



## **Homestead ARB Right Start Info**

It is very important that you communicate with your sponsor at least two months prior to getting here, but here are some of the challenges you face.

Lodging at Homestead ARB is single or small family occupancy. There is no TLF. There are a lot of family friendly hotels in the area so it is important that you make your reservation early. During a peak tourist season, this can be way above your daily allowance

The housing market in South Florida is like nowhere else. Because most families live in gated communities the homeowners association can take up to 30 days, depending on the community to process your application for approval. Some are more military friendly than others. Definitely do some research before you arrive and have a realtor lined up and ready to go.

Homestead ARB has no dormitories for single unaccompanied Airmen. Therefore everyone lives downtown or on the economy. With this being said, have about \$5K available as most landlords require first and last month's rent along with a security deposit.

If you are planning on driving to Florida it is important to get a Sun Pass for your car. This allows you to electronically pay a cheaper rate on the toll roads in this area. There are some roadways that are Sun Pass only.

[www.sunpass.com](http://www.sunpass.com)

The 495th Fighter Wing, Detachment 93, is located in Homestead Florida but our servicing MPS is at Shaw AFB, SC. This also has some of its own unique set of challenges. For Finance, TMO, Education, and Career Assistance you will need to contact them. However, we are lucky enough to have our very own personnel specialist in the squadron who is very capable in dealing with a lot of our basic MPS needs.

Families with children, a lot of the schools are below standard. However, there are some very good schools in the community. [www.greatschools.org](http://www.greatschools.org)

The SOUTHCOM School Liaison Officer will gladly assist in making the transition for your kids a lot smoother by providing info on some of the better schools and daycare facilities in the area. Please contact them as soon as possible after notification of your assignment to ensure you receive priority assistance.

POC: Ms. Joyce Kennedy  
School Liaison Officer  
Child, Youth & School Services  
DSN: 567-0148  
Comm: (305) 437-0148  
Email: [joyce.m.kennedy.naf@mail.mil](mailto:joyce.m.kennedy.naf@mail.mil)

There is no BX, Commissary or CDC on Homestead ARB. However, there is a Shoppette with gas station and clothing sales, but I would advise you to make sure that your uniforms are squared away before you arrive. Sizes and stock are in limited supply.

When you arrive, call Tricare South (1-800-444-5445), they will enroll you to the SOUTHCOM clinic at (305-437-1148). Your family/dependents will be seen 100% locally. Get a list of providers from Tricare.mil and do your research. There is a small clinic that does annual physical assessments, immunizations and sick-call for active duty members only. Prior to your arrival, medical records will need an address to forward all of your medical records to; give them the address below.

U.S. SOUTHCOM Health Clinic  
9301 NW 33rd St.  
Miami, Florida 33172

If you do not have a sponsor please contact the Commanders Support Staff at:  
[anawati.jaggernath@us.af.mil](mailto:anawati.jaggernath@us.af.mil) or [joshua.hinton@us.af.mil](mailto:joshua.hinton@us.af.mil)  
Phone- Comm (786) 415-7085 DSN 535-7085

There is a Homestead Military Wives/Hubbies Facebook page that can help prepare your dependents. The people that run the page have dealt with the military lifestyle and have been in the area for a while. They can give recommendations on schools, doctors, daycares, places to live and eat, etc. They also have play groups, lunch dates, and Ladies Nights out to assist. It's a closed page, but I recommend reaching out to them and getting involved.

The 482nd Fighter Wing Facebook, Twitter, and website can also help keep you informed on what's happening in the area.