

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

by Peg Harmon, ICS #15079



We promised you “military history”, but it didn’t end with the U.S.S. Midway! Not in San Diego! At this convention, you’ll be treated to a second tour: The 23,000-acre Marine Corps Air Station Miramar base (MCASM, formerly NAS Miramar), home to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. No, you won’t see Tom Cruise or Kelly McGillis, but you will tour the site that forever set the 1986 movie *Top Gun* and its F-14A Tomcat fights (not to mention “You’ve Lost That Lovin’ Feelin’”) in the memories of young men and women’s minds around the world.

You may get a birds-eye view of Miramar’s three runways when flying into nearby Montgomery Field. Don’t get too close though, no need for F-18 escorts to start your convention activities!

A Detailed Look

MCASM’s primary mission is “to maintain and operate the facilities and provide services and material to support operations of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and the other tenant organizations.”

Miramar is actually a neighborhood in the northern section of San Diego, and the MCASM houses most of its residents. In 1995, NAS Miramar was realigned and by 1996 turned over to the Marine Corps as a fixed wing and helicopter base, and renamed MCASM in 1997. Today Miramar is a “city within a city”, containing a shopping center, restaurants, 18-hole golf course, fire and public works departments and other facilities.

If you’re wondering where the name “Miramar” originated ... the land it

sits on was originally part of the wealthy newspaper publisher Edward W. Scripps’ expansive Scripps Ranch. In the 1890s, Edward built his home there and named it after Archduke Maximilian’s castle in Italy, the “Miramare”. The loose Spanish translation for Miramare means “a view of the sea”. A small community named Miramar evolved, built around a railroad station.



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International Comanche Society 2010 Annual Meeting and Convention

Registration Form

San Diego, CA September 7-12, 2010
Host Airport, Montgomery Field (KMYF)

Attendee Information:

<u>Pilot</u>		<u>Co-Pilot</u>	<u>Guest (First and Last Name)</u>	
<u>FirstName</u>	_____	_____	_____	
<u>LastName</u>	_____	_____	_____	
<u>ICS#</u>	_____	_____		
<u>CellPhone</u>	_____	_____		
<u>Email</u>	_____	_____		
<u>Address</u>	_____	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Zip</u>

Arrival Information:

<u>via Comanche</u>	<u>ArrDate</u>	<u>ArrTime</u>	<u>N#</u>	<u>Yr</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Flagship?</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
<u>via Airline</u>	<u>Airline</u>	<u>Flight#</u>	<u>ArrTime</u>	<u>DeptDate</u>	<u>DeptFlight#</u>	<u>DeptTime</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Hotel Information: Hilton San Diego Bayfront, One Park Blvd. San Diego, CA 92101



Group Rates (per night)**
Standard Room with 1 King or 2 Queens

Single	Double	Triple	Quad	
\$119	\$119	\$139	\$159	(+ 12.64% tax)

**Group rates are good for 3 days before (and after) the convention (subject to availability). Our convention begins the day after Labor Day and we are planning some "pre-convention" activities, so arrive early and celebrate the Labor Day weekend in San Diego!

Two ways to reserve your room:

Online

<http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/SANCCHH-ICPA-20100907/index.jhtml>

by Phone (Be sure to ask for ICS group rate)

call the Hilton reservation service at 800-445-8667.

Convention Registration Payment Info. - \$495 ea. (or \$450. ea. if paid by July 31)

Make checks payable to: **SW Tribe 2010 Convention**

Send completed form and payment to: Scott Myers P.O. Box 1509 Vista, CA 92085-1509

The purchase of the Miramar area by the Army in 1917 began its military history as Camp Kearny. By 1932, the Navy was in control of Camp Kearny and began building moorings for the monstrous dirigibles USS Akron and USS Macon, both of which later crashed at sea. The Navy remained in control, but activity was minimal until World War II began. In 1940, runways were constructed and put to heavy use upon our entry into the war in 1941, with both the Navy and Marines occupying the base. After the war, the base was again re-designated as the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar for 13 months. Next, the Marines were moved to El Toro in 1947, and Miramar was again a Naval Auxiliary Air Station, with about half of its facilities actually being used. The base was in a state of deterioration and buildings were being sold as scrap.

Fast forward to Vietnam. Miramar was assigned the challenge of training fighter crews for air-combat maneuvering and fleet air defense, thus TOP GUN emerged – a graduate-level training school for pilots whose fame in the military ranks exceeded all others. However, by 1993, the Base Realignment and Closure committee recommended that NAS Miramar be re-designated as a Marine Corps Air Station. The Navy's F-14 Tomcat and E-2 Hawkeye squadrons were relocated, with Top Gun and the last F-14 squadron leaving Miramar in 1996, headed for Fallon, Nev. The Marines from bases at El Toro and Tustin, Calif., moved in and by 1997, Miramar was once again a Marine facility.

What to Expect


On any given day, this base has an average of 250 fixed-winged and rotary-winged aircraft on board and may have up to 200,000 flight operations in a year. It houses 14 flying squadrons – the 3rd MAW F/A-18 Hornets, CH-46E

and CH-53E helicopters, and also logistics support squadrons. Combined with Super Cobras and Huey helicopters from Camp Pendleton and Harriers from Yuma, Ariz., this wing becomes a superior air command. The personnel consists of 12,200 Marines, Sailors and civilians. Altogether, MCAS Miramar is the home of the Marine Corps' West Coast air power – its Fightertown, USA!

Our tour will begin with an Executive Coach bus ride (with tour personnel narrating during the trip) to the base. Once there, we'll be met by Marine escorts who will ride along with us, and again, narrate as we go. We will be viewing Marine aircraft, both fixed-winged and rotary-winged, and touring the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum (Marine Corps history at its best). Lunch will be at the Officer's Club, and our Marine escorts will join us.

Since this is an active military base, we will be subject to certain security measures. At least two weeks prior to the tour, we will be required to submit a complete list of attendees, as well as copies of the passports of any of our international attendees. Once we arrive, each person (no exceptions) will be required to show either a driver's license, passport, or other official form of I.D. if so requested.

Note to International Convention Attendees: Please send a copy of your passport along with your registration form, so that we may be prepared to send our list of attendees to the Miramar officials two weeks prior to the convention.

This is one tour you will not want to miss. So, be prepared to don your favorite walking sneakers, bring your driver's license/passport and money for museum purchases, and we'll make sure you have a very memorable and patriotic day! 

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