



FIVE & THRIVE

Dyess AFB Community Resources

Abilene, Texas, has a strong commitment to supporting the Dyess Air Force Base's Five and Thrive Program, which enhances the quality of life for military families in our community. This collaborative effort between the city and the base focuses on five crucial areas.

Childcare
★
Education
★
Healthcare
★
Housing
★
Spouse Employment

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INTRODUCTION





The Abilene Military Affairs Committee is keenly aware of the Dyess need for Childcare, Education, Healthcare, Housing, and Spousal Employment and strives to make each of those elements better for airmen and families while at Dyess. Several focus group meetings which included spouses from Dyess have been conducted in each of these areas of the Five and Thrive to create this document as a guide for resources available to new military families coming into our community.

Conversations with Sharene Brown at conventions have helped the Dyess effort gain focus to provide stellar Five and Thrive efforts for all of Dyess.

The Military Affairs Committee is proud to serve Dyess AFB 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, supporting the Mission, Airmen, and Families. We will never stop serving Dyess! Thank you to all who serve this great Nation.

– **Gray Bridwell**

Vice President, Abilene Military Affairs,
Abilene Chamber of Commerce



Helping military communities tackle the top five quality-of-life issues

THE FIVE

CHILDCARE | EDUCATION | HEALTHCARE | HOUSING | SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT

THE WHY

Military family quality of life has strategic implications for our military and national security as it directly impacts recruitment, readiness, and retention.

THE PLAN

Five Lines of Effort:

- ★ Advocate for Quality-of-Life Improvements
- ★ Foster Community Partnerships
- ★ Consolidate Quality-of-Life Resources in One Convenient Location
- ★ Educate Military Families, Leaders, and Community Partners on Existing Efforts and Best Practices
- ★ Promote the Exceptional Value of the Military-Connected Spouse

THE MODEL

Military Community Quality-of-Life Experience (QX)

This innovative strategy creates positive outcomes by bringing military leaders, military-connected families, and community partners together to collaboratively create quality-of-life solutions.



In the trenches of our mission lies a fundamental truth – the strength and readiness of our military families are not just essential components of our societal fabric, they are critical pillars of our national security.

Marion Wilcox
**Co-founder &
Executive Director**



The Bottom Line: Five & Thrive strengthens our national security.



Helping military communities tackle the top five quality-of-life issues

THE FIVE

CHILDCARE | EDUCATION | HEALTHCARE | HOUSING | SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT

ALL MILITARY FAMILIES SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO:

- ★ Safe and affordable **childcare**.
- ★ Quality **education**, seamless educational transitions during relocations, and equitable resources for special education and other essential services.
- ★ Quality **healthcare**, including mental health services for the whole family.
- ★ Safe and affordable **housing**.
- ★ Equitable and meaningful **employment** for every military-connected spouse.



THE STATISTICS



Over **80%** of active duty families have difficulty finding **childcare**.¹

Most military children will attend **6 to 9** different schools during their K through 12 **education**.²



More than **60%** of military families are burdened with paying more than they can comfortably afford for **housing**.³



Out of the 60%, **80%** reported monthly housing expenses not covered by their BAH were in excess of \$200 out-of-pocket/month.³



Almost **30%** of military families reported lack of **spouse employment** as a contributing factor to their financial stress.

21%



Military spouse unemployment rates are nearly **5x** the national rate.

4.3%

Military spouses reported **childcare** being too expensive as the top reason they are not working.



Nearly **1 out of 4** active duty military families report they do not receive mental **healthcare**, but would like to.

44% indicated that finding an available provider was a reason they do not receive care.³

Although the order and degree of these five issues vary from installation to installation, they consistently rise to the top according to feedback from military families and surveys from multiple organizations. Note: Members of Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) are impacted in unique ways by each of the "Five & Thrive" QoL issues.

¹ 2021 Military Family Advisory Network: Military Family Support Programming Survey Executive Summary

² Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3): Guide for Parents, School Officials and Public Administrators

³ Blue Star Families: Military Family Lifestyle Survey 2022 Comprehensive Report Executive Summary

⁴ National Military Spouse Network: Solving the Military Spouse Employment Puzzle: Seven Recommendations for the Future of Work



Our Five & Thrive Mission

★ **Community Integration**

Abilene goes beyond the five core areas by fostering a welcoming environment for military families. The city participates in programs like Jump Start, a newcomer's orientation that introduces families to Dyess AFB resources and includes a tour of downtown Abilene. This initiative helps military families feel at home in their new community.

★ **Ongoing Commitment**

Abilene's leadership continues to engage with Air Force officials, including visits from high-ranking personnel to discuss and improve military-community relations. This ongoing dialogue ensures that Abilene remains responsive to the evolving needs of Dyess AFB families.

★ **Dedication**

Through these concerted efforts, Abilene demonstrates its dedication to supporting the Dyess AFB Five and Thrive Program, creating a thriving environment for military families and strengthening the bond between the city and its Air Force community.

The background of the entire image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag. The stars and stripes are visible, with the stars appearing in a lighter blue/white and the stripes in a darker blue. The flag is draped, creating soft folds and shadows.

FIVE & THRIVE IN ABILENE





Childcare

Community Resources

Texas Health & Human Services: Child Care

Peace of mind is important for families choosing child care. Texas HHSC recognizes the critical decision that parents face and regards a child's well-being with the utmost importance. HHSC has programs in place to ensure the health, safety and well-being of children in out-of-home care. [Child Care Regulation \(CCR\)](#) is a statewide program that regulates child care operations and child-placing agencies by inspecting and investigating these operations and ensuring they meet state standards.

☎ 325.795.5545

Texas Rising Star

[Texas Rising Star](#) is a quality rating and improvement system for Texas early childhood programs. All center based and home based child care providers in Texas can be certified in Texas Rising Star if they meet certain eligibility criteria. Programs that participate in Texas Rising Star meet higher quality standards than many other child care programs.

Workforce Solutions: West Central Texas

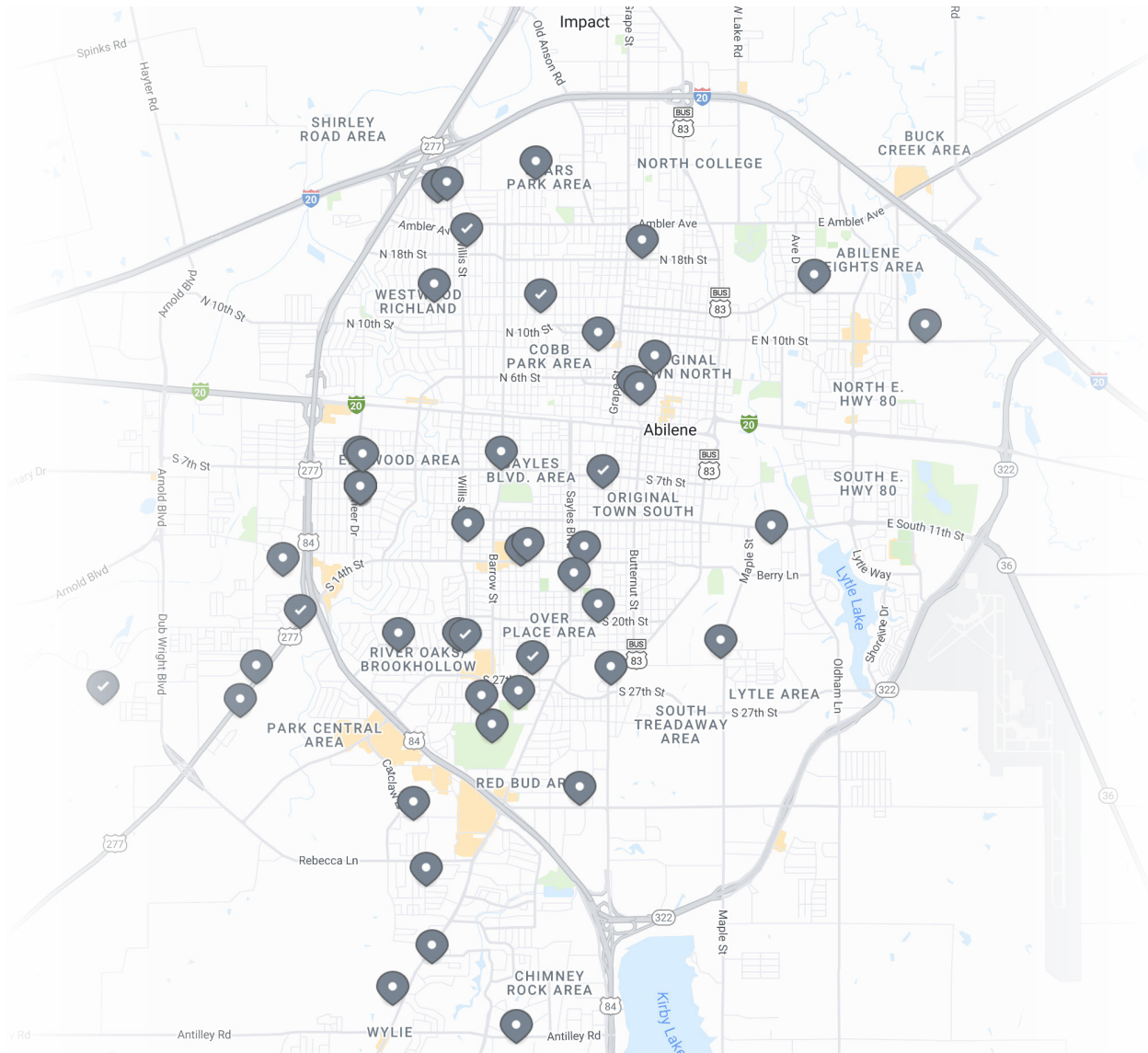
Reliable care is critical for working parents, and high-quality care is important for children's development, but the high cost puts reliable, quality care out of reach for many families. [Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas](#) administers funding through Child Care Services (CCS) to help parents pay for child care while they search for employment, work, go to school, or participate in job training in order to become self-sufficient.

☎ 325.795.4200



Winnie

[Winnie](#) is a marketplace for child care built on powerful data systems and backed by a trusted community of parents and providers. Parents use Winnie to discover high-quality local daycares and preschools and learn all about their programs including detailed descriptions, photos, tuition information, licensing status, availability data and more.



Child Care Centers in Abilene

★ [South Willis KinderCare](#)

Ages: 6 weeks to 5 years
Open Hours: 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM,
Monday–Friday
325.698.1878

★ [Kids on Maple Street](#)

Ages: 6 weeks to 5 years
Open Hours: 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM,
Monday–Friday
325.695.3016

★ [Glo Day Care Center](#)

Ages: 6 weeks to 5 years
Open Hours: 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM,
Monday–Friday
325.675.8125

★ [Day Nursery of Abilene](#)

Ages: 6 weeks to 12 years
Open Hours: 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM,
Monday–Friday
325.673.1110

Home-Based Child Care

★ Robins Perch

Ages: 4 months to 4 years
Open Hours: 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM,
Monday–Friday

★ Little Peeps Home Daycare

Ages: 6 Weeks to 3 years
Open Hours: 6:00 AM to 3:30 PM, M-F

★ Amanda's Busy Bees Daycare

Ages: 6 weeks to 5 years
Open Hours: 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM

★ Tracy Strong Home Daycare

Ages: 18 months to 12 years
Open Hours: 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM

These are just a few of the child care locations from [winnie.com](#) .



Education

Community Resources

Abilene Independent School District (AISD)

[The AISD](#) serves approximately 15,312 students annually, with 13 elementary schools, four middle schools, four high schools, one Head Start Program, and two alternative campuses spread throughout the city - from the Mall of Abilene area to northern Abilene. Abilene ISD offers programs and services from Early Childhood to Adult Education. [AISD is proud to welcome military families](#), with the goal to support families through the challenges of deployment, relocation, and learning life in a new city. AISD has multiple schools which are Designated Military Family Campuses with dedicated liaisons to assist families.

☎ 325.677.1444 ext. 8764

AISD Career and Technical Education Department

The mission of the [Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) Department](#) is to prepare students to enter post-secondary education or the workforce and assume productive roles in the family and the community. CTE courses prepare students for high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand careers.

The LIFT

[The LIFT](#) (standing for Leadership and Innovation in Future Technologies) is Abilene ISD's state-of-the-art CTE facility and home of the Academy of Technology, Engineering, Math, and Science (ATEMS). At The LIFT, students have the opportunity to choose from dozens of career pathways and participate in project-based learning in modern, collaborative spaces.

☎ 325.794.4140

Holland Medical

Students interested in pursuing careers in the healthcare field have the opportunity to attend [Holland Medical](#). Holland is a unique, collaborative partnership between HSU and Abilene ISD. Holland is located near the Hendrick Health System, the largest medical community in West Texas. Holland houses the AISD Health Sciences program of study and is available to junior and senior students interested in the healthcare profession.

☎ 325.794.4120

Wylie Independent School District

[Wylie ISD](#) serves nearly 20,000 students across 20 campuses, offering a diverse array of classes, organizations, and programs for students to explore. The district excels in numerous areas, and offer [career experiences](#) in a number of industries.

☎ 972.429.3000

Student 2 Student

The district has implemented a [Student 2 Student](#) program in junior high and high school campuses to identify new military students and pair them with current Wylie students as “partners” to help them adjust and get acquainted with the district’s programs.

School of Choice

One of the keys to a successful relocation to a new base is making sure the family unit is taken care of. Children are paramount and well being of kids education was recognized as critical to families at Dyess. Efforts were made by the Military Affairs Committee to allow under Texas law that if a member of the military has orders to Dyess, they could select the school district their kids would attend. Abilene has several choices for districts and the old law required kids to attend the district based on their geographic location in the district. Texas H.B. 2892 passed and now allows families to select their district not based on the district they reside in. A huge win and benefit to Military families.

Additional School Districts

Smaller districts also provide quality education for military families.

- ★ [Jim Ned Consolidated ISD](#)
- ★ [Hawley ISD](#)
- ★ [Trent ISD](#)
- ★ [Clyde ISD](#)
- ★ [Eula ISD](#)
- ★ [Merkel ISD](#)
- ★ [Texas Leadership Academy](#)
- ★ [Premier High School](#)
- ★ [Triumph High School](#)

Private Schools

Abilene offers a variety of private schools including:

- ★ [Abilene Christian School](#)
- ★ [St. John's Episcopal](#)
- ★ [Cornerstone Christian School](#)
- ★ [Kenley School](#)
- ★ [PEAK Christian Academy](#)
- ★ [Abilene Classical Academy](#)
- ★ [Abilene Junior Academy](#)
- ★ [A Habitat for Learning](#)

Purple Star Schools

[The Purple Star Campus Designation](#) recognizes Texas district and charter schools that show their support and commitment to meeting the unique needs of military-connected students and their families. In 2024, AISD had eight Designated Military Family Campuses, while WISD had one.

Co-Ops and Learning Groups

There are also several popular off-base co-ops and learning groups for homeschoolers, including:

- ★ [Big Country Home Educators \(BCHE\)](#)
- ★ [Classical Conversations of Abilene](#)
- ★ [X Dot Academy](#)
- ★ [Abilene Homeschoolers Association](#)
- ★ [Friday School Homeschool Co-Op](#)

Texas Workforce Commission Adult Education & Literacy Program

The Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) [Adult Education and Literacy \(AEL\) program](#) helps adults learn new skills by teaching reading, writing, math and English in a variety of different program models. The AEL program helps people get ready for jobs, earn a high school diploma or its equivalent, or prepare for college or career training.

☎ 800.628.5115

Higher Education Partnerships

Four major universities are housed in Abilene offering associate, bachelor's, and master's degree programs. Other programs are also offered at a state technical college, a community college, a school of cosmetology, and a truck driving/commercial driver's license program.

★ [McMurry University](#)

★ [Texas Tech University at Abilene](#)

★ [Hardin-Simmons University](#)

★ [Cisco College - Abilene](#)

★ [Texas State Technical College – Abilene](#)

★ [Neecee's Barber College](#)

★ [Texas College of Cosmetology – Abilene](#)

★ [Action Career Training –](#)

★ [Abilene Christian University](#)

[Truck Driving Program](#)

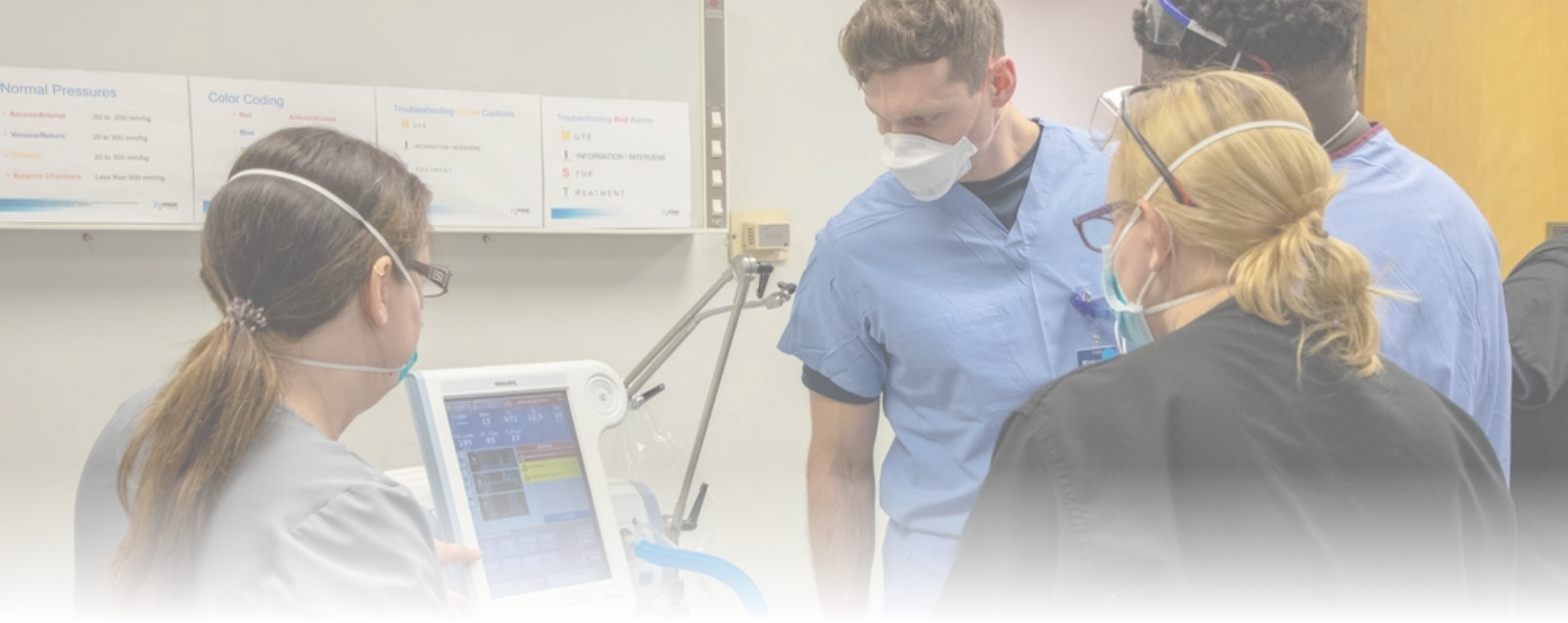
In addition, assistance may be available through the State Employment Agency's Workforce Investment Act, which assists qualified applicants in obtaining an associate degree from a local college or technical school. Acceptance for financial assistance for the [My Career Advancement Account](#) scholarship program varies by school.

Texas Education Agency

[The Texas Education Agency](#) recognizes the need to provide information about available resources to students, parents, and educators to assist with navigating transitions to new schools, communities, and repeated cycles of separation and reunion.

Texas Veterans Hazelwood Act

[The Hazlewood Act](#) is a State of Texas benefit that provides qualified Veterans, spouses, and dependent children with an education benefit of up to 150 hours of tuition exemption, including most fee charges, at public institutions of higher education in Texas. This does NOT include living expenses, books, or supply fees.



Healthcare

Community Resources

For Medical
Emergencies or Fire,
Call 9-1-1

Hendrick Health System

Headquartered in Abilene, Texas, [Hendrick Health](#) is a healthcare system owned and directed by a local, volunteer board. Providing the strength of a complete system of health services, Hendrick offers aggressive, innovative treatments and preventive healthcare measures that include cardiovascular care, neurology and neurosurgery, neonatal and pediatric intensive care, orthopedics, women's health and cancer services.

☎ 325.670.2000

Emergency Care at Hendrick

As the only Level III Trauma Center in the area, [Hendrick Health Emergency Care](#) treats patients of all ages for a wide range of conditions including broken bones, illnesses, stroke, heart attack and trauma. With Joint Commission Disease-Specific Certification for Acute Myocardial Infarction and Advanced Certification for stroke, our emergency care centers ensure that our patients will receive the same kind of care they would in a larger city.

Waters Emergency Care Center: 1900 Pine St. ■ 325.670.2151

Hendrick Emergency Care Center Plaza: 5302 Buffalo Gap Road ■ 325.307.6351

Hendrick Emergency Care Center South*: 6250 US 83/84 ■ 325.428.1000

**formerly Abilene Regional Medical Center*

In-Network Care

The entirety of Hendrick Health facilities, Hendrick Clinic physicians, and the Hendrick Urgent Care sites are arranged for TRICARE and in-network with TriWest, the fiscal intermediary.

Vital Care Urgent Care Clinic

[Vital Care Urgent Care](#) provides the West and Central Texas communities with comprehensive, affordable, convenient medical care billed at negotiated urgent care copay prices by providers living in the community. Vital Care offers a wide range of services including minor injury care, allergies, physicals, sports injury care, and x-rays.

☎ Abilene 27th Street: 325.704.5037

☎ Abilene Ridgemont: 325.232.8830

Betty Hardwick Center

[Betty Hardwick Center](#) is the Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority for Callahan, Jones, Shackelford, Stephens, and Taylor Counties. Services include outpatient mental health services for children and adults, outpatient and residential services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and early childhood intervention services to babies ages 0 to 3 and their families.

☎ 325.690.5100

Oceans Behavioral Hospital Abilene

[Oceans Abilene](#) is conveniently located near Dyess Air Force Base to provide specialized mental health treatment to active duty military, veterans and their loved ones through our [STAR](#) (Support Through Active Recovery) Military Program. Oceans Abilene provides inpatient and outpatient mental health services in a safe and comfortable environment with individual and group treatment programs designed to meet the specific needs of patients during any stage of life.

☎ 325.691.0030

Serenity House

[Serenity House](#) has become one of the largest substance use disorder treatment programs in the Southwest. Treatment program patients receive crucial educational tools for dealing with many complicating factors in their addiction such as trauma, chronic relapse, dysfunctional family dynamics, codependency, anger, and grief, as well as key life skills such as problem-solving, communication, boundaries, stress management, relaxation, and parenting.

☎ 325.673.6489

Texas Family Institute

[Texas Family Institute](#) is a non-profit counseling and therapy provider assisting individuals, families, and communities cope with problems and challenges that life brings in a more healthy and powerful way. Counseling is unique to each individual and focus on improving relationships, communication, support, and quality of life.

☎ 325.676.8963



Housing

Community Resources

Privatized Housing

At Dyess AFB, family housing is privatized. We currently have two private owners. The two partners are: Hunt Military Communities; (Apartment and Townhouses off-base), and Balfour Beatty Communities; (duplex's and single homes on-base).

Dyess Family Homes/Balfour Beatty Communities

[Dyess Family Homes](#) offers a wide variety of rental homes with 2, 3, and 4-bedroom floorplans with easy access to the base. The community offers many amenities from playgrounds and pools to a community center and sports facilities. The Dyess Family Homes community is comprised of more than 650 homes within seven distinct neighborhoods serving Officer and Enlisted personnel at Dyess Air Force Base.

☎ 325.701.9276

Quail Hollow Housing/Hunt Military Communities


[Hunt Military Communities](#), the largest military housing owner, offers unsurpassed quality and service to more than 165,000 residents in approximately 52,000 homes on Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Army installations across the USA. We do this through our core values: safety, kindness, efficiency, enthusiasm and selflessness. With a 50-year legacy and a partnership with the Department of Defense, HMC strives to ensure the integrity of our military communities and the families who live there.

Homes.mil

Through [Homes.mil](#), families can search for local area rentals through this rental database, which is exclusive for the military. This database is accessible to all property managers after proper registration.

Abilene Association of Realtors

[Abilene Association of Realtors](#) provides a listing of upcoming open houses throughout the city, first time homeowner seminars, rent list, and a directory of local real estate agents.

 325.692.9821

Local Housing Market/Rentals

Various resources are available online to search available apartments and other housing for rent or purchase, including [Zillow](#) and [Apartments.com](#).

Texas State Land Board

[The Texas Veterans Land Board \(VLB\)](#) provides the most robust state benefits package in the nation for Texas Veterans, Military Members and their families. The VLB offers assistance in the form of loans, land sales, long-term care, cemeteries and more.

 1.800.252.8387



Spouse Employment

Spousal Licensure

The Abilene Military Affairs has worked hard on Texas legislation to be proactive in Spousal Employment. By the nature of the short duration personnel are stationed at Military bases there is no time for State testing, and waiting for licensing to be done in the traditional route. Many efforts to allow a reciprocity in licensing paid off with the passing of Senate Bill 1200 allowing spouses of Military members who hold an existing license in good standing in other states to be recognized in the State of Texas without recertification or retesting. This was a great breakthrough and considered a definite WIN for the Abilene MAC.

Community Resources

Abilene Regional Growth Alliance

[Abilene Regional Growth Alliance](#)

offers an Abilene-specific job portal to search for opportunities for employment in the community, business resources, talent and development resources, and more. They also provide links and information for many [Abilene Chamber of Commerce](#) initiatives.

☎ 325.677.7241

Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Partnership

Abilene collaborates with [Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas](#) to provide employment resources and welcome classes for military spouses. They also provide information for employer resources, career pathways, and child care providers.

The background of the entire image is a stylized American flag. The top left corner features a field of white stars on a dark blue background, while the rest of the image is a solid red field. The flag appears to be draped or waving, with some folds visible.

FIVE & THRIVE AT DYESS AFB





Childcare

Dyess AFB Resources

Child Development Center

Child care services are offered to eligible patrons at Dyess AFB for full-time and hourly care through the [Child Development Center](#). Price is determined off of total family income. Your child must be current in all immunizations. If your child has a special need and/or an allergy, paperwork must be completed by a physician before they can be enrolled. Please stop by the center to pick up all necessary forms.

☎ 325.696.4337

Family Child Care

Families in need of quality child care at Dyess Air Force Base can rest assured that our [Family Child Care](#) services are both nationally accredited, and highly regulated. An ideal option for parents of children who prefer a smaller, more personalized child care setting; our FCC providers are recruited to provide the best possible service options.

☎ 325.696.2839

School Age Care

[School Age Care](#) is designed to support working parents of children ages 5-12. This program features several different options for care such as Before School Care, After School Care, and Hourly Care. During spring, summer and winter break they offer full time care with a variety of activities and field trips.

☎ 325.696.4797


School Liaison Program

[The School Liaison](#) is committed to outreach, advocacy, and partnership initiatives that generate real-time solutions for military-connected students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 as they face global educational challenges and transitions.

 325.696.4591

Youth Center

[The Dyess Youth Center](#) offers a variety of programs designed to keep your children occupied & learning new skills! From clubs, Youth Sports, field trips, events, and classes, we've got your kids safe & engaged.

 325.696.4797



Education

Dyess AFB Resources

Dyess Education Center

[The Dyess Education Center](#) provides resources, advising, and testing opportunities for education and career advancement including AFCT, CDC, DLPT/DLAB, PME, and WAPS testing.

☎ 325.696.5004

On-Base Colleges

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

[The Embry-Riddle Dyess Site](#) – located at Dyess Air Force Base – offers associate, bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as undergraduate certifications, that will help you in the military, after you've served your country or as a civilian.

☎ 325.692.2007

McMurry University

Founded in 1923 as a United Methodist institution, [McMurry University](#) is a vibrant and comprehensive center of undergraduate education. Testing facilities are available at the McMurry University Campus to include testing for CLEP, Dantes, GRE, and GMAT.

☎ 325.793.3800

Tuition Assistance

Before registering with any college or university, check the actual course costs before committing. By having an approved goal in the [Air Force Virtual Education Center \(AFVEC\)](#), tuition assistance may be available to cover actual tuition costs up to \$250 per semester hour or \$166.66 per quarter hour. Fees such as parking, lab, technology, etc. cannot be paid with AF tuition assistance funds.

School Liaison Program

[The School Liaison](#) is committed to outreach, advocacy, and partnership initiatives that generate real-time solutions for military-connected students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 as they face global educational challenges and transitions.


 325.696.4591

Exceptional Family Member Support

The School Liaison works in conjunction with the school counselors, teachers, principals, base personnel, and local and state politicians to ensure compliance with federal and state laws governing education to ensure quality education for families under the [Exceptional Family Member Program \(EFMP\)](#). The EFMP provides comprehensive assistance including Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and information and referral regarding educational, medical, financial, and social service resources to families.

Military Spouse Education

Check out [MyCAA \(My Career Advancement Account\)](#), a program where eligible military spouses are able to receive up to \$4,000 of Financial Assistance that can help you pursue an education, training, licenses, certificates and degrees leading to employment in portable career fields.

 800.342.9647

Dyess AFB Homeschoolers Group

Dyess has plenty of base and community programs to enhance your child's learning. The [Dyess Homeschoolers Group](#) meets several times each month for STEM activities at the base library, cooking class at the base Chapel, fellowship events around base and special field trips offered on base.

Dyess AFB Library

In addition to a robust online catalog of books, video, music, board games, and more, the [Dyess AFB Library](#) also hosts a number of events throughout the month focused on providing education and enrichment to children of Dyess AFB families.

 325.696.6873



Healthcare

Dyess AFB Resources

For Medical
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7th Medical Group Clinic

The [7th Medical Group](#) is the designated primary place of care for all active-duty members and dependents enrolled in TRICARE Prime. The 7th Medical Group is an outpatient clinic with some ancillary services to include pharmacy, radiology and laboratory. Priority for medical appointments is given to active-duty military personnel and TRICARE Prime beneficiaries. Dental, physical therapy, mental health and optometry are available to active-duty military personnel.

☎ 325.696.4677

Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)

The [EFMP](#) is a program offered by each service to support families with special medical and educational needs throughout the service member's career. Family members should enroll in EFMP when a qualifying condition is diagnosed. Each branch has its own EFMP and enrollment process.

Military Health System Nurse Advice

The [Nurse Advice Line](#) provide support to TRICARE beneficiaries to help you navigate your family's health care needs. Services include health care advice, assistance in determining an appropriate level of care, assistance locating a provider or pharmacy, and same and next-day appointment scheduling at military hospitals and clinics when advised by a nurse and empaneled to an MTF.

☎ 800.874.2273, opt. 1



Housing

Dyess AFB Resources

Military Housing Office

[The Military Housing Office](#) (MHO) provides all DoD personnel with personalized services to assist in locating suitable housing in the local community. Although moving is sometimes stressful, it can also be an exciting opportunity to live off base and experience a new location. The MHO will assist you every step of the way to help you find your new home in the local community.

☎ 325.696.2150

Unaccompanied Housing

The Air Force recognizes that the management of Unaccompanied Housing (UH) facilities is critical to an Airman's development process. UH is provided for unaccompanied Airmen in the ranks of E-1 to E-3 and E-4 with less than 3 years of service. Each Airman is provided a private sleeping room, furnishings, bed linens and supplies required for comfortable living.

☎ 325.696.4403



Spouse Employment

Dyess AFB Resources

Military and Family Readiness Center

The [Military and Family Readiness Center](#) offers classes to help build a resume, navigate USA Jobs, & welcome classes in collaboration with the West Texas Workforce Solutions so that you have all the information you need to look for employment or volunteer opportunities in Abilene. We also host job fairs, which take place in the Community Center.

☎ 325.696.5999

Reimbursement for Spouses

The Department of the Air Force offers [reimbursements for re-licensure, re-certification- and small business costs](#) for dependent spouses. These benefits provide spouses of Airmen or Guardians who PCS or PCA the opportunity to recoup up to \$1,000 for re-licensing, re-certification, and/or small business costs.

Career Exploration and Training

The Military & Family Support Center provides support for career exploration, education, training, and licensing specifically tailored for military spouses.

Spouse Education and Career Opportunities

The Department of Defense [Spouse Education and Career Opportunities](#) program provides education and career guidance to military spouses worldwide, offering comprehensive resources and tools related to career exploration, education, training and licensing, employment readiness and career connections.

☎ 800.342.9647

The background of the entire page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in shades of blue and white.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES



City of Abilene

The various departments of the [City of Abilene](#) provide residents with a wide range of services. The city website is a hub of information relating to the city including recent news, upcoming events, communication resources, and online services. Residents can sign-up for notifications from the city and keep up to date. Resources provided by the city include, but are not limited to:

★ [Emergency Management](#)

★ [Animal Services](#)

★ [Neighborhood Services](#)

★ [Code Compliance](#)

★ [Parks and Recreation](#)

★ [Public Works](#)

★ [Water Utilities](#)

Abilene Police Department

The [Abilene Police Department](#) website provides resources for victim services, reporting a crime, reporting a crash, and more. Recent police news is presented on the site as well as an informative video about their online reporting tool.

☎ Non-Emergency: 325.673.8331

2-1-1 Texas

[2-1-1 Texas](#), a program of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, is committed to helping Texas citizens connect with the services they need. The goal is to present accurate, well-organized and easy-to-find information from state and local health and human services programs. There are 25 Area Information Centers (AICs) across the state. 2-1-1 Texas is a free, anonymous social service hotline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Whether you need help finding food or housing, child care, crisis counseling or substance abuse treatment, one number is all you need to know.

☎ 211 or 877.541.7905

United Way of Abilene

[United Way of Abilene](#) works with more than 20 local community partners providing education and youth success, financial stability, and health resources and assistance. These partners build opportunities for early childhood learning, basic needs services, family self-sufficiency, and adequate medical services.

☎ 325.677.1841

Military Discounts

The 7th Support Squadron maintains a list of [military discounts](#) offered by businesses throughout Abilene who support military community members. The businesses and organizations provide a wide range of retail, recreation, and trade services. The site also offers coupons for businesses and services in Abilene.

Volunteer Opportunities for Spouses

[The Nonprofit Compass](#) is an initiative of the Community Foundation of Abilene which provides a fully searchable online database of local nonprofit organizations. The search allows users to filter for volunteer opportunities, wish list, cause, and other parameters.

 325.676.3883

Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau

Abilene represents the frontier spirit by honoring its heritage while embracing the future, and is home to many educational museums, parks, and a flourishing Downtown Cultural District. [The Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau](#) provides information on things to do in Abilene including attractions, shopping, heritage and culture, nightlife and entertainment, restaurants, and live music. Upcoming events in Abilene can also be found on the website.

Abilene Chamber of Commerce

The [Community Guide and Directory](#) for your go-to resource for everything you need to know about living, working, and thriving in Abilene. The guide covers topics including business climate, surrounding communities, education, and quality of life. It also includes a list of businesses in Abilene who are members of the chamber.

Abilene Regional Growth Alliance

Abilene is a city that offers unparalleled opportunities for those seeking to build a business or spur a startup and a hub of innovation and entrepreneurship, where West Texas Hospitality meets limitless quality of life amenities. The [Abilene Regional Growth Alliance](#) is the private sector arm of the Abilene Chamber's community and economic development partnership, and provides resources for business startups, young professionals and more.

Abilene Housing Authority

The [Abilene Housing Authority \(AHA\)](#) provides affordable housing options to over 2,500 families, throughout 20 counties, in West Central Texas. AHA administers two rental assistance programs on behalf of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). In addition, AHA owns or co-owns three affordable housing apartment complexes funded through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program that is administered by the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA).

Downtown ABI – The Heart & Soul of Abilene

The heart and soul of our thriving West Texas community, downtown Abilene is rich in heritage dating back to 1881. Back in the early 1990s, the city was a national model for using the arts to spark economic growth and community development. Now, downtown is experiencing a second renaissance that promises to be even more exciting and dynamic than the first. From new galleries and performance spaces to innovative arts programs and events, [Downtown Abilene](#) is bursting with creativity and energy.



1. ARTHUR SEARS PARK

(Ambler & Kirkwood)

2. CAL YOUNG PARK

(T&P Lane & E.S. 11th)

3. CARVER PARK

(N. Treadaway & N. 8th)

4. COBB PARK

(N. 10th & Park)

5. C.W. GILL PARK

(S. Willis & S. 13th)

6. EVERMAN PARK

(N. 1st & Cypress)

7. FANNIN PARK

(N. 18th & Shelton)

8. GROVER NELSON PARK

(Loop 322 & Hwy 36)

9. JACKSON PARK

(Edgemont & Marshall)

10. JOHNSON PARK

(Lake Ft. Phantom Dam)

11. KIRBY PARK

(S. 15th & Maple)

12. LAKE KIRBY PARK

(Hwy 83/84)

13. COACH JAMES VALENTINE PARK

(N. 10th & Pioneer)

14. MLK PARK

(S. 7th & Stafford)

15. NELSON WILSON PARK

(Northway & San Jacinto)

16. NORTH PARK

(3700 Grape)

17. OSCAR ROSE PARK

(S. 7th & Barrow)

18. RED BUD PARK

(S. 32nd & S. Willis)

19. REYES FLORES PARK

(E.N. 7th & Bois D'Arc)

20. SCARBOROUGH PARK

(Hartford & Corsicana)

21. SEA BEE PARK

(FM 600 & Fort Phantom Lake)

22. SOUTHWEST DR. COMPLEX

(Southwest Dr.)

23. STEVENSON PARK

(Cockerell & E.N. 7th)

24. VAUGHN CAMP PARK

(S. Winters Freeway)

25. VERA HALL MINTER PARK

(N. 2nd & Cypress)

26. WILL HAIR PARK

(Ambler & Cedar Crest)

The background of the entire image is a stylized American flag. The top left corner features a dark blue field with white stars, while the rest of the image is a solid red field. The text is centered in the red field.

ADDITIONAL DYESS AFB RESOURCES





Dyess Base Directory

A [directory](#) of phone numbers related to services and offices around the base is available on the Dyess AFB website.

Jumpstart Downtown

A program started by the Military Affairs Committee in conjunction with the Newcomers Program held on base brings new airmen from Dyess downtown the first Wednesday of every month. They arrive around noon, and watch a short video talking about the restaurants, bars and shopping available. The group then starts a walking tour led by a MAC member pointing out the places mentioned in the video and adding other downtown locations that might be of interest. During the tour upcoming events are mentioned not only being held downtown during that month but also at the Taylor County Expo, Abilene Zoo and Potosi Live. Once the 20-minute



tour is over, the airmen are free to eat lunch at any of the downtown restaurants or walk around and explore. Before heading back to Dyess, the airmen (and spouses that attend) can tour free of charge The Grace Museum or visit the 12th Armored Division Museum.

Commander's Key Support Program

The U.S. Air Force Commander's Key Support Program is an official Air Force Unit Family Readiness Program designed to enhance readiness, personal/family resilience and establish a sense of community. Commander's Key Support (CKS) serves as a vital resource to command teams in an effort to support Air & Space Force families. The CKS provides timely information and referral services to families serving as a lifeline to family readiness. Ongoing communication between the CKS and families of deployed members allow their families to remain connected with their unit and community to reduce stress and the sense of isolation. Thanks to this connectivity, deployed families report fewer personal problems and issues during separation. For more information, contact your Commander's Key Support group, first sergeant or the [M&FRC](#).



Heart Link Program

The purpose of the [Heart Link Program](#) is to strengthen military families and enhance mission readiness. Appreciating that spouses play an important role in reenlistment decisions, therefore impacting retention, the overall program goal is to ensure that spouses are aware of their importance to the Air & Space Force and feel as though they are a part of the team. The Military and Family Readiness Center teams administer and oversee the program, which includes orientation activities consisting of presentations, interactive games and exercises.



Dyess Souses Club

The [Dyess Spouses Club \(DSC\)](#) provides social and community services opportunities for Dyess and the Abilene community. Membership is open to spouses of active duty, reserve or retired military, as well as active duty military, spouses of Dyess civilian employees and widows of service members. The DSC also hosts monthly social events throughout the year.

Dyess Thrift Shop

Supporting DSC charity efforts and scholarship programs, the [Dyess Thrift Shop](#) is a not for profit thrift shop located on Dyess AFB. All proceeds go to the Dyess Spouses' Club supported charities and scholarships for children and spouses stationed at Dyess.

Dyess Fitness Center

The [Dyess Fitness Center](#) offers a number of amenities including cardio & free weight training, outdoor recreation options, sports courts, and a parent/child area (PAC). Sports and special events are held throughout the year. Applications are available for 24 hour access.

☎ 325.696.4307

Department of Defense SkillBridge Program

An average of 100 Airmen exit the Air Force each month at Dyess Air Force Base lending Abilene area businesses the opportunity to access and leverage the world's most highly trained and motivated workforce Abilene Regional Growth Alliances provides a list of [SkillBridge partners](#) in the Abilene area.



Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SAPR)

Dyess AFB [Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Program](#) offers support services for victims of sexual assault. The program provides one-on-one direct interpersonal support, initial response, available options and resources on and off base, and information on available resources. The Air Force has instituted avenues for reporting sexual assault in the form of restricted and unrestricted reporting.

☎ Office: 325.696.5499

☎ 24/7 Hotline: 325.696.7272

Dyess Legal Office

The [Dyess Legal Office](#) attorneys can assist with landlord/tenant issues, divorce and family law, EFMP educational matters, and other civil (non-criminal) matters. The office provides services which cover notaries, power of attorney, wills, civil law, and military justice. Walk-ins are accepted for certain services, while others require an appointment.

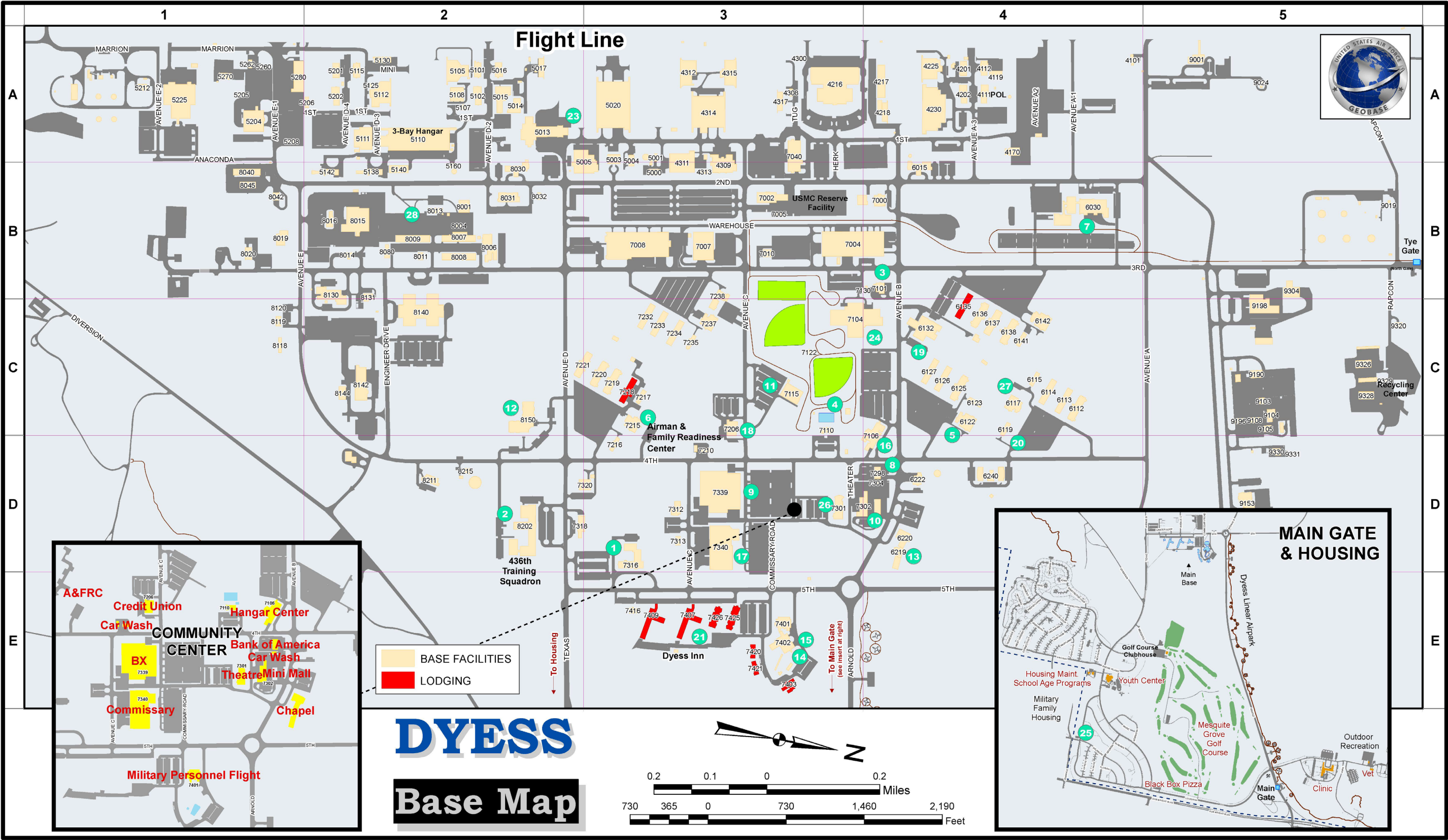
☎ Civil Law: 325.696.2033

☎ Military Justice: 325.696.2239

Finance Services

The [7th BW Finance Office](#) offers 1 on 1 finance appointments Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. but is closed on Federal Holidays and AFGSC Family Days. Customers can also request a call back through the [Comptroller Services Portal \(CSP\)](#). The CSP enables Airmen to submit customer service requests related to Military Pay, Civilian Pay, and Travel Pay, through a simple online process. The site is secure and fully protects Personally Identifiable Information (PII).





1. Legal Office	D-3	7. B1B Academic Facility	B-4	10. Post Office	D-4	16. The Hangar Center/Library	D-4	23. Fire Department	A-2
1. Finance	D-3	8. Bank of America	D-4	10. Mini-Mall	D-4	17. Commissary	D-3	24. Fitness Center	C-3
2. 436th Training Squadron	D-2	9. Barber Shop	D-3	10. Burger King	D-4	18. Credit Union	C-3	25. Housing Office	Housing Area
3. Auto Hobby Shop (Closed)	B-4	9. Base Exchange	D-3	11. Bowling Center	C-3	19. Dining Facility (Longhorn)	C-4	26. Movie Theater	D-3
4. Base Pool	C-3	9. Class VI	D-3	12. Child Development Center	C-2	20. Thrift Shop/Airman's Attic	C-4	27. Security Forces	C-4
5. 7 CS HQ Comm/Photo Lab	C-3	9. Floral Shop	D-3	13. Chapel	D-4	21. Dyess Inn	E-3	28. Self-Help Store	B-2
6. Airman & Family Readiness Center	C-3	9. Four Seasons	D-3	14. Education Center	D-3				
		9. Clothing Sales	D-3	15. Force Support Squadron (FSS)	E-3				

Five & Thrive Abilene



Military Families are at the Heart of Abilene!

Five and Thrive is a grassroots effort created to support and communicate viable quality-of-life programs and resources while highlighting various challenges military families face in the five focus areas. By highlighting preventative measures, promoting best practices, and fostering community partnerships in these five areas, this effort aims to provide Dyess Air Force families with the best communication, support, and opportunities to thrive.

- ★ Air Force families experience the same problems and stress surrounding childcare, education, housing, health care and finding fulfilling jobs as other american households.
- ★ Difficulty in one area can influence another, potentially creating a continuous cycle of struggle.
- ★ Constant moves, lack of family support, and other stressors related to military way of life such as deployments put additional pressure on families.

The need for services to support and uplift our military families continues to be a priority for the city of Abilene. We cannot lose sight of the fact that families play a critical role in keeping the U.S. Air Force the best in the world.



About the Abilene Military Affairs Committee (MAC)

The MAC is a public-private partnership of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce, Development Corporation of Abilene, individuals, and businesses established over 70 years ago. Through its 300 members, MAC advocates for expansion and preservation of missions at Dyess AFB and cares for the needs of military members and their families.

**For Additional
Information Contact:**



Gray Bridwell

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