7:00
Adult Gospel - Tues 7:00
Divine Service - Wed 6:30
Children's (3yr. Jr. High) Evang. & Trad. - Wed 5:30
Gospel - Tues 7:00

InterDenominational Ministries:

Mighty Men of Christ (Men's Group)
Christian Fellowship (Mens's Group)
Stephen Ministry (Caring Ministry)
Centurions (Service Group)
CREDO Retreats
Preparation and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP)

Roman Catholic:

Immaculate Heart of Mary (Roman Catholic) Chapel Bldg. 1542
For more information call (760) 830-6456
Mass:
Sunday 9:00, 10:30, 6:00
Monday-Friday 11:40
Every Friday 6:00
Confessions:
Sunday 8:15 - 8:45
Sunday 5:15 - 5:45
Wednesdays 4:45 - 5:15
Confraternity for Christian Doctrine (CCD):
Meet in Bldg. 1551, *The Village Center,*
Sundays, 9:00 - 10:00
For registration or information, call Director of R. C. Religious Education, at (760) 830-6456
Roman Catholic Choir rehearsal
Wednesdays, 7:00
IHM Rosary Society
Wed, 4:30
IHM and one half hour prior to Sunday Masses.
A nursery is available in the Village Center, Bldg. 1551, for major services and most programs.

Latter Day Saints:

For information call:
LCDR Welker at
(760) 830-2155

Jewish Services:

Jewish Chapel, Religious Ministries Center, Bldg. 1551

Worship Service, Friday, 7 p.m.
For information, call (760) 830-6304

Muslim Service:

Muslim Masjid, Religious Ministries Center, Bldg. 1551

Worship Service, Friday, noon
For information, call (760) 830-6304

Women's Support Groups:

Christian Women Fellowship
For information, call (760) 830-6464

Women of the Word
For information, call (760) 830-6464

St. Mary Society
For information, call (760) 830-6456

Baptisms and Weddings

Contact your unit chaplain

Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Command Chaplain:
LTJG Michael Chester -- (760) 830-2429

About the Area

Twentynine Palms

A community of about 28,000 including the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center's population of about 14,000, modern-day desert dwellers, Twentynine Palms community and businss district is about five mile south of the Combat Center's main gate. Southwest travelers know this growing oasis in the Morongo Basin as a gateway to the scenic 558,000 acre Joshua Tree National Park, and as a restful stopover on State Highway 62 between Los Angeles and the aquatic playground areas of the Colorado River.

Reasonable land prices, clean air, modern conveniences, golf courses and parks, plus aviation facilities and pleasant year-round living conditions are among enticements that draw new residents to Twentynine Palms. A large, continually-expanding medical center and seven schools, including two colleges, are marked indicators of the areas growth. Hot, arid summers and invigorating but mild winters in Twentynine Palms mark the location as a mecca for those seeking a healthful climate. Many of the city's residents are retired and former Marines and Sailors.

January days averaging a dry 27 percent humidity, range from a brisk 30 degrees at night to a comfortable 68 degrees during the day. In the spring, mild weather prevails and many High Desert areas are blanketed with beautiful wildflowers. Summer brings lows of 73 degrees and highs climbing to 110 degrees.

Today's townspeople have inherited a history first recorded nearly 130 years ago during the original exploration of what later became Twentynine Palms by Col. Henry Washington. He found Chemehuevi and Serrano Indian tribes living in the surrounding hills and near the spring they called "Marrah", or land of little water, now known as the Oasis of Mara. These tribes, existing since time-unknown, held to their villages even as gold prospectors flowed into the Oasis in the 1870s to camp and replenish water supplies. By 1913, the natives had almost completely disappeared.

It is said Twentynine Palms was named for the number of large, fine palm trees once found in the middle of the Oasis of Mara. The recording of 29 is attributed by various authorities to either Col. Washington or to the gold miners. In the summer of 1885, however, a survey team counted only 26. Not withstanding, Twentynine Palms is what the modern community is known as today.

From the 1880s to about 1910, gold was discovered and prospectors mined the desert hills near the Oasis, and the mining camps Virginia Dale and Old Dale were established. When the price of gold fell too low to pay for the high costs of mining and hauling ore from outlying desert areas, the mines shut down and the miners and their families moved away. Mining continued sporadically but ended with the start of World war I, when gold production was curtailed by the government. It revived briefly in the 1930s during the Great Depression when almost all local men found employment in the mines that reopened.

Afar cry from the few World War I homesteaders in 1920, who began to

dot the area with cabins on 160- and 80-acre tracts, Twentynine Palms has now expanded to boundaries enclosing some 495 square miles. it still offers a variety of homes that take advantage of the terrain and natural landscapes, smaller subdivision dwellings and trailer and mobile home parks. Rents and prices of homes in Twentynine Palms are considered reasonable.

Educational needs are served by the Morongo Unified School District, which provides for students in the Twentynine Palms, Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree, Landers, Morongo Valley and Pioneertown areas.

Higher education is available through Copper Mountain Community College, located in nearby Joshua Tree, and a learning lab and satellite campuses of major colleges and universities at the Combat Center Chapman University, a private institution with its main campus located in Orange County, also operates a High Desert campus.

An ideal location for outdoor recreation enthusiasts, Twentynine Palms offers two beautiful parks, a swimming pool and various sports programs including baseball, basket ball, tennis and golf. Knott's Sky Park, more than 550 individual and group campsites in the Joshua Tree National Park area. The Park's visitor center and headquarters, with excellent tours, exhibits and displays, is located at 74485 National Park Dr. in Twentynine Palms. Twentynine Palms and its surrounding areas have much to offer in the way of the good life and peace of mind.

The history of the area can be taken in by a brief visit to the Twentynine Palms Museum. Operated by the Twentynine Palms Historical Society, the museum attempts to retrace the history of the area specifically to the Indians, homesteaders and miners who were the first dwellers of the desert. The museum is located at 6760 National Park Dr., Twentynine Palms. For more information on the museum or the Historical society, write: Twntynine Palms Historical Society, PO Box 1926, Twentynine Palms CA 92277.

For more information, write the Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce at 6136 Adobe Rd. Twentynine Palms CA 92277, or call (619) 367-3445, or http://www.29chamber.com.

Joshua Tree Village

Joshua Tree, population 6,500, is just 15 miles southwest of the combat center. The town is another entry point to the half-million-acre Joshua Tree National Park and is filled with scenic desert wonders.

With a near-perfect altitude of between 2,500 and 3,500 feet for year-round living, Joshua Tree is 10 degrees cooler than the low desert in summer and 20 degrees warmer than the mountain communities in the winter. Rainfall during the winter and usually in July and August, produces about four inches annually. There are no industries to pollute the air and water, and the climate encourages healthful living. The clean, dry air is recommended by many doctors.

Two small shopping centers supply Joshua Tree residents with four local physicians, a dentist, beauty shops, barber shops, a county library, a post office and other services. And the town is growing. The Hi-Desert Playhouse Cultural Center and a County Building serve residents.

Residents enjoy good, pure water piped from local wells by the Joshua Basin County Water District. Other services to the community are Southern California Edison for electricity, General Telephone, and in limited areas, Southern California Gas. There is also television reception in most areas.

The town boasts a fine volunteer fire department, and the Joshua Tree Ambulance Association on Park Boulevard provides excellent service to the area.

Joshua Tree has its own modern elementary school and, in the basin area, schools through junior college are available, with bus service.

At the Recreation and Park District, grounds on sunburst Avenue are playgrounds, tennis courts, handball courts and picnic facilities. Community associations, clubs, societies and organizations cover a wide range of interest including rockhounds and arts and crafts groups. The recreation and Park District supplies craft classes for all ages and the Joshua Tree County Library has a good selection of books.

Annual celebrations for the community include the Joshua Tree Turtle Days, during the first weekend of May and a Christmas Pageant two weeks before that holiday. For more information, write: Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 600, Joshua Tree CA 92252, or call (619) 366-3723.

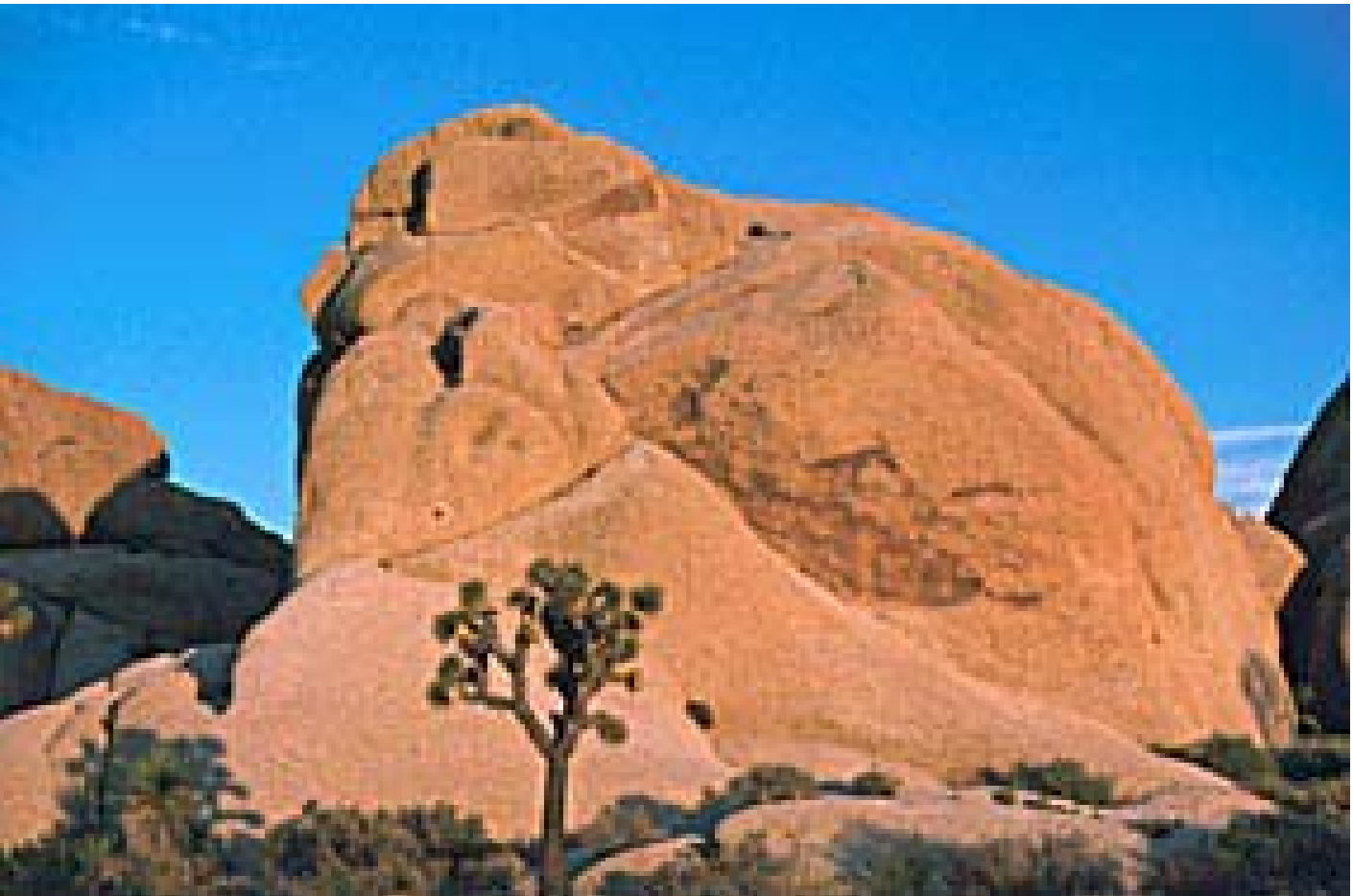
Johsua Tree National Park

Humans have occupied the area encompased by Joshua Tree National Park's nearly 800,000 acres for at least 5,000 years. The first group known to inhabit the area was the Pinto Culture, followed by the Serrano, the Chemehuevi, and the Cahuilla. In the 1800s cattlemen drove their cows into the area for the ample grass available at the time and built water impoundments for them. Miners dug tunnels through the earth looking for gold and made tracks across the desert with their trucks.

Homesteaders began filing claims in the 1900s. They built cabins, dug wells, and planted crops.

Each group left its mark upon the land and contributed to the rich cultural history of Joshua Tree National Park. The park protects 501 archeological sites, 88 historic structures, 19 cultural landscapes, and houses 123,253 items in its museum collection.

After the area became a national monument in 1936, local and regional residents were the primary park visitors. As Southern California grew so did park visitation; Joshua Tree now lies within a three-hour drive of more than 18 million people. Since Joshua Tree was elevated from national monument to national park status in 1994 however, greater numbers of visitors from around the nation and the world come to experience Joshua Tree National Park.



Yucca Valley

A thriving, modern community of 18,300 residents, Yucca Valley lies 20 miles southwest of the Combat Center on Highway 62. Situated at an elevation of 3,300 feet, the community offers comfortable summers, sunny winters and a healthy environment.

Yucca Valley offers all of the services and facilities needed for comfortable living and its picturesque desert landscape is profusely dotted with homes ranging form modest to luxurious. Newcomers to the desert community soon recognize the town's namesake, the "Yucca", Spanish for a prolific genus of desert plant that bears white panicled flowers and which can be seen as natural landscaping for many homes.

Yucca Valley's background is mining and cattle. Although there were few mines in the western end of the Greater Morongo Basin, the Twentynine Palms Mining District had many mines, large and small, and Yucca Valley was an important weigh station for the wagons that brought in men and suppplies to the mines and carried out gold ore.

During the 1880s, the High Desert became primarily a cattle range, with a number of large cattle companies based in the Banning and Big Bear areas running their herds from Morongo Valley to Twentynine Palms. Warren's Well in Yucca Valley was headquarters for cowboys of the Barker and Shay Ranch, Jim Mart's "I-S" outfit, the Chase and Law Ranch, and the Talmadge brand, all of whose cattle ranged the Hi-Desert in winter. Warren's Well was also the gathering point for the spring and fall cattle roundups until World War II. The last cattle drive stirred the dust through Yucca Valley in 1947.

From the standpoint of population, homesteaders began to move into the Hi-Desert during the 1870s, althoughmany of the early arrivals were squatters who never proved up their claims. By the early 1900s, families were moving into an area from Morongo Valley to Twentynine Palms to file their claims. Following World War I, many disabled veteans came here seeking healthful living conditions. The Homestead Era continued on into the 1950s after the five-acre "jack-rabbit" homesteads became available.

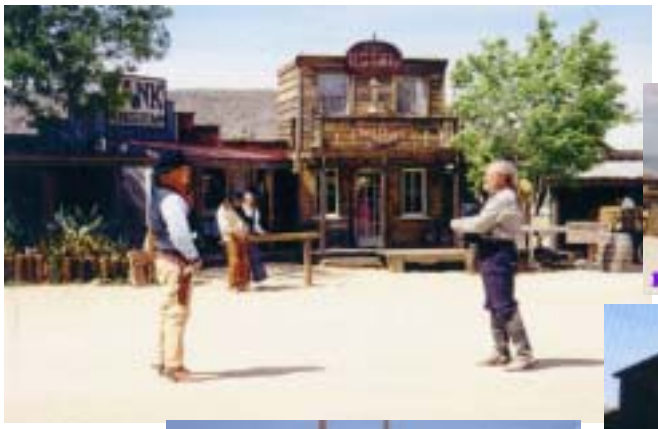
The first subdivisions, laying out of streets and the geginning of a town, were started in 1946. One was in the western end, centering at Pioneertown Road, and the other farther east along Old Woman Springs Road (also known as Victorville Road).

Yucca Valley continued to grow in the years that followed, and today is a modern, progressive communitiy with all the charm of country living.

Fir more information, write: Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce, 56300 29 Palms Hwy Ste D, Yucca Valley CA 92284, or call (619) 365-6223.

Pioneertown

Pioneertown was built in 1946 as a movie set for westerns, including the movies of Gene Autry, The Cisco Kid, starring Duncan Renaldo, Annie Oakley starring Gail Davis, Judge Roy Bean with Edgar Buchanan, Range Rider with Jock O. Mahoney, and Buffalo Bill Jr. with Dick Jones. The movie set was to provide a place for the actors to live, and have their house used as part of the movie. Some of the original investors in the town were Roy Rogers, who also built the Pioneer Bowl, Sons Of The Pioneers, who the town was named after, Dick Curtis, who was a professional villian in old movies, Bud Abbott, Russell Hayden, who played Lucky on the Hopalong Cassidy series, Louella Parsons the Hollywood gossip columnist and Philip N. Krasne: The Man Who Saved Pioneertown.



Pappy & Harriet's Pioneertown Palace

Sound Stage - Pioneertown, California

Pioneertown, California

Pioneertown Church

Palm Springs

While Palm Springs has its share of vacation activities (golf, tennis, hiking and ballooning), perhaps the best reason to travel to the resort city is rest and recuperation.

From a large selection of hotels, you will have ample opportunity to choose one that's quaint and cozy or large and luxurious - whichever suits your vacation plans.

The population of Palm Springs (approximately 42,000) enjoys swimming, as do the frequent visitors to the city, evidenced in the startling statistic of almost one swimming pool for every five residents. However, if your athletic endeavors include golf, there are 60 courses from which to choose. For the tennis player, there are more than 300 courts scattered throughout the community.

Once you're done lounging around the pool or hacking around 18 holes, it's time for lunch. Downtown, you'll stroll amidst aromas of European-style sidewalk cafes intermixed with flavors of neighboring Mexican restaurants. Since you're in town, you can also walk through some of the renowned fashion boutiques and sidewalk shops.

After lunch, an early round of golf or tennis, and a cool dip in the pool, a visit to Palm Springs isn't complete unless it includes a trip to the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. Swiss-made cable cars depart the desert floor and, in 14 miles, traverse a gorge, rise to a height of 8,500 feet and pass through five geological zones. For more information, call the tramway office at (619) 325-1391.

For evening musical pleasure, you'll find a night club entertainer or open-air concert that will suit you. From jazz to pop to rock to classical, you'll find it in Palm Springs.

For the visitor in search of the desert's beauty, you need look no further than Palm Springs. Here, you'll find an overabundance of desert plants sure to soothe the botanist, photographer and nature-lover's desires. For more information, write: Palm Springs Chamber of Commerce, 190 W Amado Rd., Palm Spring CA 92262, or call (619) 325-1577.

Desert Hot Springs

Desert Hot Springs, city of about 12,000 residents, is a complete health resort, and lies southwest of the Combat Center off State Highway 62, three miles before it meets Interstate 10. It is one of the few locations in the world where a natural underground river of hot mineral water flows near enough to the surface to be tapped. The water temperatures come from the ground at 110 to 207 degrees. It is cooled and kept by thermostat at 102 to 110 degrees, and used for therapy and recreation. The hot mineral waters were enjoyed by the early desert Native Americans for many years.

Desert Hot Springs offers its guests warm clear days, cool nights and a 360-degree view of mountains, desert and valley. For more information, write: Desert Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 848, Desert Hot Springs ca 92240, or call (619) 329-6403.

Indio

Stretching for miles in every direction are groves that make Indio the Date Capital of the united States. It has the largest date garden concentration outside the Near East. Centered in the Coachella Valley, along Interstate 10 at the junction of state highways 86 and 111, Indio is about a 95-minute drive south of the Combat Center. A more scenic though slower route through the Joshua Tree National Park can be taken via the park entry south of Twentynine Palms.

Indio has a population of about 42,000 residents living in single family and apartment units. Its buildings, including public and private schools, are modern, and there is continued construction and expansion. Adult education is offered at College of the desert in nearby Palm desert.

The annual Date festival, 10 fun-filled days of Arabian Nights Festivities, is held in Indio each February. Entertainment ranges from camel and ostrich races and the National Horse Show to music, drama and dances.

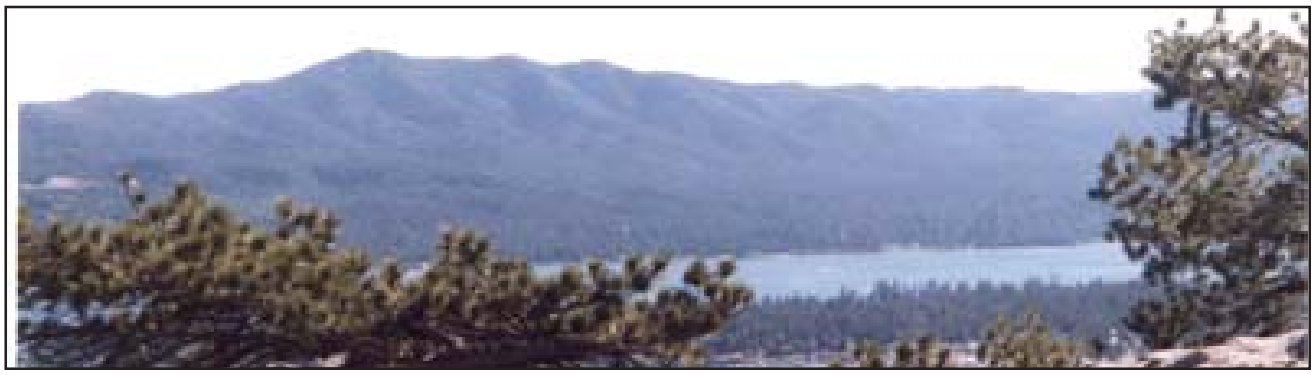
Indio's elevation is sea level, and the average annual rainfall is under four inches. For a major portion of the year, the climate is very pleasant, with the daylight temperatures averaging in the low 70s. Minimum temperatures reach 40 and summer temperatures reach a little over 100 degrees in the daytime.

A trip to Indio should include a visit to Lake Cahuilla, just south of the city, and to the All-American Canal, which brings water to the valley from the Colorado River and passes along the northwest edge of the city. Indio is on the approach to the hunting, fishing, speedboat races, water-skiing and sailing to be found at the expansive Salton Sea, located 20 miles southeast of the city. For more information, write: Indio Chamber of Commerce, PO Drawer TTT, Indio CA 92201, or call (619) 347-0676 or 1-800-44-INDIO.

Lucerne Valley

At the junction of state highways 247 and 18, northwest of the Combat Center, lies Lucerne Valley, a town of about 9,200 residents. Lucerne Valley is noted as the world's largest "cactus garden", with plants valued at up to $10,000. It is adjacent to one of the last remaining areas authorized by the bureau of Land Management for off-road vehicles. Lush and large, the city's Pioneer Park has facilities for tennis, basketball, volleyball, baseball, roller skating and picnicking under beautiful trees. Barbecues and playground equipment are also available. Small but modern, Lucerne Valley's business and shopping center provides all the facilities and services needed. For more information write: Lucerne Valley Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 491, Lucerne Valley CA 92356, or call (619) 248-7215.

Big Bear



The Big Bear Area, with a population of about 14,100, might be called the mountain's biggest attraction. Covering the region are dozens of resorts and lodges, and scores of trailer / camper locations and marinas. There are also public and private campgrounds with endless hiking and riding trails. Big Bear Lake, popular for winter sports as well as for first-rate fishing during the summer, is more than seven miles long and one and one-half miles wide. Rainbow trout are stocked in the lake each year and fishing is permitted year round. Boats are available for rent at one of the many boat landings or the public launch ramp may be used for private crafts. An excursion steamer operates daily around the lake all summer and in the evenings.

Located in Big Bear is Alpine Slide. A scenic chairlift ride is followed by an exhilarating slide back down through hairpin turns, around curves and along straightaways. This unique feature makes Alpine Slide an attraction not to be missed.

Running Spring with its truly four-season atmosphere is 6,000 feet high, situated in the heart of the San Bernadino Mountains between Big Bear Lake and Lake Arrowhead, and only 20 miles from metropolitan San Bernardino. Located here is an impressive complex of lodges, shops and lifts with supplies and snow equipment available.

For more information, write: Big Bear Lake Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 6094, Big Bear Lake Ca 92315, or call (909) 866-4607 / 4608.

Local Media

The Desert Trail

HI-DESERT STAR

The Desert Sun

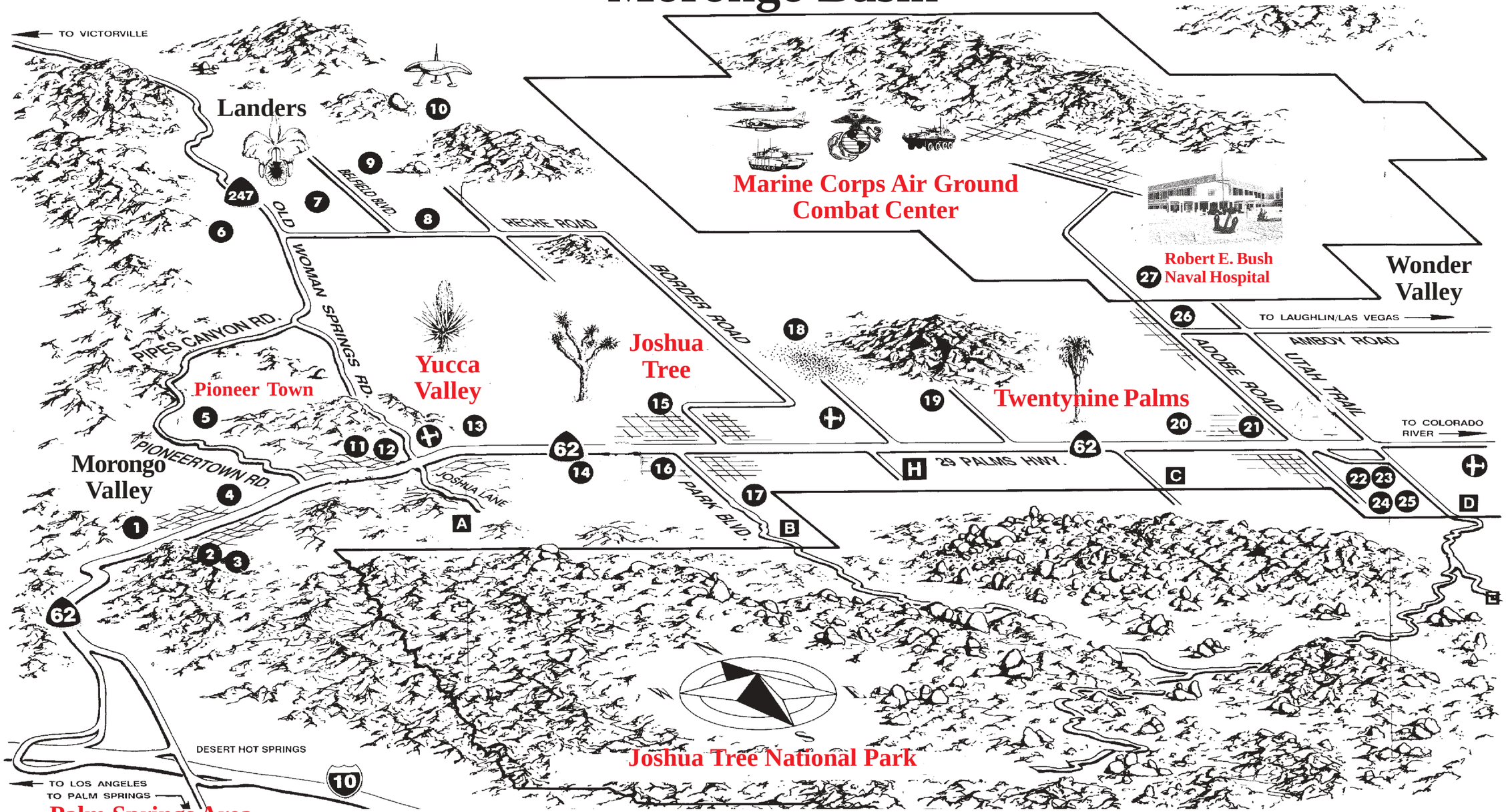
The Sun Runner
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE

THE SUN
sbsun.com

Z 107.7

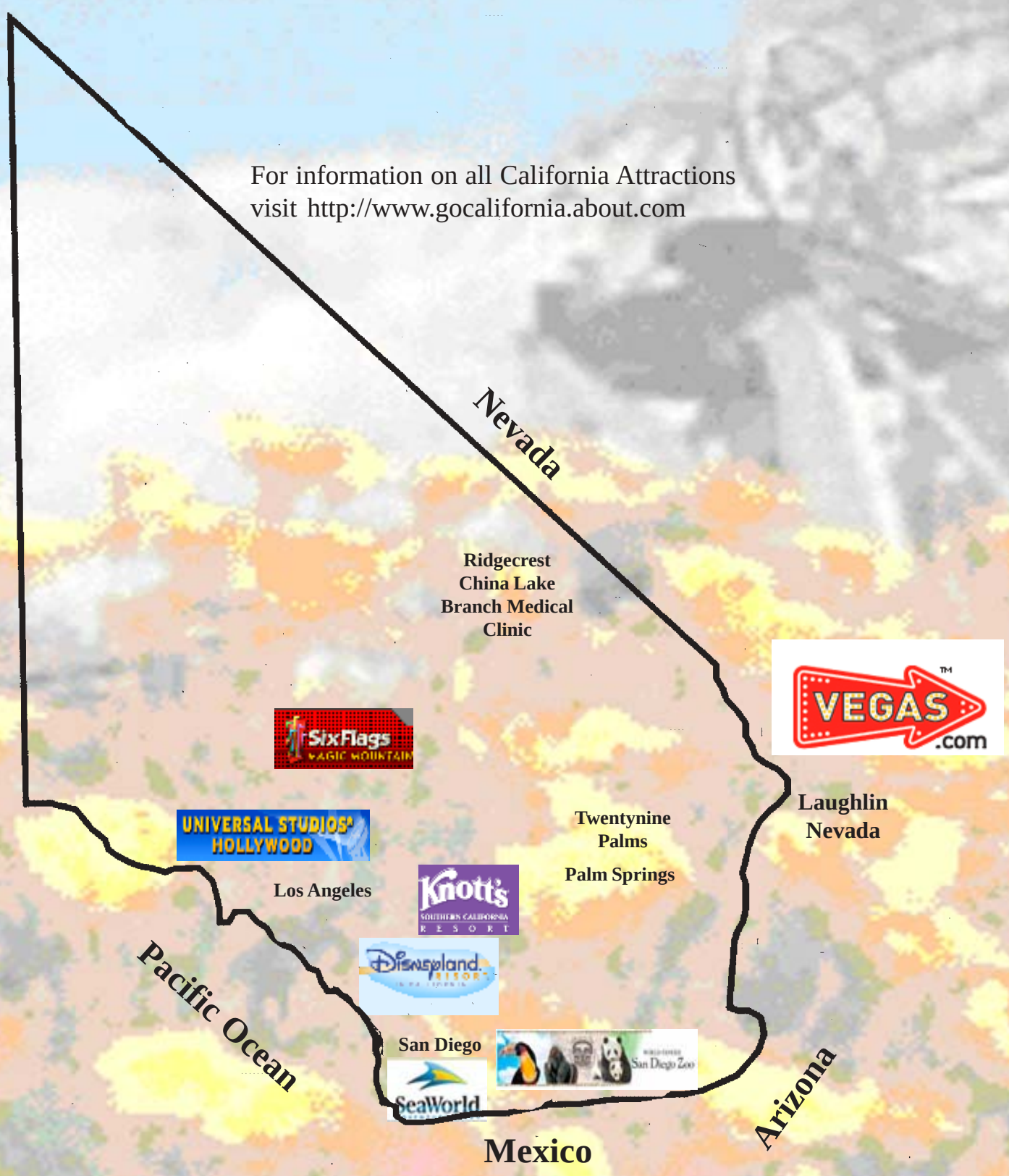
For web sites, click on red

Morongo Basin



1 Morongo Valley
2 Covington Park
3 Big Morongo Wildlife Preserve
4 Blue Skies Country Club
5 Pioneertown
6 Willie Boy Grave Site
7 Gubler Orchid Ranch
8 Landers
9 Integratron
10 Giant Rock
11 Desert Christ Park
12 Hi-Desert Nature Museum
13 Yucca Valley
14 Hi-Desert Playhouse
15 Joshua Tree
16 Park Center
17 Joshua Tree & Southern Railroad Museum
18 Sunfair Dry Lake
19 Copper Moutain College
20 City of Twentynine Palms
21 Mural Tour
22 Twentynine Palms Art Gallery
23 Twentynine Palms Historical Society Museum
24 Indian Burial Ground
25 Oasis of Mara
26 Twentynine Palms RV & Golf Resort
27 U.S. Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center

Josua Tree National Park Entrances
(A) Black Rock Canyon Campground
(B) West Entrance
(C) Indian Cove Campground
(D) Joshua Tree National Park Headquarters and Main Visitors Center
(E) Cottonwood Springs Visitors Center

Southern California Attractions

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