

# Welcome to United States Central Command



**HQ USCENTCOM  
7115 S. Boundary Blvd  
MacDill AFB, FL 33621**

**25 JUNE 2008**

**This booklet contains information about DoD, USCENTCOM, MacDill Air Force Base and local community activities. All information is subject to change. The editorial views expressed in this booklet are not to be considered official DoD, U.S. Army or USCENTCOM policy**

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EMERGENCY INFORMATION: In an EMERGENCY, dial 911. The 911-operator will ask for your name, location, telephone number and the nature of the emergency to make a needs assessment and better direct emergency response vehicles (such as ambulance(s) or fire truck(s)) to your location to provide emergency assistance. However, if the emergency involves ingestion of a poison, call the Poison Control Center first at 1- 800-222-1222 and they will provide time-critical advice and antidote information when appropriate.

# WELCOME TO U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND

## A BRIEF HISTORY

U. S. Central Command (CENTCOM) was established on January 1, 1983. As the name implies, the USCENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR) covers the "central" area of the globe located between the European and Pacific Commands. USCENTCOM evolved from the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force (RDJTF), established by former President Jimmy Carter on March 1, 1980 when the hostage crisis in Iran and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan underlined the need to strengthen U.S. interests in the region.

In pursuit of a secure, stable, and prosperous region, USCENTCOM personnel are dedicated to monitoring and analyzing significant military, political and economic events in their Area Of Responsibility; planning and conducting unit and combined joint coalition military exercises and operations; coordinating with all branches of the U.S. military service to provide forces for these training exercises and operations; maintaining a constant liaison with U.S. embassies in the region; and refining deployment and contingency plans for the region. The main headquarters of USCENTCOM is located at MacDill AFB in Tampa, FL.

## CENTCOM'S AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (AOR)

Twenty-seven 27 countries form CENTCOM's Area of Responsibility. They include: Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen (Arabian Peninsula and Iraq), Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan (Horn of Africa), Egypt, Jordan (Northern Red Sea), Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (South and Central Asia). The AOR has over 651 million people, 7 major languages, and 18 major ethnic groups.



## JOINT COMMAND

CENTCOM is a unified command which includes military personnel from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Reserve Forces and National Guard troops. We also have many Department of Defense civilians working at CENTCOM as well as many defense contractors.



## OUR COALITION PARTNERS



The United States began building the coalition on September 12, 2001, and there are currently over 60 nations supporting the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT). To date, 21 nations have deployed more than 16,000 troops to the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility. This "coalition of the willing" works with strong determination to defeat terrorism, wherever it exists. Coalition countries contribute in various ways - some militarily, others diplomatically, economically and financially. Some nations contribute openly; while others prefer their contributions be unspecified.

At USCENTCOM headquarters, liaison teams serve on behalf of countries participating in the Global War on Terrorism. The ranking officers, known as Senior National Representatives (SNRs), coordinate plans between their countries and CENTCOM. Collectively, they form a world transforming brain trust.

In Afghanistan alone, our coalition partners are contributing nearly 8,000 troops to Operation Enduring Freedom and to the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, which comprises over half of the 15,000 non-Afghan forces in Afghanistan. The war against terrorism is a broad-based effort that will take time. And each nation participates according to their unique circumstances. This mission and future missions require a series of coalition partners ready to accept the challenges and assume the risks associated with such an operation.

Important contributions in the war against terrorism are made by Coalition forces across the spectrum of operations. Particular contributions include, but are not limited to, providing vital intelligence, personnel, equipment and assets for use on the ground, air and at sea. Coalition members also provide liaison teams, participate in planning, provide bases and grant over-flight permissions - as well as sizable contributions of humanitarian assistance. For additional and updated information regarding coalition activities, visit the U.S. CENTCOM home page at [www.centcom.mil](http://www.centcom.mil), click on "Newsletters" at the top of the page, and then "Coalition Bulletins."

## USCENTCOM FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM

In direct support of the U.S. Central Command mission to rapidly deploy into the Area of Responsibility (AOR), the Family Readiness Program (FRP) supports USCENTCOM families in times of peace, crisis, and war with information that improves quality of family life, prepares families for extended deployment separations, sustains them during deployment, and facilitates smooth family reintegration following deployment. Towards this objective, every USCENTCOM Directorate and Special Staff Office appoints a Family Readiness Coordinator that accesses families to information about services and programs supportive of the mobile military lifestyle. In this regard, the Family Readiness Coordinator serves as a conduit of information. They also maintain the ability to rapidly disseminate routine information, such as social invitations, and urgent information, as determined by leadership, to CENTCOM families. These enthusiastic volunteers serve as an important link between families and the military member's Directorate or Special Staff Office. For additional information, please contact: Carolyn Quick Tillery, Chief, USCENTCOM Family Readiness Program at 813-827-2320, or [tillercd@centcom.mil](mailto:tillercd@centcom.mil).

## CENTCOM FAMILY CONTACT INFORMATION

All CENTCOM Service members must participate in the on-line Family Support Notification Program by entering and updating, on a quarterly basis, on-line information located in the "What About Me" section of the CENTRANET. "What About Me" may be accessed in the lower left-hand corner of the CENTRANET on the Secure Network (SIPR). Directorates/Special Staff Offices use this information to contact the military member and designated family members regarding family readiness issues, account for family members in the event of a disaster, inform families of unit activities, provide information of interest via the bi-monthly USCENTCOM Family Newsletter, and, upon request, maintain contact with the designated family member or "Significant Other" during deployments. For additional information, please contact: Carolyn Quick Tillery, Chief, USCENTCOM Family Readiness Program at 813-827-2320, or [tillercd@centcom.mil](mailto:tillercd@centcom.mil).

## CENTCOM FAMILY NEWSLETTER

The CENTCOM Family Newsletter, a bi-monthly publication, facilitated by the USCENTCOM Education/Quality of Life/Family Matters Office, provides CENTCOM families with up-to-date information about Department of Defense (DoD) programs and military community support programs. In addition, advice and tips relating to Florida's unique weather challenges, beach safety, etc. are offered. The newsletter also publicizes CENTCOM and local community activities. Family Readiness Coordinators, appointed by each Directorate and Special Staff Office, are responsible for contributing organizational information to the newsletter and distributing it to their respective subscribers. Newsletter subscriptions are offered when registering for "What About Me. For additional information, contact: Carolyn Quick Tillery, Chief, USCENTCOM Family Readiness Program at: 813-827-2320, or [tillercd@centcom.mil](mailto:tillercd@centcom.mil).

## MILITARY ONESOURCE (MOS)

Military OneSource offers advice, support, practical solutions, and online resources to U.S. active duty members of all military services, including the Guard and Reserve, their dependent relative(s), or the guardian of a military member's minor child(ren) in the US and Puerto Rico. Services are FREE, confidential and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (Coalition members are currently ineligible for these resources. However, the Coalition Liaison Office should be contacted to address the following issues: Parenting & Child Care,

Personal & Family Readiness, Education, Midlife & Retirement, Older Adults, Disability, Financial, Legal, Everyday Issues, Work, International, Managing People, Health, Emotional Well-Being, and Addiction & Recovery.)

For those meeting the aforementioned eligibility requirements, Military OneSource offers referrals to military and community resources, online articles, newsletters, workshops, pre-paid booklets, audio recordings, and confidential consultations. Six PRIVATE in-office counseling sessions are authorized to address each problem or life issue requiring attention. These six office sessions are provided free-of-cost. If additional counseling is required, a consultant will assist the service member in making an appointment with a licensed, Masters-prepared civilian counselor in the local community. This service is not limited to one set of six sessions, if additional, unaddressed life issues arise in the future; eligible military members are encouraged to access the available services. The program is also available in Spanish by dialing 1- 800-375-5971 and to the deaf or hard of hearing, via TTY/TDD at 800- 346-9188. Service members can also visit the website at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) For additional information, call 1-800-464-8107. To access the information on the Military One Source web site: [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) Type in the User ID: "military" and the Password: "onesource" When calling from within the Continental United States, dial: 1-800- 342-8107. When calling from outside of the Continental United States, dial: 1-800-342-9647. For international collect calls, please dial: (484) 530-5747

#### ID SECTION

Dependent ID cards may be obtained at the 6<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron located at 373 Tampa Point Blvd. (Bldg 373). Dependents must be accompanied by the sponsor and may be served on a walk in basis. If the military sponsor is not physically located in MacDill AFB or the local area, call the customer service desk at 8-2278 for additional guidance. Hours of operation are 0730 to 1530 hours. Please note while vehicle registration was previously required and could be accomplished at this location, registration and the accompanying sticker are no longer a requirement at MacDill AFB. For additional information or to verify current requirements, call 813-828-2278.

#### PARKING AT CENTCOM

Numerous renovation and construction projects in and around CENTCOM Headquarters have dramatically impacted parking at building 540 and the CENTCOM complex. As a result parking plans remain fluid. The most recent information may be obtained during the in processing brief. However, current parking availability includes the following:

Currently, unreserved parking is permitted on the coned grassy area near the Vet Clinic, in the lots immediately behind the commissary and the BX to the east and west of building 1047, on the south side of Zemke Rd directly across from Coalition Village 1 (except in designated reserved areas), and the WEST side of the ditch between the Commissary and BX parking lots between light posts 6 and 9. The lot on the south side of Zemke (across from building 1047) is pending resurfacing and is temporarily closed until further notice. The lot on the east side of MacDill Ave (across the street from the Commissary) is permanently closed to accommodate building equipment and materials. The areas of the parking lot not designated for CENTCOM use are reserved for the convenience of the Commissary and BX Mall patrons while they are shopping. You are reminded that parking in these undesigned areas is prohibited. Parking along curbs and on the grass is also prohibited. Additionally:

- CV-1 site vacated and parking lot will be available parking from mid-late May 2008 to TBD (closure date dependent upon HQ MILCON timelines, likely to have to close in early Fall 08). This will be Lot 13.
- Will utilize parking near Building 540 loading dock for select individual starting in May 2008 (remains in place until 2011). This is Lot 11.
- Added Med Pass and Motorcycle parking up front in CV-1 area (Lot 11A). This is temporary in nature (same timeline as Lot 13)
- Established limited parking in CTF/CV-3 area (Lot 5).
- Relocated Med Pass and Handicapped (less need to cross streets).
- Reserved parking (Lot 12) established near Buildings 55/6 per lot closure due to base construction. Closed approximately 200+ general parking spaces in this area.
- Lot 10 (Memorial Park) is reduced, with 6th AMW gaining back space for park users.
- Lot 4 undergoing ADA compliance renovations, and has added motorcycle parking spaces

To help alleviate some of the parking problems associated with this new construction, subsidized bus passes, offered by DoD, are available through the base finance office for military or DoD employees. If you live nearby, and are so inclined, biking or walking to work may provide a healthful option.

#### SPOUSE ACTIVITIES

**MACDILL ENLISTED SPOUSES' CLUB (ESC)** Open to the spouses of active duty and retired enlisted military members, the ESC meets for social and charitable activities on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6pm in the Surf's Edge Enlisted Club. For additional information, contact ESC President, Kelly Patch at 813-840-2115 or 813-352-0653. You may also contact her via e-mail at: [e1sunshine@yahoo.com](mailto:e1sunshine@yahoo.com).

**MACDILL OFFICERS' SPOUSES CLUB (OSC)** The OSC, which encourages social, cultural, educational and charitable activities among its members, is open to active duty and retired officers' spouses. Coalition spouses are invited to join as honorary members. The OSC hosts luncheons on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 11am in the MacDill O'Club. For additional information, visit: [www.macdillosc.com](http://www.macdillosc.com)

**COFFEE GROUPS** Does the term "Coffee Group," inspire thoughts of the types or categories of coffee served? Actually, "Coffee Group" is a term loosely used to describe monthly social events in which spouses gather to socialize, explore the local area, and share important information. Originally held during the morning, coffee was almost always served at these gatherings. "Coffees" remain a tradition amongst military spouses. However, now they are held anytime of the day and sometimes they still really do drink coffee! Coffee Groups provide an opportunity to meet other spouses from the same unit, group, or directorate. To determine whether a Coffee Group exists within your organization, contact that organization's senior spouse. If one has yet to be formed, perhaps you can offer to assist in organizing one.

**VOLUNTEERING** Upon your arrival at MacDill AFB, you will undoubtedly be interested in becoming acquainted with the community and forming new friendships. Consider volunteering as a means of accomplishing both objectives. Perhaps you dreamed of exploring a particular career field or changing career fields - volunteering provides an excellent opportunity to enhance your skills and explore options. And many employers, including the Federal Government, consider volunteer work as qualifying experience in many instances. Or having decided against full-time employment, you may fear your skills will become outdated and unmarketable; again, volunteering is the ticket to success during your employment "hiatus." The right placement allows you to maintain existing skills and obtain new skills, while developing references and professional contacts, which could prove useful in the future. Volunteering offers a unique opportunity to make community improvements while enhancing personal skills. Finally, volunteering can be just plain fun! Having a good time doing something you love and contributing to your community are valid, uncomplicated ways to share your time and talents. Visit the MacDill AFB Airman and Family Readiness Flight Center for additional information about volunteer opportunities.

**IMPORTANT US CENTCOM TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Chaplain, 813-827-2315  
 Civilian Personnel Office (Appropriated Fund for CENTCOM) - 828-5715  
 In-Processing Center (military), 813-827-1134  
 Family Readiness Program, 813-827- 2320  
 Finance - Air Force, 828-5379, Bldg 149 on the corner of Brown Pelican Ave and Hillsborough Loop



Finance - Army 828-5318, Bldg 531  
 Finance - Navy, 828-3201, Bldg 531  
 Finance - Marine Corps, 827-7081, Bldg 548  
 Hurricane Info Line, 1-866-656-7754  
 Inspector General, 813-827-6660  
 Judge Advocate, 813-828-6422  
 Pass and ID, 813-827-1870, Trailer D-111  
 Personnel Reception Center, 813-827-5873  
 Protocol, 813-827-6260/6261  
 Public Affairs, 813-827-4370

**IMPORTANT MACDILL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Airfield Passenger Terminal - 828-2485/2440  
 Airmen and Family Readiness Flight Center 828-0145  
 Ambulance - 911  
 American Red Cross Emergency - 1-877-272-7337  
 Arts & Crafts Center - 813-828-4413  
 Information Ticket & Travel - 828-2478  
 Auto Hobby Shop - 813-828-4553  
 MacDill School Age Program (Before/After)-813-828-6758  
 Bowling Center - 828-4005  
 Brandon Family Resource Center - 813-655-9281  
 Chapel - 828-3621  
 Child Development Center #1 - 813-828-3332  
 Child Development Center #2 - 813-828-2244  
 Civilian Personnel Office - 813-828-2911  
 EMERGENCY - 911  
 Enlisted Club "Surf's Edge" - 813-840-6900  
 Family Advocacy - 813-827-9172  
 Family Home Day Care Center - 813-828-7760



Airman and Family Readiness Center - 813-828-0145  
 Fitness Center - 813-828-4496  
 Golf Course - 813-840-6904  
 GYN Clinic - 813-827-9336  
 Hurricane Info Line - 1-800-435-9941  
 Leisure Travel Office - 828-1860  
 Library - 813-828-3607  
 MacDill Credit Union - 813-837-2451  
 Marina - 813-828-4983  
 Mental Health Clinic - 813-828-5315  
 Non-Appropriated Fund Personnel (NAF) 828-2911  
 Officers' Club (Bayshore) - 813-837-1031  
 Operator Assistance (base) - 813-828-1110, on base dial 113  
 Outdoor Recreation/Family Camp - 813-840-6919  
 Security Forces - 813-828-3322  
 Vet Clinic - 813-828-3558  
 Wing Commander's Action Line - 813-828-4636  
 Youth Center - 813-828-7957

## SAFETY TIPS FOR SEVERE WEATHER

Hurricanes, tornadoes and lightning are Florida Central Coast weather hazards of which everyone should be acutely aware. The Tampa Bay area is known as the "Lightning Capital of the United States," and not just because of its hockey team! Summertime often brings with it daily afternoon thunder-storms, which are usually followed by lightning episodes. It's also important to know that tornadoes usually accompany severe weather. As a precautionary measure, always check the weather before planning outdoor activities and have a plan in the event severe weather suddenly strikes while you are outside. For more in-depth information about hurricanes and other severe weather hazard information, please read the following information.

### LIGHTNING

Lightning can be fascinating to watch, but it is also extremely dangerous. In the United States, there are an estimated 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes each year. And during the past 30 years, lightning killed an average of 67 people per year in the United States, based on documented cases. The Tampa Bay area experiences the most lightning strikes, hence the title "Lightning Capital of the U.S." When lightning strikes, one should seek shelter (not under a tree) from the onset of the storm until it passes. If one is on the MacDill AFB Flight Line, or anywhere on base, listen to the "BIG VOICE" system which broadcasts weather event alerts. Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain area in a thunderstorm. That's about the distance you can hear thunder. When a storm is 10 miles away, it may be difficult to determine that a storm is coming. Use the "30-30 Rule" where visibility is good and there is nothing obstructing your view of the thunderstorm. When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If that time is 30 seconds or less, the thunderstorm is within 6 miles of your current location; and it is dangerous. Seek shelter immediately. The threat of lightning continues for much longer than most people realize. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder before leaving shelter. Don't be misled by sunshine or clear skies! **IF YOU CAN HEAR THUNDER, YOU ARE WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE. SEEK SAFE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!** Inside homes, people must also avoid activities, such as bathing or washing dishes, which put their lives at risk from a possible lightning strike. As with the outdoor activities, these activities should be avoided before, during, and after the storm. In particular, people should stay away from windows and doors and avoid contact with anything that conducts electricity. Action should also be taken prior to the storm to protect property inside the home, such as electronic equipment.

### HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

For the East Coast of the United States, hurricane season is 1 June through 1 December. The most active months are August, September and October, with the first two weeks of September marking the season's peak. To better prepare for a hurricane, obtain a copy of the Florida evacuation map. Know what to do before the first hurricane forms, if a hurricane is on the way it may be too late. Where will you go if you are evacuated? Have a plan! Attend the annual Hurricane Party for additional and updated information. Hurricane hazards come in many forms: storm surge, high winds, tornadoes, and flooding. Therefore, it is important that your family evacuation plan addresses the safety actions required for each hazard. When facing a hurricane threat, use common sense. And be able to answer the following questions before a hurricane threatens:

What are the hurricane hazards? What is the personal impact? What preparatory actions should be taken? Your next course of action should be to:

- Discuss the hazards with your family.
- Know your home's vulnerability to **storm surge, flooding and wind.**
- Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In certain circumstances, the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.
- Determine escape routes from your home and alternate locations to meet should you become separated. Escape routes and alternate locations should be measured in tens of miles rather than hundreds of miles.
- Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so that all family members have a single point of contact.
- Plan now for your pet's needs if you are required to evacuate. Shelters do not accept pets.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and ensure children know how and when to call 911.
- Check your insurance coverage - flood damage is not usually covered by homeowner's insurance.
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and maintain a disaster supply kit; see the article, which follows for suggestions.
- Use a NOAA weather radio. Remember to replace the battery every 6 months, as you do with your smoke detectors.
- Take First Aid, CPR and Disaster Preparedness classes.
- Visit these web sites for more information:

<http://www.tbo.com/weather/>

<http://www.baynews9.com/Hurricane.html>

**The following numbers will be active and manned only in the event of an actual hurricane threatening MacDill AFB.**

CENTCOM Command Center 1-866-656-7754

6th Air Mobility Wing 1-800-435-9941

### HURRICANES - ARE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY PREPARED?

- Know your evacuation zone and plan to relocate, if your home is located in an evacuation zone or is a mobile home.
- Ensure your Directorate's Disaster Preparedness Officer or designated Point of Contact knows your anticipated evacuation location.
- Find refuge with a friend, co-worker, relative, or a hotel located outside the evacuation zone. Also include the anticipated location of dependents, if evacuation to separate locations is anticipated. Include e-mail addresses and telephone numbers for each location.
- Prepare a complete inventory of personal property; make photo or video records of major items and bring these records with you.

- Prepare a household disaster plan, which pre-determines where your family will reunite if involuntarily separated. Select an out-of-town contact to which everyone can report their current location and situation.
- Locate the nearest public shelter as a back-up to your primary plan.
- Ensure personal vehicles, personal property and real estate is adequately insured. And if you are renting or leasing a residence, ensure you have a "renter's insurance policy" in full force and effect and that your geographic location and residence are accurately recorded with your insurance company.
- Obtain supplies to protect your property and for survival support.
- Have a photo I.D., such as a driver's license, which indicates a current address. It may be required when seeking permission to re-enter your neighborhood or property.
- Fuel all vehicles.
- Clear the yard of anything that could become a wind launched projectile.
- Obtain cash. During the recovery period, checks and credit cards may not be accepted and ATMs may not be operational.
- At a minimum, prepare yourself to be without food and water for at least 7 days.
- Constantly monitor weather broadcasts. Hurricanes typically move at a forward speed of 8 to 25 miles per hour. This means an approaching storm can move up to 200 miles during the course of a normal work day. Bay News 9, 970 am, and the Weather Channel are two examples of weather information sources. Additionally, storms can be followed online at [www.tbo.com](http://www.tbo.com), [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov), or [www.hurricane.weathercenter.com](http://www.hurricane.weathercenter.com)

### EVACUATION

A good evacuation plan saves lives! Evacuation zones are based on the expected storm surge from a hurricane that will push water levels up along coastlines and into bays and rivers. Don't begin driving without a planned destination that avoids potential storm surges. Leave as soon as possible after the order is given. Traffic will only worsen with delay. Evacuation orders are issued long before a storm makes landfall. Officials make every effort to allow for 12 to 15 hours of good weather, but the weather will worsen long before the storm strikes. Remember that bridges will be closed when winds top 40 mph, and by then water could be crashing over causeways. And everyone in a mobile home must evacuate no matter the size of the approaching storm.

### PUBLIC SHELTER

A public shelter offers safety not in luxury. Pets, guns alcohol, nor smoking are permitted within a shelter. Shelters usually do not provide beds or cots. At 10 sq ft per person, they are crowded. Occupants must bring their own bedding or be prepared to sleep on the floor. A simple fare, usually cold, of food is provided. To avoid boredom bring books, cards and quiet games for adults and children. Bring headphones with a battery-powered CD player as a courtesy to others. Pack sufficient clothes and toiletries for three days.

### HURRICANE READY KIT

At a minimum, prepare to be without food and water for at least seven days. Items can be stored in plastic garbage cans with lids or waterproof containers. Suggested Hurricane Ready Kit (required shelter items are marked with an \*) follow:

- \*Valuables/important papers (director's recall list, insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, social security card, house and car keys, important phone numbers, wills, birth certificates, ID Cards, etc) placed in waterproof containers
- \*Canned, non-perishable foods, snacks. A non-electric can opener.
- \*Water - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 7 days
- \*Cooking items (pots, pans, knives, cutting board) and eating utensils.
- \*Camp stove (with fuel)
- \*Lantern (with fuel)
- \*Butane lighter or matches
- \*Several flashlights and fresh batteries.
- \*A portable, battery operated radio, a National Oceanic & Atmospheric NOAA Weather Radio, & batteries.
- \*Cell phone, extra battery
- \*A Camera with extra film to record storm damage to property
- \*Battery operated clock
- \*Zippered plastic bags (to protect valuables)
- \*Plastic garbage bags (to cover clothes remaining in the closet and protect bedding, etc)
- \*A portable cooler and ice. Always keep extra blocks of ice in freezer.
- \*Special Items - for babies and the elderly (medicines)

- \*Baby food, formula, diapers, baby wipes
- \*Games and books for children, CD player with ear phones.
- \*Bedding, pillows, blankets or sleeping bags (1 blanket/sleeping bag per person), air mattress
- \*Iodine or other water purification tablets.
- \*Bleach, to sanitize everything.
- \*Candles and matches.
- \*Clothing - seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes
- \*First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs
- \*Toiletries/Hygiene items/Moisture wipes (toothpaste, toilet paper, soap).
- \*Vehicle fuel tanks filled
- \*Pet care items (proper ID/immunization records/ medications), ample supply of food and water, a carrier/cage, muzzle and leash
- \*Canned drinks (water, juice, sodas)
- \*Mosquito repellent
- \*Clothes & dish detergent, sponge, bowl to wash in
- \*Clothesline and pins
- \*Masking tape, Plastic drop cloths
- \*Fire extinguisher - ABC type
- \*Cleaning supplies for after the storm -brooms & mops, pails, buckets, sponges, rags, etc.
- \*Comfortable clean work clothes and sturdy shoes/boots
- \*Gloves & goggles
- \*Small tools (hammer, screwdrivers, wrench, etc)
- \*Ladders, Wheelbarrow, rope, plywood & nails
- \*Rakes & shovels, axes, hatchets, pruners, chain saw, gas & oil
- \*Duct and masking tape, Rolls of plastic

Review this inventory at the beginning of each hurricane season, replacing batteries, foods, water, etc. with fresh

stock for the new season. Make sure items are stored in a readily accessible and safe location.

### SEVERE STORM SCALES/CATEGORIES

<u>Tropical Depression:</u>	Winds: 20-34 knots (38 mph or less)	No storm surge
<u>Tropical Storm:</u>	Winds: 35-64 knots (39 to 73 mph)	No storm surge
<u>Hurricane Categories:</u>		
Category 1	Winds of 64-82 knots (74-95 mph)	Storm surge 4 to 5 feet above normal
Category 2	Winds of 83-95 knots (96-110 mph)	Storm surge 6 to 8 feet above normal
Category 3	Winds of 96-113 knots (111-130 mph)	Storm surge 9 to 12 feet above normal
Category 4	Winds of 114 to 135 knots (131-155 mph)	Storm surge 13 to 18 feet above normal
Category 5	Winds above 135 knots (155 mph)	Storm surge more than 18 feet above normal
<u>Tornado Scale:</u> Hurricanes often spawn small tornadoes. Tornadoes are ranked in the Fujita Tornado Scale according to wind speed.		
	F-0: Up to 72 mph winds	F-3: 158-206 mph winds
	F-1: 73-112 mph winds	F-4: 207-260 mph winds
	F-2: 113-157 mph winds	F-5: 261 mph and above winds

### HURRICANES DURATION

Dangerous winds strike long before the most powerful winds arrive. High winds will continue after the center passes. They also can spawn tornadoes far from the storm's center and its most powerful winds. Do not expect help at the height of the storm. Emergency workers, police, firefighters and ambulances vacate the roads when wind conditions reach approximately 40 mph due to dangerous travel conditions. Remain in a windowless room with no, or few, exterior walls. Stay out of the garage. The garage door can be one of the most vulnerable parts of your home during a hurricane.

### AFTER THE STORM

Check the ceilings for signs of a possible cave-in. When outside, remain clear of floodwater because it is often contaminated by sewage and chemicals. Additionally, it could be electrically charged by downed power lines. Photograph any home damage and notify the insurance agent. Minimize or prevent additional damage by making emergency repairs and save sales receipts. Food usually keeps 4 to 6 hours in the refrigerator; thawed freezer food may usually be eaten provided that it retains a temperature of 50 degrees or below.

### BEACH SAFETY

Florida and the Tampa Bay Area in particular, have many beautiful beaches. Enjoy the beaches; but remain alert to the hidden hazards.

**SUNBURN** Avoid severe sunburn by: always wearing sunscreen of SPF30 or higher, limiting sun exposure, and completely avoiding peak exposure between 10-3 o'clock; remaining hydrated with plenty of non-alcoholic liquids to avoid heat stroke, and learning to swim!

**RIP CURRENTS** Rip currents are powerful, channeled currents of water flowing away from shore. Typically they extend from the shoreline, through the surf zone, and past the line of breaking waves. Rip currents readily form on any beach with breaking waves, including the Great Lakes. And they are killers. United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) approximates annual rip current deaths at more than 100. Rip currents also account for over 80% of lifeguard rescues. Be safe, recognize the danger and always swim at a lifeguard-protected beach. According to the USLA, odds of drowning at a USLA affiliated lifeguard protected beach are 1 in 18 million

#### Be Beach Wise:

- Whenever possible, swim at a lifeguard-protected beach and never swim alone.
- Learn to skillfully swim in the surf, which requires different skills than those associated with swimming in a pool or lake.
- Always be cautious, but especially while swimming at unguarded beaches. "If in doubt, don't go out."
- Obey lifeguards; they are trained to identify potential hazards. Ask them about existing conditions before entering the water.
- Stay at least 100 feet away from piers and jetties. Permanent rip currents often exist alongside these structures.
- Wear polarized sunglasses, which reduce glare and reflected light from the ocean, making it easier to spot rip current signatures.
- Pay particularly close attention to children and the elderly. Even in shallow water, wave action can cause loss of footing.

#### If caught in a rip current:

- Remain calm to conserve energy and think clearly.
- Never fight the current. Instead, think of it as a treadmill that cannot be turned off; therefore, you must step to the side of it to escape from it.
- Swim from the current by following the shoreline. When clear of it, swim at an angle--away from the current and towards shore.
- If you are unable to swim out of the rip current, float or calmly tread water. When out of the current, swim towards shore.
- If you are still unable to reach shore, draw attention to yourself by waving your arms and yelling for help.

#### Don't attempt a rescue and become a victim too:

- If you are not a trained water rescuer, get help from a lifeguard, if no lifeguard is available, have someone call 9-1-1.
- Throw the rip current victim something that floats--a lifejacket, a cooler, an inflatable ball.
- And yell escape instructions to them.
- Remember, many people drown while attempting to save someone else from a rip current.

## HQ USCENTCOM FAMILY READINESS CHECKLIST

This Family Readiness Checklist is brought to you by the CENTCOM and MacDill Family Readiness Programs. If you have additional questions, call your Directorate Family Readiness Coordinator (listed in the newsletter) or the MacDill AFB Family Readiness Center, Readiness NCO at 828-0122. Originally, this checklist was designed for families preparing for deployment, but it also works well for others. In any event, those completing it, are prepared for an unanticipated deployment.

### Important Documents and Actions

- Wills**  
Member: Beneficiary \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse: Beneficiary \_\_\_\_\_  
Located \_\_\_\_\_
- Virtual Record of Emergency Data (VRED) (was known as DD Form 93)**  
Updated with current information. Be sure to review data EVERY time you deploy. Things change and you forget.
- Life Insurance (Check that beneficiaries are current)**  
SGLI: Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Beneficiary \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Life Insurance: Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Beneficiary \_\_\_\_\_  
Policy Located \_\_\_\_\_
- Power of Attorney**  
General \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_  
Special \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_
- Orders (be sure to leave a copy with your spouse)**
- Military ID Cards & DEERS enrollment (Check ID card expiration dates)**  
Self: Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse: Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_  
Child: Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_  
Child: Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_
- Personal Affairs Information (Insert)**
- Dependent Care Certification (for single parents/dual service couples)**
- What About Me (be sure to designate person who will care for your children if your spouse becomes ill or unable to provide care)**
- Marriage License/Prenuptial Agreement**  
Located \_\_\_\_\_
- Birth Certificates (locate originals and make copies)**  
Copies Located \_\_\_\_\_
- Adoption Papers**  
Located \_\_\_\_\_
- Naturalization/Citizenship Papers**
- Driver's License(s)**  
Husband: # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_  
Wife: # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_
- Passports**  
Husband: # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_  
Wife: # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_  
Child: # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_  
Child: # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_
- Vehicle Registration Expiration Date (Registration & proof of insurance in car)**  
Vehicle #1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Vehicle #2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Base Decal Expiration Date:**  
Vehicle #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle #2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Vehicle Maintenance Records (Leave in car with name and phone of preferred garage) Brief driver on correct tire pressure, grade of gas to use and how to pump, where to get oil changed, mileage for next service (if you can't service car(s) before you leave)**
- Vehicle Maintenance Warranties/Guarantees**  
Tires: Guarantee Located \_\_\_\_\_  
Battery: Guarantee Located \_\_\_\_\_
- Vehicle Keys (Be sure your spouse or other driver has complete set plus spares in the event of loss)**
- Vehicle Insurance and Accident Procedures**  
Insurance Policy with \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Located \_\_\_\_\_  
Auto Club & Membership # \_\_\_\_\_
- Post Office Box: # \_\_\_\_\_ combination/key \_\_\_\_\_**  
Location of PO box \_\_\_\_\_
- Family Hurricane Action Plan (discuss plan with all family members—how to prepare house and yard, where and when to evacuate and what to take, location and contents of emergency supplies kit, pet care, meeting place if separated) CENTCOM Toll free # is 1-866-656-7754  
MacDill Emergency Toll free # is 1-800-288-2034  
Hurricane Preparation and Tips are at [www.centcom.mil](http://www.centcom.mil) under Family Services (at the bottom of the CENTCOM homepage)**
- What About Me Program (be sure to list your flood zone and if family will relocate, and how to contact them)**
- Financial Plan (If spouse will be assuming budgeting and bill-paying responsibilities, be sure to show and explain budget, location of checkbook or how to pay bills online, location of bank/ATM. Leave ATM card and access number. Leave information on accessing MyPay for LES)**
- Household Maintenance & Hurricane Preparation for House (Tell your spouse all your home maintenance tips like location of fuse box and how to use, location of water shutoff and how to use, filter changes, pool operation, where to store patio furniture, etc. for storms, how to install hurricane shutters or boards, collection days for trash/recycling, how to test smoke alarms and use fire extinguishers, lawn mower operation...)  
Call \_\_\_\_\_  
if anything in the house requires maintenance or if you require assistance preparing for the storms.**
- House Keys (Be sure your spouse has a complete set of keys to house, garage, storage sheds, mailbox, gates)**

- **Personal Safety** (Be sure your spouse and children know important emergency telephone numbers)

Police \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Poison Control \_\_\_\_\_  
 School \_\_\_\_\_  
 CENTCOM \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Family Members \_\_\_\_\_  
 Neighbor \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPLOYMENT - TOP FIVE CONCERNS**

Deployment can be a heart-wrenching experience - for the spouse and family as well as for the Service member. Having a loved one deployed means shifting roles and changing responsibilities while maintaining a stable family life, research has shown that families who take special care of these Top Five Concerns listed below fare extremely well during separations:

**Finances and Legal Matters** - Be sure everything is taken care of before the service member departs. Take the time to explain financial and legal issues if your spouse hasn't been actively involved prior to your deployment. What may seem simple knowledge to you could pose huge problems for a family member if you haven't taken the time to explain what's going on.

**Use military support services** - Family Members: You're not alone. There are lots of official and unofficial sources of aid and assistance in the Tampa area, on MacDill AFB, and within CENTCOM. Surf the web ([www.military.com](http://www.military.com), [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com), [www.centcom.mil](http://www.centcom.mil)) and use the services advertised on base and in the CENTCOM Family Newsletter.

**Safety and Emergencies** - Be sure to plan ahead for worst-case scenarios. Having a family plan where everyone knows what to do and where to go will ease stress. Use the Community Services of your local police or sheriff's office. Know your neighbors and your CENTCOM Family Coordinator and ask for help when you need it.

**Out of sight, not out of mind** - In this technologically advanced age, it's easier than ever to keep in touch with each other—no matter how far apart you may be. A short email a day isn't difficult. Include your children in your communications.

**All in the Family** - Separation is tough on all family members. If you have questions relating to your spouse's deployment or experience problems which your spouse's Directorate can assist you in resolving, call your Directorate family support coordinator.

**MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE (AFB)**



The 6th Air Mobility Wing is a 3,000-person force capable of rapidly projecting air refueling power anywhere in the world. They are organized into five unique groups (6th Maintenance Group, 6th Medical Group, 6th Operations Group, 6th Mission Support Group and staff agencies) to carry out their mission as America's premier mobility team for providing world-class air refueling, responsive airlift and airbase support to Headquarters, U.S. Central Command, Headquarters U.S. Special Operations Command, and 51 other mission partners that call MacDill AFB home. The website for MacDill AFB info is: <http://public.macdill.af.mil/>

**MISSION PARTNERS**

In addition to the 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill Air Force Base is also home to more than 50 Mission Partners, including United States Central Command and United States Special Operations Command. The presence of these two unified commands and other Mission Partners creates a unique multi-service community at MacDill AFB, with all branches of service represented. So although MacDill is an Air Force Base, it is also home to many soldiers, sailors and Marines. The current mission partners at MacDill AFB include:

United States Central Command: USCENTCOM is the unified command responsible for U.S. security interests in 27 nations that stretch from the Horn of Africa through the Arabian Gulf region, into Central Asia. The headquarters staff includes approximately 900 personnel from each of the four branches of service.

United States Special Operations Command: USSOCOM is the unified command, which directs approximately 47,000 active duty and reserve component special operations, psychological operations and civil affairs forces from the Army, Navy and Air Force under a single commander.

Joint Communications Support Element: The JCSE is a highly specialized and rapidly deployable tactical communications unit under the operational control of the Joint Staff. Members from all service branches provide communications support for contingency military operations, disaster relief and evacuation activities.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: NOAA is one of the leading scientific agencies in the U.S. government. Its mission is to describe and predict changes in Earth's environment and to promote global environmental stewardship. NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center at MacDill is home to 14 research and reconnaissance aircraft which participate in meteorological oceanographic experiments, including hurricane observation.

**VISITORS TO MACDILL AFB**

MacDill Air Force Base is located eight miles south of Tampa, Florida, on the tip of Interbay Peninsula in Hillsborough County. To come to the base take either the Dale Mabry exit from either I-275 or the Crosstown Expressway (this is a toll road). Take Dale Mabry south to the base's main gate. The Visitor's Reception Facility (VRF) is on the right just before the gate. The Dale Mabry Gate, located on Dale Mabry Hwy, is also the Main Gate, open 24 hours. Bayshore Gate, located on Bayshore Blvd., is open from 4:30am to 9:30pm daily. MacDill Gate, located on MacDill Ave, is open for workday rush hour traffic only, 6am-9am and 5pm-6pm for outbound traffic. All visitors to MacDill Air Force Base must process through the Visitor Reception Facility. Visitors 18 years and older, seeking admission

to the base must have a valid photo identification card. All vehicles entering the base must have proof of registration and insurance. Base visitors must be accompanied by a sponsor at all times. To contact the Visitor Reception Facility call 968-2737(DSN) or 813-828-2737 (Commercial). Due to force protection issues and limited parking spaces at the Visitor Reception Center, parking at this location is restricted to one hour. Vehicles unattended for more than one hour are subject to ticketing and towing at the owner's expense. Vehicles parked on the unimproved seeded area along Pinewood Drive are also subject to towing. If the one hour VRF parking restriction must be exceeded due to unforeseen circumstances, (i.e. vehicle breakdown, official business, etc.) call 828-3809. (Please note: vehicle registration once required at MacDill AFB, is not required at the time of this printing)

### DRIVING ON BASE

All passengers are required to wear a seatbelt while a motor vehicle is in operation. The vehicle operator is responsible for ensuring all passenger seatbelts are properly secured prior to operating the vehicle and will be ticketed if they are not. Children under four years of age and or under forty (40) pounds must be secured in a certified and properly installed car safety seat. Mr. Donald Washington at the Wing Safety Office is available to inspect car safety seats for proper installation. Call 828-3383 to schedule an appointment. ( For additional information on this and other childhood safety topics go to [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org). Safe Kids is an international nonprofit organization dedicated solely to preventing unintentional childhood injury). The MacDill AFB speed limit is 30 mph unless otherwise posted. The speed limit in all base housing areas is 15 mph. By Florida statute, drivers must have their headlights on any time visibility is less than 150 feet. As a precautionary measure: When your windshield wipers are on, turn on your headlights. Pay careful attention to traffic signs and drive cautiously.

### CELL PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING ON BASE

Cell phone use by the driver of a moving motor vehicle is prohibited on all Department of Defense (DoD) installations, unless the cell phone in use is a hands-free device. Violators will be ticketed and receive a \$50 fine.

### MILITARY IDENTIFICATION CARDS

The military spouse, active duty or retired, also known as the "Sponsor," must complete all paperwork required for eligible dependents to receive military benefits. All military family members, ten (10) years of age and older are required to possess their own Military Identification (ID) cards, which must be presented prior to admission to military bases, exchanges, and commissaries. The card also authorizes eligible dependents to receive medical care in accordance with the provisions of their military health care plan. Verify with Pass and ID, which documents must be presented prior to an ID card being issued. Typically, a marriage license, birth certificate, photo identification card, and Department of Defense Form 1172 (application form) are required to apply for a military ID card. Coalition military and family members must obtain a letter of authorization from the Coalition Liaison Office before proceeding to the CENTCOM Pass and ID section to obtain a military identification card. The Pass and ID section is located in building 373 across from the MacDill Inn. For hours of operation and additional information, call 828-2728.

### BASE NEWSPAPER/SERVICES MAGAZINE



A number of on-base services and activities are available to active and retired Service members and their families with a valid military ID card. Information regarding these services and activities is available in "Base, Bay & Beyond" magazine. Mailed directly to Bayshore and Surf's

Edge Club members, this magazine may also be obtained at various on-base locations such as membership clubs, the golf course, fitness center, etc., or viewed on-line at [www.macdillservices.com](http://www.macdillservices.com). Copies of the MacDill Thunderbolt, the weekly base newspaper, may also be picked-up at various on-base locations such as the BX, Commissary and the

CENTCOM Headquarters Building, or viewed online at: <http://www.macdillthunderbolt.com/index.html>

### AIR FORCE FINANCE OFFICE

The Air Force Comptroller's office is located in Building 149 at 2606 Brown Pelican Ave. The commercial telephone number for customer service is (813) 828-5377; the DSN telephone number is 968-5477. Coalition Members must coordinate with the Coalition Liaison Office regarding financial issues, which are then handled by the Coalition Resource Management Office.

### COMMISSARY

The MacDill AFB Commissary is located on North Boundary Road, near the MacDill Avenue Gate. Except for federal holidays, its daily hours of operation are from 9 am to 7pm, seven days a week. Disabled patrons may begin shopping 30 minutes prior to normal commissary hours. This ultra-modern facility offers 30 check-out lanes, a large deli, a takeout sandwich shop (open 11am-2pm), fresh seafood market, sushi bar, olive bar, bakery, and an extensive assortment of international foods, fresh fruits, vegetables and live plants. For additional information, call the Commissary information recording at 813-828-3196 or the commissary office at 813-828-3361/3362 during duty hours. Information is also available on-line at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com). Please note that the



individuals packaging, transporting and placing groceries into patron's vehicles are called "Baggers." Unlike their counterparts in the civilian sector, base baggers work for TIPS ONLY. Because they do not earn wages, in effect, the generosity of patrons pays their salaries. There is no set standard for tipping baggers; some patrons tip a set amount per bag, while others choose to tip a percentage of their total grocery bill, similar to the way diner's tip in a restaurant. A cafe-style seating area is available at the front of the store where patrons may enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee.

## BASE EXCHANGE (BX)



The Army Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) Main Exchange at MacDill is located on North Boundary Road, Bldg 926, which is conveniently accessed by both the Dale Mabry and MacDill Avenue Gates. The Exchange provides quality merchandise to service members and their families while using the profits to fund quality of life programs. The indoor mall includes booths selling various items (which change often), a Flag store, a Cell Phone Service booth, a food court, which offers: Mexican food, pizza, sandwiches, ice cream, coffee shop, and smoothies. In addition, a satellite pharmacy, a laundry and dry cleaners, optical shop, hearing aid service and sales shop, jewelry store, barber shop, flower shop, beauty shop and the ITT office is located within the mall. Also located nearby on the premise is the Uniform Shop, Class Six store (a liquor store), and the Base Exchange Furniture Store. For additional information and hours of operation, call 813-840-0511, or visit the online site at: [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com)

### BX CONCESSIONS

Barber Shop, 813-840-0087  
Beauty Shop, 813-840-0525  
Class Six (Liquor Store), 813-840-2323  
GNC Fitness & Nutrition Center, 813-840-2505  
Flower Shop, Hours  
Information, Tickets and Travel (ITT) Office, 813-828-2478  
Leisure Travel, 828-1860  
Furniture Store, 813-840-2584  
Military Clothing Sales, 813-840-2375  
Optical Shop, Hours, 813-840-2292  
Dry Cleaning/Laundry, 813-840-0395  
BX Refill Pick Up Center, 828-2175

### BX FOOD COURT

American Eatery  
Frank's Franks  
Baskin Robbins  
Dunkin Donuts

Robin Hood  
Anthony's Pizza  
Taco Bell  
Cinnabon, coffee and bakery

### ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE BX



Burger King, hamburgers, salads and other fast food items.  
Shoppette, a small store, video rental, some food, beer, sodas; Hours: Open 24 hours  
Gas Station (petrol), 813-840-2506 or 840-0448 open 24 hours; Auto Pride/Car Care Center  
PharmaCARE Pharmacy (medical prescriptions), 813-828-2226

### INFORMATION, TICKETS & TRAVEL (ITT) OFFICE



Located in the BX Mall, ITT offers military discounted tickets to most of Florida's major attractions. While discount savings vary, all ITT tickets offer the additional savings of being sold tax-free. In addition, ITT provides a leisure travel service in the same location. ITT may be contacted by telephone at: 813-828-2478, 828-1860. Local attractions include: Adventure Island (Water Park), Florida Aquarium, Busch Gardens, IMAX, Starship Dining Yacht, Lowry Park Zoo, Museum of Science and Industry, and tickets for Lightning hockey, Storm indoor arena football, and Devil Rays baseball home games. The Orlando area offers a wealth of entertainment which includes: Disney World (The Magic Kingdom, Epcot, MGM Studios, Animal Kingdom). Get a tan or "swim like a fish" at Wet 'n Wild or at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon or Blizzard Beach before going on to visit Sea World, Ripley's Believe It Or Not, Fantasy of Flight or Universal Studios. Great food and excellent shows await you at Arabian Nights, Medieval Times, Sleuth's Mystery Dinner, and Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede. Also offered are tickets for special events at the St. Petersburg Times Forum, including Disney on Ice, WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment), Ringling Bros. Circus and select concerts. Commuters can save time, money, and gas by purchasing Hartline Bus Passes. Additional offerings include: Shades of Green Resort at Walt Disney World, Hale Koa Hotel in Hawaii, Edelweiss Lodge & Resort in Germany. Hotel and cruise ship bookings are also available. (813) 828-2478

## AIRMAN AND FAMILY READINESS FLIGHT CENTER

Shortly after your arrival, be sure to visit the Airman and Family Readiness Center, a treasure trove of valuable information about military life and this installation. Whether new to military service or approaching retirement, the Center's diverse programs assist families in making smooth transitions. Services provided include:

- Career Focus Program provides current information on the local job market.
- Transition Assistance Program (TAP) assists military and DOD civilian members to transition from military life to the private sector.
- FSC offers employment assistance to spouses for career planning, improving job skills and identifying vocational career interests. Classes, workshops, an employment resource center with computers and one-on-one assistance are available.
- Personal Financial Management Program (PFMP) provides education, counseling and information personal finance management.



Changes at MacDill will be brought online in phases, but when complete, it is expected the AFRC will administer The Right Start Program and Casualty Assistance program. Please read the Thunderbolt newspaper for updates on changes.

Located on Florida Keys Ave, the hours of operation are: Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm; Thurs, 9am-4:30pm. For additional information, call 813-828-0145 (commercial) or 813-655-3181 (FAX). CENTCOM liaison is Mark Stanford, who can be reached at 813-828-2721 or e-mail [mark.stanford@macdill.af.mil](mailto:mark.stanford@macdill.af.mil).

### MacDill Family Resource Center (MFRC)

The MacDill Family Resource Center, (MFRC) located in Brandon, Florida, provides services to all active duty, retired personnel and their families from all branches of service. Programs offered include: legal assistance, personal financial management, and employment assistance and relocation information. Additionally, a supervised playgroup is offered. The MFRC has a loan locker, offers tax assistance by appointment and a resource center that includes internet access for education or employment purposes. If there is a service sought that is not currently offered, please inform us, no request is too small or large. Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm. For additional information, please call 813-655-9281 or visit [MacDill's Brandon Family Resource Center \(MFRC\)](#) at 710 Oakfield Dr, Suite 153, Brandon,

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT MACDILL AFB

Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) Human Resources, 6<sup>th</sup> Services employs more than 400 NAF employees. For additional NAF employment information, call the MacDill Civilian Personnel Office: 813-828-2911 or go to [www.macdillservices.com](http://www.macdillservices.com) and click on "career" to visit the HRO page. Military spouses not named on their spouse's orders cannot receive a spousal employment preference. This issue usually arises when a military member marries after publication of their official orders, but prior to their PCS move.

### LEGAL OFFICE

The Base Legal Office is located at 8208 Hanger Loop Road and their hours of operation are Monday through Friday. Times vary, but the best time to come in is between 0900-1600 hours. Those eligible for legal assistance include: active duty military members, (including reservists and guardsmen on federal active duty under title 10), family members entitled to an ID card, civilian employees stationed overseas and their family members with ID cards, retired military members and their dependents with ID cards. For hours of operation and additional information call: (813) 828-4421.

#### LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED INCLUDES:

- Wills, Living Wills, Powers of Attorney, and Notaries
- Service member's Civil Relief Act and Veteran's reemployment rights issues.
- Casualty affairs: family care plan issues, involuntary allotment issues.
- Landlord-tenant and lease issues
- Tax assistance
- Involuntary allotment issues
- Powers of Attorneys and Notaries (walk-ins welcome)
- Legal assistance and wills (appointment required)

### BANK/CREDIT UNION & MONEY ORDER PURCHASES

The Armed Forces Bank, located in the Main Base Exchange, cashes checks (a daily check cashing limit may apply) In addition a checking or savings account may be opened, money orders purchased, and international currency exchanged at this location.

Grow Financial Federal Credit Union (Formerly, MacDill Federal Credit Union), 2418 Florida Keys Ave., Bldg 102. Eighteen community branches are available to service members. Membership is open to the following: Employees of approved Select Employee Groups, immediate family members of existing members, members of the same household of an existing member, Active & Retired Military, and MacDill Air Force Base Civilian Personnel. Visit their website for info: [www.macdill.org](http://www.macdill.org)  
For additional locations and hours of operation, call (813) 837-2451.

Money Order Purchases - In addition, money orders may also be purchased from any Western Union or from most major supermarkets, convenience stores, personal banking institutions, check cashing services and other stores displaying the Western Union sign. A money order may be used to pay bills or purchase goods or services and may be requested in lieu of a check by some businesses under certain

circumstances. Money Orders are purchased with cash in the amount of the face value plus an additional nominal service fee. For instance, to purchase a \$25.00 dollar money order, one would usually pay \$25.00 plus the service fee, which varies but normally, should not exceed \$25.00. In the above example, total amount to be paid for a money order with a face value of \$25.00 is \$27.00. The money order, printed with a face value of \$25.00, is then completed in the same manner as a check. And at some locations it can be printed out to specification.

#### MOVIE THEATER

The MacDill theatre is located on Florida Keys Ave. Call 828-3973 for a recording of movies & show times



#### MINI MALL ON CONDOR ROAD

Condor Road, Bldg 17, also contains the Thrift Shop & Post Office, near the Main Swimming Pool  
Subway Sandwich Shop - 813-828-2028  
Barber Shop 813-840-2154  
Enterprise Car Rental, 813-840-2613  
Laundromat - 24 Hrs. 7 days a week  
Laundry/Dry Cleaners - 813-840-0856

#### THRIFT SHOP

This non-profit resale store accepts consignments of gently used clothing, furniture, household, and a variety of other reusable items, which it sells at very reasonable prices. The consignment earned by the shop on each sale is donated to programs that provide scholarships to military children. The Thrift Shop is located at 8105 Condor St, Bldg 18. For additional information and hours of operation, call: 813-840-2169.



#### U.S. POST OFFICE/MAIL

8106 Condor St, Bldg 18, 800-275-8777, Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4:30 pm, Services available: stamps, cardboard boxes, P.O. Box rental, mail letters and packages.

**Postal Rates and Fees** The U.S. Postal Service's online postage calculator provides the postage price for mailing a letter or package to any worldwide location as long as the weight of the package and the originating and destination zip codes are known. To use the postal calculator, go to <http://postcalc.usps.gov/> Text charts for both domestic and international rates may also be viewed at this site. If the weight of the letter or package to be mailed is unknown, visit the nearest Post Office, where the postal clerk will weigh it and determine the postage due.

**Buying Stamps** The current cost of mailing a first-class postage is currently 41 cents, although rates tend to change often. Stamps are sold individually or in booklets of 10 (\$4.10) or 20 (\$8.20) or in rolls of 100 (\$41.00) Stamps may also be purchased from: the BX cashier, online (if you have a PC. Link to the U.S. Postal Service website (<http://www.usps.com>) and click on "stamps online"), at some ATM (automated teller) machines, at some pharmacies and supermarkets, by mail, retail mailing stores (you may have to pay a surcharge for stamps and to mail packages through the USPS)

**General Delivery Mail** For those who are relocating to MacDill without yet having a local mailing address, mail may be temporarily forwarded to them General Delivery at: Delivery at 8106 Condor Street PSC Box 3500, 33621. For additional information, call (813) 828-4430.



#### MACDILL BASE LIBRARY/EDUCATION CENTER

The library is available for use by all military personnel (active, reserve and retired) and their dependents with military ID cards. Persons taking classes or working on the base may also use the library. Computer labs with high-speed Internet access, scanner, Microsoft Office applications and multimedia capabilities are available. In addition quiet study areas and an activity room that can be reserved for special functions are available for use by patrons. Free document delivery and interlibrary loan are available and we also offer: Full-text online databases (military, academic, general interest); Extensive military history collection; Professional reading list titles for Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines; Test preparation materials for GRE, GMAT, SAT, ACT, LSAT, TOEFL, MCAT, DSST, CLEP, GED, ASVAB, Military Flight Aptitude, Officer Candidate; Popular fiction and non-fiction ; A large assortment of books on tape and CD, including foreign language courses, Music CDs; Movies on DVD and VHS; Children's fiction and non-fiction, including picture books; General interest and military magazines and newspapers.

The MacDill Base Library/Education Center is located at 8102 Condor Street, Building 252. For additional information and hours of operation, call 813-828-3607 (Commercial), or email: [macdilllibrary@hotmail.com](mailto:macdilllibrary@hotmail.com).

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

English Language Courses are available at the MacDill Learning Center, (813) 828-3115, MacDill Ave., cost is involved. Tinker Elementary: English As A Second Language Program (ESOL) teacher Ms. Janette Vega, 813-272-3020 (voice mail number 445), No cost involved, the instructor is paid by the state of Florida and is a certified teacher in the Hillsborough County school system.

### MACDILL CHAPEL



2204 Administration Avenue  
(Across from the MacDill Inn),  
813-828-3621 Religious  
Services, Reunion Cruises, Bible  
Studies, Men's Group, Women's  
Group, Youth Group, Single's

#### Protestant Worship Schedule:

Sunday Traditional Service-9am  
Sunday School - 10:30am  
Gospel Service - 12pm

#### Our Lady of the Bay Catholic Worship Schedule:

Saturdays Mass - 5:30pm  
Sundays - Religious Education - 9am, Mass - 10:30am

Group, and a Youth Program

### YOUTH SERVICES

MacDill AFB Youth Center, 7811 Hangar Loop Drive - Year-round programs and wholesome leisure-time activities offered at MacDill's Youth Center help improve and maintain the physical, social, and mental well-being of youth. In addition to the games, crafts, music, and sports after school activities provided to members of kindergarten age, the center also provides opportunities for youth up to 18 years of age to learn to be meaningful community members. Serving youth between 5 and 18 years of age, the special features of our School Age Program, Summer Camp, and "Mactivities" Enrichment opportunities make the Youth Center the #1 stop for newly arrived families. Field trips, dances, seminars, instructional classes, sports, and special events are just a few of the other special event activities available. Instructional classes in ballet, acrobatics, jazz, tap, Tae Kwon Do, and sports help make this a well-rounded program. A diversified sports program offers Little League and winter baseball, soccer, winter and summer basketball, flag football, and cheerleading for MacDill youth. Teens have their own area where they can "just hang out," play Nintendo or Sega, pool, ping-pong, or receive homework assistance. The Center also hosts membership nights, food and game nights, dances, and has a complete stereo system. The Youth Council meets monthly and provides teens an opportunity to actively participate in planning activities and events. Valuable developmental skills are applied in team-building concepts and planning. For additional information and hours of operation, call 813-828-7957.



### CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS & Before and After School Program



The Child Development Center currently provides hourly and weekly care for children as young as 6 months of age through 5 years of age. A current immunization record is required for entry into both centers. The MacDill Child Development Program operates two Child Development Centers. Enrollment is available on a priority basis for children 6 weeks to 5 years. Both centers are DoD Certified and NAEYC accredited, offering quality early childhood programming,

which specializes in learning through play. Additionally, both sites participate in the Florida Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program for eligible age children 4 and 5 years of age. USDA child care food program requirements are ensured. A pleasant environment is maintained, which promotes social awareness, sharing, and friendship among children. All meals and snacks are prepared in accordance with USDA guidelines. And programs receive a quarterly inspection from base agencies and Air Force personnel to ensure compliance with health, safety and program guidelines. In addition, the "Give Parents A Break Program" offers child care for families with a deployed sponsor or families under stress. Referrals are made by base agencies and First Sergeants. For hours of operation or additional information about this program, or other programs, to include reservations for deployed parents, contact the Center at (813) 828-3332.

Center #1: 8706 Hangar Loop Dr, Center (813-828-3332); Center #2: 8600 Hangar Loop Center (813-828-2244)

The Before-and-After School Program provides year-round care to children between ages 5 and 12. During the school year breakfast and snacks are provided. And during the summer participants receive lunch in addition.

2410 Florida Keyes Avenue (813-828-6758)

### TINKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

VISION: "Every child and adult at Tinker will be provided a positive, welcoming, and supportive atmosphere that is conducive to giving and receiving instruction. To create this environment, the 3 R's at Tinker are: Respect for ourselves, Respect for others, Respect for our school as a place of learning." MISSION: "At Tinker Elementary School we will educate our children in social, physical and academic skills that are meaningful and lifelong. We will provide opportunities for all our students and personnel to realize their self-worth and reach their maximum potential." All visitors must first report to the main office and receive a visitor pass to be legally present on school grounds. Tinker Elementary is undergoing a major construction project at this time and some classes are held in trailers. Enrollment: approx. 550 students, Uniforms: mandatory and may be purchased at local department stores. Activities/Programs: Clubs - Future Teachers, Friends/Neighbors, Showteam. Arts: Orchestra, Art, Band, Chorus, Theater, Before and After School Program.

Most students attending this school reside in the local neighborhood. For more information on this school and other schools in Hillsborough County visit: <http://apps.sdhc.k12.fl.us/sdhc2/schoolsite/display2.asp?site=4381>  
8207 Tinker Street, MacDill AFB, FL 33621, 813-840-2043, Fax: 813-233-3664, Attendance: 813-233-2307, Grades: PreK-5

### 6<sup>TH</sup> MEDICAL GROUP FACILITY

6<sup>th</sup> Medical Group is located at 8415 Bayshore Blvd. Clinic Hours of Operation 7am-4pm, Active Duty Military - 7am-4pm, 828-2273, Dental Clinic - 7:30am-4:30pm 827-9400, Dermatology Clinic - 8am-5pm 827-9378, Pediatric Clinic (TRICARE Prime Only!) - 7:30am-4:30pm 827-9207, Flight Medicine - (Mon-Fri) 7:30am-4:30pm 827-9805; GYN Clinic: 813-828-9681, Mental Health Clinic: 813-828-5315

Mental Health Support Center - (Bldg 250) 2410 Administrative Ave, 0730-1630, 827-9170/9171, Force Health Mgmt - (Non-empanelled physicals) 827-9886, TRICARE PRIME Enrollees - 7:30am-4:30pm 828-2273, Public Health - 7:30am-4:30pm 827-9601 Optometry - 7:30am-4:30pm 827-9132. Note: The 6th Medical Group (including the pharmacy) closes at 1100 hours on the third Wednesday of every month for training.

**PATIENT ADVOCATE:** The advocate assists patients in seeking satisfaction with care at the MacDill AFB Hospital. The Ombudsman can be reached at 813-827-9292 Mon-Fri 7:30am - 4:30pm. For those with additional questions or in need of further assistance, please visit the 6th Medical Group TRICARE Office, located adjacent to the hospital. The TRICARE Office hours: Mon-Fri 7:30 am-4:30pm. After-Hours Care: Determine the nearest TRICARE network or certified Urgent Care Center (UCC) for medical assistance. To locate a TRICARE network UCC, please call the Provider Locator at 1-800-444-5445 and follow the prompts or use the on-line option at [www.humana-military.com](http://www.humana-military.com). To exercise this option, go to, *Beneficiary Resources*, select *Provider Locator*, and choose *Urgent Care Centers*. As a prerequisite to reimbursement, the UCC provider selected must be TRICARE certified. TRICARE Prime enrollees treated in a TRICARE network UCC are not required to pay for care at the time of the visit. Those treated at a non-network certified UCC, may be required to pay for the care received at the time of the visit. For additional information on payment and reimbursements, please see the Urgent Care and Emergency Care Frequently Asked Questions section below.



### WHEN TO VISIT EMERGENCY/URGENT CARE CENTERS

1. For life threatening medical emergencies, always call 911 or proceed to the nearest Emergency Room. "Life threatening" is defined as loss of: life, limb, eyesight or chest pain or uncontrolled bleeding. If you are assigned to the 6 MDG and require non-emergency care requiring immediate assistance, please contact the on-call 6 MDG provider at (813) 828-2273. The on-call provider can determine whether treatment is required at an Urgent Care Center (UCC) or whether medical needs can be addressed by the 6 MDG on the next duty day.
2. Urgent Care Centers are not intended to replace a scheduled appointment with one's assigned Primary Care Manager during normal duty hours.
3. Always contact your MTF provider or assigned civilian provider FIRST before proceeding to an Urgent Care Center. After-hours or during the weekend, you may contact the MTF on-call provider. If your family is assigned to a civilian provider you may contact their answering service. It is also recommended that a written record be maintained, which includes the name of the person assisting you and issues discussed to be better able to respond to any future questions.
4. If directed to an Urgent Care Center, always contact your provider the next business day to receive authorization. Be sure to provide the following information: date of visit, name and address of the Urgent Care Center visited and presenting symptoms.  
**6th Medical Group TRICARE Office, located adjacent the hospital; call (827-9900) for hours of operation.**

### URGENT CARE CENTER AND EMERGENCY ROOM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following information is provided to answer frequently asked questions:

1. **Do I proceed to an Urgent Care Center (UCC) or an Emergency Room (ER)?** If the individual believes a serious medical condition exists, which threatens life, limb, or eyesight, they should proceed to the nearest ER. If **enrolled to the 6 MDG** and the medical need is not an emergency but urgent treatment or care is required, contact the on-call 6 MDG provider at (813) 828-2273. The on-call provider will assist in determining whether treatment at an Urgent Care Center is warranted or if care can be provided on the next duty day at the 6 MDG. Those proceeding to an UCC without first clearing the visit with an on-call provider may incur treatment cost. Those not enrolled in a 6 MDG clinic, should attempt to contact their civilian provider before proceeding to an UCC.
2. **What procedures do I follow after my visit?** TRICARE Prime members should contact their PCM within one duty day after receiving treatment at an UCC or ER. This allows for the scheduling of appropriate follow-up care and expedites the claims payment process. The Primary Care Manager reviews the consultation from the on-call provider and discusses further required care, if any. If UCC treatment is later deemed necessary, an authorization is provided. Your health is the primary concern of the 6th Medical Group which is why it is critical to contact your PCM after a visit to an UCC or ER.
3. **Where can I go to receive after-hours care?** Fortunately, the Tampa Bay area has a robust health care system. There are numerous Urgent Care Centers (UCCs) and ERs where after-hours urgent care or emergency care is available. By proactively determining the location of the nearest TRICARE network or certified UCC prior to a medical incident, you and your family are better prepared when the need arises. Area UCCs have different hours of operation, while ERs are open 24 hours a day. Individual UCCs may also have restrictions on the treatment age of patients. To locate a TRICARE network UCC, please call the Provider Locator at 1-800-

444-5445 and follow the prompts. Also available online at [www.humana-military.com](http://www.humana-military.com), *Beneficiary Resources*, select *Provider Locator*, and choose *Urgent Care Centers*. The location of nearby non-network UCCs can be found in your local telephone directory. The UCC must be **TRICARE certified** before cost reimbursement is made for the visit.

**4. How do I know if a non-network UCC is TRICARE certified?** The easiest and most direct method is to call the UCC and ask if they accept TRICARE. If they do, a good follow-up question is "Does your clinic bill TRICARE or will I have to pay at the time of the visit?" If the non-network UCC is TRICARE certified, but requires payment at the time of the visit, the bill may be brought to the local TRICARE Service Center for assistance filing a reimbursement claim.

**5. Will I be charged for my treatment at a community facility?** TRICARE Prime enrollees treated in a TRICARE network UCC are not required to pay for treatment at the time of the visit. Those treated at a non-network certified UCC **may** be required to pay for treatment at the time of the visit. Where payment is required at the time of treatment, print and complete the claim form (DD Form 2642) which may be found on the Humana-Military website ([www.humana-military.com](http://www.humana-military.com)). The form may be located at the TRICARE website by clicking on *Beneficiary Resources* and then *TRICARE Forms*. The instructions and address for submitting the claim form are on the website. If you are unable to access the form or have additional questions, please bring your bill to the TRICARE Service Center located adjacent to the 6 MDG Hospital, where TRICARE personnel can provide assistance. Allow at least 2-3 weeks for claims to process. NOTE: bills are only paid where a medical referral has been provided and entered by the primary health care provider. Claims for an ER visit are examined and reimbursed on a case-by-case basis.

**6. What if I am a TRICARE Standard/Extra member?** TRICARE Standard/Extra members, subject to the annual deductibles and co-pays, may seek treatment from any TRICARE-certified provider.

**7. Who can I contact for more information?** TRICARE medical benefit questions may be answered by Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc at 1-800-444-5445 ([www.humana-military.com](http://www.humana-military.com)) or by visiting your local TRICARE Service Center.

#### TRICARE NETWORK UCC / WALK IN CLINICS

Please contact the Urgent Care Center (UCC) for current facilities, driving directions & available service information before seeking treatment at these locations. The following list denotes the numerous locations and hours of availability: Care Plus Walk in Clinics, 519 E. Bloomingdale, Suite A; Brandon, FL 33511, 813-655-4100; Late Hours Urgent Care, 3, 3444 Lithia Pinecrest; Valrico, FL 33594, 813-643-9393, and 13162 U.S Hwy 301, Riverview, FL 33568 10pm-12am ; Now Care Walk-In Clinic, 1009 W. Baker St.; Plant City, FL 33563; Care Plus Walk in Clinic, 14462 Bruce B. Downs Blvd, Tampa, FL 33613, 813-676-9100; Fish Hawk Urgent Care, 5464 Lithia Pinecrest Rd, Lithia, FL 33547, 813-681-2111; Late Hours Urgent Care Center, 13162 US HWY 301, Riverview, FL 33569, 813-677-8788; Express Care of Tampa Bay, 6496 US 41 North; Apollo Beach, FL 33572, 813-641-0068; Convenient Care Med Center, 507 South MacDill Ave., Tampa, FL 33609, 813-350-9398, Doctor's Walk-In Clinic, INC, 26812 US Hwy 19 N.; Clearwater, FL, 33761, 727-799-2727; Hr: 8am-8pm (M-F), 8am-5:30pm

#### PHARMACY/MEDICATIONS



The 6th Medical Group has multiple locations and pharmaceutical care options to include: the Hospital Pharmacy, the PharmaCARE Center, the BX-Refill Pick-Up Center, and the Brandon Clinic Pharmacy. All Pharmacies, with the exception of the BX Refill Pick-Up Center, are closed on Saturday. All pharmacies including the BX Refill Pick-Up-Center are closed Sunday, Federal Holidays, and Wing Readiness Training Day. Call ahead for current hours of operation.

[BX Refill Pick Up Center](#), Central point for picking up all phoned in refill requests and any new prescription not claimed on the day it was left at PharmaCARE Center. 828-2175

[PharmaCARE Pharmacy](#), Provides outpatient pharmaceutical care to all beneficiary categories. 828-2226

[Brandon Clinic Pharmacy](#), Provides initial prescription service to eligible beneficiaries seen at the Brandon Clinic. 813-827-9737

#### THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

Spouses of active duty military should notify the Red Cross of a family emergency, such as death or serious illness in the immediate family that requires notification of the deployed spouse. To initiate such notification, contact Armed Forces Emergency Center at 1-877-272-7337 (24 hours a day) <http://www.redcross.org/home/> The Red Cross will ask for:

\*Service Member's full name

\*Social Security Number

\*Branch of service

\*Military unit

\*Rank

\*Name of person involved in the emergency

\*Nature of the emergency

\*Name and location of the hospital (if applicable)

\*Name of the attending doctor (if applicable)

**Florida Keys Ave, Bldg 17 near the Post Office, Call Non-emergency telephone, 828-3156 for current hours of operation and directions.**

## LODGING AT MACDILL AFB

**SPACE AVAILABLE "SPACE A" RESERVATIONS** Anyone traveling on other than official orders receives lodging on a Space Available (Space-A) basis (In Accordance With AFI 34-246 paragraph 2.2.4) Space-A reservations are confirmed 24 hours in advance of the arrival date. Initial reservations are made for three nights, as space remains available, and may be extended on a day-by-day basis as space remains available. To request an extension, call the front desk before 1100 hours. You are authorized 30 days lodging per year on a space available basis. A credit card confirmation is required to guarantee reservations and all reservations not guaranteed with a credit card by 6 pm will be cancelled. DV Quarter reservations for O-6 and above and E-9s must be made through Wing Protocol.

**MACDILL INN** is located at 8604 Hangar Loop Dr., Bldg. 411, 813-828-4259, DSN 968-4259, Fax 813-968-2660, Open 24 hours, [macdill.inn@macdill.af.mil](mailto:macdill.inn@macdill.af.mil)



### GROUP RESERVATIONS & CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION FORM

**NOTE:** By authorizing use of your credit card you are agreeing to pay for all charges incurred to rooms held by the credit card. If payment is to be apportioned to each individual occupant, please ensure they provide their own credit card at check-in. Also, to avoid a "No Show" fee, please cancel reservations 24 hours in advance of arrival, otherwise the credit card will be charged a one night stay for each room reservation not cancelled. Please list the following information on a separate sheet of paper:

- Names, ranks, social security numbers, duty phones, home units/organizations, and home base for each group guest.
- Arrival Date (please list for each person if different)
- Departure Date (please list for each person if different)
- Purpose of visit to MacDill AFB, include the unit to be visited.
- Name of POC (point of contact) and duty phone
- Credit card number card and expiration date (we only accept Master Card & Visa).
- Exact name on credit card and Authorized Signature.

**\*Note: The POC is responsible for providing all information. Please DO NOT direct individuals within the group to call and provide their own information.**

**TEMPORARY LODGING (TLF)** Active Duty Military members with Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders who are arriving to the base (or departing) and are accompanied by family members may stay at the Temporary Lodging Facility (TLF) for up to 30 days while searching or waiting for a house. Unaccompanied E-7s and above and unaccompanied officers may stay in the Visiting Officers Quarters (VOQ) for up to 30 days while making permanent housing arrangements or the assigned unit can provide a dormitory room. The MacDill Inn staff accepts advance reservations on temporary duty and permanent change of station assignments. Effective immediately pets are permitted to reside in specially

designated TLFs. Five Units in the TLF village and two bungalows have been converted into pet-friendly units. Lodging will supply the pet cages and food bowls. Guests are responsible for the care and control of their pet. When not in the units, guests must secure pet in the provided cage to allow housekeeping to clean the unit. There is also a designated pet walk in the grass area next to the assigned units. Pet dropping must be recovered and disposed of after each deposit. For additional questions or assistance with pay matters, the Comptroller's office is located in Building 149 at 2606 Brown Pelican Ave. The telephone number for customer service is 813-828-5377 or DSN: 968-5377. Personnel traveling on orders may make advance reservations. Personnel traveling without orders may use lodging on a space available (Space A) basis. Space A reservations are accepted 24 hours in advance as long as space is available. Space A policy may vary from base to base. Lodging front desk service offers 24 hour-check-in/ check-out with an expansive menu of sundry items, complimentary coffee in the lobby, a guest business center for internet and fax service and a centrally located fitness room.

**PER DAY ROOM RATES:** Visiting Airmen Quarters (VAQ): \$28.00, Visiting Officer Quarters (VOQ): \$30.00, Chief Suites: \$30.00, Temporary Living Facility (TLF): \$36.00, (Pet friendly Quarters are available) Distinguished Visitor (DV) Suites: \$38.00, Officer Distinguished Visitor (ODV) Suites: \$43.00

**For 24-hour assistance call: 813-828-4259 or DSN: 968-4259.**

### BASE HOUSING

For information about on- and off-base housing, contact the Housing Flight Staff at 813-828-3166 or 813-828-5404. The MacDill Housing Flight is located 7317 Bayshore Blvd. To apply for on-base housing, submit an advance application (DD Form 1746) through your housing office before you leave your current assignment. Applications are considered on the date they are received. There will be



construction/revitalization of current housing areas. As of this time there is not much housing available on base. The Automated Housing Referral Network (AHRN) is an online, Joint Service housing referral solution that provides relevant housing information to service members who are PCSing or moving locally. This military-only system keeps housing in the family by creating a private portal to connect military members with available housing in the community. Visit their website at [www.ahrn.com](http://www.ahrn.com). AHRN offers service members the opportunity to search for available housing at their future duty location 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They can also list rentals as

well as search for homes to buy or sell. Emergency Repair Desk for on-base housing is 813-840-2000. The Self-Help Store is located at 7605 Hillsborough Loop Dr, Bldg 11. They may be contacted by telephone at 828-2776.

## DINING OPTIONS ON MACDILL AFB

### BAYSHORE CLUB



Diverse dining experiences await you at the Bayshore Club, which offers membership at \$17 a month. The many benefits of membership include: \$20 in "Mac Deal" Bucks every month, free dues for O-1s, "Members First" price discounts off all food purchases in the restaurant (\$2.00 discount for lunch and dinner and a \$4.00 discount for Sunday Brunch), Live Entertainment events, Monthly Membership Appreciation events, Complimentary Social Hour Snacks, Complimentary Monthly Breakfast (Free for members, \$5.95 for Spouse/Guest, \$6.95 non-members), Complimentary Monthly Membership Meal, \$10 Birthday Gift

Certificate, Check Cashing Privileges. Club facilities, including banquet rooms that seat up to 400 people, may be rented for promotions, retirements, wedding, parties, etc. Club members receive a 10% discount for catering services. Dining costs, as listed below, are subject to change.

"Crunch & Munch" lunchtime buffet, an all you can eat meal, includes drinks, soup, salad, hot entrees and dessert. Available Mon-Fri, 11am-1:30pm, the cost for members is \$6.95 and \$8.95 for non-members. Upscale evening dining is available on Fri & Sat nights from 5:30pm-9pm. Member dining specials include 2-4-1 prime rib, buy one meal and receive 50% off your guest meal, and a complimentary glass of wine with dinner. Mongolian BBQ is offered one Thurs per month at a cost of \$1.00 per oz. Sunday's Champagne Brunch, which features breakfast and lunch entrees and a desert display, is served from 10:30am- 2pm., the cost for member's is \$12.95 and \$16.95 for non- members. The cost for children 6-12 years of age is \$8.95 and children under 5 eat FREE.

The SWAMP LOUNGE, located at the Club's west entrance is an all-ranks bar. Your favorite beverages and snacks are offered in a relaxed environment on Fri and Sat between 4:30pm-9pm. Check cashing privileges are available to members at the Cashier's Cage on Mon-Fri between 10-3pm. When the cage is closed checks are cashed by the dining cashier or Manager on Duty.

**The Bayshore Club is located at the Corner of Bayshore Blvd and Florida Keys Ave in building 397, 813-837-1031 (all 7 digits must be dialed from base phones), Dining Services and Hours: The services provided and hours of operation are: Lunch Mon-Fri 11am-1:30pm; Dining Room Fri-Sat 5:30-9pm, (Mon-Thurs closed for night-time dining); Sunday Brunch: 10:30am-2pm, Swamp Lounge, Friday and Sat 5:30-9pm. NOTE: Bayside catering is now your one stop shop for all catering arrangements at Seascapes, Surf's Edge and the O'Club catering. For more information, call: 828-4756.**

### SURF'S EDGE ENLISTED CLUB



Fine dining as well as dancing, billiards, darts Bingo, Family Fun Nights, Karaoke, Trivia and televised sports are all available at the Surf's Edge, which offers membership at \$7.00 a month. The many benefits of membership include: \$10 in "MacDeal" Bucks every month, "Members First" discounts for all restaurant food purchases, free admission to most

entertainment events, Monthly Membership Appreciation events, 10% discount for all catered events, complimentary social hour snacks, \$10 birthday gift certificate, and check cashing privileges. Meal costs, as listed below, are subject to change.

**BOOMERS BAR & GRILL**, Hours: Mon-Tue, 11am-9pm, Wed-Fri, 11am-10pm, Sat, 4-9pm, Sun, 12-8pm. This unique restaurant boasts of televisions in every booth, a video game room, pool tables, dart boards, and a jukebox. ENTERTAINMENT- MONDAY: Family Fun Night, TUESDAY: Bingo in the Ballroom, WEDNESDAY: Tournament night, THURSDAY: Team Trivia, FRIDAY: TGIF Party. If you are looking for a great place for a wedding, reunion, banquet, birthday party, or retirement ceremony, consider the Surf's Edge. There are several great spaces that can accommodate any group from 20-350 guests. To make an appointment with a caterer, contact Bayside Catering at: 828-4756.

**7315 Bayshore Blvd, 813-840-6900, Hours: Mon-Tue 11am-10:00, Wed-Fri 11am-11pm, Sat 4-9pm, (During Football Season Sun 1200-8pm).**

### SEASCAPES

Seascapes offers an exceptional casual dining experience featuring great indoor dining as well as an outdoor patio with panoramic views of the bay and beach area. This beach unique restaurant may also be rented for special functions.

**Located at 10301 Marina Bay Drive in Bldg 682, for hours of operation, call: 813-828-3805 .**

### "MAIN COURSE" SNACK BAR AT THE BAY PALMS GOLF COURSE



This casual dining eatery is located on Golf Course Ave. The breakfast menu items include: SOS and toast, the "Hole-In-One," special, bagels, muffins, French toast, or pancakes and more. Lunch includes the "Star Burger," a large hamburger topped with cheese and grilled onions, served with fries and a beverage. Daily specials include: Italian, Western, Mexican, Oriental, and Seafood specialties. Take-out orders are welcome, just call ahead and pick it up. **For hours of operation and additional information, call: 813-**

**840-6906.**

### "SUNSET STRIP" SNACK BAR AT THE MACDILL LANES BOWLING CENTER

A snack-bar-style eatery, the "Sunset Strip" provides a variety of snack foods, sandwiches, pizzas, and beverages, as well as daily luncheon specials. Full carry-out service, telephone orders, and in-house catering are also offered.

Located at 8216 Hanger Loop Drive in Bldg 298, hours of information and additional information, call: 813-828-4005

### DINER'S REEF / IN-FLIGHT KITCHEN

**Diner's Reef** - This cafeteria-style eatery supports the 6th Air Mobility and mission's partners USCENTCOM, USSOCOM, 622 AES and JCSE, serving approximately 262,000 meals a year. The dining room seats 348 people and features 6 televisions, for the enjoyment of diners, including two centrally located big screen televisions. Special dining features include: a daily breakfast fruit bar, a daily snack line special, a daily vegetarian entree, an ethnic meal served every Wednesday, a rotational pastry menu, which offers a large selection of cakes, pies and desserts, a sandwich bar offering a variety of hot/cold subs and sandwiches, "Grab and Go" meals consisting of a variety of pre-made sandwiches complete with chips and specialty salads. Family dining options are extended to junior enlisted members, Senior Airman and below are invited to dine at all meals and retirees are invited to dine on Thanksgiving, Christmas and Retiree Appreciation Day.

Located on Hillsborough Loop Drive in building 263, call for hours of operation and additional information, call: 813-828-2412.

### Internet Cafe

At your next visit to the Diner's Reef, stop at the Internet Café where you can check your email or just surf the net.

\*All customers are limited to 10 minutes of use.

### BX FOOD COURT EATERYS

American Eatery, Anthony's Pizza, Robin Hood, sandwiches & soup, Baskin Robbins, ice cream Cinnabon, coffee and bakery, Dunkin Donuts, coffee and bakery (breakfast and some lunch items also served) Frank's Franks, hot dogs, , , Taco Bell, Mexican food,

### BURGER KING

Fast food - hamburgers, salads, Hours: Mon-Fri 6:30am-8pm, Sat 8am-8pm, Sun 8am-6pm. Located adjacent the BX



### SPORTS, FITNESS, AND HOBBIES

#### GYM/FITNESS CENTER

This state-of-the-art fitness center offers: intramural and varsity level sports; cardiovascular, selectorized, and free weight equipment; racquetball,; aerobics; male and female saunas; Fit N Play Parent/ Child Area, and outdoor facilities for, tennis, softball, and flag football. The 1/4 mile track and 4-mile jogging path are big hits with runners/joggers/ walkers. Personal trainers are available by appointment. They will evaluate your personal health history and design an individualized training program to include instruction on weight loss, strength training, and proper conditioning. Nutritional Connection (NUCO) juice bar is also available and is open M-Th from 5:30am-8pm, Fri from 5am to 5pm, closed Sat and Sun. **Located at 8115 Cypress Stand St., call: (813) 828- 4496 for additional information and hours of operation.**

#### HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

The Health and Wellness Center (HAWC) offers a full array of health fitness and prevention classes such as: Bone Health, Healthy Back, Fitness 101, Cholesterol Screening, Stress Management, Tobacco Cessation, Basic Weight Training, Running Clinic and much more. For a complete list of available classes visit:

[www.macdillafb.bestofhealth.com/Hawc/index.html](http://www.macdillafb.bestofhealth.com/Hawc/index.html). HAWC is Located at 8115 Cypress Stand St, for hours of operation and additional information, call: (813) 828-4739, Fax: 828- 7463, DSN: 968-4739.



#### BAY PALMS GOLF COURSE



The Bay Palms Golf Course offers: A Driving Range, Club/Cart Rental, Handicapping Service, Lighted Putting Green, Group/Private Lessons, FREE Active Duty Clinics, Pro Shop/Gift Certificates, Tournament Planning Services, and Clubhouse/Locker Room Facilities. Two 18-hole, par 72 courses. The complex houses a lighted practice putting green, a 24-hour a day lighted driving range, a practice chipping green, and sand trap areas. Two new greens have been added for your practicing pleasure. The clubhouse features a private tournament room, an ultra-modern pro shop, larger restrooms/locker areas, and a colossal eatery with an adjoining cooking/food preparation area. Group and private lessons can be arranged through the Pro Shop. At the *Link Up 2 Golf* program, learn to play golf - free orientation, eight hours of group lessons and course etiquette, complimentary rental clubs, 3 hold graduation scramble, only \$99. Junior Golf Clinic: Every Saturday 8:30-9:30am, cost \$3 per child. Active Duty Clinic: FREE, Every Tuesday & Thursday 12-1pm. 813-840-6904. The following dining opportunities are also provided: Tee Times (813-840-6915), Starter Shack, (828-4494), Hours: Apr-Oct: 6:30 am-5:30 pm, Nov-Mar: 6:30 am-6:30 pm.

Located 1803 Golf Course Avenue, for hours of operation and additional information, call (813) 828-4994

### MACDILL LANES BOWLING ALLEY



The 12-lane facility, offering year-round, top-quality bowling for all ages, is equipped with automatic pin-setters and an automatic scoring system. League play, lessons, and special programs, such as bowling parties, are just a few of the many offerings. "Xtreme Bowling" - balls and pins that glow in the dark - is also offered. The Pro Shop carries an inventory of the latest balls, bags, shoes, and other bowling equipment and accessories and the convenience of custom measurement and drilling is also available. "Sunset Strip" Snack Bar - Opens at 11:00 am daily, the grill closes 1 hour earlier (Closed Sundays) The "Sunset Strip" provides a variety of snack foods, sandwiches, pizzas, and beverages, as well as daily luncheon specials. Full carry-out service, telephone orders, and catering are welcome. Located at 8216, for hours of operation and additional information, call (813) 828-4005

### OUTDOOR RECREATION/MACDILL BEACH/CAMPING AND RV SITES

Outdoor Recreation program includes a FamCamp, beach, a pool, Lewis Lake Recreation Area, several pavilions, boat rentals, a skeet range, Out Door Adventures, and a wide variety of rental and resale equipment. The Seascapes restaurant is also located nearby.

Located at 9909 Marina Bay Dr. Bldg 60, for hours of operation and additional information, call (813) 840-6919/6920, (813)828-4982.



### MARINA AND STORE

The Marina has a wet & dry storage area for boats and other recreational equipment. The wet slips currently accommodate power or sailboats up to 30 feet in length. The storage hours are: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm. Ice, tackle, live/frozen bait, rods, reels, and many more fishing items may be purchased in the Marina's resale shop.

Located at 10303 Marina Bay Dr, Bldg 654, for hours of operation and additional information, call 828-4983.



### EQUIPMENT RENTAL

Tents, campers, and accessories are available for rent on a daily and/or weekly basis. Our vast rental area includes boats, fishing gear, sleeping bags, camping equipment, grills, power tools, bouncy castles, sporting goods, pig roaster (for on-base use only), dunk tank and more.

Located at 9909 Marina Bay Drive, for hours of operation and additional information, call (813) 828-4982.



### RACCOON CREEK PAVILIONS, BEACH AND LEWIS LAKE FACILITIES

Shaded pavilions with tables located at the beach (behind Seascapes restaurant) - a perfect site for parties. Advance reservations, with a refundable deposit are required. Lewis Lake, north of Raccoon's Creek Recreation Area, also has three pavilions, picnic tables, grills, and a volleyball court. Advance reservations are required.

For additional information, call (813) 840-6919/6920, (813) 828-4982.

### FAMCAMP/OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

The FamCamp operates year-round with 334 full-service sites for Recreation Vehicles' (RVs) complete with electricity, water, waste disposal, cable TV, and optional telephone service. The area also includes 37 partial hook-up spots complete with water and electric, 36 dry camp sites, and a tent camping area. Outdoor Adventure program are available. Canoe trips are quite popular as well as our scuba instructional sessions. Special group trips/tours can be arranged.

This facility is located on Marina Bay Dr, for additional information, call (813) 840-6919/6920, (813)828-4982.



### SWIMMING POOLS

The Main Pool on Condor Road, near Hanger 5 and the Post Office/Thrift Shop, is open from Memorial Day (the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in May) through Labor Day (the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in September), and sometimes longer depending on the weather. Swimming classes are available for infants through adults on Tuesdays through Friday and Saturdays & Sundays during the summer. Aquatic exercise classes are offered several times a week as an excellent form of keeping in shape. Adult Fitness

Lap Swimming, is available, call ahead for information as to lap swim and open swim times. The Bayshore pool located on Bayshore Blvd, with parking behind the Officer's Club.

Call 828 4953 for hours of operation and additional information.



## SKEET RANGE

The Skeet Range is located on Rattlesnake Road, call (813) 828-5299 for hours of operation and additional information.

## ARTS AND CRAFT CENTER



With its wide array of professional equipment, technical assistance, and skill enhancing classes, experienced hobbyist or beginners will benefit from the following Arts & Craft Center offerings:

Awards & Engraving Shop Plaques, medals, acrylics, pen sets and more are available for presentation as special recognition gifts. We offer full color sublimation printing on a variety of products, including coffee mugs, t-shirts, mouse pads and more.

Wood Shop has industrial equipment and hand-tools needed to complete the most complex woodworking projects.

Technical assistance provided, such as training on the machinery, selecting proper lumber, or choosing just the right stain. Custom products include shadow boxes, coin holders, book shelves, and display boards.

Craft Classes - Classes offered, which include: scrap booking, stamping, and more are regularly scheduled. Special classes for young people are also available.

Frame Shop A wide selection of custom moldings and matting are available; and all of our materials are acid-free to ensure longevity. Skilled staff members can assist in choosing the best mat and moldings for a professional result that transforms your picture into a work of art.

Do-It-Yourself Framing Classes are offered on a monthly basis. Participants completing these classes are certified to use the do-it-yourself frame area.

Located on 8223 Hanger Loop Dr, Bldg., 300. Call (813) 828-4413 for hours of operation and additional information.

## AUTO SKILLS (HOBBY) SHOP

The Auto Skills Center features a multitude of work-bays for performing both minor and major automotive repairs (oil change, tire rotation, etc.). Hydraulic lifts, a paint booth, and a variety of computerized equipment are available for use. Skilled technicians provide professional guidance should difficulties be encountered. And wheel alignment is available by appointment. Services include a diagnostic inspection, two-wheel thrust/four-wheel thrust, shims & parts, and installation.

Located on 8223 Hanger Loop Dr, the hours of operation are: Tues-Fri 11 am-7pm. For additional information, call (813) 828-4553.

## CAR WASH

A self-service car wash, open 24-hours-a-day, is directly behind the Auto Hobby Shop, on Hanger Loop Drive, with three do-it-yourself bays, and two vacuum islands.

## VETERINARY CLINIC



MacDill's Veterinary Clinic offers a warm reception for you and your "4-legged friends," (cats & dogs only) and provides immunizations, heartworm testing, micro chipping and outpatient services for the control of animal diseases transmissible to people. Health Certificates are also available for animals that will be traveling. Services are by appointment only. The clinic is in great demand; therefore, appointments are quickly filled. Sale items include: flea and tick control shampoos tartar control chews vitamins and prescription medications. Clinic services are limited to those personnel in possession of a



valid a military ID card. Reservist and National Guard Members must be on orders at the time of the visit.

Located at 7804 Blackbird Street, Bldg. 936, call 813-828-3558 for hours of operation and additional information.

# WELCOME TO THE TAMPA BAY AREA

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF TAMPA



Settlement in Tampa began with an Indian fishing village. Native tribes called the village by the bay "Tanpa," which meant "sticks of fire." On early explorer's maps, the spelling soon changed to "Tampa." A Dutch cartographer, Bernard Romans, gave the name Hillsborough to the river, county and upper arm of Tampa Bay in 1772, in honor of Lord Hillsborough, secretary of state for the Colonies. The United States purchased Florida from Spain in 1821. Three years later, Fort Brooke attracted traders to what is now downtown Tampa. It was transformed into the town of Tampa in 1855. Railroad magnate, Mr. Henry B. Plant extended the railroad to Tampa in 1884 and established a steamship line from Tampa to Key West to Havana, Cuba. In 1891, Plant provided a further economic boost to the area by opening the luxurious Tampa Bay Hotel. Built at a cost \$3 million, it attracted entertainers, sports figures and dignitaries from around the world. Don Vicente Martinez Ybor, an influential cigar manufacturer and Cuban exile, moved his cigar business from Key West to a palmetto-covered area east of Tampa in 1885. The following year the first cigar factory opened and more Spanish cigar manufacturers began moving their cigar manufacturing enterprises to Tampa. The Spanish, Italian, German and Cuban workers who settled here to work in the cigar industry created a strong, vivacious Latin community known as Ybor City (pronounced EE-bore). Nearly 12,000 people worked in more than 200 factories making Ybor City the "Cigar Capital of the World." That reputation endured until the emergence of Fidel Castro and the embargo on Cuban tobacco. Now designated as one of three National Historic Landmark districts in Florida, Ybor City is a mixture of historic buildings, artisan galleries, shops and nightclubs. For more history visit [www.tampagov.net/](http://www.tampagov.net/) and [www.visittampabay.com/](http://www.visittampabay.com/)

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. PETERSBURG

St. Petersburg's first known settler was Antonio Maximo, who in 1843 secured a land grant from the United States Government in exchange for services performed by him during the Seminole War. After establishing a "fish ranch" at the lower end of Pinellas Peninsula, which is now called Maximo Point, he was joined in the business three years later by William Bunce. The two experienced much success supplying fish to Cuba until their property was destroyed by the hurricane of 1848. After the storm blew out they discovered all their possessions had disappeared with the high waters and they departed, never to appear in this region again. The first settler on the land which is now downtown St. Petersburg was Dr. James Hackney, who bought 600 acres of land from the State at twenty-five cents an acre. He build a home on land at what is now Fourth Street and Fifth Avenue South in 1873, and made extensive improvements, reclaiming the sawgrass ponds and clearing for farms and groves. St. Petersburg is said to have had its beginning in 1875, for it was in that year that General John C. Williams of Detroit, Michigan, first visited the peninsula. He lost no time in acquiring property, purchasing 1,600 acres from the State at an average of one dollar an acre, before returning north to get his family. In 1879 he returned, coming by train to Gainesville and from there to St. Petersburg by covered wagon. The 250 mile trip took a month to complete. After failing to successfully apply northern farming methods, unsuitable to the region, he next decided to build a town here, complete with rail facilities. There are many stories regarding the naming of St. Petersburg; however, the one most widely regarded as true is the tale that both General Williams and Peter Demens wanted to name the town they both founded. They couldn't agree which should have the honor so they drew straws. Demens won, so called the town St. Petersburg, after the Russian city. As consolation, Williams named the first commercial building, the Detroit Hotel, after his birthplace. [www.stpete.com/pleasure](http://www.stpete.com/pleasure)

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BRANDON

Its history began on January 20, 1857, when John Brandon arrived at Fort Brooke (now Tampa) from Mississippi with his wife Martha and six sons. At first he moved his family to what is now the Seffner area. Then in August 1858, John Brandon purchased 40 acres of land in the New Hope area (now Brandon) south of Hopewell Road (now SR 60), between Parsons Avenue and Lithia Road. Nine years later, after his wife died, John left everything he owned to his son James Henry Brandon and moved to Bartow. In 1876 James built a home for his wife Joanna. It is still standing today and is now Stowers Funeral Home, a well-known landmark on Brandon Boulevard. Meanwhile, John Brandon remarried a widow named Victoria and moved back to New Hope in 1874. John bought 160 acres and named his land Brandon. John and Victoria's house was located on what would become the corner of Knights and Victoria Street. Four years later, the New Hope Church was built on land donated by John. Besides being the first church in the community, it also served as Brandon's first school. After John's death in 1886, Victoria took a leading role in the community. In 1890, the Florida Central and Peninsula Railroad was coming through the area causing the people of New Hope to build a depot on Moon Avenue. Victoria convinced a civil engineer for the railroad to survey the area and lay out a town site. He surveyed 40 acres, pre-pared a map and Victoria named the town Brandon, after John Brandon. Today, the population of Brandon and the neighboring communities of Seffner, Limona, Valrico, Mango, Riverview, Bloomingdale, Durant, Lithia and Dover is about 178,808 with over 62,000 households. Brandon has become a community of young, well-to-do professionals, many of whom commute to Tampa. According to the 1990 census, 45.9% have incomes of \$75,000 or more a year. The average age of the Brandon population is 34.89 years and 45% of the population, over 25 years of age have some college education or have earned a college degree. [www.brandonchamber.com/](http://www.brandonchamber.com/)

## FUN FACTS

- While originally the name of a body of water on the west coast of Florida, Tampa Bay has now come to represent the region made up of the many distinct communities connected by the Bay waters.
- There is a one hundred-year-old tradition in Tampa Bay known as the Gasparilla Pirate Fest, a weekend long celebration each February that draws nearly 500,000 downtown visitors and includes a pirate invasion, parade, arts festival and lots more fun.

- Tampa received its nickname "The Big Guava" when Gavino Gutierrez, an early Tampa pioneer, tried to cultivate guavas commercially here but was unsuccessful due to the climate and rising land prices. However, a local newspaper columnist was more successful at planting the idea that, if New York is "The Big Apple," it would only be right to refer to Tampa as "The Big Guava." There is a Latin-style Halloween celebration called Guavaween held in Ybor City each October that is based on the nickname.
- Even though Tampa is more business-like than St. Petersburg and Clearwater when it comes to attire, dress tends to be informal. Few restaurants require a jacket and tie, and most nightspots are decidedly casual.
- The Tampa Bay area is served by two daily newspapers, the Tampa Tribune and the St. Petersburg Times. Several publications with smaller circulations serve local areas.
- Parking in downtown Tampa is available both on-street and in various parking garages. Rates for municipal parking garages start at \$1.25 per hour and range from \$5.50 to \$7 for 6-24 hours.
- Rush hour is generally from 7 to 9am and from 4 to 6pm.
- Sales tax in Hillsborough County is 7 percent. There is also an additional 5 percent tax on accommodations.

#### CLIMATE

Tampa Bay's weather is a combination of bright sunny days tempered by balmy bay breezes. The winter months are the most pleasant from December to April, there is little humidity and the temperatures are not too high. In the spring and fall, the days are pleasantly warm, while the evenings can be a bit cooler. The summer months are characterized by warmer temperatures, humidity, and afternoon showers. The average annual temperature in Tampa is a comfortable 72 degrees, in the summer temperature rarely exceed 100 degrees. Loose, lightly colored clothing is recommended for daytime activities; a lightweight jacket or sweater is a good choice for the evening, especially for activities on or near the water. Sunscreen rated SPF 15 or higher is also a must for all ages.

#### SIZE AND POPULATION

Tampa Bay, consisting of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco and Hernando counties, is the most populous and affluent metropolitan statistical area (MSA) and the largest television market in the state. Tampa is Florida's third most populous city with more than 300,000 residents, and Hillsborough is Florida's fourth most populous county at over one million residents. Hillsborough County, established in 1834, encompasses 1,051 square miles of land and 24 square miles of inland water area. Tampa is the largest city in the county and serves as the county seat.

#### TAMPA AIRPORT

Tampa International Airport (TPA) is located just seven miles southeast of downtown. TPA is served by 26 national airlines, services more than 560 flights daily, and welcomes almost 16 million passengers annually. International & Domestic Carriers: Air Canada, AirTran, America West, American, British Airways, Cayman Airways, Condor, Continental, Delta, Frontier, Jet Blue, Midwest Express, Northwest/KLM, Southwest, Spirit, United/Lufthansa, and US Airways. Arriving passengers are steps away from their ground transportation needs, including on-site rental cars, limousines, off-site car rental shuttles, buses and taxis.

#### GETTING AROUND TAMPA

When you first arrive in Tampa be sure to pick up a local map at the MacDill Base Exchange (BX) or at any bookstore, gas (petrol) station, or even mini-markets such as "Circle K," "7-Eleven," etc. Several major interstates and highways converge in Tampa, creating easy access from any point in the state. Interstate 4 and Highway 60 brings travelers from points east, including Plant City, Lakeland, and Orlando. Interstate 75 and Highway 301 accommodates those traveling from points north and south, including Gainesville, Ocala, Bradenton and Sarasota. Two 15-mile toll roads exist in Tampa, the Veterans Expressway (State Road 589) and the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway (State Road 618). With Tampa as the primary destination, one can readily reach other cities for day-trips and planned excursions. Clearwater and St. Petersburg are a short 23 miles to the west, Sarasota is 61 miles southwest, and Orlando is 82 miles to the east.

#### COMMUNITIES

**Airport/Westshore** Located along the bay and surrounded by natural beauty, the Westshore area lies between downtown Tampa and the award-winning Tampa International Airport. This strategic location makes the Westshore region a top draw for corporations and business activity, which means the local landscape, is filled with a multitude of accommodation and restaurant choices for the leisure visitor as well. New dining concepts are featured on the Westshore menu, from seafood to steaks and everything in between. Professional sports also have a place here, with Raymond James Stadium (home to the World Champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers) and Legends Field (spring training home of the New York Yankees) centered firmly in this community. For those with a different sport in mind, the area boasts an upscale retail market with Westshore Plaza and International Plaza offering the likes of Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Nordstrom, and Tiffany's. Many of Tampa's major highways, interchanges and bridges pass through Westshore.

**Brandon/Plant City/South Shore** Easily accessible from both I-4 and I-75, this community entertains visitors while taking advantage of the weather with waterfront activities, outdoor arts festivals, and manatee viewing areas. Some tremendous shopping also exists at area malls and retail centers. The Florida State Fairgrounds provide this region with an ever-changing marquee of year-round events, festivals, and shows. Equally impressive is the region's extensive restaurant scene, with menu offerings and price ranges to satisfy every craving and fit every budget.

**Busch Gardens/North Tampa** A mix of natural and man-made wonders characterizes the North Tampa region and allows you to experience the best of Florida during your stay. Attractions top the list of things to do here, with Busch Gardens, Lowry Park Zoo, and the Museum of Science & Industry offering enough to keep you busy for an entire week. But don't miss the chance to discover the

history of the Florida "cracker" at a working cattle ranch or take in the natural beauty of the area with a trip to the Hillsborough River State Park, a 16,000-acre preserve where you can paddle down the river and catch a glimpse of Florida's wildlife. The University of South Florida adds a touch of diversity to the area by offering great collegiate sports, performances, exhibits, and lectures in the arts and humanities, and a great venue for big-name concerts at the Sun Dome.

**Downtown/South Tampa/Ybor City** The downtown skyline marks the bustling waterfront region of downtown Tampa, and provides the backdrop for some of the area's most recent tourism developments. The St. Pete Times Forum, Channelside entertainment district, and Garrison Seaport provide visitors and residents alike with plenty of opportunities for fun and relaxation. The Forum serves as the home to professional hockey and arena football, plus many other world-class concerts and events. At Channelside, numerous shops, restaurants and an IMAX theater center around a Mediterranean-style courtyard complete with fountain and skyline terrace views. Cruise passengers from near and far get treated to the newly-renovated terminals at the Garrison Seaport. Rounding out the east side of the downtown waterfront is the spectacular Florida Aquarium. Anchoring the west side of downtown along the scenic Hillsborough River is the Tampa Convention Center, Tampa Museum of Art, University of Tampa and the Henry B. Plant Museum (formerly the Tampa Bay Hotel), and the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Just a few blocks away discover Ybor City, a National Historic Landmark District and former "cigar capital of the world." Ybor City also doubles as the nightlife capital of Florida's west coast. During the day, visitors can explore the heritage and ethnic diversity of the area at the Ybor City State Museum, then dance the night away at any number of clubs and hotspots in Centro Ybor or all along the main thoroughfare of 7th Avenue.

#### TELEPHONE BOOKS

Upon establishing local phone service be sure to obtain a copy each of your local area "White Pages" and "Yellow Pages." These telephone books contain good information on the local area. The "White Pages" contain Important Tampa numbers (such as Police Departments; Hospitals; State, County & City numbers; Parks, Public Utilities and Schools), Calling Instructions, Area Codes, International Calling, Hurricane Evacuation Maps, US Government Information and telephone subscribers (residential and business) listed alphabetically. The "Yellow Pages" provide a listing of local business establishments. Located at the front of the book is a community magazine listing local attractions, beaches, recreation opportunities, stadium guides, concert and theater seating charts, helpful telephone numbers, community maps and street guides. If you look under "Restaurants" you will find the names, addresses and phone number of all the Tampa restaurants.

#### UTILITIES

Listed below are few of the utility service choices available in the Tampa Bay area; please check your local phone book for additional utility service companies. This listing, provided as a mere convenience, should not be construed as either an official DoD, Military Service Branch, or USCENTCOM endorsement or recommendation.

TV Cable/Satellite/Internet Telephone Service - Brighthouse - [www.mybighthouse.com](http://www.mybighthouse.com), Hillsborough County 813-684-6400; Pinellas County 727-329-5020

Digital Cable provides ready access to more than 300 channels and an on-screen Navigator, which allows viewers to rapidly sort through available programming to quickly locate a specific program. High speed internet is always connected, so there's no waiting. Photographs and video clips can be rapidly downloaded, and subscribers maintain a choice of providers. And the digital telephone service permits subscribers call anyone, anytime, anywhere in the United States at a standard monthly rate.

Dish Network Satellite - [www.dishnetwork.com](http://www.dishnetwork.com), Available at local RadioShack and Sears stores, DISH Network satellite TV delivers hundreds of channels directly into subscriber's homes, providing a wide selection of movies, news, sports and international entertainment to satisfy any household and meet any budget. All entertainment is broadcast in 100% digital clarity, which means that the picture is digitally encoded and arrives on the viewing screen precisely as the programmer intended. DISH Network service is offered all over the U.S. including Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Areas outside the continental United States usually require a larger dish to receive an adequate signal. The size of the dish may range from a 24-inch dish to a 1.5 meter dish depending on the location.

Phone Service - Verizon - [www.verizon.com](http://www.verizon.com), 800-483-4000; Brighthouse Digital Phone service and many more.

Internet - Verizon DSL, Brighthouse High Speed Cable, and many more.

Electric/Gas Companies - Tampa Electric - 813-228-1010, TECO Energy - 813-228-1111, TECO People's Gas - 813-275-3700

Water - City of Tampa, 813-274-8811 or Hillsborough County - 813-272-6680. If you are unsure as to which office services your residential area, call either office, provide your address, and you will be redirected to the proper office to establish service. Deposits are waived if a copy of military orders is provided at the time of the service request.

#### BECOMING A FLORIDA RESIDENT

To establish Florida residency, one must either register to vote in the state or file a Declaration of Domicile with the circuit court. To contact the clerk of the court for Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties, respectively, call one of the following telephone numbers: Hillsborough County-(813-276-8100), Pasco County-(352-521-4360) and Pinellas County-(727-464-4876) or go to <http://www.hillsclerk.com/publicweb/home.aspx>.

#### HIGHER EDUCATION

The University of Tampa (UT) is located on the Hillsborough River in the heart of downtown Tampa. The MBA program is one of the largest in Florida. Hillsborough Community College serves approximately 40,000 students and ranks ninth in size among the state's 28 community colleges.

The University of South Florida (USF), the second largest university in the southeast, is among the top 20 largest in the nation. Current enrollment exceeds 39,000. USF is located in St. Petersburg along with Eckerd College, Stetson University College of Law, the Poynter

Institute for Media Studies, St. Petersburg College. In addition, some of the finest southeastern names in marine science are located here and include: the Florida Institute of Oceanography at USF, the U.S. Geological Survey's Center for Coastal Geology, and the Florida Marine Research Institute, which is part of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS / PRIVATE SCHOOLS



Schools are organized into three groups—Elementary (Kindergarten to 5th Grade), Middle School (6th to 8th Grade), and High School (9th-12th grade). In the Tampa Bay area, to register a child to enter the first grade, that child must be 6 years old by Jan. 1 of the upcoming school year. Documentation, such as a birth certificate, is required. Children must also have a health certificate completed within the last year and signed by a physician. Immunizations are required for diphtheria, measles, mumps, pertussis, polio, rubella and tetanus. To compare schools, visit: [www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/fl/district\\_profile/29/](http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/fl/district_profile/29/) Hillsborough County Schools [www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/](http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/) Coalition Members must coordinate with the Coalition Liaison Office to obtain a school attendance letter. There are many private schools, which charge tuition for attendance.

### PUBLIC LIBRARY INFORMATION

There are many public libraries in the local community, some of which contain foreign language sections. Please visit this website to find a location near you: <http://www.hcplc.org/hcplc/liblocales/> Library patrons must present a "library card" before they are permitted to borrow library resources or avail themselves of library services. Library card application forms may be completed at the library or "on-line." If application is made at the library, the card is usually presented to the applicant at that time, but where the application is made on-line, the card is mailed to the applicant. In-person applicants are asked to verify their current address with the following unexpired documentation: FL driver's license or FL ID, voter registration card, automobile registration, a postmarked letter addressed to the applicant within the last 30 days, utility bills, credit card receipts or rent receipt addressed to the applicant within the last 30 days, student ID or military ID.

A photo identification or library card is required to check out library materiel. At each check out, a receipt is issued, which identifies the return or due dates for borrowed materiel. At any time, a maximum of 10 of each item type can be charged to an individual's library card: audio cassettes & CDs (including books & music), video cassettes, DVDs, videotapes & CD-ROMs. The library's first reminder of overdue items is provided via a recorded telephone message. In the absence of a telephone, notification is made via the mail. After thirty days, an overdue notice is mailed and late charges assessed. Lost or substantially damaged items (returned in a condition not suitable for further circulation) are billed at face value. Failure to return materials and resolve charges will result in a delinquent account being turned over to a collection agency.

### MAJOR EVENTS & FESTIVALS IN TAMPA

January - Black Heritage Festival	March - St. Patrick's Parade
January - Gasparilla Distance Classic & Marathon	March - Winter Equestrian Festival
January - Outback Bowl	April - Puerto Rico Cultural Parade
February - Fiesta Day	May - Ruskin Tomato Festival
February - Florida State Fair	October - Guavaween Parade & Festival
February - Grand Prix of St. Petersburg	October - NSRA Southeast Street Rod Nationals
February - Southwest Airlines Gasparilla Parade & Pirate Fest	November - Ruskin Seafood & Arts Festival
February - Saint Yago Illuminated Night Parade	November - Tampa Bay International Auto Show
February - Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am	November - Tampa Cigar Heritage Festival
March - Apollo Beach Manatee Arts Festival	December - Holiday Fest
March - Florida Strawberry Festival	December - Victorian Christmas Stroll
March - Gasparilla Festival of Arts	

### SIGHTS, ATTRACTIONS AND RECREATION

**Bayshore Boulevard**—Tampa's Bayshore Blvd. is one of our area's most scenic spots at any time of day. However, sunset on the Boulevard is especially beautiful, making it a popular evening time destination. According to Runner's World, Tampa's best downtown run is along Bayshore Boulevard, the world's longest continuous sidewalk, which parallels the west shore of Tampa Bay. Every day from sunrise to sunset you'll find most of Tampa's running population trekking the 4.5-mile north-south stretch between Platt Street (start near the pirate ship and painted fish) and Gandy Boulevard. Runners will pass by some of Tampa's most prestigious homes, many on the National Historic Register in Old Hyde Park.

**Henry B Plant Museum**—The museum, a designated historic site, was originally home to the Tampa Bay Hotel, built in 1881 by railroad magnate Henry B. Plant. At the time, the architectural style, a Turkish and Moorish fantasy of minarets, domes, cupolas, horseshoe arches and rambling verandahs, was unrivaled by any in the state or nation. A museum tour returns one to days when the sumptuous lifestyles of America's most wealthy was unimaginable even to the most daring dreamer. By all means, enjoy the opulent European furniture and art treasures of the original railroad resort and the Gilded Age; however, don't miss the permanent Spanish American War exhibit.

**The Florida Aquarium**—At the Florida Aquarium visitor's eyes are opened to a view usually reserved for experienced scuba divers. "Florida From Under its Waters" is divided into four different galleries. And the aquarium follows the course of water from wetlands to the depths of the ocean off Florida's shores.



**Ybor City**—The Ybor City district is home to not only entertaining nightlife, but numerous fine dining establishments, museums, and galleries. Once known as the "Cigar Capital of the World", Ybor has a rich history, and its graceful old

buildings, wrought-iron balconies, and wide piazzas exude an atmosphere of romance and a quirky charm found no where else. The district's newest addition, Centro Ybor, includes a 20-screen Cineplex with stadium seating, restaurants, a comedy club, retail stores, and Steven Spielberg's Game Works.

**Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center** -The Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center is located downtown on a picturesque nine-acre site along the east bank of the Hillsborough River. As the largest performing arts complex south of the Kennedy Center, the 290,000 square-foot Center provides an environment for a wide variety of world-class events. It boasts one of the nation's leading Broadway series and is nationally respected for producing grand opera, as well as presenting a wide variety of concerts, performances and events. More than 600,000 patrons attended more than 600 performances, classes and other events at The Center in the last year. Visit their website at <http://www.tbpac.org/welcome/index.html>

**Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) and IMAX**-The largest science center in the southeast, over 450 hands-on exhibits are available. Just venture into the Gulf Coast Hurricane and you will have no doubts. If a hurricane is a bit too extreme for you, try the Challenger Space Experience and snub the laws of gravity. MOSI is also home to MOSIMAX, an IMAX theater. Here you can experience deep space, Africa, powerful rivers and the depths of the earth. Special exhibits and features are available at MOSIMAX as well.

**Busch Gardens** - One of Tampa's most famous and long-standing attractions, the Gardens are home of an internationally famous zoo, fabulous botanicals, and of course the internationally renowned theme park. The zoo itself is the location of one of North America's largest and most diverse wild animal parks. The Serengeti Plain was the first free-roaming habitat developed on the continent. A monorail train takes visitors through the heart of the habitat, allowing unsurpassed photo opportunities.

**Adventure Island Water Park** Located directly across the street from the Busch Gardens entrance. Features over 30 acres of water-based attractions. In addition to children's playgrounds and picnic/bathing areas, the park also features an arcade, outdoor cafes, and a volleyball complex. All this is in addition to the parks main attractions - unbeatable water slides, a wave pool, and Wahoo Run, a tunnel river raft ride. All of this is wrapped up in one of the most tropical settings in Florida.

**Lowry Park Zoo** - One of Florida's top zoos is ranked in the top three medium-sized zoos in the U.S. The zoo features over 1500 animals in 25 acres of open-air habitats. Don't miss the Manatee and Aquatic center or the Lorikeet aviary. Lowry Park also boasts the world's largest lizard species - the Komodo dragons. The zoo is also noted for its events, kid's nights, Halloween & Holiday celebrations.

**Saint Petersburg Museums** - There are six museums in St. Petersburg alone, including the Florida International Museum (a Smithsonian Institution affiliate) and the Florida Holocaust Museum, the fourth largest in the United States. The Museum of Fine Arts recently hosted the Chihuly exhibit which will result in Dale Chihuly opening an exclusive gallery in St. Petersburg in 2008. The Salvador Dali Museum will soon begin construction of a new facility adjacent to the newly finished Mahaffey Theatre in downtown St. Petersburg.

**Clearwater Marine Aquarium** - This aquarium is dedicated to the rehabilitation and release of sick and injured marine mammals and animals such as dolphins, sea turtles, otters and whales, you can see stingrays (a hands-on experience), sharks and other fish. The Clearwater Marine Aquarium offers educational programs, such as Sea Life Safari, Marine Life Adventures, and Kayak Adventures. Join in and explore some natural habitats and get the hands-on experience of a lifetime.

**Sunken Gardens** - This is the real Florida. Sunken Gardens, a popular 'roadside attraction' since the 1930's, is located at 1825 Fourth Street N. in Saint Petersburg and has recently been revived. Visitors are treated to an incredibly exotic collection of over 50,000 plants and flowers blooming all year round. Be sure not to miss the Orchid Arbor. One of the most fascinating features here is the walk-through aviary which is home to all types of birds and a phenomenal butterfly garden.

**Bay Walk** - This shopping, dining and entertainment complex offers a 20-screen movieplex featuring stadium seating, numerous restaurants, shopping, galleries, and boat loads of atmosphere in Saint Petersburg.

**Fort De Soto** -Rich in history, a battery of 12-inch mortars and two British cannons of 1890 vintage are located at the fort for which the park was named. Ft. DeSoto Park is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Fort De Soto Park is consistently rated as one of America's top 10 beaches. The Park encompasses 900 acres, consists of 5 pristine islands, and offers superb amenities. Whether your interests include swimming, just sunning, roller blading, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, or camping, this park offers it all. Fishing facilities are comprised of 2 piers, one stretching 500 feet into Tampa Bay, and the other reaching out 1000 feet into the Gulf of Mexico. Camping facilities include 235 campsites, including picnic tables, grills, water/electric hookups, laundry facilities, pump-out stations, modern restroom/shower buildings, play areas, and a camp store.

**Manatee Viewing Center** - Come see the Manatees play in their winter hide-a-way, enjoying the warm water from the Big Bend electrical plant. They are located at the Big Bend Electrical Plant in Apollo Beach. Call 813-228-4289 for additional information.

#### LOCAL BEACHES



**MacDill Beach:** A clean, quiet beach on the bay right on MacDill AFB. Located near the FamCamp and Seascapes restaurant on Marina Bay Drive. There are two pavilions for group events available to rent. There is ample free parking, and even a playground for the kids! The Marina is just down the street. The annual CENTCOM

Organization and Family Picnic is usually held on this beach during the fall.

**Clearwater Beach:** There are numerous public access areas located up and down Mandalay Avenue, most with somewhat limited parking availability. The main public access is located at Pier 60, found at the end of Route 60. Parking is much more plentiful here, and is metered (bring quarters). City offices can be reached at (727) 447-7600.

**Indian Rocks Beach:** You will find the main parking and access area at Tiki Park, 19601 Gulf Blvd. Parking is metered, and will cost \$1 per hour. Other parking and access can be found in several spots along Gulf Blvd, but parking is generally at a premium. 727-595-4020.

**Madeira Beach:** You have several public access points to choose from at Madeira. They are located between 128th and 154th Avenues West. You can also use public parking at South Beach, near Johns Pass. 727-392-0665.

**North Redington Beach** You'll like this word, Free parking available along Gulf Blvd. There are six public access trails down to the beach from the Boulevard between 164th Ave and 174th Ave. 727-391-4848.

**Pass-A-Grille:** Public parking is available at Ninth Ave, with metered parking for \$1 per hour. For your buck, you have restrooms, showers, and a snack bar at hand. (Snacks sold separately) There are also public accesses along Gulf Way between First Ave and 22nd Ave in St Pete Beach.



**Redington Shores:** Public parking is available at the County Park; 18220 Gulf Blvd, and is free. Other public accesses can be found along Gulf Blvd between 174th Ave and 183rd Ave. 727-397-5538.

**St Pete Municipal Beach:** Lots of sand here folks, 1/4 mile at it's widest point, you will find it at 11260 Gulf Blvd. right off Central Avenue on Treasure Island. Parking is cheaper here too at \$1.50 an hour or \$5.00 a day. Public amenities include a snack bar, dressing rooms/showers, and 10 volleyball courts. 727-360-3278.

**Spa Beach:** This is a bayside beach located in Downtown St. Petersburg on 2nd Ave. NE. Free parking and public restrooms are available adjacent at North Shore Park, which also has a beach. 727-893-2707.

## SPORTS

The Tampa Bay area is home to the National Football League's (NFL) Tampa Bay Buccaneers, National Hockey League's (NHL) Stanley Cup Champion Tampa Bay Lightning, Arena Football League's (AFL) Tampa Bay Storm and Major League Baseball's (MLB) Tampa Bay Devil Rays. There are also major league baseball spring training teams including the New York Yankees, Philadelphia Phillies and Toronto Blue Jays.

**Auto Racing** The Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg is held the end of March with the famed Indy Car Series auto racing, Infiniti Pro Series, SCCA World Speed Challenge, stunt plane air shows, concerts, celebrities and more.

**Baseball and Softball** Major League Baseball came here to stay when the Tampa Bay Baseball Partnership was awarded an expansion franchise. The Tampa Bay Devil Rays began play in 1998. The Devil Rays play their regular season games at Tropicana Field, a 45,360 seat, climate-controlled domed ballpark in St. Petersburg. Other teams here for the "Grapefruit League" are the Philadelphia Phillies in Clearwater, the Toronto Blue Jays in Dunedin and the New York Yankees in Tampa. Nearby there are the Cincinnati Reds in Sarasota and the Pittsburgh Pirates in Bradenton.



**Equestrian and Polo** The Winter Equestrian Festival takes place each March at Florida Expo Park at the State Fairgrounds in Tampa. And the widely acclaimed American Invitational jumping competition is an April event now being held at the new Raymond James Stadium in Tampa. Also, polo matches are held every Sunday, from January through April, at the Walden Lake Polo Fields in nearby Plant City, Florida.

**Fishing** The waters of the Gulf of Mexico are abundant with salt water species including kingfish, king mackerel, tarpon, marlin, grouper, snook, tuna and sailfish. Numerous boat ramps give access to the Gulf and inland waters and if you don't have your own boat, private charters and party boats are available. Tarpon season runs from mid May through July with tournaments for serious anglers. Bass and other fresh-water fish are found in Pinellas County's two major lakes- Lake Tarpon and Lake Seminole. You will need to obtain a license; dial 1-888-FISH FLORIDA or visit [www.floridafisheries.com/rules.html](http://www.floridafisheries.com/rules.html) Licensing requirements follow the species of fish you are fishing for, regardless of where you are fishing. For example, anglers fishing for and possessing largemouth bass in brackish water need a freshwater license; anglers fishing for saltwater species in fresh water (e.g., spotted sea trout, red drum, snook, or American shad) need a saltwater license to possess these species. For the purpose of fishing in Florida, a person is a resident if he or she has lived in Florida for six continuous months prior to applying for licenses and claims Florida as his or her primary residence. Active military personnel stationed in Florida, including their spouses and dependent children residing in the household, are considered residents when purchasing fishing licenses. Licenses may be purchased from county tax collectors or their subagents, who are generally located at tackle shops, fish camps and sporting goods stores. In addition to license and stamp fees listed above, subagents are entitled to an additional 50 cents. License fees are set by the Florida Legislature and are subject to change.

**Football** The Tampa Bay Buccaneers of the NFL play in the 65,000- seat, open-air Raymond James Stadium on Dale Mabry in Tampa. In the north end zone a 103-foot pirate "ship," complete with cannons, shoots soft footballs and confetti when the Bucs score a touchdown. It's a great American sport to watch on a Sunday afternoon!

The Tampa Bay Storm, of the Arena Football League, play their home games at the St. Pete Times Forum in downtown Tampa. They have won five of the six Arena Bowls in which they've played. Arena football is indoor football.



**Hockey** The NHL's Tampa Bay Lightning skate at the St. Pete Times Forum in downtown Tampa along Channelside Blvd, where, in 2004, they were crowned Stanley Cup Champions for the first time in club history.

**Lawn Bowling** Alongside the Shuffleboard Club on St. Petersburg's Mirror Lake Drive is a venerable institution that still enjoys a healthy seasonal membership. The St. Petersburg Lawn Bowling Club, established in 1926, is on the National Register of Historic Places and plays host to lawn bowlers from around the world.

**Pari-Mutuels** Pari-mutuel wagering has a long history in the Bay area with the St. Petersburg Kennel Club -- Derby Lane. Races are run live from January through June, with simulcast races the rest of the year. Across the Bay, Tampa Greyhound continues the season with Greyhound "dog races" scheduled from July through December. The city of Oldsmar is the home of Tampa Bay Downs, which offers thoroughbred horse racing from December to March.

**Power Boating** Offshore racing events are another favorite sport in the area. Two of the biggest are the Gold cup Challenge Offshore Power Boat Races at St. Pete Beach and the Hurricane Offshore Classic in the waters of Tampa Bay, off the Pier in St. Petersburg.

**Rugby** The Tampa Bay Pelicans Rugby Football Club plays its matches with amateur teams from Orlando, Sarasota, Miami and Jacksonville. In a game with no time-outs, the play is fast and free, the players are comrades and the fans bring their own lawn chairs to the Old Busch Complex in St. Petersburg to watch what has been termed "eloquent violence."

**Running and Jogging** In sunlight and twilight, Pinellas parks and sidewalks are populated with serious and not-so-serious runners, joggers and walkers. The Suncoast Runners Club, among others, sponsors weekly events for the novice to the professional, as the sport is as popular for recreation and fitness here as it is for competition. For competitors, the Gasparilla Distance Classic in February attracts more than 12,000 runners for 15k and 5k events in Tampa.

**Shuffleboard** The St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club is the world's oldest and largest shuffleboard club. During the season as many as 200 shufflers attend the daily activities and the club hosts two statewide events and numerous district tournaments. It is the site of the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.



**Sailing** St. Petersburg's downtown waterfront is the site for the Olympic Regatta Training programs where competitors from all over the world practice their skills for Olympic sailing events. The city also hosts mid-winter regattas for several sailing classes including the Lightning, Thistle, Sonar, International 14, and Flying Dutchman. The Budweiser Cup, one of the largest sailing events in Florida, is organized each year by the Treasure Island Tennis and Yacht Club and the county's oldest and largest sailing school, the Annapolis Sailing School, is located near the Sunshine Skyway Bridge in St. Petersburg.

**Skating** Ice skating, roller skating and in-line skating are all to be found in Pinellas County. There are two Olympic-sized facilities for ice skating in the area: The Tampa Bay Skating Academy in Oldsmar and Sunblades at the Rubin Icot Center, mid-county on Ulmerton Road (SR 688) and the recreational ice rink at Countryside Mall in Clearwater also provides the opportunity for aspiring champions to skate.

A few roller rinks still exist, but Florida in-line skaters like to take to the outdoors finding their own scenic way along streets and paved trails.

#### SHOP SMART

Be a smart shopper and keep these shopping tips in mind - regardless of where you choose to shop!

**REMEMBER WHERE YOU ARE:** Park in a well-lit area and don't forget to note where you parked. Write down which department store or mall entrance is closest to your car. When leaving the mall, do so through the exit nearest to where you parked.

**DON'T BE TARGETED FOR A CRIME OF OPPORTUNITY:** DO NOT leave valuables in plain view in your car. Put packages in the trunk. Lock your car, even if you leave it for only a short time, and take your keys with you.

**THERE'S SAFETY IN NUMBERS:** Whenever possible, shop with someone else. Not only will this make your shopping trip more enjoyable, but you'll have someone to help you carry your packages!

**PROTECT YOURSELF:** Always be alert, as you should in any place that's open to the public. Don't hesitate to ask a mall security officer for help or for an escort to your car.

**BE DISCREET:** Don't flash large amounts of cash. Know where your purse, wallet, credit cards, cash, and keys are at all times. Do not lay these items out in the open. Keep your purse closed and secured and at your side at all times.

**BE AWARE:** Be aware of what is happening around you. If you notice anything that appears to be suspicious, report it immediately to mall security, guest services, or to any retail store employee.

#### SHOPPING MALLS

Regardless of the reason or the season, shops, malls and retail sites throughout Tampa Bay are filled with an amazing variety of merchandise for personal use or gift-giving. Major shopping malls are plentiful, as are smaller collections of specialized stores located in unique and distinct neighborhoods. Antique shops, vintage clothing stores, weekend markets that feature handmade jewelry and crafts, and most major chains round out the area's ever-changing, ever-expanding retail environment. <http://www.visitampabay.com>

The businesses listed below are not to be considered official DoD, U.S. Army or USCENTCOM recommendations.

**International Plaza & Bay Street**, 2223 N. Westshore Blvd & Boy Scout Blvd., Tampa, FL, 33607, 813-342-3790. Located adjacent to Tampa International Airport, it is a distinctive shopping and dining destination. There are four fashionable department stores, over 200 specialty shops and Bay Street at the Plaza- an open-air village of fine restaurants and small boutiques. [www.shopinternationalplaza.com](http://www.shopinternationalplaza.com)

**WestShore Plaza Mall**, 250 WestShore Plaza, Tampa, FL, 33609, 813-286-0790, Located at the intersection of WestShore and Kennedy Boulevards. Westshore has many stores and restaurants including AMC 14 Theaters where you can watch the latest movies. Call 813-286-0790 or visit [www.westshoreplaza.com](http://www.westshoreplaza.com) for hours of operation and additional information.

**Hyde Park Village**, 742 S. Village Cir., Tampa, FL, 33606, 813-251-3500, Hyde Park Village is located at Swann and Dakota Avenues, just minutes from downtown Tampa, the Village lies in the heart of the historic district of Old Hyde Park. Great stores, unique restaurants and a seven-screen cinema, Sunrise Cinemas, it's the perfect combination of shopping, dining and fun for all. Visit their website at [www.hydeparkvillage.net](http://www.hydeparkvillage.net)

**University Mall**, 2200 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL, 33612, 813-971-3465, Located between I-275 and I-75 on Fowler Avenue, take I-275 North, Exit onto Fowler Avenue & go east for one mile, Mall. Visit their website at [www.universitymalltampa.com](http://www.universitymalltampa.com)

**Westfield Countryside Mall**, 27001 U.S. Hwy. 19 N., Ste. 2096, Clearwater, FL, 33761, 727-796-1079. Westfield Countryside has over 195 stores, restaurants and The Tampa Bay Skating Academy. This 103'x 55' ice rink is considered to be an anchor at Westfield Countryside that not only brings good clean fun, but an experience ideal for the whole family. The Tampa Bay Skating Academy offers

public skating, learn to skate lessons, hockey lessons, figure skating, and Precision Drill Teams, Private Birthday Parties and Meeting Room. Visit [www.westfield.com](http://www.westfield.com)

**Westfield Citrus Park Mall**, 8021 Citrus Park Town Center, Tampa, FL, 33625, 813-926-4644, located off of Exit 9, Gunn Highway, on the Veterans Expressway, Westfield Citrus Park has over 188 stores, restaurants and Regal Cinemas movie theaters. Visit [www.westfield.com](http://www.westfield.com)

**Westfield Brandon Mall**, 459 Brandon Town Center, Brandon, FL, 33511, 813-661-5100. The Brandon Mall is conveniently located on S.R. 60, just east of I-75. Westfield Brandon Mall contains four major department stores, plus many specialty shops and restaurants. Visit [www.westfield.com](http://www.westfield.com)

**Big Top Flea Market**, 9250 E. Fowler Ave., Thonotosassa, FL, 33592, 813-986-4004, Take I-75 North to Exit 54, proceed East on Fowler Avenue to the Big Top Flea Market on the left. Hours: The Big Top Flea Market is a shopping alternative, like an outdoor market you would find in Europe. Save from 25% to 50% on retail prices, half the fun of shopping is discovering a great bargain. There are more than 1000 booths - creative clothing for all ages, footwear, costume jewelry and precious gem settings, tools, framed artwork, unique antiques and collectibles, clever furnishings, pets large and small, electronics, CDs and tapes, sporting goods, T-shirts, cool sunglasses, fresh produce - a bountiful array of fruits and vegetables, live plants and even a classic carousel for the children to ride. Food is also available - choose from a wide variety of menu items for a hearty breakfast, lunch or snack, including pizza, meatball hoagies, and more. Visit the website for more info at [www.bigtopfleamarket.com](http://www.bigtopfleamarket.com)

**Prime Outlets Ellenton**, 5461 Factory Shops Blvd., Ellenton, FL, 34222, 941-723-1150, located between Tampa and Sarasota off of I-75. Visit the Gulf Coast and west Florida's largest outlet center with over 130 factory direct stores including Coach Factory, Banana Republic Factory Store, Gap Outlet, Polo Ralph Lauren Factory Store, Saks Avenue's 'Off Fifth,' Ann Taylor Factory Store and a food court for your hunger pains. Save 25% to 65 % off suggested retail prices every day! Visit [www.primeoutlets.com](http://www.primeoutlets.com)

#### TAMPA BAY AREA EATERYS

We've listed some of the more popular restaurants recommended by the Protocol office and the Coalition Liaison office. They are not to be considered official DoD, U.S. Army or USCENTCOM recommendations. Smoking is not allowed inside all restaurants and bars who serve food in Florida. When you order a soda always ask what kind they have, if you order a "Coke" and they only serve "Pepsi" you will be brought a Pepsi. Most restaurants only carry one manufacture's brand of drinks. How to Tip: Waiters: 15-17% of bill before tax, 20% at a 5-star restaurant or for large parties. Large groups (6 or more) often have tips included in their final bill. Be sure to look, and be aware that (other than for large groups) the tip is rarely included on a restaurant bill in the US (unlike European countries).

American Hops	Grille & Microbrewery, 327 N. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, 813-871-3600 CK's, Tampa International Airport, Tampa, 813-878-6500 Newk's Café, 514 Channelside Drive, Tampa, 813-307-6395
Barbecue	Kojak's House of Ribs, 2808 W. Gandy Blvd, Tampa, 813-837-3774
Cuban/Spanish	Columbia Restaurant, 2117 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Ybor City, 813-248-4961 Carmines, 1802 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Ybor City, 813-248-3834
Cajun	Nola Café & News Stand, 301 W. Platt St, 813-258-8778
English	Mad Dogs & Englishmen, 4115 S. MacDill Ave, Tampa, 813-832-3037
Ethiopian	Queen of Sheba, 3636 Henderson Blvd., Tampa, FL 813-872-6000
French	Restaurant B&T (French Vietnamese fusion) 1633 W. Snow, Tamp, FL (Hyde Park Village Shopping District) 258-1916 (call for directions) Mise en Place, 442 W. Kennedy Blvd, Tampa, 813-254-5373
Greek	Pappa's Market Café, South Tampa area, Bay to Bay Blvd Pappa's Market Café, New Tampa
Italian	Bella's Italian Café, Old Hyde Park, 1413 S. Howard Ave, 813-254-3355 Benedetto's, Carrollwood/Citrus Park area, 21529 Village Lakes Shopping Center, Land O'Lakes, 813-909-9694 Carrabba's, 700 N. Dale Mabry Hwy, 813-875-4411 Eddie & Sam's, 203 E Twiggs Street 258-1916 (authentic New York pizza and Italian) Armani's, Westshore, 6200 Courtney Campbell, 813-281-9165 Donatello's, 232 N. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, 813-875-6660
Japanese	Koba's Japanese, South Tampa area JOTO Japanese Restaurant, 310 S. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, 813-875-4842
Mexican	Don Pablos, Brandon/Valrico area, Brandon Blvd

- Middle Eastern**      Byblos Café (Phoenician), South Tampa area, 2832 S. MacDill & Bay to Bay Blvd, 813-805-7977  
Baraka Restaurant, Temple Terrace
- Seafood**              The Colonnade Restaurant, 3401 Bayshore Blvd, Tampa, 813-839-7558  
Oystercatcher's, 6200 Courtney Campbell Hwy, Hyatt Regency Hotel Westshore, 813-281-9116  
Rusty Pelican, 2425 Rocky Point Dr, Tampa, 813-281-1943  
Shells, 202 S. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, 813-875-3467
- Sports Bar**            The Press Box, South Tampa, 222 S. Dale Mabry
- Steakhouse**          Bern's Steakhouse, Old Hyde Park, 1208 S. Howard Ave, 813-251-2421  
Charley's Steakhouse, 4444 W. Cypress St, Tampa, 813-353-9706  
Outback Steakhouse, 3403 Henderson Blvd, Tampa, 813-875-4329 (and many other locations)  
Ruth's Chris Steak House, 1700 N. Westshore Blvd, Tampa 813-282-1118  
Sam Seltzer's Steakhouse, 4744 N. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa 813-873-7267  
Shula's Steakhouse, 4860 W. Kennedy Blvd, Tampa 813-286-4336/4400

## **DRIVING IN FLORIDA**

### **MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICES**

We've included some important information from the Florida Driver's Handbook here, for complete information please visit the web site ([www.hsmv.state.fl.us/handbooks/English/](http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us/handbooks/English/)) or any Department of Motor Vehicles Office listed below.

#### Hillsborough Driver's License Offices:

Tampa, 6283 W. Waters Avenue 33634, call (813) 635-5200 for hours of operation, locations and additional information  
Plant City, 408 West Renfro Street 33566-5249, call (813) 757-9047, for hours of operation and additional information.  
Tampa, 4100 West M.L. King Jr. Blvd, call (813) 272-3771 for hours of operation and additional information  
Brandon, 2211 N Falkenburg Rd 33619, for hours of operation, locations, and additional information call (813) 635-5200  
Tampa, 10137 East Adamo Drive, Suite 800A 33619-000, for hours of operation and additional information call (813) 740-7535.

#### Pinellas County Driver's License Offices:

Clearwater, 13825 Icot Boulevard, Suite 604 33760, for hours of operation and additional information, call (727) 507-4789  
Pinellas Park, 6855 62nd Avenue North 33781, for hours of operation and additional information, call (727) 547-7684  
Clearwater, 29399 Hwy 19 North, Ste 100 34621, for hours of operation and additional information, call (727) 562-3262  
Tarpon Springs, 743 S Pinellas Ave 34689-3711, for hours of operation and additional information, call (727) 562-3262  
Petersburg, 1800 66th Street North 33710-4799, for hours of operation and additional information, call (727) 562-3262  
Largo, 13025 Starkey Road 33773, for hours of operation and additional information, call (727) 562-3262  
Clearwater, 1663 Gulf to Bay Blvd. 33756, for hours of operation and additional information, call (727) 562-3262  
St. Petersburg, 1067 62nd Avenue South 33705-5617, for hours of operation and additional information, call (727) 562-3262

Don't stand in line go online at [Myflorida.com](http://Myflorida.com) to schedule an appointment, renew a driver's license and complete a change of address.

### **WHO NEEDS A FLORIDA DRIVER'S LICENSE**



If you live in Florida and want to drive a motor vehicle on public streets and highways you need a Florida driver's license. If you move to Florida and have a valid license from another state, you must get a Florida license within 30 days of becoming a resident. You are considered a resident of Florida if you: Enroll your children in public school, or register to vote, or file for a homestead exemption, or accept employment, or reside in Florida for more than six consecutive months.

### **APPLYING FOR A DRIVER'S LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD**

Each application must include the following information: Statement from applicant swearing to or affirming that the information and statements on the application are true; Full name (first, middle or maiden, and last); Gender; Social security card number; County of residence; Country of birth; Mailing address; Legal proof of date of birth; Whether the applicant has previously been licensed to drive, and, if so, when and by what state, and whether any such license or driving privilege has ever been disqualified, revoked, or suspended, or whether an application has ever been refused, and, if so, the date of and reason for such disqualification, suspension, revocation, or refusal; May include fingerprints and other unique biometric means of identity; and Consent to release driving record information,

entitling the department to request, receive, and exchange such information with other jurisdictions. Each application for an original (first-time) driver license or identification card **MUST** present one of the following as their primary identification document:  
**PRIMARY IDENTIFICATION** Any person with a license or identification card from the District of Columbia, United States Territories or one of our 50 states (with the exception of those listed below) may present his/her license or ID card as a primary identification document. An approved secondary identification document is also required. Please note that Driver licenses from the following states: Alaska, Iowa, North Carolina, Utah, Connecticut, Michigan, Oregon, Vermont, Hawaii, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Virginia, Illinois, Nebraska, Tennessee, Washington, Indiana, New Jersey, Texas, Wisconsin are acceptable as secondary identification **ONLY** and to reciprocate driving privileges.



A certified copy of a United States birth certificate; A United States passport; A naturalization certificate issued by the United States Department of Homeland Security; An alien registration receipt card (green card); An employment authorization card issued by the United States Department of Homeland Security; or Proof of non-immigrant classification provided by the United States Department of Homeland Security, for an original driver's license. In order to prove non-immigrant classification, an applicant may produce the following documents, including, but not limited to: a notice of hearing from an immigration court scheduling a hearing on any proceeding; a notice from the Board of Immigration Appeals acknowledging pendency of an appeal; a notice of the approval of an application of adjustment of status issued by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service. Any official documentation confirming the filing of a petition for asylum status or any other relief issued by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service; a notice of action transferring any pending matter from another jurisdiction to this state issued by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service; an order of an immigration judge or immigration officer granting any relief that authorizes the alien to live and work in the United States, including, but not limited to, asylum; presentation of any documents listed under sections 6. and 7. entitles the applicant to a driver's license or temporary permit for a period not to exceed the expiration date of the document presented or 2 years, whichever occurs first.

**SECONDARY IDENTIFICATION** School record stating date of birth, which must contain the registrar's signature; Transcript of the birth record filed with a public officer charged with the duty of recording certificates; Baptism certificate, which shows date of birth and the place of baptism; Family Bible record or birth announcement in a baby book; An insurance policy on the customer's life, which has been in force for at least two years and which has the month, day and year of birth; A military or military dependent identification card; Florida or out of state driver license, valid or expired (may also serve as a primary item); Florida license record or identification card record; Selective Service Registration (Draft Card); Florida Vehicle Registration certificate (HSMV 83399, owner's copy) obtained from department, a tax collector's office, or an authorized tag agent where the customer's vehicle was registered, Florida or out-of-state registration certificate, if name and date of birth are shown; Florida or out of state non-driver identification cards (may also serve as a primary item); Receipt copy of your last Florida driver license issuance; Immigration Form I571; Federal Form DD-214 (military record); Marriage certificate; Court order, which includes legal name; A Florida voter registration card, which has been issued in the past 3 months; Personal identification by an examiner or by a person well known to the examiner. Social Security Card; Parent consent form of minor, signed by the responsible adult or; Government issued out-of-country passport, driver license, or identification card.

NOTE: Effective April 10, 2002, United States Military ID cards with an officer rank will be accepted as proof of citizenship only; however, not as proof of primary identification.

If you have legally changed your name by marriage or court order, you must submit the original or a certified copy of your marriage certificate or court order. No photocopies will be accepted unless certified by the issuing authority.

### **OBTAINING A FL DRIVERS LICENSE FOR NON-U.S. CITIZENS**

Original Driver License or Identification Card Florida law requires identification, proof of date of birth and social security number (if issued) from all customers before a driver license or identification card can be issued.

**Non-Immigrants** Each non-immigrant who applies for an original driver license or identification card must submit: Employment authorization card issued by the United States Department of Justice (Form I688B or I-766); or Proof of nonimmigrant classification provided by United States Department of Justice (Form I-94, not expired, with required supporting attachment(s). If in doubt regarding required documents, please bring all of your INS documentation with you.). I-94s must be accompanied by a Passport. Non-U.S. citizens applying for an original driver license will be issued a 30-day, no photo, paper temporary permit and a receipt. Non-U.S. citizens applying for an identification card will be issued a receipt. All records are transmitted to the database in Tallahassee, where the information will be examined and run against FDLE, FBI and INS databases. Upon identity and legal status verification, a driver license or identification card will be issued within 30 days from Tallahassee, mailed to the address on the driver record. The license or identification card will be issued for the period of time specified on the INS document. If a problem is detected, a denial of issuance letter will be mailed to the customer.

### **TESTING**

The following tests are given at the driver license offices and may or may not be required for the license or identification card you are seeking. **Hearing** - Drivers applying for a license who are deaf, or cannot hear conversation spoken in a normal tone of voice, are restricted to driving with an outside rearview mirror which should be mounted on the left side of the vehicle, or wearing of a hearing aid. **Vision** - Vision testing, using an eye machine located on the counter, is conducted in all driver license offices. Visual acuity readings worse than 20/40 are referred to an eye specialist. Color blindness will not cause any special condition for licensing. **Road Signs** - consists of 20 questions regarding road signs, with multiple choice answers. **Road Rules** - consists of 20 questions regarding traffic laws and safety, with multiple choice answers. **Driving Test** - You must provide a vehicle for the driving test. The vehicle must have a valid tag, proof of insurance, and pass a vehicle inspection. During the driving test, the examiner will observe your ability to control the

vehicle and how well you obey traffic laws. Driver license handbooks, motorcycle handbooks and commercial driver license handbooks are available for your use from your local driver license offices. There is no charge for the handbooks and may be returned for re-use. These handbooks can be viewed online.

### CAR INSURANCE

If you own a vehicle with at least four wheels and are registering it, you must have insurance coverage that meets Florida's requirements. Florida's minimum coverage is \$10,000 personal injury protection (PIP) and \$10,000 property damage liability (PDL) as long as you have a valid Florida tag, even if the vehicle is in another state or inoperative. There are no exemptions in the law. However, if you have been involved in a crash, or been convicted of certain offenses, you may be required to purchase bodily injury liability coverage (BIL).

Personal Injury Protection" (PIP) is coverage that will compensate a loss due to injury regardless of who is charged with causing the crash. PIP applies to bodily injury to you, relatives who live in your home and passengers who are not required to have PIP, as well as licensed drivers who drive your vehicle with your permission. PIP insurance also protects you if you are injured as a pedestrian or bicyclist as long as the injury is caused by a crash involving a motor vehicle. Bodily Injury Liability coverage pays for serious and permanent injury or death to others when you cause a crash involving your automobile. Your insurance company will pay for injuries up to the limits of your policy and provide legal representation for you if you get sued. In particular, your company pays for injuries caused by you or members of your family who live with you, even if they were driving someone else's vehicle. It may also cover others who drive your automobile with your permission. This coverage also provides you with legal defense in the event you are sued by the injured party. Property Damage Liability" (PDL) coverage pays for damages you or members of your family cause (and are liable for) to other people's property in a crash involving a motor vehicle.

### LITTERING

Littering public streets and highways is a crime for which offenders can be fined up to \$500.00 or jailed up to 60 days.

### SEAT BELTS



The seatbelt restraint laws in the state of Florida are the same as those for MacDill AFB. Please refer to page 9 of this handbook for detailed information regarding those laws.

### LEAVING CHILDREN UNATTENDED OR UNSUPERVISED IN MOTOR VEHICLES

Do not leave children unattended or unsupervised in a motor vehicle for any reason and for any period of time, especially if the motor vehicle is running or if the health of the child is in danger. On a hot summer day, the interior of a car can become dangerously hot. With the windows up and the temperature outside at 94 degrees, the inside of a car could be 122 degrees in just half an hour or 132 degrees after an hour. **A CHILD COULD VERY EASILY DIE UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS!**

### SPEED LIMITS

Follow all posted signs for speed limits. If no sign is posted follow these speed limits while traveling: Municipal Speed Areas, 30; Business or Residential Area, 30; School Zones, 20; Rural Interstate, 70; Limited Access Highways, 70; All Other Roads and Highways, 55

### FOLLOW POLICE OFFICER'S AND FIREMAN'S INSTRUCTIONS



If you are stopped by a law enforcement officer, pull off immediately to the extreme right side of the road, clear of traffic when possible. Turn off your engine. Reduce your headlights to the parking light position at night. Sit calmly and follow the instructions of the officer. Do not get out of your vehicle unless instructed to do so. You must follow any lawful order or direction of (1) any law enforcement officer or (2) any fireman at the scene of a fire who is directing traffic. If a law enforcement officer is directing traffic where there are signal lights, obey the officer - not the signals.

### RIGHT-OF-WAY AT STOP SIGNS

You must yield the right-of-way to all other traffic and pedestrians at stop signs. Move forward only when the road is clear. At four-way stops, the first vehicle to stop should move forward first. If two vehicles reach the intersection at the same time, the driver on the left yields to the driver on the right. Pedestrians have the right of way. Therefore, it is the motorist's responsibility to do everything possible to avoid colliding with any pedestrians. Bicyclists, skaters and skateboarders in a crosswalk or driveway are considered pedestrians. Turning motorists must yield to pedestrians at intersections with traffic signals. Motorists must yield to pedestrians crossing the street or driveway at any marked mid-block crossing, driveway or intersection without traffic signals.

### SAFETY RULES FOR PEDESTRIANS

Look to the left and the right before stepping off any curb. Cross only at intersections or designated crosswalks. Drivers are always more alert for pedestrians when they approach intersections. Cross with the green light or "WALK" signal. Make sure you have enough time to cross. Although the motorist must yield, the motorist may not see you in time. While walking along a highway, always walk on the shoulder on the left side, facing traffic. Wear light colored clothing or use a flashlight to make you more visible to drivers at night.

## BICYCLES

In Florida, the bicycle is legally defined as a vehicle. Bicyclists using a public roadway are considered operators of motor vehicles and are responsible for observing traffic laws. With few exceptions, there is only one road and it is up to motorists and bicyclists to treat each other with care and respect. Adherence to the law is the foundation of respect. Children being carried or riding bicycles should wear properly fitted bicycle helmets.

## STOPPING FOR SCHOOL BUSES

On a two way street or highway, all drivers moving in either direction must stop for a stopped school bus which is picking up or dropping off children. You must always stop if you are moving in the same direction as the bus and you must remain stopped until the stopped bus withdraws its "stop" signal. If the highway is divided by a raised barrier or an unpaved median at least five feet wide, you do not have to stop if you are moving in the opposite direction of the bus. Painted lines or pavement markings are not considered barriers. You must always stop if you are moving in the same direction as the bus and you must continue until the bus stop signal is withdrawn.

## SCHOOL CROSSINGS

Crossing guards are posted in areas where it is unsafe for children to cross alone. When you see a crossing guard, reduce your speed because you are near a school and children are in the area. Watch for school zone posted speed limit. If necessary, stop at the marked stop line. Never stop in the crosswalk. Obey signals from any crossing guard. It is the driver's responsibility to do everything possible to avoid colliding with pedestrians. Remember that children are unpredictable. Do your part to make every crossing a safe crossing.

## PUBLIC TRANSIT BUSES

All drivers should yield the right-of-way to public transit buses traveling in the same direction, which have signaled their intent to reenter the traffic flow from a specifically designated pullout bay.

## EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Pedestrians and drivers must yield the right-of-way to law enforcement cars, fire engines and other emergency vehicles using sirens and/or flashing lights. Pull over to the closest edge of the roadway immediately and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed. Do not block intersections.

### "MOVE OVER" LAW FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES

When driving on interstate highways or other highways with two or more lanes traveling in the direction of the emergency vehicle, and except when otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer, drivers approaching a law enforcement or other authorized emergency vehicle parked on the roadway with their emergency lights activated, will be required to leave the lane closest to the emergency vehicle, as soon as it is safe to do so. Note: Emergency vehicles include wreckers that are displaying their amber rotating flashing lights and performing a recovery or loading on a roadside. When approaching a law enforcement or other authorized emergency vehicle parked on a two-lane roadway with their emergency lights activated, and except when otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer, drivers will be required to slow to a speed that is 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit when the posted speed limit is 25 miles per hour or greater; or travel at 5 miles per hour when the posted speed limit is 20 miles per hour or less.



## WHERE PARKING IS NOT ALLOWED

On the roadway side of another parked vehicle (double parking); On crosswalks; On sidewalks; In front of driveways; By curbs painted yellow or where "No Parking" signs are posted, Within intersections; Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant; Within 20 feet of an intersection; Within 20 feet of the entrance to a fire, ambulance or rescue squad station; Within 50 feet of a railroad crossing; On the hard surface of a highway where parking spaces are not marked; On any bridge or overpass or in any tunnel; Within 30 feet of a rural mail box on a state highway between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Within 30 feet of any flashing signal, stop sign or traffic signal; In such a way that you block or create a hazard for other vehicles.

## TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS / TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Come to a complete stop at the marked stop line or before moving into the crosswalk or intersection. At most intersections, after stopping, you may turn right on red if the way is clear. Some intersections display a "NO TURN ON RED" sign, which you must obey. Left turns on a red light from a one-way street into a one-way street are also allowed. Before proceeding forward on a green light use the two second rule, count to two before pulling into the intersection in case there are "red light runners" (driver's who don't stop when the light turns red for them).

## DRAWBRIDGES



Drawbridges are mechanical bridges over navigable waters that raise or turn to allow marine traffic to go under them. When they begin to move the roadway is closed to all traffic. Always use caution when driving or walking over a drawbridge.

## EXPRESSWAYS

Also called interstate highways, freeways, and turnpikes are multiple-lane roads with no stop signs, traffic lights, or railroad crossings. For these reasons, expressways can give you a fast, safe way to get where you need to go. Pedestrians, hitchhikers, bicycles, animal-drawn vehicles or motor-driven cycles and motor scooters with 150 cubic centimeter displacement or less are not allowed on expressways.

## TOLL ROADS

Toll roads are like expressways; however, a fee is paid to use them. Make sure you have quarters in your car when using a toll road because some toll booths are unmanned and you must use the correct change to make payment. SunPass® is a statewide Prepaid Toll Program in use on most of Florida toll roads. A Small, pocket sized device called "the transponder" is attached inside your car windshield -- just below the rearview mirror -- which communicates with special toll plaza antennas. As the car passes through the toll plaza dedicated to mixed-use lanes, the plaza equipment electronically deducts the toll charge from the customer's toll Prepaid Account.

### IF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT...

**STOP.** If you are involved in a motor vehicle accident, you must stop. If anyone is hurt, you must obtain medical assistance. You must also provide your name, address, and vehicle registration number, as well as show your driver license to others involved in the crash, including law enforcement officers who may respond to the scene and investigate the accident.

**REPORT THE ACCIDENT.** If the accident involves bodily injury, death, or property damage, it must be reported by calling the local police, the Florida Highway Patrol, or the county sheriff's office, if you don't know the phone numbers dial 911. If the accident involves a charge of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) or results in death, injury, or property damage to the extent a wrecker must tow a vehicle, the officer will fill out a report. If the accident is investigated by a law enforcement officer, the driver need not make a written report. If property damage appears to be over \$500 and no report is written by an officer, you must make a written report of the accident to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles within 10 days. The officer will provide you with a copy of the form for your records.

**MOVE YOUR CAR IF IT IS BLOCKING TRAFFIC.** If your car is blocking the flow of traffic, you must move it. If you cannot move it yourself, you must get help or call a tow truck. This is true anytime your vehicle is blocking the flow of traffic whether it has been involved in an accident or not.

**COURT APPEARANCES.** The officer responding to the scene of an accident will investigate and file charges against any driver found to have violated Florida traffic law. Individuals charged with a traffic violation may be required to make a court appearance, during which the person charged is provided an opportunity to explain to the court what happened. If the court finds that the individual violated the law, it will decide upon a penalty. A person not charged with violating the law may still be required to appear in court as a witness, should the case go to trial. A driver convicted of leaving the scene of any accident resulting in death or personal injury will have his or her license automatically revoked. The driver is also subject to criminal penalties.

**ACCIDENT INVOLVING AN UNATTENDED VEHICLE** - If while driving a motor vehicle, you strike and damage an unoccupied vehicle, or property belonging to another, you must inform the owner and provide them with your name, address, telephone number and license plate number. If you cannot locate the property owner, leave a note, which provides the above information attached to the damaged property and immediately report the accident to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

## OTHER TRAVEL OPTIONS

### FLORIDA PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Local and Express bus service is provided to MacDill AFB via the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HARTline). The cities of St. Petersburg and Clearwater also provide public transportation. The transit information for these areas can be obtained by calling the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) at 727-540-1800. Commercial systems, such as Greyhound and Gray lines, also provide service for the area. Amtrak and several rail services also serve the tri-county area. Discount passenger rates are available at certain times of the year to northern destinations. Call 1-800-872-7245 for more information.

### HARTline PUBLIC BUS SERVICE, TROLLEYS AND STREET CARS

For HARTline bus route and schedule information about public transportation destinations throughout Hillsborough County, call 813-254-4278 [www.hartline.org](http://www.hartline.org), provides inter-city bus service. HARTline manages 207 buses on 26 routes, nine rubber-tired trolleys, and eight historic electric streetcars that connect downtown Tampa with countywide pick up and drop off locations. HARTline provides direct service from Tampa International Airport to downtown's Marion Transit Center and Amtrak rail service at Tampa Union Station. The Transit Center is located a few blocks from the Greyhound Station. The In Town Trolley, a rubber-tired trolley, connects downtown hotels to the Tampa Convention Center and the TECO Line Streetcar System. It operates weekdays and provides an additional connection between downtown and local dining, shopping and entertainment destinations. Riders can make convenient connections between the rubber-wheeled trolley and the electric streetcar allowing car-free travel to historic Ybor City and numerous other attractions. Within less than a half hour's time, the electric streetcar whisks passengers from downtown Tampa to the Channelside area and the cruise terminals, to Ybor City and back. Stops include the Tampa Convention Center, St. Pete Times Forum, Channelside, Port of Tampa, The Florida Aquarium and historic Ybor City. The streetcars run seven days a week, with extended hours on weekends. Information on all Florida public transportation can be found at this website: [www.apta.com/links/state\\_local/fl.cfm](http://www.apta.com/links/state_local/fl.cfm)

### AMTRAK TRAINS

 Tampa, FL (TPA) Station: 601 Nebraska Ave, Tampa, FL 33602. There is no Amtrak train station in Tampa; a bus will take you to Orlando to catch the train there. Silver Service / Palmetto: The Palmetto and Silver Service trains (the Silver Meteor and the Silver Star) offer service between New York City, Georgia and Florida. Visit the web site for more information [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com). Or call 813-221-7600.

### **GREYHOUND BUS SERVICE**

Greyhound buses travel throughout the U.S. Main Office: 813-229-2174; Baggage: 813-229-8588; Greyhound Package Express: 813-229-8588; Customer Service: 813-229-2174; Greyhound Charter: 800-454-2487 Station Location: 610 Polk St, Tampa, FL 33602,

### **TAXI SERVICES**



Over 500 vehicles are available for taxi service. The average taxi fare from Tampa International Airport to downtown is \$25 - \$30 (7-8 miles). Tampa is a call destination, not a flag destination. Most hotels offer shuttle service to the airport and major attractions. Tampa's fleet of taxi drivers go through training and are knowledgeable and eager to help you discover Tampa Bay. The businesses listed are not to be considered official DoD, U.S. Army or USCENTCOM recommendations. Some local Taxi companies are:

Cab Plus Inc: (813) 936-2525

Gulf Coast Transportation: (813) 251-3107

United Cab Company: (813) 253-2424

Yellow Cab: (813) 253-0121

### **CAR RENTAL COMPANIES**

The businesses listed are not to be considered official DoD, U.S. Military Service or USCENTCOM recommendations or endorsement of service.

Alamo Car Rentals, 5210 Spruce Street, Tampa, FL 33607, (800) 462-5266, (813) 823-4323

Avis Rent A Car Systems, Inc., Tampa International Airport, P.O. Box 23146, Tampa, FL 33623, (813) 396-3500

Budget Car and Truck Rental, 5400 Spruce Street, Tampa, FL 33607, (813) 878-2451

Enterprise Rent-A-Car, 3909 W. Hillsborough Avenue, Tampa, FL 33614, (813) 885-5636,

Hertz Corporation, 5507 Spruce Street, Tampa FL 33607, (813) 874-3232

### **PORT OF TAMPA CRUISE LINES**

The largest port in the southeast, the Port of Tampa serves as both a pleasure and industrial port. Tampa offers many cruise options from the Garrison Channel Cruise Terminal including 4, 5 and 7- and 14-day itineraries. The businesses listed are not to be considered official DoD, U.S. Army or USCENTCOM recommendations. Cruise information can be found on MacDill AFB at the ITT Travel Office located in the BX Mall (see page 11).

Carnival Cruise Lines, 3655 N.W. 87th Ave., Miami, FL, 33178-2428, 305-599-2600

Celebrity Cruises, 1050 Caribbean Way, Miami, FL, 33132, 305-539-6000

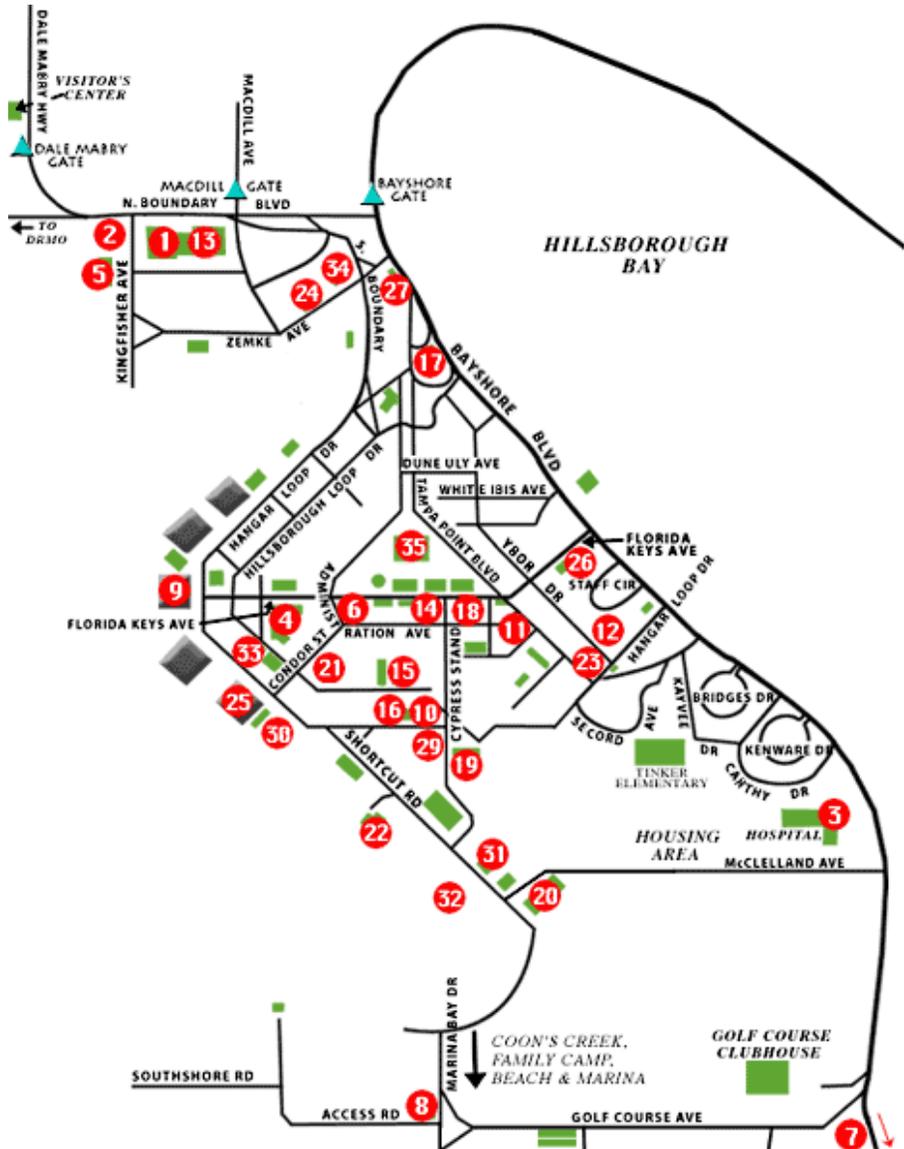
Holland America Line, 300 Elliott Ave. W., Seattle, WA, 98119, 206-281-3535

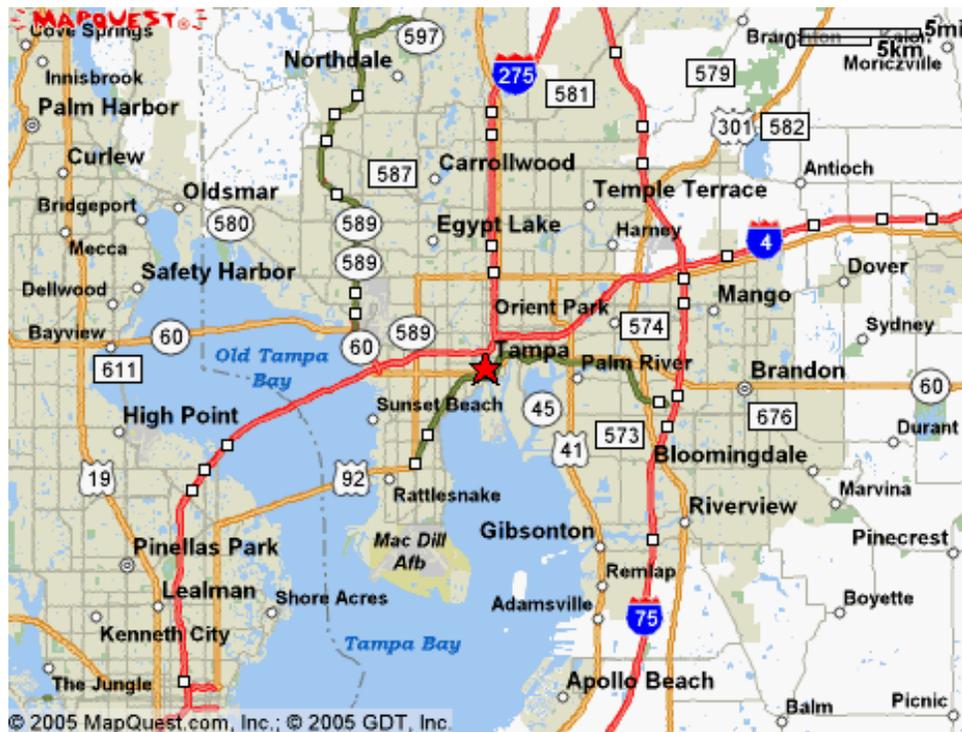
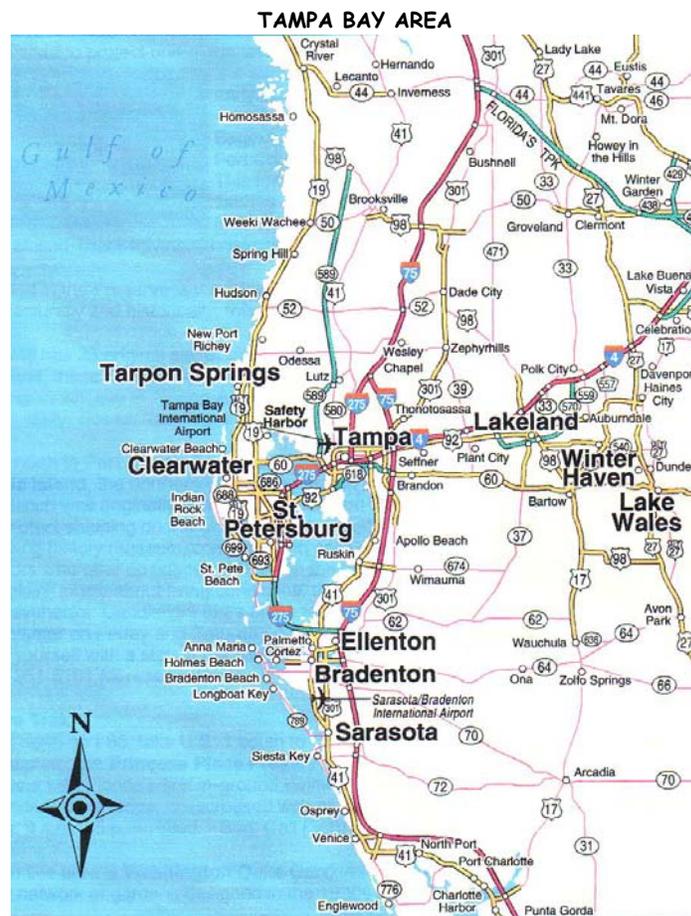
Royal Caribbean International, 1050 Caribbean Way, Miami, FL, 33132 305-539-6000

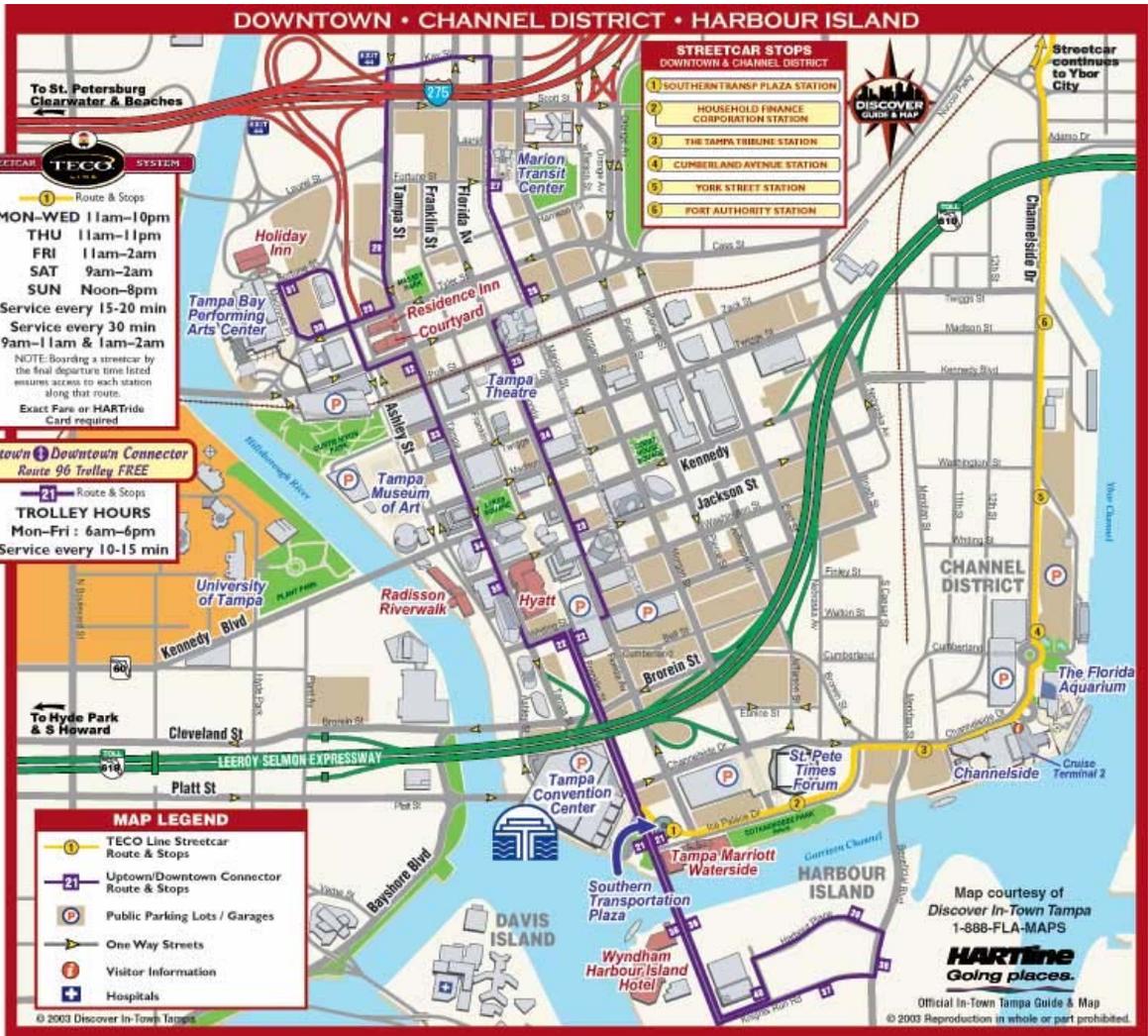
# AREA MAPS

## MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE

1. Base Exchange (Main Store, Concessions, Food Court, MCSS, Retiree Affairs)
2. Burger King
3. Hospital BX (Dental Clinic)
4. Mini Mall/ Post Office
5. Car Care Center
6. Theater
7. 37 AEG
8. 290 JCSS
9. Base Operations
10. Bowling Ctr.
11. Chapel
12. Child Development Ctr.
13. Commissary
14. Comm. Ctr./ Teen Ctr.
15. Dining Facility
16. Wing Headquarters/Public Affairs
17. Enlisted Club
18. Family Support Center.
19. Fitness Center.
20. JSCE
21. Library/ Education Center
22. Logistics Headquarters.
23. MacDill Inn (Billeting)
24. NAVCENT
25. NOAA
26. Officer's Club
27. Pass & ID/ Security Forces
29. Skills Development Center.
30. Social Actions
31. SOCCENT
32. Support Group HQ.
33. SATO/TMO
34. U.S. Central Command
35. U.S. Special Op Command







ORLANDO AREA ATTRACTIONS

