



Welcome to
The United States Coast Guard
Telecommunication & Information Systems Command!

Dear Future Member of TISCOM,

Hello and congratulations on your assignment to the U.S. Coast Guard Telecommunication and Information Systems Command located in Alexandria, Virginia! You will find your tour here to be very rewarding, personally and professionally. As you and your family look forward to beginning this new chapter in your life, I would like to provide you with some information to prepare you for your upcoming transfer.

First of all, let me introduce myself. My name is Vanessa Himsey. I am the appointed Ombudsman for TISCOM. I am the wife of LT Jason Himsey, the Honor Guard Company Commander here at TISCOM. In case you are not entirely familiar with the title "ombudsman" - I am a point of contact, outside of the chain of command, for the incoming and currently serving TISCOM members and their families. My voluntary service is provided as a resource for you, as well as a connection between the Coast Guard families and the TISCOM command staff. If you need help or have questions about finding housing or advice about the area, I will be happy to do my best! Additionally, I am here for the spouses who may have questions or concerns about anything, anytime, regardless if you are new or have been here for a while.

On behalf of TISCOM, I have put together a packet for you. In this packet I am including information about TISCOM and housing. If you have any questions about your upcoming move or you need help figuring things out, that is why I am here. Please use both your sponsor (if you are a future staff member) and myself as much as you need during this exciting, and sometimes stressful time. We would like this process to go as smoothly as possible for you! I wish you all the best and look forward to meeting you in the future!

Sincerely,

Vanessa Himsey
(703) 980-3913



Housing



Surely, one of the main concerns you have at this point is housing. When it comes to finding a place to live, there is a lot to consider. Of course, if you are single, you will be provided housing on base until you are given permission to live elsewhere.

You will find that the Coast Guard's TISCOM (Telecommunication and Information Systems Command), is nestled in a quiet area of Alexandria known as Hayfield. A planned community called Kingstowne, which has countless amenities to offer to its residents, also surrounds the base. As you venture further away from the base you will find many other desirable neighborhoods in Alexandria and the surrounding cities.

Do you want to live close to the base, pay a little more, and have a short commute? If so, Kingstowne and the surrounding areas would be ideal. Anything within the zip codes of 22315, 22310, and 22306 are going to be considerably closer to the base. If you would like to pay a little less and face a longer commute, your options are many.

With that in mind, "commute" is the word on everyone's lips in the Washington DC Metro area. If you have to travel on any of the major roadways (ie. 95, 395, or 495), you should anticipate long delays from time to time. An alternative to driving is the Metro rail and bus system. Also, if you live in the Stafford or Fredericksburg areas, you can take the VRE train into Springfield. Be sure to ask about these transportation options, if you have any questions!

So, we know that cost and commute are two of the major considerations when it comes to decision-making. They tend to go hand in hand. Additionally, you may want to consider SAFETY, especially when you have a family involved. If you find a potential home, talk about it with your sponsor, or the Ombudsman. We may be able to tell you if it is a safe community. If we don't really know, I'm sure someone would be willing to take a look for you, if you aren't able to see for yourself.

The Internet is an excellent resource when you are house hunting. If you are looking to rent, you have multitudes of websites to find rental properties. Here are some helpful sites:

Washingtondc.craigslist.org

Militarybyowner.com

Realtor.com

Move.com

Apartmentsshowcase.com

Rent.com

Note: If you are browsing on the internet and you want to see where a house/apartment is according to it's zip code, go to: <http://maps.huge.info/zip.htm> - Type in 22315 as the search and you will see where the zip code is in relation to where the base is!

Happy house hunting! Please, do not forget to ask for help if you need it!

Telecommunication and Information Systems Command (TISCOM)



Many know that the Telecommunication and Information Systems Command is located near the nation's capital, but few realize the historic background of TISCOM. Known as "Hayfield" Virginia, the land was once part of George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate.

Lund Washington, George's third cousin, acquired Hayfield Farm in 1762. The Hayfield Farm Mansion was completely planned and built by George Washington. The Farm was passed down through several owners during the 19th century. The mansion burned down while the property was owned by the Mennonite College of the Brethren.

In 1939, the land was split with part going to the U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard Washington Radio Station, known as NMH, the "voice of the Commandant", was then moved from nearby Fort Hunt Reservation to Hayfield.

Shortly afterwards, the Electronic Engineering Laboratory was established to test submarine cables and grind crystals. During postwar years, responsibilities increased to evaluate new electronics equipment and modify existing equipment for Coast Guard use.

The U.S. Coast Guard Ceremonial Honor Guard was formed to provide the high level of ceremonial performance required in a timely manner. The Honor Guard was established at the Coast Guard Yard in 1962. It was moved to Washington Radio Station in 1965, as a major activity of the Command.

Coast Guard Washington Radio Station was disestablished in 1976 and the unit was renamed Coast Guard Station Alexandria. On 11 September 1988, we became the Coast Guard Information Systems Center. On 7 April 1993, we reorganized and became the Telecommunication and Information Systems Command.

This information was found on the Internet at the Global Security website:

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/tiscom.htm>

Also, if you haven't already, check out the USCG Ceremonial Honor Guard's page on the web: <http://www.uscg.mil/honorguard/default.asp>