LOCATION GUIDE

Fort Bliss, Texas

Housing, BAH, schools, gates, contacts and desert know-how for El Paso and the home of the 1st Armored Division.

SERIES

CONUS

PCS

FROM	TO	GUIDE
Your current duty station	Fort Bliss, TX	Location
BRANCH	**BAH AREA**	**REPORT TO**
Army	El Paso, TX	Bldg 909

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

- Quick facts and getting here
- Before-you-arrive checklist
- Reception and in-processing
- On-post and off-post housing
- 2026 BAH and rent vs. buy
- Schools and child care
- Spouse, family and Texas rules
- Living here and day trips
- Key contacts
- Budget and house-hunting worksheets

WELCOME

Fort Bliss at a glance

Fort Bliss covers more than a million acres across West Texas and New Mexico, right next to El Paso. It's sunny almost all year, with no state income tax and a strong bilingual border culture.

FACT	DETAIL
Location	Northeast El Paso, TX, stretching into New Mexico
Nearest cities	El Paso (next door), Las Cruces, NM (about 45 min), Ciudad Juárez, Mexico
Major units	1st Armored Division, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Joint Task Force North
Size	About 1.1 million acres; about 37,000 Soldiers and 42,000 family members
Founded	1848; named Fort Bliss in 1854
BAH housing area	El Paso, TX
On-post housing	Fort Bliss Family Homes (Balfour Beatty Communities)
Hospital	William Beaumont Army Medical Center

Getting here

OPTION	DETAIL
El Paso International (ELP)	Right next to post, about 10 minutes; staff duty can pick you up
By car	I-10, US-54 (Patriot Freeway) and Loop 375; Buffalo Soldier and Cassidy gates are open 24/7
Time zone	Mountain time

Mountain time and the border

El Paso runs on Mountain time. Many commands limit travel into Juárez — check your unit's policy before you cross.

COUNTDOWN

Before you arrive

El Paso is affordable and housing moves fast in summer. Apply for on-post housing and request child care as soon as orders arrive.

As soon as you have orders 90+ DAYS OUT

- [ ] Apply with Fort Bliss Family Homes
- [ ] Call the School Liaison about districts
- [ ] Look up your BAH for El Paso, TX
- [ ] Compare east, northeast and west El Paso
- [ ] Request a sponsor from your gaining unit
- [ ] In EFMP? Contact EFMP through ACS now
- [ ] Request child care on MilitaryChildCare.com
- [ ] Join local military spouse groups

Book the move 60 DAYS OUT

- [ ] Schedule household goods or plan your PPM
- [ ] Start the off-post rental or home search
- [ ] Check pet rules for on-post housing
- [ ] Reserve on-post lodging
- [ ] Gather school, shot and IEP/504 records

Final prep 30 DAYS OUT

- [ ] Print copies of orders and family records
- [ ] Bring a REAL ID for family members who need passes
- [ ] Confirm arrival date with your sponsor
- [ ] Set up utilities and internet at the new address

Desert heat and wind

Summer highs top 100°F, and spring winds bring dust storms. Move early in the morning and keep water in the car.

DAY ONE

Arrival and in-processing

Soldiers report to the Fort Bliss Reception Detachment staff duty desk, open 24/7. In-processing usually takes about five days.

1

Reception Detachment

Building 909, 909 Pleasonton Road. Staff duty 24/7: (915) 569-5261. Call from the airport for a pickup.

2

In-processing week

Finance, medical, dental and the installation welcome brief. Military Personnel Division: Building 505, (915) 568-2482.

Bring with you

- Orders and any amendments, with copies
- Your CAC and dependents' IDs
- Travel receipts and PPM weight tickets
- Signed leave form (DA Form 31)
- Marriage and birth certificates for dependents
- Lease or mortgage papers, if you have them

Gates to know

GATE	NOTES
Buffalo Soldier and Cassidy	Main gates; open 24/7
Espinoza, Peña and Silvestre Reyes	Open 24/7
Chaffee, Old Ironsides and Duran	5 AM to 9 PM
Visitor Control Center	Building 5400, Buffalo Soldier Road; 24/7; (915) 568-3215

REAL ID required

Visitors need a REAL ID-compliant ID for a pass. A second visitor center at Chaffee Gate is open 5 AM to 9 PM.

WHERE TO LIVE

On-post and off-post housing

Balfour Beatty Communities manages about 4,500 homes on post. Off post, families choose between northeast, east and west El Paso.

On post FORT BLISS FAMILY HOMES

- Two- to five-bedroom homes; apply as soon as you have orders
- Leasing office: (915) 564-0795
- Schools on post are run by El Paso ISD
- Army Housing Office: Building T-0070, (915) 568-2898

Off post PICK BY COMMUTE

AREA	FEEL	COMMUTE
Northeast El Paso	Closest; 2–3BR about $1,300–$1,700	5–20 min
East El Paso / Horizon City	Newer builds, growing fast	30–50 min
West El Paso	Older, pricier neighborhoods	25–45 min over the mountain
Upper Valley	Rural-suburban, more land	35–50 min
Socorro / Far East	Affordable; Socorro ISD	30–45 min
Las Cruces, NM	Smaller city; New Mexico rules	About 45 min

Use the Army Housing Office

The Army Housing Office can review a lease before you sign and help with off-post landlord problems.

THE NUMBERS

2026 BAH and rent vs. buy

Fort Bliss BAH is set by the El Paso, TX housing area. Monthly rates below.

GRADE	WITH DEPS	WITHOUT	GRADE	WITH DEPS	WITHOUT
E-1 to E-4	$1,665	$1,302	W-5	$2,334	$2,169
E-5	$1,809	$1,437	O-1	$1,857	$1,518
E-6	$2,148	$1,611	O-2	$2,145	$1,764
E-7	$2,172	$1,668	O-3	$2,202	$2,022
E-8	$2,187	$1,881	O-4	$2,352	$2,157
E-9	$2,241	$1,977	O-5	$2,466	$2,172
W-1	$2,169	$1,626	O-6	$2,484	$2,178
W-2	$2,178	$1,878	O-1E	$2,175	$1,806
W-3	$2,205	$1,992	O-2E	$2,196	$1,956
W-4	$2,256	$2,148	O-3E	$2,268	$2,142

Source: DoD 2026 BAH rates via FedRateCalc

Double-check your rate before you budget — BAH changes every January: travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Basic-Allowance-for-Housing/BAH-Rate-Lookup/

Some high-cost areas also pay CONUS COLA: travel.dod.mil/Allowances/CONUS-Cost-of-Living-Allowance/

Rent or buy?

- El Paso is one of the more affordable big cities in Texas
- Texas has no state income tax, but property taxes are high — check the bill on any home
- Many families buy newer homes on the east side; commutes can be long
- Summer cooling bills can be high — ask for past bills

Check the property tax

Texas makes up for no income tax with high property taxes. Get the real tax and HOA numbers before you make an offer.

KIDS

Schools and child care

There are no DoDEA schools at Fort Bliss. El Paso ISD runs the schools on post. Off post, your address decides the district.

DISTRICT OR SCHOOL	SERVES
El Paso ISD	On-post elementary and middle schools, central and west El Paso
Socorro ISD	East El Paso, Horizon City and Socorro
Ysleta ISD	Lower Valley and parts of east El Paso
Canutillo ISD	Upper Valley and northwest El Paso

School Liaison

Call (915) 569-5064 for district maps, enrollment help and IEP or 504 transitions.

Military Interstate Compact

Texas and New Mexico are members — it helps with placement and graduation rules.

Colleges nearby

UTEP, El Paso Community College and New Mexico State in Las Cruces.

Child care

- Request Child Development Center care on MilitaryChildCare.com as soon as you have orders
- Youth programs run before and after school and in summer
- Family Child Care homes on post fill gaps
- Fee assistance can help with off-post care

FAMILY LIFE

Spouse, family and Texas rules

Spouse support

- ACS Employment Readiness helps with job searches and federal applications
- Texas offers licensing help for military spouses
- Bilingual skills are a big plus in the El Paso job market
- MyCAA can fund certificates for eligible spouses

Family programs

- ACS Relocation Readiness: (915) 569-4227
- EFMP through ACS — register before you arrive
- New Parent Support and Family Advocacy through ACS
- Financial Readiness counseling

Texas rules for military families

TOPIC	WHAT TO KNOW
State income tax	Texas has no state income tax
Living in New Mexico	New Mexico exempts active-duty pay; spouse wages there may be taxed — check MSRRA
Driver's license	Service members and dependents with a valid home-state license can keep it
Vehicle registration	Nonresident service members can keep home-state registration
Crossing into Mexico	Check command rules before visiting Juárez

OFF DUTY

Living here

You'll need a car. I-10, US-54 and Loop 375 connect post to every part of town, and the Franklin Mountains split east from west.

Climate

High desert: about 300 sunny days, hot summers, mild winters and windy springs.

Shopping

Freedom Crossing on post has the PX, shops and dining. Cielo Vista and Fountains at Farah malls in town.

On post

Golf, fitness centers, youth programs and the Franklin Mountains next door.

Day trips

DESTINATION	DRIVE	WHY GO
Castner Range National Monument	~15 min	Desert hikes and spring poppies
Franklin Mountains State Park	~20 min	Hiking and the Scenic Drive overlook
Mission Trail	~25 min	Historic missions in Ysleta and Socorro
Hueco Tanks State Park	~40 min	Rock art and world-class bouldering
Mesilla, NM	~50 min	Historic plaza and chile restaurants
White Sands National Park	~1.5 hr	Sledding on white gypsum dunes
Ruidoso / Ski Apache	~2.5 hr	Mountain town and winter skiing
Carlsbad Caverns	~2.5–3 hr	Huge caves and bat flights

KEEP THIS HANDY

Key contacts

Phone numbers change — call ahead to confirm hours before you drive over.

OFFICE	PHONE
Reception Detachment (24/7)	(915) 569-5261
ACS Relocation Readiness	(915) 569-4227
Army Housing Office	(915) 568-2898
Fort Bliss Family Homes	(915) 564-0795
School Liaison	(915) 569-5064

OFFICE	PHONE
Military Personnel Division	(915) 568-2482
Lodging	(915) 565-7777
Visitor Control Center	(915) 568-3215
TRICARE West	(888) 874-9378
Nurse advice line	1-800-874-2273

Add your own

EFMP

TRANSPORTATION (HHG/PPM)

BEAUMONT APPOINTMENTS

SPONSOR

Links

Fort Bliss newcomers · Fort Bliss MWR · William Beaumont AMC · BAH Rate Lookup · Plan My Move

Sources: Fort Bliss newcomers page; Military OneSource Fort Bliss; Fort Bliss MWR Relocation Readiness; DoD 2026 BAH rates via FedRateCalc.

READY FOR THE FULL PLAYBOOK?

Go step by step with the kits.

Worksheets, trackers and a complete binder setup for every stage of your move.

pcslikeapro.org

hello@pcslikeapro.org

WORKSHEET

Plan your landing

My housing budget

ITEM	AMOUNT
My monthly BAH	$
Rent or mortgage	$
Utilities (estimate)	$
Renter's or homeowner's insurance	$
Left over (BAH minus costs)	$

Neighborhood comparison

AREA / ADDRESS	RENT OR PRICE	COMMUTE TO GATE	SCHOOL DISTRICT	NOTES

First-week checklist

- [ ] Report to the Reception Detachment
- [ ] Update DEERS; get dependent IDs
- [ ] Turn in travel and moving paperwork
- [ ] Register with Child and Youth Services
- [ ] Attend the welcome brief
- [ ] Enroll in TRICARE at Beaumont
- [ ] Enroll kids in school
- [ ] Stock water and shade for the car