

# Military Family Guide to

*San Diego*

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A publication of



# Table of Contents

1. [Welcome to San Diego](#)
2. [Area Military Installations](#)
3. [What to Expect](#)
4. [Climate & Weather](#)
5. [Area Attractions](#)
6. [Neighborhoods](#)
7. [Schools & Education](#)
8. [Military Spouse Information](#)
9. [Helpful Links](#)

# Welcome to *San Diego!*

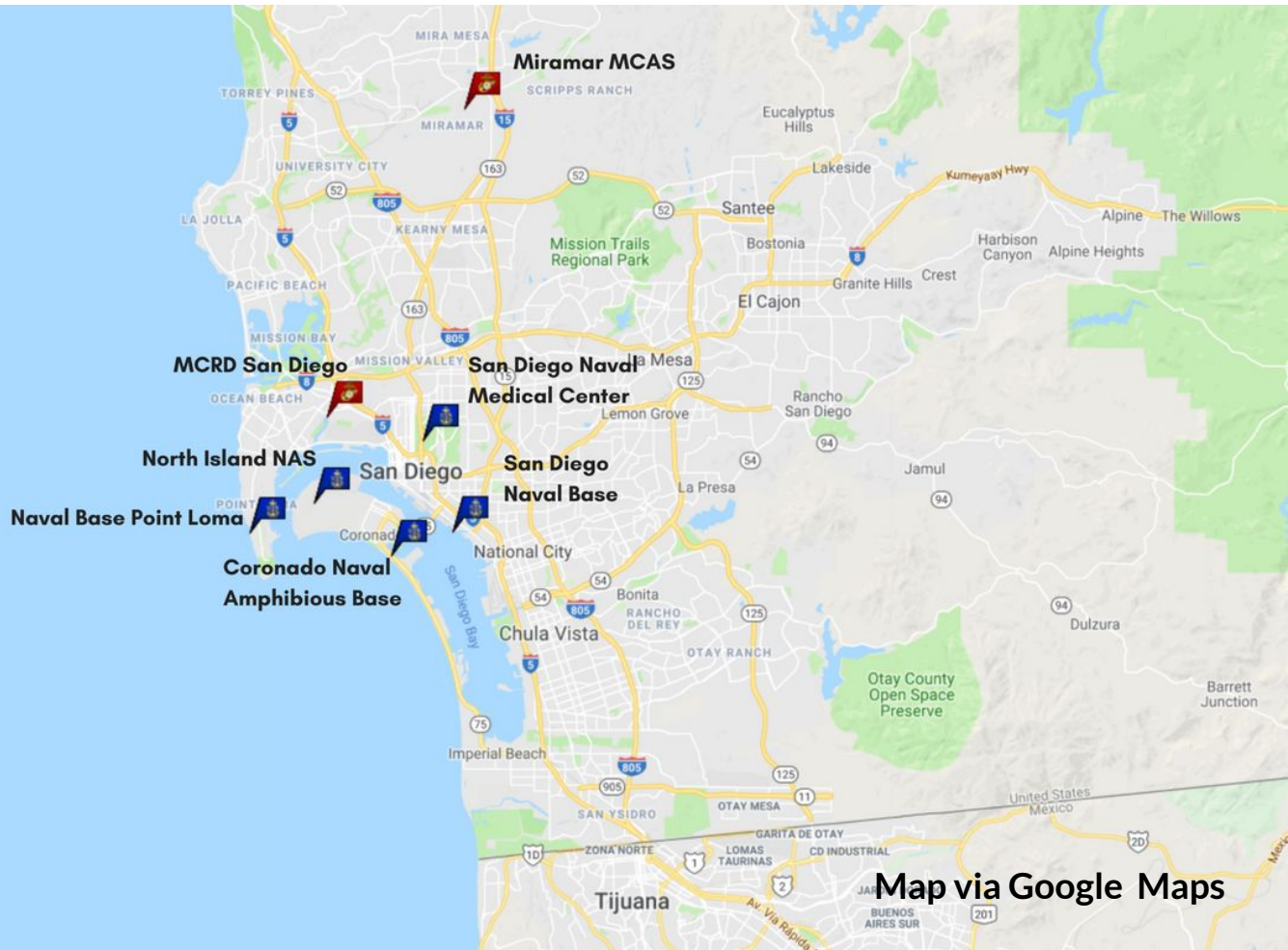


**Congratulations!** You've just received orders to San Diego, California. Your first thoughts will probably be of beach, sun, and great weather.

While that's a large part of life in the San Diego area, you'll have other questions, too: where to live, what to do, military spouse employment, schools, childcare, and more. MilitaryByOwner is here to help with information for your military family's move to the San Diego area!

Though the area considered "San Diego" is very large, you'll find that most of the area's military installations are located within just a few miles of each other.

# San Diego Area Military Installations



**Most San Diego area military installations--** MCRD San Diego, NAS North Island, Coronado Naval Amphibious Base, San Diego Naval Medical Center, Naval Base Point Loma, and San Diego Naval Base--are located in the same area. MCAS Miramar is located further north in San Diego county.

Their close proximity means that much of the greater San Diego military population migrates to many of the same neighborhoods.

# What to Expect *in San Diego*



The area considered “San Diego” extends along the California coast from Mexico to Orange county and includes mountain ranges, national and state parks, desert, and popular areas like downtown San Diego, Chula Vista, La Jolla, Escondido, and Carlsbad.

Located only 20 miles north of Tijuana, Mexico, you’ll immediately notice the heavy Mexican influence on culture, music, food, and activities.

If you love the outdoors, you’ll feel right at home with plenty of opportunities for surfing and other water sports or even just a walk along the beach.

Be prepared for a higher cost of living than you may be used to, as well as dealing with regular traffic snarls.



# Duty Station: *San Diego, California*



## What to Expect:

### Military Bases in San Diego

Naval Base Point Loma	NAS North Island
San Diego Naval Medical Center	MCRD San Diego
Coronado Naval Amphibious Base	San Diego Naval Base
MCAS Miramar (just north of San Diego)	

### Neat Things About San Diego

- Year round sunshine
- Year round outdoor activites
- Large city but small town vibe
- Easygoing and relaxed populace
- Swimsuits are considered clothing
- Huge military presence
- Super health concious city
- Great fishing & boating
- Great surf scene
- Fantastic Mexican food
- Great beaches
- Neat foodie craft beer culture
- Great farmer's markets

### Not So Neat Things About San Diego

- Lots of traffic
- Heavy tourism
- Cost of living is very expensive
- Large homeless population
- Public transportation is average
- Fairly frequent wildfires
- Locals can be standoffish
- Not a very walkable city

# *San Diego*

## Climate & Weather



If you're a fan of nice weather, you're in for a treat with a move to San Diego. Put away your winter coats and snow shovels--you won't need them!

The weather in Southern California is mild throughout the whole year, but you'll find that the geography greatly affects the temperatures.

The breeze and marine layer make it cooler by the water and warmer in the mountains and desert. You'll also find that temperatures fluctuate up to 30 degrees daily in the desert areas. It might start out 45 degrees in the morning and rise to 75 degrees by late afternoon.

And even though they aren't comparable to other regions in the country, San Diego does have four "seasons."

# Weather Overview:



**San Diego, California** = ✓ Comfortable year round.

## WINTER

December through February



**Typical day:**  
Mild, sometimes rainy

**Gear you'll need:**  
Layers, umbrella

**Fun fact:**  
Thunderstorms are very rare

**Average temperature:**  
48° through 65°F

**Average precipitation:**  
5.8 inches

**Local weather characteristic:**  
February is the wettest month

## SPRING

March through May



**Typical day:**  
Mild

**Gear you'll need:**  
Layers

**Fun fact:**  
Carlsbad flower fields in bloom

**Average temperature:**  
53°F through 71°F

**Average precipitation:**  
2.7 inches

**Local weather characteristic:**  
May is often overcast

## SUMMER

June through August



**Typical day:**  
Warm and sunny

**Gear you'll need:**  
Sunglasses, sunscreen, hat

**Fun fact:**  
Start of surf season

**Average temperature:**  
62°F through 76°F

**Average precipitation:**  
.16 inches

**Local weather characteristic:**  
June is often overcast

## FALL

September through November



**Typical day:**  
Warm and sunny

**Gear you'll need:**  
Light layers

**Fun fact:**  
Surf season begins to slow

**Average temperature:**  
65° through 76°F

**Average precipitation:**  
1.7 inches

**Local weather characteristic:**  
Winds are usually calm through mid-November



# *Area Attractions*

Things to Do  
and What the  
Locals Know!

San Diego has enough activities to keep every day busy!

The area is booming with culture and attractions, drawing tourists in from all over the world.

Whether it's a major theme park like Disneyland, the San Diego Zoo, or an event like an air show, there's something for everyone.

Make time for day trips to locations like Big Bear Lake, Hollywood, or Joshua Tree National Park.



## Things to See and Do in San Diego, CA.



### Family Friendly Attractions

SeaWorld San Diego  
Balboa Park  
La Jolla Cove  
Birch Aquarium  
Old Town San Diego  
San Diego Zoo  
San Diego Zoo Safari Park  
Legoland



### Local Festivals

Miramar Air Show - Sep  
The Flower Fields - Mar-May  
Gray Whale Watching - Dec-Apr  
San Diego Comic Con Int. - Jul  
Breeders Cup - Nov  
San Diego County Fair - June-Jul  
Del Mar Race Season - Nov-Dec  
World Baseball Classic - Mar



### Pro & Semi-Pro Sports

San Diego Padres - Major league baseball  
San Diego Gulls - AHL Ice hockey  
San Diego Seals - National lacrosse league  
Farmers Insurance Open - PGA tour event  
Del Mar racetrack - Thoroughbred horse racing  
San Diego Legion - Major league rugby  
1904 FC- Professional soccer  
San Diego Aviators - Word Team Tennis



### Food & Drink

In 'N' Out  
California Burritos  
Puesto at The Headquarters  
CUCINA Urbana  
Werewolf  
Embargo Grill  
The Brigantine Bar  
Anthony's Fish Grotto



### Day Trips & Weekend Getaways

Torrey Pines State Reserve  
Joshua Tree National Park  
Los Angeles  
Big Bear Lake  
La Penasquitos Canyon Trail  
USS Midway Museum  
Cabrillo National Monument  
Potato Chip Rock



### Concert Venues

The Observatory  
Sleep Train Amphitheatre  
Viehas Arena  
Copley Symphony Hall  
Seven Grand  
Valley View Casino Center  
Open Air Theatre

# An Overview of *San Diego Neighborhoods*



**With BAH in the San Diego area, you should be able to afford a nice apartment or maybe a house if you hope to buy.**

As of January 2018, the average price for a home in San Diego was over \$600,000. It's currently considered a seller's market. If you intend to rent, you may find yourself downsizing in order to get the features and amenities you desire.

Following are a few of the popular neighborhoods near San Diego bases. Each neighborhood listed received a five star rating from your fellow military families on Military Town Advisor. The commute times are based on generic hours. Rush hours will affect the commute time listed.

# San Diego Neighborhoods Popular with Military Families

## Del Cerro

**Commute:** 20-30 minutes to all San Diego military installations.

**Worth noting:** Del Cerro is a well-cared for suburban community with neighborhood parks and a pool.

*"The neighborhood is established with large trees and sidewalks...15 minutes from anything you could possibly need, or want to do. Neighbors are friendly, and keep an eye out for each other." -Katie*

## Eastlake Windingwalk

**Commute:** 30-45 minutes from local military installations.

**Worth noting:** Family-friendly community with a small town feel right outside San Diego.

*"Eastlake Windingwalk neighborhood in Chula Vista has a ton of military families with kids... love the small town feel of Eastlake but love being within minutes of the big city." -JP*

## Mission Hills

**Commute:** 15-20 minutes to most San Diego military installations. 20-30 minutes to MCAS Miramar.

**Worth noting:** Mission Hills is a well-manicured development with an urban feel.

*"We were able to rent a little two bedroom home off Ingalls. It was in walking distance to Washington St. with all of the restaurants, Vons, and Scripps Mercy. Mission Hills is centrally located to both Hillcrest and Old Town, so you get the best of both worlds. The food options nearby are fantastic, and being down the street from a grocery store is extremely convenient." -Jessi*

## Palisades Pointe

**Commute:** 30- 45 minutes to MCAS Miramar and 45 minutes to an hour to the downtown San Diego military installations.

**Worth noting:** Palisades Pointe is a well maintained suburban neighborhood with parks.

*"Steps away from Tamarack Beach ocean views. Neighbors are friendly but not obtrusive. Several walkers out of all ages. Very clean and well maintained." -Anonymous  
(cont.)*



## Rancho Carrillo

**Commute:** 30 minutes to MCAS Miramar, 45 minutes to an hour to the rest of the San Diego military installations.

**Worth noting:** Rancho Carrillo is a residential area in Carlsbad. The commute is longer but you get more for your money. The community itself is well cared for with neighborhood parks and a pool.

*"This neighborhood is amazing. It has beautiful curb appeal with gardener. A waterfall in backyard, canyon trails, and it's only seven miles to the ocean!" -[USMC Spouse](#)*

## Spectrum Center Boulevard at Kearney Mesa

**Commute:** 15 minutes from MCAS Miramar and about 30 minutes from the other San Diego installations.

**Worth noting:** Spectrum Center is a landscaped, gated community with a neighborhood pool.

*"Relatively low traffic for a San Diego neighborhood. There's a dog park in the neighborhood, and very dog friendly for walking. Townhomes and condos across the street from apartments are beautiful, and great for a young family. YMCA is in the block. Walking and bike riding distance to great small restaurants..." (cont.)*

*"...Very close to Mission Trails park (bike or drive) for jogs and hiking. Very close to 163/ 15/ 52 freeways, which take you all over SD. Closest mall is Fashion Valley, 10 minutes away and it's 20-25 minutes to beach. You are in the landing pattern for Miramar, so jet noise is a given until 11pm. " -[kcnavy](#)*

## The Summit at Eastlake

**Commute:** 20-30 minutes to most San Diego military installations, 40 minutes to MCAS Miramar.

**Worth noting:** The Summit is a gated community with neighborhood parks, well-manicured landscaping, and a neighborhood pool.

*"The Summit is a nice area to live." -[slsteiner](#)*

## Torrey Highlands

**Commute:** 40-50 minutes to most San Diego military installations, 20 minutes to MCAS Miramar.

**Worth noting:** Torrey Highlands is a beautiful area to call home with many walking/running trails, parks, and shopping.

*"The commute to Balboa is about 25-30 minutes which isn't too bad. We love it in Torrey Highlands because there are parks, walking trails, shopping village. Lots to do". -[KellyLat](#)*

**View San Diego Area Homes  
for Rent or Sale**

# *San Diego Area*

## Schools & Education



When it comes time to PCS, education for your military kids is high on the priority list when looking for a home.

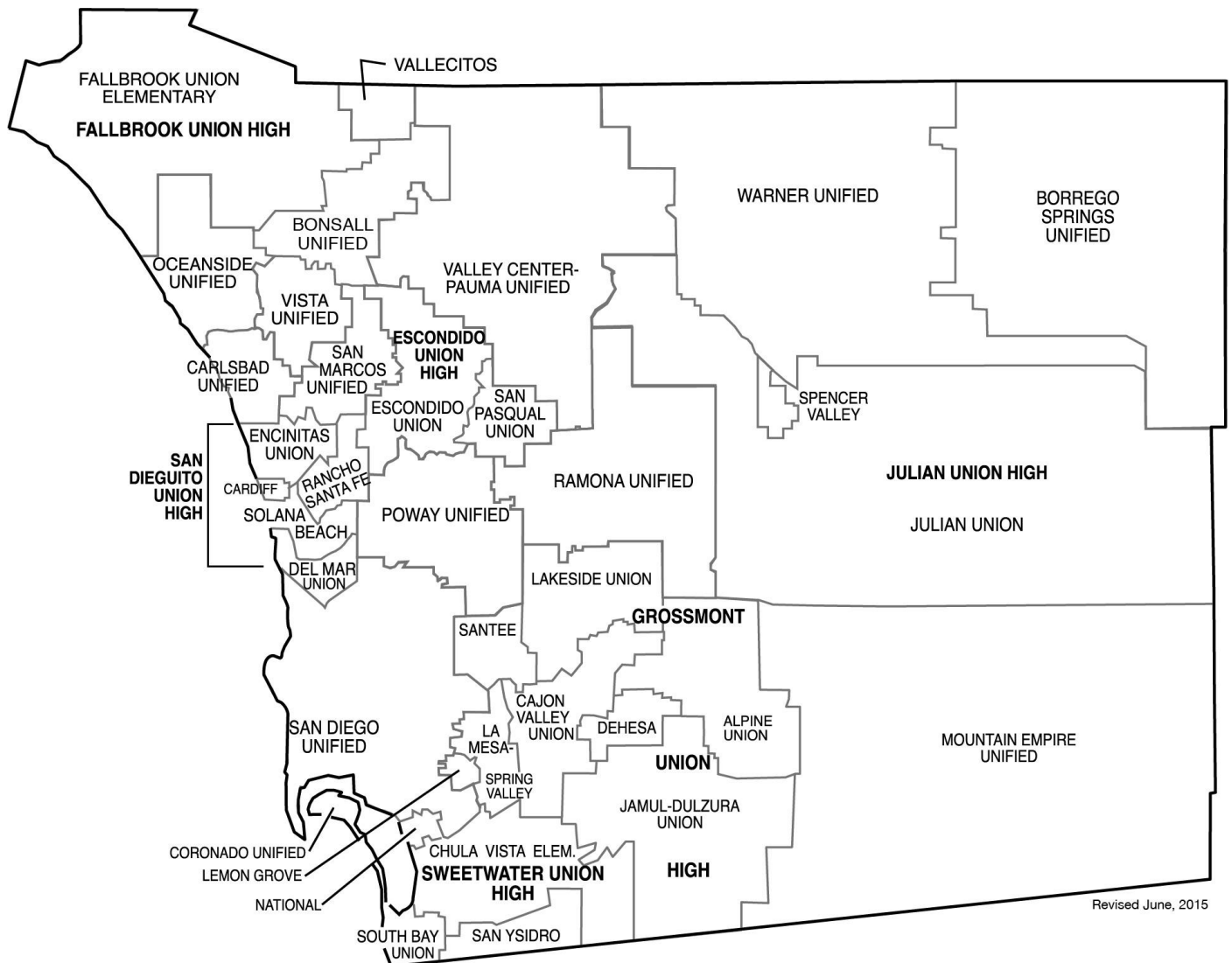
There are no DoD schools in the San Diego area.

However, there are highly rated public and private schools your children can attend.

If you plan to homeschool, get plugged into one of the many homeschooling groups like Christian Military Homeschoolers of San Diego, San Diego Christian Homeschools, and San Diego Homeschool Field Trips.

For more schooling options in the San Diego area, check out reviews on Great Schools and Military Town Advisor.

# San Diego School Districts



Revised June, 2015

Map provided via San Diego County Office of Education.  
[Check their website](#) for the most updated information  
and further resources.

# Neighborhood Schools

Since shopping for a home and a school go hand in hand, take a look at this list of schools you can choose from based on the neighborhood of your choice.

## Del Cerro

**Public Elementary Schools:** Hearst, Hardy, Marvin, Green, Dailard, and Benchley/Weingberger Elementary School

**Public Middle Schools:** Lewis and La Mesa Middle School

**Public High Schools:** Patrick Henry, Grossmont Middle College, Kearney SCT School, Kearney International Business School

**Charter Schools:** College Preparatory Middle School, Elevate Elementary, Albert Einstein Academy Charter Middle

**Private Schools:** The Rock Academy, Ocean View Christian Academy, Foothills Christian High School

## Eastlake Windingwalk and The Summit at Eastlake

**Public Elementary Schools:** Camarena (Enrique S.), Olympic View, Veterans, Wolf Canyon, Salt Creek, McMillin (Corky), Heritage, Marshall (Thurgood), Chula Vista Hills, Liberty, Hedenkamp (Anne and William), and Allen (Ella B.) Elementary School

**Public Middle Schools:** Rancho Del Rey Middle School

**Public High Schools:** Olympian and Otay Ranch Senior High School

**Charter Schools:** Arroyo Vista and Discovery

**Private Schools:** Ocean View Christian Academy, Foothills Christian High School

## Mission Hills

**Public Elementary Schools:** Birney, Grant, and Chesterton Elementary

**Public Middle Schools:** Grant, Correia, Coronado, and Mt. Everest Academy

**Public: High Schools:** Kearney SCT and Kearney International Business School

**Charter Schools:** Museum, Old Town Academy K-8 Charter, Elevate Elementary, and High Tech High International School

**Private Schools:** The Rock Academy, The Bishop's School

## Palisades Pointe

**Public Elementary Schools:** Magnolia, Kelly, Hope, Buena Vista, Pacific Rim, Aviara Oaks, Ivey Ranch, and Carrillo Elementary

**Public Middle Schools:** Valley, Aviara Oaks, Vista Magnet Middle School of Technology, Science, and Math, San Elijo, Diegueno, and Oak Crest Middle School

**Public High Schools:** Carlsbad, Sage Creek, San Marcos, Mission Vista, La Costa Canyon, and San Dieguito High Academy.)



**Charter Schools:** High Tech High North County School, Classical Academy High School, Escondido Charter High School, and Heritage K-8 Charter School

**Private Schools:** Tri-City Christian School, St. Michael's School, Pacific Ridge School

## Rancho Carrillo

**Public Elementary Schools:** Carrillo, La Costa Meadows, Poinsettia, San Elijo, Discovery, Aviara Oaks, La Costa Heights, El Camino Creek, Mission Estancia, Olivenhain Pioneer, Paloma, Pacific Rim, Capri, Flora Vista, Kelly, Park Dale Lane, and Paul Ecke-Central Elementary

**Public Middle Schools:** San Elijo, Aviara Oaks, Diegueno, Oak Crest, Vista Magnet Middle School of Technology, Science, and Math, Valley, R. Roger Rowe, and Earl Warren Middle School

**Public High Schools:** San Marcos, La Costa Canyon, Sage Creek, Carlsbad, San Dieguito High Academy, and Del Lago Academy

**Charter Schools:** High Tech High North County School, Classical Academy High School, Escondido Charter High School, and Heritage K-8 Charter School

**Private Schools:** St. Michael's School, Pacific Ridge School

## Spectrum Center Boulevard at Kearney Mesa

**Public Elementary Schools:** Tierrasanta, Chesterton, Kumeyaay, Mt. Everest Academy, Holmes

**Public Middle Schools:** Mt. Everest Academy, De Portola, Lewis, Standley, Marshall, and Grant Elementary

**Public High Schools:** Kearney SCT, Kearney International Business, Mt. Everest Academy, University City, Patrick Henry, Mira Mesa, and Scripps Ranch

**Charter Schools:** Kavod Elementary Charter School, Elevate Elementary, Old Town Academy K-8 Charter, and Museum

**Private Schools:** St. Michael's School, The Rock Academy, The Bishop's School, Halstrom Academy

## Torrey Highlands

**Public Elementary Schools:** Deer Canyon, Adobe Bluffs, Sundance, Willow Grove, Sunset Hills, Solana Ranch, Park Village, Canyon View, Sycamore Ridge, Solana Santa Fe, Ashley Falls, Sandburg, Del Sur, Ericson, Stone Ranch, Los Penasquitos, Hickman, Morning Creek, Sage Canyon, Design 39, Carmel Creek, Rolling Hills, and Ocean Air School

**Public Middle Schools:** Mesa Verde, Black Mountain, Oak Valley, Challenger, Carmel Valley, R. Roger Rowe, Meadowbrook, Bernardo Heights, Marshall, Earl Warren, Twin Peaks, Diegueno, Oak Crest, Standley, San Elijo, and Mt. Everest Academy

**Public High Schools:** Westview, Canyon Crest, Mt. Carmel, Del Norte, Torrey Pines, Mira Mesa, Scripps Ranch, Rancho Bernardo, University City, Poway, San Dieguito High Academy, La Costa Canyon, Del Lago Academy, La Jolla, and Mt. Everest Academy

**Charter Schools:** Classical Academy High School, Elevate Elementary, Heritage K-8 Charter School, and Escondido Charter High School

**Private Schools:** Rock Academy, St. Michael's School, Pacific Ridge School, The Bishop's School, Halstrom Academy

# *Military Spouses*

## Employers, Volunteering, Higher Education & Childcare

San Diego boasts a large number of companies that employ military spouses. And the job hunt looks favorable: in the metro area, the unemployment rate in the area was down to 3.3 in December 2016 vs. 4.1 the previous year.

There are a great variety of non-profit organizations you can volunteer with, as well as many MyCAA approved institutions to further your education.

And whether you need full- or part-time childcare, options abound both on and off base in the San Diego area.





# Military Spouse Information



## *San Diego, CA*

### Major Area Employers

San Diego State University

Qualcomm

Kaiser Foundation Hospital

UC San Diego

Hewlett Packard

Scripps Health

### Nearby Education

CA Miramar Univeristy

San Diego Dental Careers

San Diego City College

San Diego State University

California College San Diego

San Diego Culinary Institue

### Volunteer Opportunities

HandsOn San Diego

Feeding San Diego

USO San Diego

CA State Parks Foundation

American Red Cross

Habitat for Humanity

### Area Child Care

Sacred Heart Academy Preschool

Scripps Exploring Academy

Miramar Infant & Toddler Center

The Vine Learning Center

Honey Bear Preschool & Child Care

On base CDC's

### Local Social Groups

New Moms Meetup

She She

NavyLife SW - San Diego Metro

USO San Diego

Miramar Military Spouse Club

San Diego Run Club

# Enjoy San Diego!

We wish your military family all the best during your time in San Diego. Of course, there's nothing like connecting with others in the area. Below are some links to helpful organizations and groups.

[NavyLifeSW- San Diego Metro Area](#)

[Miramar Military Spouses Club](#)

[L.I.N.K.S](#)

[The Oak Leaf Club- Naval Medical Center San Diego](#)

[San Diego Veterans Coalition](#)

[San Diego Military Advisory Council](#)

*All links are for informational purposes only and do not constitute endorsement.*

**Find Off-Base San Diego Housing**



**Want more info on the  
San Diego area?  
Follow our San Diego Pinterest  
board for tips and resources  
and connect with us on social  
media!**

