



Troops & Families

Leadership

Service Providers

PLAN MY MOVE

Military OneSource 24/7 family assistance 1-800-342-9647

Plan My Move Booklet for Fort Irwin

Overview



Location

Fort Irwin is located approximately 37 miles northeast of Barstow, California midway between Las Vegas, Nevada and Los Angeles, California. The High Mojave Desert's hills and mountains surround the installation. Natural vegetation is sparse and mainly consists of mesquite, creosote, yuccas, and other low growing plants. Beautiful sunsets, blue skies, sunny days and wide-open vistas are some of the pleasures of the desert that give many a sense of freedom. However, expect the primary colors to be tan and brown. For those needing to see green, Big Bear and Lake Arrowhead are two hours away providing tall trees and lakes. The base operator's phone number is 760-380-1111.

History

On August 8, 1940, a Presidential order withdrew from public use almost 1,000 square miles of public land in the High Desert of Southern California. The land was established as the Mojave Anti-Aircraft Gunnery Range and later named Camp Irwin in memory of Major General George Irwin, a World War I battle commander. In 1951, the post became the home of the United States Army Armor and Desert Training Center and was designated Fort Irwin in 1961. In 1981, the installation was re-designated as the National Training Center (NTC) and since then its development as the premier training site of the U.S. Army has been nonstop. For more information, go to the [Fort Irwin homepage](#).

Mission

As a part of the U.S. Army FORSCOM, Fort Irwin provides realistic joint and combined arms training focused on developing soldiers, leaders, and units of America's Army for success on the 21st century battlefield. Additionally, the NTC provides a vital source of experience based information and data essential to doctrine, equipment, training and force development in order to improve the force. The NTC conducts 10 training rotations per year. Soldiers assigned to the 11th ACR and Operations Group can expect to spend several days per month in the field.

Population Served

Because Fort Irwin is a fairly small community, people living here get to know their neighbors. After a short period, visits to the commissary and Post Exchange (PX) are usually accompanied by a series of friendly "hellos." Children often live next door to their schoolmates, play on the same sports teams, or go to daycare together. Fort Irwin maintains a small town atmosphere with town hall meetings and other community forums, even though 4,000-5,000 soldiers from other installations rotate through the NTC each month.

Base Transportation

Currently, there is no base transportation on this installation.

Sponsorship

You will receive an initial welcome letter from your unit. In order to better assist you with your relocation to Fort Irwin, contact the G1 Strength Management Office, they will provide you with information on the brigade that you are assigned to. For more information contact G1 at 760-380-3225/5237, DSN 312-470-3225/5237.

To assist in facilitating smooth transitions for youth as they relocate to new military installations, CYS collaborates with the Relocation Assistance Officer to provide an active Youth Sponsorship Program. The goal is to welcome new youth, provide them with information on programs and activities, answer questions they may have, and encourage early involvement at their new location. Please contact the School Liaison Officer (SLO) for more information at 760-380-6880 DSN 312-470-6880.

To forward your mail temporarily you can use the following address: Your Name, Post Locator, and P.O. Box 105010, Your Expected Arrival Date, Fort Irwin, CA 92310-5010. When you arrive, you can pick-up your mail at the Post Locator in Building 306. If you forward your mail, please make sure that you go to the post office as soon as you arrive. If your expected arrival date changes after your mail has been forwarded, please call (760) 380-3369 to let them know that you are still coming to Fort Irwin. This will prevent your mail from being returned to the sender. If you prefer to rent a Post Office Box in advance, call the Post Office at 760-386-2259.

Temporary Quarters

You may stay at the Landmark Hotel when you first get here, depending on availability. This is the only hotel on post. Your next option is to stay at a hotel/motel in Barstow. You may continue staying at the Landmark if housing is not available right away, but this can be costly. Nonavailability statements are not required in order to be reimbursed for temporary lodging if you stay in a motel in Barstow. Save your receipts. Commercial motels/hotels in California charge a 10% Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) to guests staying in their facilities. Military members are not exempt from paying this tax.

Relocation Assistance

A Mandatory Newcomers Briefing is held each morning from 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. in building 312. We encourage family members to attend this orientation. Contact the Relocation Assistance Program office at 760-380-3598, DSN 312-470-3598 for more information and to request a Welcome Packet. There is no furniture (i.e., tables, beds, or chairs) for temporary use while awaiting arrival of household goods. The ACS Lending Closets (Bldg. 548 on-post/Outreach Center off-post) do have kitchen items, bedding, folding mats for sleeping, some baby furniture, and small household appliances for loan for up to thirty days.

Critical Installation Information

Soldiers with Exceptional Family Members should contact the Fort Irwin EFMP Program Manager at 760-380-3698, DSN 312-470-3698 before coming to Fort Irwin. Families not enrolled in EFMP but who have special medical or educational needs should contact their local Army Community Service EFMP manager.

Hand carry the following documents: Personnel Files, Finance Records, Leave Form, Medical Records, Birth Certificates, Shot Records (Children & Pets), Marriage Certificates, Employment Records (Spouse), Resumes (Spouse), Education Records, Transportation Documents (Bills of Lading, Inventory), Custody Papers, Divorce Decrees, and Proof of Car Insurance.

You must go to Family Housing, Bldg. 826, to be placed on the waiting list for government housing. For more information call 760-386-HOME (4663).

Individuals seeking housing in Barstow should contact the Housing Referral Officer.

Sponsorship

Settling into your new location and your new unit takes time. [Plan My Move](#) is designed to assist you with information about your new location. Complimenting Plan My Move each of the military Services has a Sponsorship Program which is very helpful in providing new unit information. Sponsors can make your transition smoother. The purpose of the Sponsorship program is to:

- Provide a sense of belonging
- Ease the transition for inbound service members or civilians and their family members
- Increase productivity
- Reduce culture shock
- Help newcomers make informed decisions
- Cultivate new friendships
- Improve morale

A sponsor is someone from your new unit who is assigned to assist you settling into your new location. You can request a sponsor through your unit, or with help from the Relocation Assistance Program or the Family Center at your new installation.

Your Service will appoint your sponsor in writing. He/she will be the same or close to your rank and the same marital status, if at all possible. This person will be knowledgeable about the local community and the installation; available to assist you and your family for at least two weeks post arrival, and be someone who is positive and outgoing.

A sponsor's duties include:

- Contacting you and your family by letter of introduction or e-mail upon learning of your assignment to the installation.
- Following up with a personal phone call after contact has been made.
- Sending information about the installation/area which you may require, or putting you in touch with the resources on the web and at the installation that provide current, complete and up-to-date information such as those provide by the Relocation Program.
- Answering any questions which you or your family may have, or, again, providing the proper resources to answer those questions.
- Confirm transportation and lodging arrangements.
- Assisting with obtaining a Post Office Box for your mail.
- Meeting you and your family upon arrival.
- Accompanying you to your check in point for the unit.
- Introducing you to the Family Center and lending closet
- Providing essential service locations such as commissary, exchange, gas station, bank.
- Being available when you arrive at your installation to meet you, show you around, and help you through in-processing.

If you have not been assigned a sponsor, or have not been contacted as of yet, request one by contacting your gaining command or unit. If after contacting your new command you find difficulties in obtaining a sponsor, contact your Relocation Assistance Personnel for additional help with your move.

Service specific processes for requesting a Sponsor include:

- **Army and Defense Logistics Agency:** AR 600-8-8 outlines procedures for DA Form 5434, Sponsorship Program Counseling and Information Sheet. Sponsorship is mandatory for first term Soldiers. All Soldiers, private through colonel (excluding those completing advanced individual training (AIT) and those PCSing to long term schools) and civilian employees through grade 15 may participate in the advance arrival sponsorship program. Reactionary Sponsorship is available for individuals arriving at an installation without a sponsor. Contact the gaining unit to request a sponsor.

- **Air Force:** Gaining Unit Commander Support Staff/Military Personnel Element will assign a sponsor upon receipt of assignment notice. Assigned sponsor will then make contact with the inbound member.
- **Navy:** OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1740.3C prescribes procedures regarding Command Sponsor and Indoctrination Programs. This Program is designed to facilitate the adaptation of Sailors and their families into new working and living environments, to minimize the anxiety associated with a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move, and afford Sailors and their families the greatest opportunity for a successful and productive tour of duty.

Command sponsor and indoctrination responsibilities begin upon receipt of PCS orders and continue until the Sailor has become an integral part of the new command and is fully cognizant of all policies, programs, services, and responsibilities available through the command. Commanding Officers shall establish a Command Indoctrination Program to include the delivery of the Navy Pride and Professionalism training per this instruction. COs should ensure all incoming personnel receive command indoctrination training within 30 days of arrival or within 3 drill weekends.

Enclosures (1) and (2) of OPNAVINST 1740.3C outline responsibilities and provide guidance for these programs. Assistance to local commands regarding the Command Sponsor Program is through the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) Relocation Assistance Program staff.

- **Marine Corps:** Gaining Unit Commander will assign a sponsor on request. Overseas commands should assign a sponsor automatically, however if one is not assigned, send a request to the gaining command. A sample request form is available on our website that can be filled out and sent to the gaining command. See the following [website](#).

Sponsors' responsibilities and abilities to be available will vary from installation to installation, depending upon the priority which the installation and unit commanders give to the program; however, the Services are making the Sponsorship program a priority as research has shown the many benefits of good sponsorship to service, family members and youth.

Youth Sponsorship

The Youth Sponsorship Program depends on the availability of youth who volunteer to become sponsors. The Youth Services topic should explain the Youth Sponsorship program at your new installation, but if it does not answer all of your questions, contact your Relocation Manager to inquire about the program and acquiring a youth sponsor.

Directions to Installation

Directions to Fort Irwin

Fort Irwin is accessible via Interstate Highways 40 and 15 and State Highways 58 and 247. If possible, you should plan your arrival during daylight hours especially if you have reservations at the Landmark Inn on post. The desert can be very dark at night and roads are not well lit. There are no gas stations between Barstow and Fort Irwin.

Arriving via Highway 58 and I-15

Recently completed construction (which maps do not reflect) now feeds Highway 58 into I-15. Take I-15 North towards Barstow/Las Vegas.

For those proceeding directly to Fort Irwin, exit I-15 on Fort Irwin Road. Coming from the east (I-15 South), the turn-off is prior to arriving in Barstow. Coming from the west (I-15 North), the turn-off is approximately 6 miles past Barstow. After turning, the mileage marker will read 31 miles to Fort Irwin.

Check-in Procedures

Inprocessing Procedures

All soldiers arriving at the NTC must report to the AG Replacement Detachment to begin inprocessing. The Replacement Detachment will provide temporary lodging for unaccompanied soldiers E1-6 during the inprocessing cycle. The AG Replacement Detachment is located in Building 412, Fort Irwin, CA 92310-5099 760-380-4195/4747/3006 DSN 312-470-4195/4747/3006.

Soldiers should bring their leave form, 201 file, finance records, medical and dental records and 5 copies of orders.

The AG Replacement Detachment can provide you with information about the best mode of transportation from servicing airports. The Replacement Detachment is open 24 hours daily.

A Mandatory Newcomers Briefing is held every Wednesday at AG Replacement. We encourage family members to attend this orientation. Army Community Service provides a Newly Arrived Spouses Orientation every month. Contact the Relocation Assistance Program office at 760-380-3598, DSN 312-470-3598 for more information and to request a Welcome Packet. Army Community Service has a Lending Closet that provides kitchen items, bedding, folding mats for sleeping, some baby furniture, and small household appliances for loan for up to thirty days. The Outreach Center in Barstow also has a lending closet for our those living off post.

Relocation Assistance

Programs and Services

While moving is always stressful, your stress can be drastically reduced if you take full advantage of the information, education, and personal assistance provided to you by the Relocation Program. This is the place to find answers and get referral to other installation resources as well as assistance with in-transit emergencies. The most important thing you can do to ensure a smooth move is to start planning early using the many Relocation Assistance program services and tools available.

Individual PCS Planning -- Most relocation programs offer one-on-one consultation for anyone needing assistance. In particular those making their first military move, first overseas move, or those with challenging and complex situations such as special needs family members or financial problems should call the Relocation Program for an appointment.

Military Installations and Plan My Move -- For managing and planning your move, use these two DoD sponsored web-based relocation tools with information on over 250 installations worldwide. You can estimate expenses, find the forms necessary for housing and household goods, keep a calendar of events and take other necessary actions to ensure a successful move.

Loan Closet -- Basic household goods items are available to borrow while waiting for your personal property pre-departure or upon arrival. The typical items in stock include: pots and pans, dishes, silverware, irons, ironing boards, portacribs, high chairs, and infant/toddler car seats. Generally, towels and bed linens are not available, so these should be packed in your hold baggage.

Workshops and Briefings -- The classes offered vary from installation to installation but you can generally find classes on buying, selling and renting smart, budgeting and finance, moving with children, general moving preparation and many other moving related topics.

Pre-departure Briefings -- Sometimes called Smooth Move or PCS Briefings, you and your spouse will want to attend for sure. These briefings provide essential information that can prevent you from making uninformed and costly decisions before your move.

Settling-in Services -- These may include welcome wagon services, local area tours with childcare often provided, or basic household items to use until your goods arrive. Overseas arrival services may include introductory language classes and cultural awareness training.

Deployment Support -- The Family Center assists unit family readiness groups and Ombudsman programs during the entire deployment cycle. Support includes services for special needs, classes on deployment preparation, managing finances, helping children adjust, family separation, return and reunion, and information on resources available locally and on-line.

Foreign Born Spouse Support -- Whether your question concerns immigration and naturalization, learning the English language or how to take local transportation, the Relocation Program provides assistance, classes and referrals.

Emergency Assistance -- From time-to-time emergencies occur while moving, the Relocation Program office has the resources to provide emergency financial assistance and referrals.

Transition Assistance -- This is a mandatory program available to assist personnel and family members when they separate from the military. The Relocation Assistance office will establish your individual transition plan and refer you to all the installation and community resources necessary to complete a successful transition.

Installation Specific Information

Fort Irwin is located about 30 miles from Barstow, California and is a somewhat isolated assignment.

Whether you are departing or PCSing into Fort Irwin, you will find that having the proper paperwork and orders will take a lot of the hassle out of making the move. If you are inbound to Ft. Irwin you may want to consider the following:

If you are traveling with a family, make reservations at the Landmark Inn Hotel or another motel in Barstow prior to

arrival. Note: If you have a pet the Landmark Inn Hotel does not allow pets.

If you take regular medications, bring at least a month's supply so a refill will not be immediately necessary.

Fort Irwin has several organizations that are dedicated to helping you have a smooth move and getting you settled into the community. Take time to learn the resources Fort Irwin has to offer, how to use those you need, and join those you are interested in. If you have questions that are not answered in here, contact the Army Community Service Relocation Readiness Program office inbound and outbound moves.

Emergency Assistance

Planning for Emergencies

Financial Assistance

In an emergency, financial help is as close as the nearest military installation (Army Emergency Relief) or American Red Cross (Look in the white pages of a local telephone directory).

Delayed Arrival

If a valid emergency occurs that will delay your arrival past your report date, call the AG Replacement Detachment at 760-380-4195 for assistance.

Motor Vehicles

Registration & Licensing Requirements

California State law requires you to have sufficient liability insurance and a valid driver's license in order to operate a vehicle. The term "vehicle" generally includes automobiles, motorcycles, vans, trailers and boats regularly parked or garaged overnight. Further, your vehicle must be properly registered. Even though you are in the Military, you may be required to register your vehicle in-state and obtain an in-state license within a few months of moving. Access complete information on insurance, driver's licensing, and where and how to register your vehicle by visiting the [State Department of Motor Vehicles](#) website.

State Laws

You and your passengers must always wear seatbelts while driving, you will be ticketed and issued heavy fines if seatbelts are not secured. State law requires that all children under 6 years of age be properly restrained in child seats. Some states also require younger, smaller children to sit in the back seat.

Motorcycles and their operators are subject to special laws. If you own and operate a motorcycle, you must comply with those laws. Visit the State Department of Motor Vehicles website for more information.

Many States and local jurisdictions have strict laws about the use of cell phones and other digital devices while driving. Research these laws on the State Department of Motor Vehicles website. Tickets will be issued and fines assessed for violating these laws. Play it safe and always use a "hands free" device if you must use a cell phone or other PDA while driving. Hands-free devices must be used while operating a motor vehicle on ALL military installations worldwide.

Base Regulations

It is unlawful to transport any opened receptacle containing any amount of alcohol in a motor vehicle except in the trunk or in some other area out of the immediate access of the occupants.

Seat Belts -- All persons riding within a motor vehicle must be buckled up.

Child Restraints -- Children under six years of age or weighing less than 60 pounds must be secured in an approved and properly installed child safety seat.

It is against the law to drive with only parking lights.

Window Tinting -- The only windows in a vehicle that may be coated with "after market" tinting are those located behind the front seat. Any tinting, regardless of how light, is illegal on the front side windows, windwings, and windshield. If the back window is tinted, the vehicle must be equipped with two outside mirrors, mounted right and left.

Vehicle Checks -- Fort Irwin has one entrance. Vehicle checks are conducted periodically by the Military Police.

Automobile Insurance

Evidence of Financial Responsibility (EFR) law in California requires that every owner and driver of a motor vehicle be able to show evidence that the vehicle is insured for at least \$15,000 for death or injury to any person, \$30,000 for death or injury to more than one person, and \$5,000 for property damage.

If you do not have liability insurance, you can be fined up to \$1,000 and \$2,000 for the first and second offense. If you do not have liability insurance when involved in an automobile accident, the DMV may suspend your driving privileges in addition to any fines. A judge may also order your vehicle to be impounded and the vehicle may be held until such time as the fines are paid.

Any person who knowingly provides false evidence of financial responsibility to a court or official, may be fined up to \$750 and/or be imprisoned for up to 30 days. You may be asked to show proof of insurance when you register a vehicle or when a police officer stops you.

Be aware that many out-of-state insurance companies are not authorized to do business in California. Before you drive here, you should ask your insurance company if you are covered in case of a collision.

Loan Closet

Items Available

The Relocation Readiness Program Loan Closet offers basic household items for temporary loan to families awaiting arrival of their household goods shipment.

How to Borrow

Contact ACS, Relocation Program if you are in need of any basic household goods at 760-380-3598. Contact Outdoor Recreation for entertainment needs e.g., televisions.

Housing - Overview

Government Housing

On-post housing for most families and some single soldiers is often not immediately available upon arrival. Therefore, many families can expect to live in Barstow for a period of time ranging from a few weeks to several months. If the wait is several months renting an apartment in Barstow is usually easy to find on a month to month basis. If the wait, however, is only 30 to 45 days, you may not want to pay utility/security deposits and hook-ups for such a short period of time. You may decide to spend that time in a motel room which has limited cooking and refrigeration capabilities. Motels rooms that rent by the month run from \$450-\$900. Most families prefer to live on-post due to the distance between Fort Irwin and Barstow and the additional costs of living in Barstow

Non-Government Housing

Housing Referral Office-(HRO) --The HRO is your contact for any problems you may encounter such as discrimination complaints, tenant/landlord disputes, or any questions or problems about off-post housing is the HRO. The HRO will provide you a list of rentals with corresponding locator maps and give you information regarding the communities in which the rentals are located. Apartments range from \$400.00 to \$700.00 plus utilities. Many of the apartments in Barstow were constructed in the past 15 years, so are fairly modern; houses, on the other hand, are often much older.

DoD Automated Housing Referral Network (AHRN)--Visit AHRN.com or ask at your local housing office to learn about this DoD program that is currently available for most installations. The program allows military members and families to:

- Search listings and pictures of available rentals near military installations
- Find out about shared rentals
- List their own properties for rent to other military families
- List their homes for sale by owner (FSBO) to other military members
- Contact installation housing offices

AHRN is not currently available at all installations but the phased program is adding new installations every month. Check the AHRN [website](#) to see if your next assignment is an AHRN base and check out other features to assist you in your home search.

Housing - Temporary

Temporary Lodging Facility

The Landmark Inn is the only temporary lodging facility on post. They can be reached at (760) 386-4040.

Housing - Government

Military Housing

After you have signed in to post, Army regulations require you to report to Housing Office before you make any permanent off-post living arrangements. If eligible, you can be placed on the waiting list for on-post housing at this time.

Privatization -- Fort Irwin has privatized housing. Pinnacle acquired the contract from the government in March 2004. Leasing, assignments and termination of on-post housing is conducted by Pinnacle in building 826 on 5th Street and South Loop.

Because Fort Irwin's on-post housing is privatized, the full Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) amount appears on the LES as an entitlement and is simultaneously subtracted as an allotment paid to Pinnacle for rent. Utilities are free, except for telephone and cable service.

Availability and Eligibility --- Soldiers of all ranks, with family members, are eligible for on-post housing. The homes range in size from 2 to 4 bedrooms and some are handicap accessible.

Soldiers are placed on the waiting list for on-post housing in accordance with the soldier's eligibility date. This date will be established in the Housing office. The waiting list for quarters currently varies from 2 to 24 months. The Housing Office will consider waiting list variables such as grade, number of family members, etc. Soldiers arriving from an unaccompanied tour (such as Korea) are given a waiting period adjustment based on the number of months they served on the unaccompanied tour (up to 18 months). For instance, a 12-month adjustment will be made for someone who served a 12-month unaccompanied tour in Korea.

Unaccompanied/Single Military Personnel

Company grade officers, warrant officers and most senior NCOs drawing BAH at the without dependents rate are not required to live on post.

Mobile Homes --Fort Irwin does have a mobile home park.

Household Goods - Overview

Arranging Household Goods Shipments

As soon as you are alerted to your upcoming PCS move, you can start getting your house and family ready. Clean up and get rid of junk. Hold a yard sale or take serviceable items you no longer need to a thrift shop or donate to charity. Get important family records together in one place. You can even estimate the weight of your household goods before you visit your transportation office to set up the move. If you are going overseas, you should begin to plan what items you will take in your hold baggage, in your household goods shipment and what might need to go into storage. Remember for overseas assignments electricity is different and houses are generally much smaller and cannot handle large furniture.

Set up an appointment with your transportation office as soon as you have a copy of your PCS orders. The earlier you call or visit your transportation office, the greater your chances of moving on the date you desire. The counselors will explain all your PCS move entitlements in detail. Your first decision is whether to have the government move you or whether to move yourself. There are pros and cons to each type of move. Your counselor will answer all of your questions. If you choose a government move, they will book your shipment and let you know the exact dates the movers will come. If you choose to move yourself, the counselor can assist with recommendations and tips on how to do a personal move.

Automobile

The government may ship one Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) at their expense to your new overseas location. This is handled through your transportation office. Remember to discuss your POV needs at your initial counseling session. The shipping contractor has established a [website](#) where you can track the location of your POV through the shipping process.

Shipping Pets

Planning for shipment of your pet includes researching airline requirements and quarantine and restriction laws in your new location. You will need to ask the airlines the requirements for size, weight, number of animals, kennel construction, documentation and season of the year limitations. Occasionally, small pets can be shipped on military flights but availability and regulations are always changing as well as fees. Checking the [SDDC website](#) will provide details on shipping pets.

Many international locations have strict importation laws including extended quarantines and restrictions on breeds or types of animals that can be brought into the country. Carefully research these rules as they could impact your moving schedule. Not only do overseas locations have strict rules but many locations have restrictions on dangerous dogs as well.

Delivery of Household Goods Shipments

It is your responsibility to contact the transportation office as soon as you arrive at your new duty station. Let them know how you can be contacted, phone, mobile phone and e-mail. If you already have new quarters, they will help arrange delivery of your personal property shipments. Otherwise they will arrange for temporary storage until you have permanent housing.

Customer Satisfaction Survey

Once your personal property is delivered, you'll be asked to [rate the customer service](#) you received from the movers. Make sure you take the time to do this. Your feedback will make the process better for everyone.

Claims

If you have any loss or damage to your personal property you may need to file a claim. Use the front of [DD Form 1840/1840R](#) to notify the mover of any loss or damage you find at the time of delivery. If further loss or damage is discovered after the transportation provider departs, use the reverse side of the form, DD Form 1840R. You must **file DD Form 1840/1840R within 70 days of delivery**. Completing and submitting the DD Form 1840/1840R does not constitute filing a claim. A claim is separate and distinct from these forms. Your local personal property office and claims office will give you complete instructions on where and how to file DD Form 1840/1840R and your claim.

Household Goods - Shipping Pets

Boarding

All kennel facilities require the owner to verify the animal has had its rabies and other required shots. The Bordatella Shot is a state requirement before pets can be boarded in a kennel.

The policies at motels in Barstow vary. Some motels do not allow pets; others allow pets depending on how many, the type and whether they are housebroken. Be sure to ask.

The Landmark Inn Hotel (on-post) does not allow pets. You will need to contact Paws & Claws Inn for boarding other animals such as horses.

California Heat

Do not leave your pet in the car during the summer months even for a short period of time. Temperatures in closed cars can (even with the windows cracked) rise to an unbearable degree and kill your animal.

Greyhound will not allow your pet to travel by bus.

Education - General Overview

Public School

Our schools here at Ft. Irwin are California public schools and are in the Silver Valley School District. We do not have DoD schools. Our elementary school, Lewis Elementary, and middle school, Fort Irwin Middle School are both located on-post. A new intermediate school is open. The elementary houses K-3 and the middle houses 4-8. The intermediate houses 3-5. The high school, Silver Valley High School, is located approximately 35 miles off post, but there is busing service to and from Fort Irwin.

We do not follow year-round schools, but our Kindergarten classes are full day and run from 8 a.m. -1:15 p.m. Grades 1 -3 are released at 2:15 p.m.

For any further information regarding schools, registration, District and State School policies, and scholarships, please contact the School Liaison Officer. Building 1300 Muese-Argonne St., 760-380-6880/DSN 312-470-6880.

Enrollment

To enroll in kindergarten, children must be five years of age by 2 December and have completed a school physical within the last six months. Students going into the first grade are also required to have a physical.

Students will not be admitted to the California school system unless they can fully document immunization against diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, poliomyelitis, varicella, measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR). Students in kindergarten must also have a hepatitis series and a second dose of MMR. Seventh graders also have to have a hepatitis series.

Registering students need a copy of their birth certificate, immunization records, social security number and last report card. Those interested in participating in school sports programs and cheerleading must have a sports physical on file.

Talented and Gifted Program

Our schools have an accelerated/talented and gifted program called GATE. For more information regarding the program, please call the Curriculum and Instruction Department at 760-254-2916, ext. 135. Students can take AP courses at the high school too.

Adult Education

Adult education is available through the Fort Irwin Education and Training Complex, the local high schools, the Marine Corps Logistics Base and Barstow Community College.

Education - Training (College/Technical)

Continuing Education

This installation has not provided any information on this topic.

College

Fort Irwin has several colleges that hold classes on the installation. These include, Barstow Community College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Webster University, and Park University.

Education - Local Schools

Choosing the right school for their children is a priority for military families. This article describes excellent resources for your use in planning for your child's educational needs. Parents can find current information about public, charter and private schools by using the tools below:

1. How do I choose a good school?

[Choosing a School for Your Child](#) is a U.S. Department of Education publication that will help families identify what is important in selecting a school.

[The School Visit: What to Look For, What to Ask](#) Whether you are choosing a school for the first time, or because you are in transition, this site will provide you with information about what to do and what to ask.

2. What schools are in my area (or in the area where I may move), and how good are they?

Several high quality commercial tools are available to assist in making decisions about which school to choose for your child. Listed below are these website tools along with information on how you access the information and what type of information each site provides.

Both [Great Schools](#) and [School Matters](#) provide a wealth of information for parents:

- School contact information
- Distance from zip code (provide the installation zip code, or the zip code of the area where you will be living)
- Public, private or charter school designation
- Student/teacher ratios
- Free and reduced school lunch program (an estimate of economic disadvantage)
- Great Schools provides a rating of schools and a parent comment section
- Percentage of students meeting or exceeding the state standards in math, reading and language arts
- Teachers - average number of years teaching experience, % of first year teachers on the staff
- Students: Average percentage of students absent from school for more than 15 days
- Ethnic breakdown and percent of students with English as a second language
- School Matters provides college prep scores (PSAT, SAT, ACT test scores)-for high schools only
- Great Schools also provides parents the ability to rate the schools and make comments on the schools.

For both sites, the user must enter the State and zip code to find schools in the area.

SchoolQuest was developed by the [Military Child Education Coalition](#) to help military families select schools. SchoolQuest also offers an Online Library that provides resources for families in transition. At this time, the SchoolQuest data base covers 99 military installations. The Military Child Education Coalition also provides a [data base of information](#) on each State's educational system.

[The School Report Tool](#) is available from Military OneSource that list names and locations of public, public charter, private, virtual and home schooling choices around major installations. [Charter Schools](#) are nonsectarian public schools of choice that operate with freedom from many of the regulations that apply to traditional public schools. Use this site to find one in your area.

3. How can I help plan for a successful transition in this new school and for my child's school career?

Parents often want to know about the availability of extra curricular activities and sports, or the availability of advanced classes. For these questions, it is best to contact the schools directly. It is important to ask the right questions. The following resources can help with these questions and others.

The [Toolkit for Parents](#) was developed by the Department of Defense, especially for Military Families. This 85 page booklet walks parents through preparing for the move and the first two weeks of school....what to ask, what to take, etc..

The [Military Impacted Association](#) has [checklists](#) available for military kids who are leaving or entering a new school.

The Military Child Education Coalition has a [checklist for transferring students](#) that will be helpful. Additionally, through [SchoolQuest](#), MCEC provides parents with the ability to develop a profile for each of their children, which then will provide them with a report on issues related to transferring to a new school district.

4. Question? What happens if I need help during the school year?

During the school year, there are always questions that parents have, such as "What is the best way to help with homework?" or "What if my child needs to see a counselor because my spouse is deployed?" Military OneSource helps with these questions and has 24/7 access. You can call them at 1-800-342-9647, connect to them at the website [Military OneSource](#), or [e-mail a consultant](#).

Education - Local Schools/Overseas

Overseas Schools -- What You Should Know

Moving your family from one installation to another in the U.S. can be challenging enough; but moving your family overseas presents an even more complex situation. One of the most important challenges can be summed up by this question, "Where are my children going to go to school?"

This article will provide resources to help guide military families through the many questions and decisions regarding local schools abroad.

Where do I start?

Start with the information on your new installation. Visit [Plan My Move](#) and review the installation's Education - Overview article. All of the overseas installations have dedicated a portion of the Education Overview to discussing the education options available in the local community as well as the DoD schools located on the installation, if available. Most installations overseas that allow accompanied family travel have one or more DoD schools.

What is the difference between a DoD school and an international or national school?

[DoDEA](#) is the Department of Defense Education Activity. DoDEA operates DoD schools in 12 foreign countries, Guam and Puerto Rico. All DoDEA schools are fully accredited by U.S. accreditation agencies and maintain high academic standards with well rounded educational programs.

In addition to DoDEA, the [U.S. Department of State's Office of Overseas Schools](#) mission is to promote quality educational opportunities for dependents of American citizens overseas at the elementary and secondary level. If a DoD school is not available on your installation there may be a school in the local community that is an American-Sponsored Elementary and Secondary School.

International schools are English-language schools whereas National schools are schools where courses are taught in the native language. The curriculum and grading system of an International school tends to be similar to the traditional American education system. This is a consideration if your family will be returning to the U.S. prior to your child or children graduating high school. Remember, when choosing a school it is best to try to match the school with your child's needs and expectations.

Where can I find a list of International schools in the country where my family is moving?

The Internet can be an excellent resource for finding International Schools overseas. You can find a complete directory of overseas schools on the [International Schools Services' website](#).

In addition, the [World Wide Schools](#) website is an excellent resource. From the homepage you can select the country. Once you have done this, a list of schools will appear and you can then choose which one you are interested in researching. All of the information appearing on this website is provided by the schools directly. Some of the information you may find on a school includes: a background summary about the school, the school's address, phone number, website, and even the email address of the director of the school. This information should be explored so that you can make comparisons with other International schools in the area to determine the best place for your child/children.

How do I decide what school is best for my child?

This process is much the same as it would be in the U.S. You may not have as many choices but it is important to make a list of possible schools and then begin to ask around. This is a daunting task since it is likely that there will be a language barrier. However, talk to the Relocation Personnel in the Family Center and your sponsor at your new installation who may be able to put you in touch other families with children around the same age as your child/children. Always contact the school directly and ask for references.

Once you have narrowed down your options, interview the school or schools directly. This is best done in person, if possible. Ask about: attendance, atmosphere, curriculum; grading system, tuition, accreditations, the staff and administration; as well as other practical details such as, does the school provide meals, what types of extra curricular programs are available, is there transportation, holidays and schedule, sports programs, before and after school care programs, and how is the facility maintained.

Now that I have chosen a school, how do I successfully facilitate the transition for my child?

A successful transition should be a priority during planning the move and once the move has been completed. The more knowledge you provide your child with, the more confident he/she will feel once he/she arrives at the new school. Allow your child to be a part of the decision making process, if he/she is old enough, and take his/her opinions into account.

MilitaryStudent.org provides several valuable tools to facilitate the transition process. Although many of these tools are not geared specifically to an international move the resources provided do apply to any military student transitioning to a new school in the U.S. or overseas.

Employment - Overview

Employment Opportunities

Because Fort Irwin and Barstow are small communities, the job market is very competitive. Since Barstow has a moderate unemployment rate many Barstow residents willingly commute the 40 miles to Fort Irwin. Additionally, numerous base closures in California and elsewhere have increased the number of applications for government service positions. This should not, however, discourage spouses from applying. Vacancies occur regularly and family members do fill many civil service positions.

Fort Irwin contractors are major employers in the area. IAP World Services and Vinnell Corporation are the largest contractors with smaller contracts being held by Raytheon and others. Other job opportunities include: Nonappropriated Funds (NAF); the schools, both college and secondary; the Army Air Forces Exchange Services; and the Commissary also offer job opportunities.

It may take days, weeks or months to find employment, but most persistent applicants do succeed. Maintaining a positive attitude, being prepared and taking chances can contribute to a positive job search. Many spouses elect to volunteer while seeking employment as this offers an opportunity to network with people who are familiar with the job market and it is a good way to learn and contribute to the community.

If you plan to apply for employment be sure and bring the necessary documentation such as: school transcripts, past employment records, professional certificates, and information to complete job applications (past addresses, references, etc.). Good prospects include clerical, counter persons, child care, and food service. Positions as teachers, laborers, maintenance, and recreation are also frequently available.

New Parent Support Program

General Program Description

The Army New Parent Support Program (NPSP) provides intensive home visiting services to eligible Families with children prenatal to 3 years old whether they live on or off the installation. Activities and services provided include information and referral to military and civilian programs that support parents of infants and young children, such as parenting programs, respite care for children, and supervised play time for children. All activities and services provided through NPSP are voluntary and non-stigmatizing and emphasize the parents' strengths.

Goals of the Army NPSP are:

1. Contribute to mission readiness.
2. Support Family member adaptation to military life.
3. Enhance the knowledge and skills Family members need to form healthy relationships and provide safe, nurturing environments for children to prevent Family violence.
4. Foster a supportive military community for young military Families.

Staff Qualifications

NPSP Home Visitor staff consists of Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Registered Nurses. All personnel will possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for their professional certification/licensure and positions. Local installation or State background checks, including Army Central Registry checks, will be completed on all personnel who provide services to parents and their children and will be updated annually.

Eligibility Requirements

Families may be self-referred or referred by other agencies such as health care providers, chaplains, social service staff, command, or Family Advocacy Program (FAP) staff.

How to Enroll

Interested families may contact the local Army Community Service (ACS) office, or their health care provider, for further information in the New Parent Support Program.

Child Care

Child Development Center (CDC)

Centers on Installation -- There are two child development centers located on Fort Irwin:

- Child Development Center "A" is located at Building 1317 on Inner Loop and Normandy. Give us a call at 760-380-1253 or 760-380-1254.
- Child Development Center "B" is located at Building 1322 on Pork Chop Hill and Goldstone Road and open Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. Give us a call at 760-380-4696 or 760-380-2258.

Registration -- Please bring the following items with you when you register your child with CYS:

- Child's SSN
- two emergency contacts other than the parents
- current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) from the sponsor and a pay stub from spouse if employed
- up-to-date immunization records

Programs Offered --Following is a list of programs available at the Fort Irwin CDC facilities:

- Full Day Program - Hours are Mon-Fri, 6:00 am until 5:30 pm. Open to children ages 6 weeks to 5 years of age.
- Before and After Kindergarten - Hours are Mon-Fri 6:00 am until 5:30 pm. Open to children enrolled in Kindergarten.
- Hourly Care - Hours are Mon-Fri 9:00 am until 2:30 pm. Open to children ages 6 weeks to 5 years of age.
- Part Day Preschool (PAL) for children ages 3-5 years, offered at CDC "B".
- Tiny Toes - Part Day Toddler Program for children, 2 years of age, offered at CDC "B".

Family Child Care (FCC)

The Family Child Care (FCC) Office is located in Building 1323 on Pork Chop Hill and Goldstone Road and is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. Give us a call at 760-380-3502 or 760-380-2267.

School Age Services (SAS)

School Age Services is located at Bldg 1315 on Meuse and Argonne Street. SAS is open during the school year on Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri from 6:00 am to 5:30 pm and on Wed/Early-Out days from 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm. SAS summer hours are Monday through Friday from 6:00 am to 5:30 pm. Give us a call at 760-380-4163, 380-4164 or 760-380-7045.

SAS provides a caring and supervised atmosphere where children enjoy directed and self-directed activities at the SAS facility. SAS offers a morning program from 6:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. and an afternoon program from 2:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. for children enrolled in Child and Youth Services (CYS) and currently in the 1st-5th grade. Children in the 6th-8th may also enroll in our before school program.

Youth Services

Youth Services

Teen Center

The Teen Center is a unique facility for Fort Irwin teens. Teens participate in the development of teen programming and activities offered at the Teen Center through participation in the Boys and Girls Club of America's Keystone Club. The Teen Center offers many exciting opportunities to visit Southern California fun spots and adventure parks. A computer and homework lab occupies a big portion of the teen center where teens are able to broaden their academic needs. Specialized classes are offered to help teens prepare for higher education or employment possibilities. It is "their" special place and is a newer facility designed by teens.

You may reach us at 760-380-3732/7751.

Youth Sports

Youth Sports is an active branch of Child and Youth Services (CYS) that offers programs in soccer, softball, t-ball, baseball, cheerleading, volleyball and basketball for ages 4 - 18. During the summer, tennis lessons, soccer camp, basketball camp, and golf camp/lessons are also offered. Parents are highly encouraged to serve as coaches on their children's athletic teams. Call 760-380-7044 for more information.

Youth Employment

For teens living on-post, employment is for the most part limited to the installation unless they have their own transportation. Public transportation between Fort Irwin and Barstow is not available on weekends nor during after school hours. Some teens on-post also work after school as baggers at the commissary or at Burger King. Babysitting is also an excellent way to earn extra money.

During the summer months, the American Red Cross normally offers a Youth Volunteer Program in which young people can gain work experience volunteering in various agencies on-post.

Family Center

Programs and Services

A key resource on your installation and a gateway to accessing all of the resources available to you, the Army Community Service provides information, support and services to help you balance the demands of family and the military lifestyle. The Army Community Service is one part of the overall installation family support system, which is the network of agencies, programs, services, partnerships and individuals that supports your personal and family life readiness, mobilization and deployment readiness, and mobility and economic readiness. The Army Community Service should be one of your first stops upon arriving at an installation; its programs and services will be an important resource for you and your family.

Deployment Readiness -- Assists you during all phases of the deployment cycle. We provide programs and services to individual soldiers, civilians, and family members throughout the deployment process. We educate you on what to expect and the best ways to prepare.

Relocation Readiness -- Provides information, referral, resources and tools to help you with permanent change of station (PCS) moves and post-move orientations. We maintain a loan closet from which families may borrow basic household goods. We also assist you with in-transit emergencies by providing classes on move-related topics such as buying or selling homes and individual PCS planning, among others. We serve as liaison to citizenship, immigration, and multicultural diversity information, and provide outreach to waiting families.

Personal Financial Readiness -- A program to assist you in sustaining financial self-sufficiency. You can learn more about debt liquidation, thrift savings plans, consumer and credit issues, and predatory lending.

Employment Readiness -- The training and information provided can help you identify and reach your employment and career development goals, manage the challenges associated with a mobile lifestyle and develop job search skills. Assists you in acquiring skills, networks, and resources that will allow you to participate in the work force and to develop a career/work plan.

Family Life Education -- Provides you with information and education about a variety of life cycle issues, including parenting and relationships, among others, to help you strengthen your relationships.

Information and Referral -- An integral function of the family center, information and referral services can assist you in locating needed services and programs available on your installation, through civilian agencies in the local community, and connect to national resources.

Army Community Service may also provide other services, such as counseling, family advocacy, fitness and recreation programs and Exceptional Family Member support. Services vary by location.

Financial Assistance

Armed Forces Bank

Fort Irwin financial services are furnished by the Armed Forces Bank. Soldiers can cash personal (imprinted) checks at the PX for up to \$300.00. The Base Exchange at the Marine Corps Logistics Base will also cash personal checks but the amount is based upon rank.

Plan to Access Your Money

Soldiers sometimes arrive and find they have difficulty obtaining the money necessary to meet move-in expenses. They have the funds in a savings or checking account but cannot convert it to cash in large amounts. Families who must live in Barstow will need money to pay the first month's rent, security deposits, utility deposits, hook-up fees, etc. Some landlords and businesses will not accept personal checks on an out-of-town account. Most banks will not cash personal checks unless you have an account with them. If you plan to open a local account, there is usually a waiting period for the funds to clear.

Workable options might include:

1. Traveler's Checks
2. Cashing personal checks at the PX over several days
3. ATM card withdrawals over a couple of days - Is your ATM card connected to a national ATM system (STAR, PLUS, CIRRUS, Armed Forces Financial Network, etc.)

Do not travel with large amounts of cash because it can be stolen or lost.

Rental Costs

Estimate of basic costs for a family of 3 living in a Barstow apartment include:

- Rent (2 Bedroom) \$475.00
- Electricity \$40.00
- Gas \$40.00
- Water Included in Rent
- Garbage Included in Rent
- Cable T.V. \$29.00
- Car Insurance \$100.00
- Gasoline \$80.00 (If driving to Ft Irwin daily)
- Food \$300.00
- Telephone \$35.00
- Total \$1099.00

The total **does not** include car payments, credit card debts, savings, recreation, child support payments, or any of the extra costs of living.

Legal Assistance

Legal Services

Contact the Judge Advocate General (JAG) office for further assistance at (760) 380-3251/5321.

Deployment Support

Family Deployment Support

The ACS Mobilization and Deployment Readiness Program is provided for Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard soldiers and their family members through coordination of the Family Readiness Program (FRP). The FRP assists units in preparing for deployment. Operation READY pre-deployment briefings are scheduled with your unit's assigned ACS Unit Service Coordinator. Family Readiness Group Leader and Rear Detachment training are conducted on a regularly scheduled basis to ensure that leadership is prepared for challenges of Army family life due to mobilization and deployments.

Family Assistance Information Forms

The Family Assistance Information Forms are available to Reserve and National Guard soldiers during the Soldier Readiness Program (SRP) process. Information such as family members, spouse, next of kin, special needs, medical problems, I.D. card, and pay options are collected. Family Assistance sheets are mailed to the military installation closest to your family to facilitate assistance while you are deployed. Please call the ACS Mobilization and Deployment Readiness Program for more information.

Health Care - Overview

Moving With TRICARE

Your [TRICARE](#) coverage is completely portable—meaning it moves with you. You're covered worldwide—both in transit to your new duty location and once you arrive—but depending on where you go you may use a different TRICARE health plan option. Additionally, you may have different steps depending on which health plan option you are using now.

When Enrolled in a TRICARE Prime Option

The TRICARE Prime options include TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Prime Remote in the United States, and TRICARE Prime Overseas and TRICARE Global Remote Overseas in regions outside of the United States. Follow these simple steps to ensure you have no break in coverage when you move.

1. Do not disenroll from your TRICARE Prime option before you move.
2. Once you arrive at your new location, update your personal information in the [Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System \(DEERS\)](#) immediately.
3. Select a new primary care manager (PCM), when moving within the same region or submit a new Prime enrollment form within 30 days if you're moving to a new region.

Where you are moving will determine which Prime option you will enroll in.

Prime Options in the United States

TRICARE Prime

TRICARE Prime is offered in Prime service areas—geographic areas typically located around a military treatment facility—throughout the country.

- North Region [Health Net Federal Services, Inc.](#), 1-877-TRICARE (1-877-874 2273)
- South Region [Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc.](#) 1-800444-5445
- West Region [TriWest Healthcare Alliance](#) 1-888-TRIWEST (1-888-874-9378)

If you move to a new Prime service area, transfer your enrollment by submitting a TRICARE Prime Enrollment and PCM Change Form to your regional contractor. Be sure to include all family members who wish to use Prime on the form.

TRICARE Prime Remote

In non-Prime service areas, TRICARE offers TRICARE Prime Remote. To enroll, submit a TRICARE Prime Enrollment and PCM Change Form to your regional contractor. Any TRICARE-eligible family members living with you in a TRICARE Prime Remote area can enroll in TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members. Be sure to include them on the enrollment form.

Prime Options Outside of the United States

TRICARE Prime Overseas

TRICARE Prime Overseas is offered in overseas areas where there are military treatment facilities or areas in which TRICARE has established a network of qualified host nation providers.

- TRICARE Europe Toll free: 1-888-777-8343; Commercial 011-49-6302-67-7432; DSN 314-496-7432 Fax Numbers: Commercial 011-49-6302-67-6374; DSN 314-496-6374 or [e-mail](#)
- TRICARE Pacific Toll free: 1-888-777-8343; Commercial 011-81-6117-43-2036; DSN: 643-2036; Remote Sites: 011-65-6-338-9277 Fax Numbers: Commercial 011-81-611-743-2037; DSN: 643-2037 or [e-mail](#)
- TRICARE Latin America & Canada (TLAC) Address: TAO-LAC, Bldg 38802, Ft Gordon GA 30905-5650; Toll free 1-888-777-8343; 1-706-787-2424; DSN: 773-2424 Fax Number 1-706-787-3024 or [e-mail](#)

If you move to an area in which TRICARE Prime Overseas is offered, transfer your enrollment by submitting a TRICARE Prime Enrollment Form to the nearest TRICARE Service Center. Command-sponsored family members who reside with you are eligible for TRICARE Prime Overseas. Be sure to include all family members who wish to use TRICARE Prime Overseas on the form.

TRICARE Global Remote Overseas

TRICARE Global Remote Overseas is a Prime option offered in designated remote overseas locations. If you move to an area in which TRICARE Global Remote Overseas is offered, you and any authorized family members living with you may enroll by submitting a TRICARE Prime Enrollment Form to the nearest TRICARE Service Center.

Before you move to another overseas area or to an area within the United States, contact the nearest TRICARE Service Center. Then, when you arrive in your new area, transfer your enrollment.

When Using TRICARE Standard and Extra

TRICARE Standard and Extra are available to family members only. Active duty service members are required to enroll in one of the Prime options described above.

TRICARE Standard and Extra are available throughout the United States and enrollment is not required. Any active duty family member who is registered in DEERS may use these programs by seeing any network or non-network providers that are authorized by TRICARE. In areas outside of the United States, active duty family members who don't want to use a Prime option may use TRICARE Standard Overseas by seeing qualified host nation provider.

If you're already using TRICARE Standard and Extra, moving is easy.

1. Once you arrive at your new location, update your personal information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) immediately.
2. Then, find TRICARE-authorized providers in your new area.

Here are a few things to remember about using TRICARE Standard and Extra in a new region

- In the U.S.: Visit your new regional contractor's Web site for a list of providers. Remember, if you see network providers, you'll be using the Extra option and pay lower copayments.
- Outside of the U.S.: Contact your TRICARE Service Center for help locating a qualified host nation provider. The TRICARE Extra option is not available in overseas areas.
- If you move to a new region, you'll have a new claims address for submitting your TRICARE claims.
- Learn your new region's prior authorization requirements because these requirements can differ by region.

When Using TRICARE For Life

TRICARE For Life—TRICARE's coverage for those who are eligible for Medicare—requires no enrollment and you'll have a smooth transition when you move. [TRICARE for Life](#) contact information: WPS TRICARE For Life, P.O. Box 7889, Madison, WI 53707-7889; 1-866-773-0404; TDD 1-866-773-0405

- Once you arrive at your new location, update your personal information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) immediately.
- Find Medicare providers in your new area.

If you move overseas, your TRICARE For Life coverage may change depending on where you move. In U.S. Territories such as Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, TRICARE For Life coverage works the same as the stateside program. But, in all other overseas locations, TRICARE For Life Overseas works differently because Medicare does not provide coverage in most overseas locations. Therefore, TRICARE is the primary payer. You can get care from any host nation provider and you will be responsible for TRICARE deductibles and cost shares.

Contact the TRICARE Area Office for the overseas area where you are moving or the nearest American Embassy Health Unit for assistance finding a host nation provider.

Getting Care Along the Way

- Routine Medical and Dental Care—Get it before you go.

Before you move, make sure you've received any routine medical or dental care you think you might need during the time you'll be traveling. Or, delay the care until you get to your new duty location.

- Emergency Care in the United States—Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

TRICARE defines emergency care as medical services provided for a sudden or unexpected medical or psychiatric condition, or the sudden worsening of a chronic (ongoing) condition that is threatening to life, limb, or sight and needs immediate medical treatment, or which has painful symptoms that need immediate relief to stop suffering. If you're traveling near a military treatment facility (MTF), you should go to the MTF or military dental treatment facility for emergency services. If you are hospitalized in a civilian facility for more than 24 hours, contact your regional contractor

- Urgent care in the United States—Coordinate with your PCM and/or regional contractor

TRICARE defines urgent care as medical care for a condition that will not result in disability or death if not treated immediately but should be treated within 24 hours to avoid further complications. If you are in a Prime program, you must coordinate urgent care with your primary care manager and/or regional contractor before receiving care. If you are in TRICARE Standard and Extra or TRICARE For Life, you can receive care as you normally would. You should, however, contact your contractor as soon as possible to coordinate any prior authorizations that are needed.

- Emergency or Urgent care Overseas—Contact closest TRICARE Area Office or TRICARE Global Remote Call Center.

You don't need prior authorization for emergency or urgent care but the TRICARE Area Office or TRICARE Global Remote Call Center will help you find the best care available in the overseas area in which you are traveling.

Filling Prescriptions on the Road

You should have all your prescriptions filled before you leave, but if you need a prescription filled while you're traveling in the United States, you have several options:

- If near an MTF, fill the prescription at the MTF pharmacy.
- Find the closest TRICARE network pharmacy.
- If a network pharmacy is not available, you can visit a non-network pharmacy. In this case, you may have to pay up front for your medications and file a claim with Express Scripts, Inc., for reimbursement. For more details, visit the [TRICARE web site](#)
- The mail-order option is not recommended for a prescription you need right away, but if you'll be traveling for a long time, you can arrange for any regular prescriptions to be filled via the mail-order pharmacy.

Your pharmacy coverage is limited overseas:

- TRICARE network pharmacies are only located in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. You can have prescriptions filled at host-nation pharmacies, if necessary. Host-nation pharmacies are treated the same as non-network pharmacies. If you have prescriptions filled at a host-nation pharmacy, you should expect to pay for the total amount up front and file a claim with Wisconsin Physicians Service for partial reimbursement. To learn more about pharmacy claims, visit the [TRICARE web site](#).
- To use the mail-order pharmacy overseas, the prescription must be from a U.S. licensed provider and you must have an APO or FPO address.

If You Have Questions

Your regional contractors and TRICARE Area Offices are available to answer your questions. These offices are listed above. Find even more information about moving, updating DEERS, the TRICARE regions and much more at the [TRICARE web site](#).

Installation Specific Information*Medical Care*

Medical care services are offered through Weed Army Community Hospital, which offers modern facilities with outstanding care. Specialty care, however, is very limited.

Weed Army Community Hospital (WACH) has an inpatient bed capacity of 27. There is no Intensive Care Unit so all patients who require intensive care are stabilized and transported to nearby civilian or military hospitals. WACH does elective outpatient and minor emergency surgery. Pharmacy, laboratory and x-ray services are available.

The military medical staff consists of three Family Practitioners, one Nurse Practitioner, two Pediatricians, two Internist, two General Medical Officers (one is located at MCLB), two Obstetricians, one General Surgeon, two Orthopedic Surgeons, one Orthopedic Physician Assistant, one Regimental Surgeon, and one Psychologist. One Civilian Optometrist comes to Fort Irwin twice each week.

Soldiers are assigned to a primary care manager based on their choice. Family members are encouraged to select a primary care physician (Family Practitioner, Internist or Pediatrician) to be their doctor during their tour at Fort Irwin. This will allow them to develop a more effective relationship with the medical staff.

Emergency Care -- There is 24-hour emergency and urgent care service available.

Special Needs -- If family members are enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program, a telephone call to ensure that services are available would be appropriate.

Dental Care

Active duty soldiers receive full dental care through Shuttleworth Dental Clinic. Soldiers should consider enrolling family members in United Concordia Family Member Dental Insurance Plan as care for family members at Shuttleworth is limited.

Health Care - Special Needs

Exceptional Family Member Program

The [Exceptional Family Member Program](#) (EFMP) is mandatory for all family members who have been identified with a special medical or educational need. Enrolling in the EFMP ensures that the family member's medical needs will be considered during the assignment coordination process.

Military Treatment Facility

The clinics and services available at [Military Treatment Facilities](#) vary by location. Before you move, identify the MTF that will serve you, visit the MTF's website to learn about the clinics and services available and to get relevant contact information.

Moving to a New TRICARE Region

If you anticipate a move to another [TRICARE region](#), work with your local TRICARE Service Center (TSC) or case manager before your move to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible. On arrival at the new duty location, your sponsor should contact the Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator (BCAC) or TSC to ensure the transition plans are in place and to obtain authorizations for TRICARE [Extended Care Health Option](#) (ECHO) services, if applicable.

Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator (BCAC)

All TRICARE Regional Offices and most MTFs are staffed with [BCACs](#) (formerly known as Health Benefits Advisors.) [BCACs](#) provide information, guidance and assistance on benefit options, TRICARE Prime enrollment, special authorizations, status of claims and eligibility, plus assistance with referrals and appointments. If you or your family member has a more severe medical need, contact your assigned [case manager](#).

Case Management

Case management involves a team of health care professionals who help you and your family to find solutions to complex health problems. It is important to inform your case manager if you are moving as he/she will connect you with the case manager at your new location.

Extended Care Health Option (ECHO)

TRICARE [ECHO](#) provides financial assistance to beneficiaries of active duty service members who qualify based on specific mental or physical disabilities. ECHO offers an integrated set of services and supplies beyond the basic TRICARE program. ECHO is administered by regional contractors in the TRICARE North, South, and West Regions and by TRICARE Regional Offices in overseas locations.

Transporting Medical Equipment

Your [Installation Transportation Office](#) has special procedures to follow for the transportation of medical equipment that is necessary for medical treatment required by the sponsor or family member. Some types of medical equipment may be shipped in the same manner as Professional Books, Papers, and Equipment (PBP&E).

Federal and State Health Care Programs

Medicaid - [Medicaid](#) pays for medical assistance for certain individuals and families with low incomes and resources. State Medicaid programs are usually administered by departments of social service or departments of medical assistance.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - [SSI](#) is a cash assistance program intended to meet basic needs for food, clothing and shelter for those who are aged, blind or disabled. It provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. Families must reapply upon each move to another state.

Title V of the Social Security Act - Many states have services for children with special health care needs that are funded by the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant, or [Title V](#). State departments of health web sites and local health departments will provide information on state health benefits for children with special health care needs. The Maternal and Child Health Bureaus' web site has Title V information organized by State that provide you with [Title V points of](#)

[contact](#) and other pertinent information.

Other Important Resources

Debt Collection Assistance Officer (DCAO) - TRICARE has a [DCAO](#) assigned to TRICARE Regional Offices and MTFs worldwide to help beneficiaries understand and get assistance with debt collection problems related to TRICARE. Individuals who have received a notice from a collection agency or a negative credit report because of a medical or dental bill should be referred to the nearest [DCAO](#).

Family Voices - [Family Voices](#) is a national, grassroots clearinghouse for information and education concerning the health care of children with special health needs. Family Voices also has [State points of contacts](#) with useful links to State programs and organizations.

Installation Specific Information

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)

The EFMP is a mandatory enrollment program that works with other military and civilian agencies to provide comprehensive and coordinated medical, educational, special housing accommodations, community support, and personnel services to families with special needs.

An exceptional family member is a family member (child or adult) with any physical, emotional, developmental, or intellectual disability that requires special treatment, therapy, education, training, or counseling.

Education - Special Education/EIS

Exceptional Family Member Program

The [Exceptional Family Member Program](#) (EFMP) is mandatory for all family members who have been identified with a special medical or educational need. Enrolling in the EFMP ensures that the family member's medical needs will be considered during the assignment coordination process.

Children from Birth to Three Years of Age

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires all States and territories to provide [early intervention services](#) to children from birth to age three who are developmentally delayed, or who are at high risk of being developmentally delayed. Early intervention services may be provided by local school districts or health departments. There is no common name across States for the programs, but you may hear them referred to as Part C programs (because Part C is the section of the IDEA that pertains to early intervention).

The [National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center](#) provides a list of State Part C directors and funded programs at their web site. [Military OneSource](#) can identify local early intervention programs for you.

- Parents of children who receive early intervention services should hand-carry a copy of the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) and most current evaluation reports to the new location.

Children from 3 through 21 Years of Age

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires all States and Territories to provide [special education services](#) to children who are from 3 through 21 year of age. Each local school district has a special education director, and each school should have a case study committee or school based committee (terms differ) that attends to special education students' needs.

Parents of children receiving special education and related services should hand-carry all pertinent school and medical documents to include their children's Individualized Education Program (IEP) and current testing and evaluation reports to the new school.

The IDEA requires that if a child transfers to a district in the same state, the receiving school must provide comparable services to those in the child's IEP from the sending district's until the new school develops and implements a new IEP. If a child transfers to another State, the receiving district must provide comparable services to those in the child's IEP from the sending district until the receiving district completes an evaluation and creates a new IEP.

Others who can help you:

- **Parent Training and Information Centers** Each state is home to at least one Parent Training and Information Center (PTI). PTIs serve families of children and young adults from birth to age 22 with all disabilities: physical, cognitive, emotional, and learning. They help families obtain appropriate education and services for their children with disabilities; work to improve education results for all children; train and inform parents and professionals on a variety of topics; resolve problems between families and schools or other agencies; and connect children with disabilities to community resources that address their needs. [The Technical Assistance Alliance for Parent Centers](#) provides addresses and phone number of the centers in your state.
- **STOMP (Specialized Training of Military Parents)** is a federally funded Parent Training and Information (PTI) Center established to assist military families who have children with special education or health needs. The staff of the [STOMP Project](#) are parents of children who have disabilities and have experience in raising their children in military communities and traveling with their spouses to different locations.

6316 So. 12th St.
Tacoma, WA 98465
253-565-2266 (v/tty)
1-800-5-PARENT (v/tty)
Fax: 253-566-8052
[Email](#)

Installation Specific Information

Special Education services are provided at schools in Silver Valley Unified School District . They house five Special Day Classes (SDC) and seven Resource Specialist Programs (RSP). Speech services are also provided at each school.

Parents of children with special needs who are moving to the area are encouraged to contact the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, or the District Psychologist, at the District Office 760-254-2916 to discuss the location of services available to meet the needs of their children. The office is also open during the summer from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

Special Day Classes

SDC is a self-contained classroom in which students who require special education instruction for more than 50% of the school day are enrolled. Silver Valley s SDC programs are designed to mainstream students into regular education programs whenever appropriate. SDC classrooms are located at Lewis Elementary, Fort Irwin Middle School, and Silver Valley High School. Severely or profoundly handicapped children are served through county programs located in Barstow.

Resource Specialist Programs

RSP is a program for students receiving special education instruction for less than 50% of the school day. These students are usually pulled out of the regular education classroom for special assistance during specific periods of the day or week and are taught by credentialed resource specialists. RSP programs are provided at Lewis Elementary, Fort Irwin Middle School, and Silver Valley High School.

Students with Severe Behavioral Problems

SED students are students who are experiencing severe behavioral problems which prevent them from learning and getting along with others. The needs of these students can sometimes be met within the district s SDC program or in a county program designed specifically for students with severe behavioral problems. In Silver Valley, SED students are served through the Success program.

Speech Therapy

Speech Therapy helps children learn to speak and use language. Speech students are pulled out of the regular education classroom for special assistance during specific periods of the day or week and are taught by a speech and language therapist or speech pathologist. Silver Valley has two speech therapists serving our students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Depending on the severity of their needs, preschool children are served through county programs in Barstow or Fort Irwin.

Contact Information

2nd St & Fort Irwin Rd
Fort Irwin, CA 92310-1420
Phone 760-380-3598
Phone (DSN) 312-470-3598

[Email](#)
[Website](#)

Automotive Services

Gas Station
Langford Lake Rd.
Building 909
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-386-1088

Beauty/Barber Shops

Beauty Shop and Nail Salon
G Avenue
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-386-1030 - Beauty Shop / 760-386-0832 - Nail Salon

Child Development Centers

Child Development Center
Inner Loop
Bldg 1317 P.O. Box 105014
Fort Irwin, CA 92310-5014
Phone 760-380-1253/1254
Phone (DSN) 312-470-1253/1254
Fax (DSN) 760-380-1275

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Citizenship and Immigration Services - Army Community Service
Second St. at Southloop
Bldg 548
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-380-3598
Phone (DSN) 312-470-3598

[Email](#)

Commissary/Shoppette

24 hour Shoppette
Goldstone and Inner Loop
Bldg 34
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-386-2417

[Website](#)

Adult Education Centers

Education and Training Complex
3rd Street
Bldg 1020
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-380-4218
Phone (DSN) 312-470-4218

Beauty/Barber Shops

Barber Shop
Langford Lake Road
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-386-2770 - PX / 760-380-4075 - Leader's Club
Phone (DSN) 312-470-4075

Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinators

TriWest
Inner Loop
TriWest Service Center - Mary Walker Clinic
Bldg 170, Room 400
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 1-888-874-3978 / 760-380-8090 / 760-380-3124
Fax 760-386-8090

[Website](#)

Child and Youth Registration and Referral

Child and Youth Services Central Enrollment/Registration
Pork Chop Hill & Goldstone
Building 1322
P.O. Box 105014
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-380-2257/2258/4695
Phone (DSN) 312-470-2257/2258/4695
Fax 760-380-2965

Civilian Personnel Office

Civilian Personnel Office - CPO
Second Avenue and South Loop
Bldg 577
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-380-3077
Phone (DSN) 312-470-3077

[Website](#)

Dental Clinics

Shuttleworth Dental Clinic
4th and Inner Loop
Bldg 171
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-380-3161

Emergency Relief Services

Army Emergency Relief - Army Community Service
Second Street
 Building 548
 Fort Irwin, CA 92310
 Phone 760-380-3513 /4784
 Phone (DSN) 312-470-3698/4784
 Fax 760-380-3775

Exceptional Family Member Program/Special Needs

Exceptional Family Member Program - Army Community Service
 Bldg. 548, Second Street
 P.O. Box 105090
 Fort Irwin, CA 92310
 Phone 760-380-3698
 Phone (DSN) 312-470-3698
 Fax 760-380-3775
 Fax (DSN) 312-470-3775

Exchange(s)

Post Exchange - PX
Langford Lake and South Loop
 Bldg 918
 Fort Irwin, CA 92310
 Phone 760-386-2060
[Website](#)

Family Center

Army Community Service
P.O. Box 105090
 Bldg. 548
 Fort Irwin, CA 92310
 Phone 760-380-4784
 Phone (DSN) 312-470-4784
 Fax 760-380-3775
 Fax (DSN) 312-470-3775

Finance Office

Finance Inprocessing
 Building 569
 Fort Irwin, CA 92310-5090
 Phone 760-380-4535 / 760-380-4307
 Phone (DSN) 312-470-4535/4307

Gymnasiums/Fitness Centers

Fitness Connection
1st Street and Inner Loop
 Fort Irwin, CA 92310
 Phone 760-380-7242

Emergency Relief Services

American Red Cross
3rd St. & South Loop
 Bldg 571
 Fort Irwin, CA 92310
 Phone 760-380-3697
 Phone (DSN) 312-470-3697
 Fax 760-380-3712

Exceptional Family Member Program/Special Needs

Exceptional Family Member Hospital Representative - MEDDAC
Inner Loop & 5th St
 Mary E. Walker Care Center
 Fort Irwin, CA 92310
 Phone 760-380-3159
 Fax 760-380-7349
 Fax (DSN) 312-470-7349

Family Advocacy Program

Family Advocacy Program - Army Community Service
2nd St
 Bldg 548
 Fort Irwin, CA 92310
 Phone 760-380-5467/4470/4474/4021
 Phone (DSN) 312-470-5467/4470/4474/4021
 Fax 760-380-3775

Family Child Care/Child Development Homes

Family Child Care - FCC
 Pork Chop Hill and Goldstone, Bldg 1323
 P.O. Box 105014
 Fort Irwin, CA 92310-5014
 Phone 760-380-3502/2267
 Phone (DSN) 312-470-3502
 Fax 760-380-2254

Financial Institutions

Armed Forces Bank, N.A.
Fort Irwin - Main Branch
 Bldg. 37
 P. O. Box 10069
 Fort Irwin, CA 92310
 Phone 760-386-1504
 Fax 760-386-9345
[Website](#)

Hospital/Medical Treatment Facility(s)

Weed Army Community Hospital (WACH) - Emergency Room
4th St. at Inner Loop
 Bldg 166
 Fort Irwin, CA 92310
 Phone 760-380-3114 / 760-380-3124
 Fax 760-380-3249
[Website](#)

Household Goods/Transportation Office (inbound)

*Transportation Division (Personal Property) - Outbound
F Avenue
P.O. Box 105031
Bldg 312
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-380-5377
Phone (DSN) 312-470-5377*

Housing Office/Government Housing

*Housing Service Office - Residual Communities Initiative
(RCI)
5th St and Inner Loop
Bldg 826
Ft. Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-380-3576
Phone (DSN) 312-470-3576*

[Email](#)

ID/CAC Card Processing

*ID/CAC Card Processing
Bldg 312
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-380-3100*

Loan Closet

*Lending Closet - Army Community Service, Fort Irwin
2nd St and South Loop
Bldg 548
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-380-3598/4784
Phone (DSN) 312-470-3598/4784
Fax 760-380-3775
Fax (DSN) 312-470-3775*

Military Clothing Sales

*Military Clothing Sales Store
Building 308, Fort Irwin
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-386-7189*

School Age Care

*School-Age Services (SAS)
Bldg 1315 P.O. Box 105014
Fort Irwin, CA 92310-5014
Phone 760-380-4163/4164/7045
Phone (DSN) 312-470-4163/4164/7045
Fax 760-380-6523
Fax (DSN) 312-470-6523*

Household Goods/Transportation Office (outbound)

*Transportation Division (Personal Property) -
Outbound
F Avenue
P.O. Box 105031
Bldg 312
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-380-5377
Phone (DSN) 312-470-5377*

Housing Referral Office/Housing Privatization

*Housing Office (Family) - Pinnacle
Bldg 826, 5th Street and South Loop
Fort Irwin, CA 92310-5060
Phone 760-386-4663
Fax 760-386-3700*

Information and Referral Services

*Information and Referral Program - Army
Community Service
Second Street
Bldg 548
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-380-3598/4784
Phone (DSN) 312-470-3598/4784
Fax 760-380-3775*

MWR (Morale Welfare and Recreation)

*Morale, Welfare and Recreation
2nd Street at South Loop
Bldg 550
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-380-3227
Phone (DSN) 312-470-3227*

Relocation Assistance Program

*Relocation Readiness - Army Community Service
2nd Street
Building 548
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-380-3598
Phone (DSN) 312-470-3598
Fax 760-380-3775
Fax (DSN) 312-470-3775*

[Email](#)
[Website](#)

Spouse Education, Training and Careers

*Employment Readiness Program - Army Community
Service
2nd St.
Building 548, P.O. Box 105090
Fort Irwin, CA. 92310, CA 92310
Phone 760-380-5165
Phone (DSN) 312-470-5165
Fax 760-380-3775
Fax (DSN) 312-470-3775*

Temporary Lodging/Billeting

Landmark Inn Hotel
Bldg 39, Inner Loop Road
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-386-4040
Fax 760-386-4041

[Website](#)

Victim Advocate Services

Family Advocacy Program - Army Community Service
2nd St
Bldg 548
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-380-5467/4470/4474/4021
Phone (DSN) 312-470-5467/4470/4474/4021
Fax 760-380-3775

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC & WIC-O)

Food Program - Women, Infant's and Children Food Voucher Program (WIC)
Second Street
Bldg 548
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone Barstow: 760-256-4705/4854 / Irwin: 760-380-5465

Transition Assistance Program

Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP)
Second Street
Bldg 577
Fort Irwin, CA 92310
Phone 760-380-5648/5644
Phone (DSN) 312-470-5648/5644
Fax 760-380-9151

[Website](#)

Welcome/Visitors Center

AG Replacement Detachment
1st Street and Avenue F
Building 412
Fort Irwin, CA 92311
Phone 760-380-4195 / 760-380-3006
Phone (DSN) 312-470-4195/3006

Youth Programs/Centers

Youth Sponsorship Program
First Street and Inner Loop, Bldg. 129
PO Box 105014
Fort Irwin, CA 92310-5014
Phone 760-380-2017 / 6001
Phone (DSN) 312-470-2017 / 6001
Fax 760-380-6523

[Email](#)

Major Units

OPERATIONS GROUP

Contact Information:
COM: 760-380-4278
DSN: 312-470-4278

1st SQUADRON , 11th ACR "Ironhorse"

Contact Information:
COM: 760-380-3609
DSN: 312-470-3609

SUPPORT SQUADRON, 11TH ACR

Contact Information:
COM: 760-380-3230
DSN: 312-470-3230

NTC Support Battalion

Contact Information:
COM: 760-380-4712
DSN: 312-470-4712

DENTAC

Contact Information:
COM: 760-380-4999
DSN: 312-470-4999

C Det, 203rd Military Intelligence

Contact Information:
COM: 760-380-3577
DSN: 312-470-3577

11th ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

Contact Information:
COM: 760-380-4670
DSN: 312-470-4670

2nd SQUADRON , 11TH ACR "Eaglehorse"

Contact Information:
COM: 760-380-3963
DSN: 312-470-3963

U.S. Army Garrison

Contact Information:
COM: 760-380-6351/6350
DSN: 312-470-6351/6350

MEDDAC

Contact Information:
COM: 760-380-3108
DSN: 312-470-3108

Det 6, 57th WG Det (Ravens Air Warriors)

Contact Information:
COM: 760-380-3520
DSN: 312-470-3520

USACIDC

Contact Information:
COM: 760-380-4967
DSN: 312-470-4967