

Welcome to Branch Health Clinic, Diego Garcia



The
“Footprint of
Freedom”



Congratulations!

Welcome to the [Branch Health Clinic, Diego Garcia](#). You have been selected to join one of the Navy's finest Branch Medical Clinics anywhere in the world. We are a tenant command aboard the [U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia](#) and our parent command is the [U.S. Naval Hospital, Yokosuka, Japan](#). We are designed and staffed to provide routine and urgent care to residents of this very isolated island located in the Indian Ocean. Our services include:

- Family Practice/Military Medicine
- Basic Pharmacy, Laboratory, Radiology, and Physical Therapy
- Routine Military Immunizations
- Overseas / Sea Duty Screenings
- Military and Civilian Physical Exams (Annual, Flight, Occupational, etc.)
- Emergency Medical Response (Ambulance Service)
- Routine and emergency dental treatment including limited dental laboratory services



If you are looking for a professional challenge, a close-knit team, unbelievable recreational facilities, and exquisite natural beauty, then you are coming to the perfect place. Diego Garcia is continuously experiencing growth and change. Living and working conditions are outstanding and recreational opportunities are numerous.

You have been assigned a sponsor who will be contacting you soon and will be able to provide you specific answers to questions you may have concerning your arrival and subsequent tour on “The Footprint of Freedom.” Your sponsor will also provide specifics on travel to Diego Garcia; transferring from civilian to military flights in Singapore can be tricky.

I wish you a safe and pleasant journey to the Footprint of Freedom. The staff of BHC Diego Garcia is looking forward to having you as part of the team.

Richard C. Stacey
CDR, MSC, USN
Officer in Charge,
Branch Health Clinic, Diego Garcia,
British Indian Ocean Territory



Welcome to Diego Garcia

Welcome to the atoll of Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), the “Footprint of Freedom!” This lush, tropical paradise, located seven degrees south of the equator is the largest of more than 60 islands that make up the Chagos Archipelago with an international population consisting primarily of Filipino and Mauritius contractors, British forces and the U.S. military.

From the air, Diego Garcia takes on the rough outline of a footprint on the ocean surface giving it the nickname “Footprint of Freedom.” The island stretches about 38 miles tip to tip with an area of 6,720 acres. Average elevation is four feet above sea level with maximum elevation of 22 feet. The lagoon varies in depth from 10 to 100 feet.

Since Diego Garcia is in the southern hemisphere, the seasons are reversed compared to the U.S. and change very little with year-round temperatures in the high 80s during the day and lows at night in the 70s. It rains often with a normal year measuring more than 100 inches, most occurring during the “summer” months of December and January.

Shallow reefs surround the island on the ocean side and are scattered inside the lagoon. The waters surrounding Diego Garcia are home to a vast variety of sea life, with more than 700 species recorded. Some of the world’s finest snorkeling and ocean sports available.

Wildlife on the island consists mainly of coconut, land and warrior crabs; coconut rats; small lizards and geckos; a variety of tropical birds and many insects. There are also a few feral donkeys in the restricted part of the island. All residents make every effort to maintain the ecological integrity of Diego Garcia. As a result – other than swimming fish – all life forms, including live shellfish, are protected by British law.

Entry into Diego Garcia is restricted requiring area clearance by U.S. Navy Support Facility, Diego Garcia. Only active duty, unaccompanied military personnel, or authorized contractors

can be assigned to the island. Active duty military couples are not allowed concurrent assignments to Diego Garcia.

Diego Garcia, A British Territory

As a British Territory, all civilian and military personnel residing on the island come under [British Indian Ocean Territory \(BIOT\)](#) law and administration. These laws often differ from those in the United States so attending island indoctrination is required upon arrival.

The British personnel consist of Royal Navy and Royal Marines who provide security, customs, policing for the island and the Chagos Archipelago. The Commanding Officer, Headquarters British Forces BIOT, is a Royal Navy Captain. As the British Representative (Brit Rep), she represents the British Foreign Commonwealth Office for this territory. To that end, she fulfills a number of functions that include magistrate, coroner, and register of marriages.



The Brit Rep and her team take a great deal of interest in conservation issues. Diego Garcia and the other islands within the Chagos Archipelago are largely unspoiled and will remain so. On



Diego Garcia, the East Point Plantation area remains completely untouched since the days of the early copra plantation. Development and construction are not permitted in this area and so it serves as a beautiful retreat. Please remember that entrance to the plantation is restricted and therefore requires a pass from the BIOT Police Station.

The British wish you an enjoyable stay on Diego Garcia.

On your arrival, please familiarize yourself with the BIOT rules and regulations and try to preserve the island as the tropical paradise that it is.

Transferring to Diego Garcia

Read your orders, completely!
Service members are not authorized excess baggage. Free baggage allowance is two pieces of checked baggage, each piece not to exceed 62 linear inches nor 70 pounds, and one carry-on bag, not to exceed 45 linear inches. To avoid hassles that you do not need, bring only two bags, plus one carry on. You cannot pay for extra baggage in Yokota or Singapore.



If you are transferring PCS (greater than 180 days) you are entitled to a household goods shipment. Officers are authorized up to 1,000 pounds and enlisted personnel are authorized up to 500 pounds. Your shipment will take about 6 to 8 weeks to arrive on island so plan accordingly. Schedule your household goods shipment using the move.mil website. Also see your orders for more information.

Most importantly, email your sponsor and Ms. Lydia Domingo, the BHC Secretary, with your travel arrangements. Ms. Domingo can make your travels smooth and worry free. Her email address is lydia.f.domingo2.ln@mail.mil.

Japan

If scheduled to fly from Narita (Tokyo) to Diego Garcia by Air Mobility Command (AMC) aircraft, you will spend the night at Yokota Air Force Base. Locate the Department of Defense information booth in the Narita International Terminal to arrange transportation to and lodging at Yokota. The bus to Yokota costs \$25 U.S. and leaves every two hours. Be sure to check the timetable after you get through Customs. Once arriving in Yokota, it is recommended that you check for availability at the Kanto Lodge. The cost ranges from \$39.00 U.S. per night and the Kanto Lodge provides a free shuttle to the AMC terminal (not a 24-hour service so check times). If there are no rooms available at the Kanto Lodge, you will be issued a Statement of Non-Availability and authorized to stay in town. Average cost for rooms in town is \$125.00 U.S. Make sure to keep this statement and all receipts so you can be reimbursed on travel claims. Also upon arriving at Yokota, contact the AMC terminal to confirm flight times.

Singapore

If you are flying via AMC aircraft, you will arrive at Paya Lebar Royal Singapore Air Force Base. Customs will check for passports; however PCS personnel only need orders and their military identification. If your flight is leaving that day, the delay is normally 4 hours or less. If you do not leave before 2000 the AMC representatives will make arrangements for you to stay at the [Navy Gateway Inns & Suites](#).

If you are flying commercial, you will arrive at Changi International Airport. Customs will check for passports; however PCS personnel only need orders and their military identification. If your connecting flight is leaving that day, SATO Singapore can arrange transportation to Paya Lebar Royal Singapore Air Force Base, where you will catch the AMC flight to Diego Garcia. If you arrive at Changi after 2000, you will be spending at least one night in Singapore. Call the [Navy Gateway Inns & Suites](#) 257-0256 to see if a room is available. The cost will be approximately \$120.00 U.S. per night.

The average cost of a room in Singapore is \$125.00 U.S. or more. The cost of a cab is around \$25 Singapore, which is roughly equal to \$40.00 U.S. If for some reason the Navy Gateway Inn & Suites is full, you will be authorized to obtain a room in town. The Navy Gateway Inn & Suites will provide a Statement of Non-Availability. Ensure you keep this statement and all receipts to include in your travel claim upon arrival at Diego Garcia. You can also make hotel arrangements at Changi Airport and some hotels provide shuttle services from the Airport to the hotel free of charge. The next morning you can call Mr. Theo (Sato Rep) and he can take you to the Paya Lebar AMC terminal.

Note: Paya Lebar will most likely be closed when you arrive at Changi airport. DO NOT get a taxi to Paya Lebar until the next day. The base closes at 1900 and you will not be allowed to enter the base after these hours. Paya Lebar is approximately a 15-20 minute drive from Changi airport.

Important numbers to keep on hand:

Mr. Theo @ 9430-2886 or 9738-2378!

Singapore Navy Gateway In Suites (Hotel) - 6752-8245

CSD (Local PSD) - 6750-2507

SATO - 6750-2622

CLWP Battle Watch Officer -9672-2594 (Manned 24/7/365)

American Embassy-6476-9100

CMC - 9672-2641

Traveling From Norfolk

Personnel traveling via the East Coast rotator will fly out of the Norfolk AMC terminal of Naval Station Norfolk. The approximate 326hour flight will fly through Rota, Spain; onto Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy; then onto Chania Airport in Crete, Greece; to the Kingdom of Bahrain's International Airport, before arriving on Diego Garcia.

Note: The likelihood of an overnight layover is highly improbable, however it can happen. Should you encounter and overnight layover via this route, accommodations will be arranged through the airline carrier.

**** MEMBERS COMING TO DIEGO GARCIA MUST COMPLETE AN OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT SUITABILITY SCREENING IAW OPNAVINST 1300.14D, BUMEDINST 1300.2A AND MILPERSMAN 1300-300(SERIES) WITHIN 15 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF YOUR ORDERS.**

Things to do BEFORE you PCS to Diego Garcia

1. Take care of all possible medical and dental problems that may not have been taken care of during your overseas screening. You will probably want an extra pair of glasses or contact lenses because we do not have an optometrist onboard. Talk with your sponsor regarding availability of medicines at the Clinic.

2. Purchase any uniform items you may need. The Ship's Store has only a limited stock of items. You may order uniform items from the [Uniform Support Center](#). Delivery time is 2-3 weeks minimum.

3. Change your current mailing address on all bills, catalogs, magazines, etc. Sometimes mail is slow in leaving and arriving on island. Take this into account for any bills that may have specific due dates. Look into paying your bills online or via direct debit.



4. Ensure all of your financial affairs are in order.

5. Set up temporary guardianship for minor family members if necessary.

6. Provide necessary Powers-of-Attorney (consult the Legal Office) for items such as real estate, automobiles, taxes, litigation, etc., that may arise while you are on island.

7. Ensure you have a current and valid will.

8. Register to vote and request an absentee ballot for any elections you will miss. BHC Diego Garcia also has a Voting Assistance Officer to provide absentee ballot requests.

9. Ensure your relatives know how to contact their local Red Cross in case of emergency. Provide them with your Social Security Number, rank, rate, and the name of this command (there are many different Navy commands on the island).

10. While you are authorized to use a [Military Passport \(maroon cover\)](#) while traveling on official business to some countries in the PACOM AOR, it is not recognized by some nations in S.E. Asia. Also; a Military Passport cannot be used for recreational travel. Since Singapore now requires a passport for all U.S. military not traveling on orders, you must have a personal

passport in order to take [Environmental Morale Leave \(EML\)](#) obtain a personal passport (blue cover) before leaving the United States.

11. Keep in contact with your sponsor and Ms. Lydia Domingo (BHC Secretary) at lydia.domingo.ln@mail.mil. Let them know your travel arrangements, arrival times, and any other information that may be needed to assist you with your trip.

12. Be sure to have a current ID card. You will not be allowed to board any military aircraft with an expired ID.

13. Ensure your driver license will not expire while on-island. You will not be permitted to drive on an expired or “extended” driver license.

14. Your new mailing address is:

First Name Last Name
BHC Diego Garcia
PSC 466 Box 3
FPO AP 96595-0003

Travel Notes

No clothing, hats, or belt buckles with slogans or insignia that may draw attention to your status as an American Citizen/military member may be worn. Profanity, maliciousness, or any other negative behavior that may bring discredit to yourself or the United States are prohibited and may be punished as the Uniform Code of Military Justice allows.

Customs

Diego Garcia is subject to British Customs and Immigration Controls. A strict control is maintained on the importation of drugs and related items, weapons (includes: knives with blades exceeding three inches, spear guns, firearms and explosives) and pornography (print, video, or digital). Severe penalties are awarded for violation of British Customs laws.

As a matter of routine, all medication (including aspirin and vitamins) will be confiscated and inspected. You should identify all medications to ensure their return.

In accordance with regulations, no type of attire with degrading or obscene comments may be worn, or brought to, Diego Garcia. This includes pictures, phrases or slogans depicting drug paraphernalia, anti-war slogans, ethnic slurs, or having sexual connotations. Publications that depict biker/hippie culture or mercenary magazines will be confiscated, as will all obscene publications. All videotapes brought into Diego Garcia will be retained by British Customs for screening and returned within 10 days if approved. Prohibited materials will be burned.

When clearing customs, you must have in your possession your orders, your military ID card, and a passport for non-military personnel.

Items to bring

Passports

While you are authorized to use a [Military Passport \(maroon cover\)](#) while traveling on official business to some countries in the PACOM AOR, it is not recognized by some nations in S.E. Asia. Also; a Military Passport cannot be used for recreational travel. Since Singapore now requires a passport for all U.S. military not traveling on orders, you must have a personal passport in order to take [Environmental Morale Leave \(EML\)](#) obtain a personal passport (blue cover) before leaving the United States.

Uniforms

- Officer/CPO: Navy Working Uniform (NWU) type III, service dress white; summer white; service khaki; summer and winter dinner dress (O-4 & above, optional for others); dress blues, and flight suit (officers in a flight status)
- E6 and below: Navy Working Uniform (NWU) type I or III, Navy Service Uniform, service dress white and blues.

Note: Winter Service Dress uniforms are suggested for all hands in the event of a TAD/TDY or other departure from the island to an area other than a summer/tropical climate or for special events held on the island.

Civilian Clothes

Shorts and T-shirts with sandals or sneakers are the most popular civilian attire on the island. Wash and wear articles are highly recommended. You may want to consider bringing some dress clothes (shirts with collars and dress pants) for special events, church, or just going out to the clubs.

Note: The Ship's Store has a limited selection of clothing, shoes, undergarments, and sportswear but items may be ordered online as well.

Sports/Leisure Equipment

Bicycle with helmet, baseball/softball gear, snorkel gear, fishing equipment, bowling ball, roller skates/blades, golf clubs, personal weightlifting gear, rackets (tennis/racquetball), sports shoes, beach/lounge chairs, beach blanket. Although the gym does loan equipment, it is better to bring your own if you play a lot of sports.

Personal Items

Computer, board games, reading materials, magazine subscriptions, MP3 player/CD player or stereo, CD's, DVD's, preferred brands of hygiene goods, some dishes, glasses, and silverware. Alarm clock and irons are provided. Many DVD titles (including new releases) are available for purchase or rental at the Ship's Store. Telephone, television, DVD players, and microwaves are provided in your room. You are strongly encouraged to bring a sturdy umbrella. It rains often and the rain is usually heavy. Sunscreen, bring sunscreen. Sunglasses that provide UV protection are encouraged.

Living in Diego Garcia

BEQ/BOQ

Sailors E-6 and below do not share rooms. Each room comes equipped with a large refrigerator, microwave, and a private shower. Officers and Chiefs also have their own rooms, which include kitchenettes. You will be issued linens (sheets, pillow-cases, pillow, blanket, and comforter). Most of the BEQ/BOQs are two- or three-story buildings. The rooms all open up to the outdoor walkway/balcony. The



BEQ/BOQs have grills and picnic tables outside and are free to be used by anyone. All rooms have TVs, VCRs, DVD players, and microwaves. Smoking is not permitted in the BEQ/BOQ rooms or outside the doorway. There are designated smoking areas at each BEQ/BOQ.

Communicating

- **Telephone:** The commercial/private phone system is operated by Sure, the local British phone company. Phone cards must be purchased to call off the island. Phone cards (FonePlus) come in increments of \$10 and \$20 and may be purchased at Sure (Stateside phone cards will not work). All payments are in cash only. If you are active duty, MWR will give you the option of a \$20 phone card or \$20 towards your monthly internet bill. Phone calls range from 55 to 88 cents a minute depending on time of day.
- **Internet:** If you have a computer, bring it along. Another way to keep in touch with the folks back home is e-mail or web cam. Private Internet access is available through Sure. A private DSL internet connection is available for \$54.00/month for 4.5 GB access, \$87.00/month for 8 GB access, \$130.00/month for 13 GB access, \$176.00/month for 20.5 GB access, and \$220.00/month for 26 GB access. All payments are made in cash. You can purchase a DSL modem on island if you do not have one (many detaching staff sell theirs at a significantly reduced price). FonePlus cards may also be used in several wireless hotspots around the island to connect wirelessly to the internet with your personal laptop. There are also Internet Café computers free of charge at several locations for personal use.
- **Postal Mail:** If you want to send a card/letter home by mail, Diego Garcia is home to the only U.S. Post Office in the Indian Ocean. The average time for mail to and from the States is about 8 - 10 days, but may be more than 3 weeks. Regular letters up to 13 ounces can be mailed off-island free of charge. Off-island postage rates are the same as in the States. There is British Post Office (at Sure) service on island as well, using BIOT stamps. First class letter postage costs 97 cents. Delivery time is similar to U.S. Post Office.

Education

There currently is not a Navy College Office on Diego Garcia at this time. You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of your off-duty time on DGAR in pursuing higher educational courses. TA is approved in-house currently by our SEL.

Finances

- Checks: The Turner Club and the Officer's Club have cash cages available where individuals can cash personal checks up to \$100 per day. Individuals are issued a check-cashing card by MWR and are required to have it with them to cash a check. It can take up to four weeks for a check to clear, so balance accurately. If at any time a member bounces a check, his or her check cashing privileges with MWR will be removed.
- ATM: There are two automatic tellers (ATMs) on the island. One is located next to Community Bank and the other is in the AMC Terminal.
- Cash, Checks, or ATM, Credit Card: Cash is required at most establishments on the island. Checks are accepted in the Ship's Store and may be cashed as indicated above. MasterCard, and VISA are accepted in the Ship's Store and Post Office. Discover and American Express is not accepted on-island.
- All transaction on-island are in U.S. dollars.

Island Shopping

The only store on the island is the Ship's Store carries a limited supply of electronic equipment, sporting gear, personal items, gifts, clothing, uniforms, and is Diego Garcia's only grocery store. Although small, it carries a variety of food items to meet most of your needs. It also offers a catalog order center where you can call in or fax a uniform order to the [Uniform Support Center](#) and have it delivered to you. This does require a credit card. MasterCard and VISA only, are accepted for purchases at the store as well as cash or personal check.



Movies

The MWR department runs an outdoor, covered movie theater. Movies are shown daily at 2000 and are free of charge. On Friday and Saturday, movies are also shown at 2230. Although we don't get the newest movies right away there is a good selection. A variety of snacks and drinks are sold at the Main Outdoor Theater (MOT) and popcorn is free.

Pay and Allowances

Members are entitled to COLA while stationed on DGAR. Pay is not tax free, even if you pass through a tax-free zone on your way here. **However, personnel sent into a tax-free zone on TAD orders will be awarded tax-free pay. All E-6 and below personnel will receive a meal pass upon arriving to the island but only E-6 has the option to route a special request chit to receive BAS.** All E-7 and above will receive commuted rations. Although this is type 3 duty, you do not receive sea pay. Individuals who are married or have dependents still receive their regular entitlements. Everyone receives Hardship Duty Pay, which is \$150 a month and is listed as "Save Pay" on the LES. Of course, those entitled to Family Separation Allowance will also receive their entitlement, which is currently \$250.00 per month.

Taking leave

Environmental Morale Leave (EML) is authorized while on Diego Garcia. This is not Basket Leave. You will be charged leave. It is your responsibility of the member to ensure an adequate leave balance before coming to DGAR. If you do not have a proper amount of leave to take for your EML (at least 14 days), leave will be denied while you are attached to DGAR.

Personal Services

- Beauty Shop: The Beauty Shop offers a variety of services including hair styling, manicures, pedicures, facials, etc. for free or low cost.*
- Dry Cleaning: There are **no** dry cleaning services on the island.
- Haircuts: Haircuts in the Barber Shop are free.*
- Laundry Service: Uniform cleaning and pressing is free. Additionally, up to 5 personal collared shirts and slacks per week will be cleaned and pressed for free.*
- Massage Service. Massages are performed by professional masseuse by appointment for \$15-\$30 an hour.
- Photo Shop. Print your photos for low cost.
- Tailor Service: Uniform tailoring is free. Additionally, up to 5 personal items per week can be tailored, mended, etc. for free.*

*While not required, a tip is strongly encouraged. The contract workers are paid low wages and work very hard. They are very gracious and tips are greatly appreciated.

Places to Eat

- The Officer's Club is open to all hands. It sits at the tip of the island on Eclipse Point and has a beautiful view of both the Indian Ocean and the lagoon and offers a full service menu. The club offers daily specials including Mongolian BBQ, Wings, and Build Your Own Pizza nights. The O'Club also offers an all hands brunch on Sunday.
- The Reindeer Station is open to military personnel and offers a fine menu to patrons including burgers, ribs, and pizza. Reindeer Home Delivery is available to **all hands** and your food can be delivered to any building in the downtown area for a small fee.
- The Island Room is the club predominantly used. Located in the Turner Complex, it is also the site for large all-island parties, dinners, and special events. The club offers daily specials including Mongolian BBQ, Wings, and Build Your Own Pizza nights
- The Food Court is located in the Turner Complex. Restaurants include Smash Hits (sub sandwiches, wraps), Hot Stuff Pizza, and C-Street Café (baked goods and Starbucks[®] Coffee).
- The Peacekeeper Inn located in the Turner Complex, carries a full menu of favorites including fried chicken, spaghetti, burgers, and sandwiches.
- The Passenger Terminal Snack Bar accommodates those incoming and outgoing passengers with a variety of sandwiches and drinks.
- The United Seaman's Service Center is located at the edge of the downtown area and offers a variety of menu items, as well as daily specials. This Merchant Mariner facility can also accommodate large groups for special functions. It is open to all hands.
- As always, there is the Consolidated Dining Facility (CDF), affectionately known as the Galley, for active duty service members assigned to downtown and select tenant commands. Serving three meals a day, they offer a variety of food. If you are not receiving BAS or Per Diem, you will be issued a meal card. If you are receiving compensation for food, the CDF is still the economical choice of eateries. Currently, breakfast is \$3.45 and lunch and dinner are \$5.55. In addition to the regular menus, the CDF has a salad bar, speed line, and desert bar.



Religious Ministries

There are a number of services to accommodate religious needs. The command religious ministries in Diego Garcia are uniquely diverse in order to accommodate various faith groups. Although it is generally Navy in its total force, there is a great presence of Air Force personnel supporting joint military operations. The Chapel is staffed by a chaplain, a Religious Program



Specialist and a secretary, who are available to help people from all faith groups to achieve the fullness of their spiritual life, staff the chapel. Chaplains are also available for confidential counseling. There are many positions available for those who wish to volunteer, such as musicians, choir members, ushers, lay readers, lay Eucharistic ministers, scripture readers, and more. Other religious ministries on the island include the BOSCO Contractor's-Sacred Heart Catholic Chapel, Island Thrift Store, Christian

Fellowship and Bible Study group (CFBS), and other religious support groups. Some of the religious faiths that worship here on the island are Church of Christ, Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon), Jewish, Roman Catholic, and Islamic to name a few. All of these religious ministries work together to co-sponsor religious activities and mutually support one another to give you the widest variety of religious ministry.

Transportation

Since personally owned vehicles are not allowed on the atoll, the primary means of transportation are buses, bicycles, and old-fashioned foot power. Buses travel at regular interval throughout the inhabited areas of the island. Base taxis and government work vehicles also travel DGAR but are for official use only. All buildings in the "Downtown" area are within walking distance of the BEQ/BOQ. Bicycles are very popular but there are certain rules you need to know. Bells or horns are required on bikes and a front white and rear red light are mandatory when riding after dark. Helmets with the chin strap strapped are required when riding at all times. The BIOT police will issue a hefty fine to anyone riding without a helmet. Spare parts are in short supply on the island so you might want to prepare for some of the more common needs. The MWR Bicycle Repair shop provides services for a small fee including getting your bike ready to ride after it arrives on island!

Recreation

- The gym is open 0500 - 2300 and includes basketball courts, combination volleyball/basketball court, Nautilus fitness center, a free-weight room, a cardio room with treadmills, stationary bikes and cross trainers, locker rooms and an equipment issue center.
- Outdoor activities: Located next to the gym are two lighted softball fields, six lighted tennis courts, and six horseshoes pits. There are volleyball courts located at Jake's Place, the Short Pier, the Reindeer Station, and the BEQ areas. A lighted softball field, two lighted basketball courts, two lighted volleyball courts and two lighted tennis courts are located at the Fleet Recreation Center.
- Golf: The Coral Sands Golf Course located in Sea Breeze Village. The 9-hole golf course has full sets of clubs for use, but there is a nominal fee for each bucket of balls on the driving range.
- Bowling: Diego Garcia has its own four-lane bowling alley. Located next to the Turner Complex, it is fully equipped with lockers and a snack bar.



- Fishing is a popular activity in Diego Garcia. It could be trolling for Yellowfin Tuna and Wahoo to bottom fishing for Grouper Sea Bass or Red Snapper, to a relaxing day of casting from the shore, you'll probably not find a better place to fish in the world.

- Swimming Pool: The 25-meter swimming pool is located near the base gym pool that has marked swimming lanes for exercise and a free swim area with a diving board.

- The Marina rents powerboats, sailboats, canoes, windsurfers and kayaks. Free classes are offered on a regular basis and are required for powerboats and sailboats. Rented boats are not allowed outside the lagoon; however you can charter a deep-sea fishing excursion aboard a beautiful Boston Whaler or smaller Ocean Master. The Marina even has fishing poles to rent on your way to that fresh tuna dinner.
- Parks: Diego Garcia has many parks at which to picnic with a small group or a whole command. All parks have covered dining tables/areas and BBQs so fire up the grill and have some fun.
- In addition to all these leisure activities, MWR regularly host sports tournaments, races, contests, fishing competitions, island wide picnics and DGAR's famous monthly 5K run/walk for all island residents with free T-shirts to everyone who completes the distance. MWR has many leagues that form throughout the year from bowling and basketball to softball and volleyball.
- Live Entertainment: The clubs regularly provide live entertainment and the base often invites entertainers for special engagements. Always a favorite, DGAR Idol is a fun gathering in the Fil-Mau Club most Friday nights.
- Don't be shy, get involved.

TV/Radio

- TV: The Naval Media Center Broadcast Detachment here on DGAR is one of several overseas branches of the Naval Media Center headquartered in Washington D.C. The main NMC Branch is responsible for the Navy-wide products, Navy and Marine Corps News and All Hands magazine. Our local station operates one AM (1485) and two FM (99.1 and 101.9) radio stations, as well as three television stations - TV8 is our primary entertainment channel; TV10 is a News/Spectrum channel, and TV12, 24 hours of sports. The three TV stations are taken directly from the Armed Forces Radio & Television Service (AFRTS) satellite feed from the broadcast center at March AFB in Riverside, California. Spectrum is primarily a movie and old TV reruns channel. The sports channel features live and recorded sporting events. NMC Diego Garcia shows a local 5-7 minute newscast on Channel 8, weeknights at 1900. The newscast is your primary news source for events happening on the island, policy changes that will affect your daily living and stories highlighting people and sports on the island.
- Radio: Our primary radio station is Power 99 (FM 99.1). The radio schedule is:
 - Morning Hits, Weekdays from 0600-0900...a blend of the top songs currently on the U.S. top-40, urban and modern rock charts.
 - Flashback Hits, Weekdays from 0900-1200...Hits and obscure classics from the 60's through the 80's. A little bit of everything from classic rock to disco to new



- wave favorites. Country, Weekdays from 1200-1400...just as the name says, new country hits from the stateside charts as well as your favorites for years past.
- Power Hits, Weekdays from 1400-1600...Just like the morning show with a blend of the top songs currently on the U.S. top-40, urban and modern rock charts.
 - All DJ's are happy to take requests, as long as the songs are within the show's format. The radio studio phone number is 370-3699.
 - 101.9 is a satellite-fed station playing a variety of music from back home. If you are into talk radio, or you are an avid sports fan, switch to AM 1485.
- All programming on AFRTS is obtained for free from TV studios and networks as a thank you for your military service overseas. That means they don't run stateside commercials. However, since shows are actually less than 30 or 60 minutes (they are actually 22 or 45 minutes of actual program), the commercial breaks are filled with public service announcements. This is where you will see much of your daily Diego Garcia information.

Words of Caution

Bike safety

When bicycling on the island, you must wear an approved bike helmet with the chin strap strapped at all times. Horns or bells are required on all bicycles. Also, when riding at night, you must have working front white and rear red lights turned on at all times.

Jogging

Joggers running along DG-1, our only "highway," must use the asphalt walking/jogging trail. For your protection, when jogging between sunset and sunrise, follow these rules: wear light colored clothing; always wear reflective rope on your front and back, use the jogging trail and yield the right of way to moving vehicles at all intersections. Use of "walking-type" personal listening devices is prohibited for pedestrians, joggers, and cyclists. There are miles of jogging trails available on Diego Garcia including jungle trails.

Shelling

Shell collecting is permitted on Diego Garcia as long as the shell is uninhabited and at the permission of the British Rep. Coral may be collected for display purposes but cannot be taken off the island since harmful bacteria is difficult to kill and may pose an environmental risk in the States.

SCUBA Diving, Snorkeling and Spear Fishing

British environmental protection laws prohibit spear fishing in the waters of Diego Garcia. Snorkeling and Scuba Diving is permitted and offers an excellent way to see the fabulous marine life and beautiful coral formations in the lagoon. Due to prevailing winds disturbing the water from June through September, snorkeling is usually best from October through May. There are more than 700 varieties of fish in our water. Fins, mask, and snorkel may be checked-out at the Marina or purchased from the Ship's Store.

Sunbathing

Some of the world's best tans can be obtained on Diego Garcia. Because of our location about seven degrees south of the equator, caution must be taken to prevent sunburn when you first arrive or if you are prone to sunburn. As a general rule, do not stay out in the sun for more than 15-30 minutes at a time until you have adapted to the direct glare of our equatorial zone sun. Also, use liberal amounts of sun protection (a bottle of sunscreen is recommended as part of your travel gear to the island). Sunglasses that provide UV protection are encouraged.

Restricted Zone

The eastern half of the island is off limits. No personnel are permitted past the "GEODDS Gate" without a pass from the British Representative. This side



of the island is a controlled area with no construction sites. It remains much as it was in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The remains of what was once a coconut plantation are located on

the East side of the island at East Point. The British Representative issues a limited number of passes to visit and explore the plantation ruins on weekends.

Water safety

- Swimming is only allowed on the lagoon side of the island. Due to strong currents and a large population of aggressive sharks, **NO SWIMMING IS ALLOWED ON THE OCEAN SIDE OF DIEGO GARCIA**. You will be arrested if caught swimming in the ocean. You may enter the ocean to explore but no deeper than your knees.
- Swimming, snorkeling, sailing, and windsurfing in the lagoon all involve possible contact with harmful marine life. When snorkeling or swimming around coral growths, never reach into holes in coral heads as these are potential homes for moray eels. Also, when snorkeling around coral heads, be sure to wear gloves (fire coral is not uncommon in our waters and causes severe pain if accidentally touched).
- Swimming in the lagoon at night is **NOT** permitted.
- The coral on Diego Garcia is sharp and cuts are painful and must be medically cleaned to ensure all coral is removed from the wound. Infection may result from improperly cleaned coral cuts.

Wildlife





All wildlife on the island is protected under British law. Any detected harm, mistreatment, or harassment of any of the island's animals will result in punitive action. This includes all crabs. Fishing is permitted in designated areas.

Island Tenant Commands

Navy Commands

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Far East

NAVFAC Far East is a single facilities command serving Navy, Marine Corps, and other DOD activities in the Far East Region. NAVFAC is committed to providing best-value facility solutions and services to Navy and Marine Corps bases at Misawa, Atsugi, Yokosuka, Iwakuni, Sasebo, Okinawa, Diego Garcia, Chinhae Korea, Singapore, and elsewhere throughout the Far East.

FLC Yokosuka Site Diego Garcia (FLCY)

The Supply Department currently is split between two commands:

- NSF Supply functions include Ship's store, Food service division, Billeting division, and Fuel division.
- FLCY Supply functions includes Stock Control and Post Office.

Maritime Preposition Ships, Squadron TWO

A logistics component under the Military Sealift Command that supplies equipment in support of operations under the command of COMPSRON TWO. These ships provide supplies and equipment for initial support to deploying forces.

Military Sealift Command Office (MSCO)

MSCO provides logistical support to the COMPSRON TWO ships forward deployed to Diego Garcia.

Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific Det (NCTAMS)

Manages, operates, and maintains telecommunications systems and facilities for the Navy and Defense Information Systems Agency. Provides telecommunications support to fleet, joint and allied forces in the Indian Ocean Theater.

Naval Media Center Detachment (NMC)

As Diego Garcia's American Forces Network outlet, NMC provides three radio and three television stations for continuous stateside news, information, and entertainment of island personnel.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Detachment 7 (Seabees)

Homeported in Gulfport Mississippi, the Seabees provide construction support for numerous projects on the island. Members of the Det are on-island for 6 month tours.

Personnel Support Detachment Diego Garcia (PSD)

The PSD Provides personnel and pay support for all Navy personnel.

Naval Munitions Command, East Asia Division Detachment Okinawa Annex Diego Garcia (NMC EAD DET OKI AND DGAR)

NMC EAD DET includes issues, receipts, stowage, and transshipment of ordnance for supported tenant and fleet commanders located in Diego Garcia and throughout the Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf Areas of Operation. Additional capabilities also include routine maintenance and upkeep for both magazines and inert storage areas and, on a more limited basis, assembly/disassembly and maintenance for specific classes of munitions.

Air Force Commands

Air Force Space Command Detachment 2, 18th Space Surveillance Squadron (AFSCP GEODSS)

An Air Force Space Command unit that conducts deep space surveillance using the only Ground based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance System (GEODSS) in the southern Hemisphere.

Air Force Space Command Detachment 2, 22nd Space Operations Squadron (ARTS GPS)

One of nine remote tracking stations comprising the Air Force Satellite Control Network, this command provides telemetry, tracking and commanding of DoD satellites.

Air Mobility Command Detachment 1, 715th AMSS (AMC)

The AMC Provides passenger and cargo air movement supporting Diego Garcia and Indian Ocean operations.

Pacific Air Force Detachments and rotations including 36th Air Expeditionary Wing (PACAF)

PACAF maintains supplies, equipment, and fuel for forward area operations.

One Island

***Strategically located in the middle of the Indian Ocean
Operationally invaluable
Environmentally pristine***

One Team

***U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army, Merchant Seaman, Civilian,
Contract employees, and U.K. military, working in unison to...***

***Enhance quality of life
Preserve the environment
Ensure mission success***

One Mission

Support...

***For the strategically essential missions of our deployed units
For the readiness of our organic strategic deterrence capabilities
For the needs of our Sailors, soldiers, airmen, Marines,
merchant seaman, and civilian contract employees***



ONE ISLAND, ONE TEAM, ONE MISSION



DOWNTOWN DIEGO GARCIA