LOCATION GUIDE

Fort Riley, Kansas

Housing, BAH, schools, gates, contacts and local know-how for the home of the Big Red One.

SERIES

CONUS

PCS

FROM	TO	GUIDE
Your current duty station	Fort Riley, KS	Location
BRANCH	**BAH AREA**	**MAIN GATE**
Army	Fort Riley, KS	Henry Gate

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

- Quick facts and getting here
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WELCOME

Fort Riley at a glance

Fort Riley sits in the Flint Hills of north-central Kansas between Junction City and Manhattan. It's home of the 1st Infantry Division, with a low cost of living and a college town next door.

FACT	DETAIL
Location	Geary and Riley counties, KS, between Junction City and Manhattan
Nearest cities	Junction City (next door), Manhattan (about 15 mi), Topeka (about 65 mi), Kansas City (about 130 mi)
Major units	1st Infantry Division "Big Red One," with brigade, aviation, artillery and sustainment units
Size	About 101,000 acres; about 15,000 Soldiers and 18,000 family members
Founded	1853
BAH housing area	Fort Riley, KS
On-post housing	Corvias Military Living
Hospital	Irwin Army Community Hospital

Getting here

OPTION	DETAIL
Manhattan Regional (MHK)	Closest airport, with limited flights; about 45–60 minutes to the gates
Kansas City Intl (MCI)	About 2 hours east on I-70; the most flights and fares
By car	I-70 Exit 301 to Henry Gate, the main gate, open 24/7

Plan the drive from Kansas City

Most families fly into Kansas City and drive in. Leave time for daylight driving, especially in winter ice or spring storm season.

COUNTDOWN

Before you arrive

Fort Riley turns over fast during summer. Get on the housing list, request a sponsor and line up child care as soon as orders arrive.

As soon as you have orders 90+ DAYS OUT

- [ ] Apply for on-post housing with Corvias
- [ ] Call the School Liaison Officer about districts
- [ ] Look up your BAH for Fort Riley, KS
- [ ] Compare Junction City and Manhattan schools
- [ ] Request a sponsor from your gaining unit
- [ ] In EFMP? Contact the EFMP office 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 breed rules for on-post housing
- [ ] Reserve lodging (Candlewood Suites on post)
- [ ] Gather school, shot and IEP/504 records

Final prep 30 DAYS OUT

- [ ] Print copies of orders and your leave form
- [ ] Book a DEERS/ID card appointment if needed
- [ ] Confirm arrival date with your sponsor
- [ ] Set up utilities and internet at the new address

Weather can change your travel day

Spring brings tornado warnings and winter brings ice storms that can close I-70. Watch the forecast and keep flexible travel days.

DAY ONE

Arrival and in-processing

Most Soldiers sign in at the 1st Replacement Company. A few units, such as MEDDAC, DENTAC and CID, have their own process — check your orders.

1

1st Replacement Company

Building 208, Custer Avenue, Main Post. Staff duty desk is open 24/7: (785) 239-2119.

2

Victory Welcome

All Soldiers attend the 1st Infantry Division Victory Welcome, held every Wednesday.

Bring with you

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

Gates to know

GATE	NOTES
Henry Gate (main)	I-70 Exit 301; open 24/7; Visitor Control Center
Ogden Gate	K-18 on the east side; open 24/7
Other gates	Limited or commercial-only hours that change — check before you go

Visitor passes

Family members without an ID card and visitors start at the Visitor Control Center at Henry Gate.

WHERE TO LIVE

On-post and off-post housing

Corvias manages six on-post neighborhoods, including Custer Hill and Colyer-Forsyth. Off post, most families choose between Junction City and Manhattan.

On post CORVIAS MILITARY LIVING

- Homes assigned by rank and bedroom need; BAH covers rent, utilities and maintenance
- Pets allowed with limits and breed restrictions
- Waitlists grow in PCS season — apply when orders arrive
- Call Corvias at (785) 717-2258

Off post PICK BY COMMUTE

TOWN	FEEL	COMMUTE
Junction City	Closest and most affordable; popular with first-time buyers	5–10 min to Henry Gate
Grandview Plaza	Newer homes, mid-range prices	Short drive to Henry Gate
Ogden	Small town with limited inventory	Under 5 min to Ogden Gate
Manhattan	College town with the most amenities and highest prices	15–25 min
Wamego / Abilene	Small towns with more space	30+ min

Use the Housing Services Office

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

THE NUMBERS

2026 BAH and rent vs. buy

Fort Riley BAH is set by the Fort Riley, KS housing area. Monthly rates below.

GRADE	WITH DEPS	WITHOUT	GRADE	WITH DEPS	WITHOUT
E-1 to E-4	$1,272	$1,050	W-5	$2,139	$1,860
E-5	$1,314	$1,158	O-1	$1,377	$1,227
E-6	$1,782	$1,338	O-2	$1,779	$1,386
E-7	$1,845	$1,383	O-3	$1,953	$1,611
E-8	$1,911	$1,434	O-4	$2,169	$1,842
E-9	$2,013	$1,548	O-5	$2,325	$1,875
W-1	$1,803	$1,353	O-6	$2,340	$1,935
W-2	$1,872	$1,410	O-1E	$1,854	$1,392
W-3	$1,956	$1,566	O-2E	$1,941	$1,518
W-4	$2,037	$1,794	O-3E	$2,052	$1,776

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?

- Fort Riley has some of the lowest housing costs in the Army, so BAH stretches far
- Junction City homes are usually the most affordable; Manhattan costs more but has more resale demand
- Buying can work for a 3+ year tour — ask your agent about rental demand when you leave
- Budget for winter heating and storm-ready insurance

Check flood and storm coverage

Ask about tornado and hail damage coverage, and whether a home has a basement or storm shelter.

KIDS

Schools and child care

There are no DoDEA schools at Fort Riley. Geary County USD 475 runs the schools on post; your address decides the district.

DISTRICT OR SCHOOL	SERVES
Geary County USD 475	On post, Junction City and Grandview Plaza; several elementary schools and Fort Riley Middle School on post
Manhattan-Ogden USD 383	Manhattan and Ogden
Smaller districts	Wamego, Chapman, Abilene and others for families living farther out

School Liaison Officer

Call (785) 240-3261 for enrollment help, district maps and IEP or 504 transitions.

Military Interstate Compact

Helps with records, placement and graduation rules when you move mid-year.

Kansas State University

In Manhattan, about 20 minutes away — great for spouses and teens.

Child care

- Request on-post Child Development Center care on MilitaryChildCare.com as soon as you have orders
- School-age and youth programs run through Child and Youth Services
- Family Child Care homes on post fill gaps and odd hours
- Fee assistance can help with off-post care when on-post care is full

Check the district before you sign

Junction City and Manhattan are in different districts. Confirm the school for any address before you sign a lease or make an offer.

FAMILY LIFE

Spouse, family and Kansas rules

Spouse support

- ACS Employment Readiness helps with job searches and federal applications
- Kansas offers licensing help for military spouses moving into the state
- Kansas State University and local colleges offer degree and certificate programs
- MyCAA can fund certificates for eligible spouses

Family programs

- Army Community Service: (785) 239-4227
- EFMP through ACS — register before you arrive
- New Parent Support and Family Advocacy through ACS
- Financial Readiness for budgeting and car-buying help

Kansas rules for military families

TOPIC	WHAT TO KNOW
State income tax	Nonresident service members stationed here aren't taxed by Kansas on military pay; Kansas exempts military retirement pay
Spouse income	Spouses who keep another legal residence may be exempt under 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 and plates
Severe weather	Spring tornado season; learn your shelter spot and siren tests

Know your shelter spot

Learn where to shelter at home, work and school during tornado warnings. Sirens are tested regularly — ask your housing office when.

OFF DUTY

Living here

You'll need a car. I-70 runs along post and connects Junction City, Manhattan, Topeka and Kansas City.

Climate

Hot summers, cold winters with ice and snow, and spring storms. Wind is constant on the prairie.

Shopping

Commissary and PX on post. Manhattan has the most shopping and dining.

On post

Fishing, outdoor rec gear rental, golf, fitness centers and the U.S. Cavalry Museum.

Day trips

DESTINATION	DRIVE	WHY GO
Milford Lake	~15 min	Kansas's largest lake: boating, fishing, camping
Konza Prairie	~25 min	Tallgrass prairie hiking
Aggieville (Manhattan)	~25 min	Restaurants and live music near K-State
Tuttle Creek State Park	~30 min	Camping, trails and a big lake
Abilene	~30 min	Eisenhower Presidential Library and old-town charm
Flint Hills Scenic Byway	~1 hr	Rolling prairie drive and small towns
Topeka	~1 hr	State Capitol and the zoo
Lawrence	~1.5 hr	College town with great food
Kansas City	~2 hr	Chiefs and Royals games, barbecue, museums

KEEP THIS HANDY

Key contacts

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

OFFICE	PHONE
1st Replacement Co. staff duty	(785) 239-2119
Corvias housing	(785) 717-2258
Army Community Service	(785) 239-4227
School Liaison Officer	(785) 240-3261
Candlewood Suites (lodging)	(785) 560-3080

OFFICE	PHONE
Irwin Army Community Hospital	(785) 239-7000
IACH appointments	(785) 239-3627
IACH after hours	(785) 239-7667
TRICARE West	(888) 874-9378
Nurse advice line	1-800-874-2273

Add your own

EFMP

ID CARD OFFICE

VISITOR CONTROL CENTER

VET CLINIC

Links

Fort Riley home page · Fort Riley MWR · Irwin Army Community Hospital · BAH Rate Lookup · Plan My Move

Sources: PCS Pay It Forward Fort Riley base guide; 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

- [ ] Sign in at the 1st Replacement Company
- [ ] Update DEERS; get dependent IDs
- [ ] Turn in travel and moving paperwork
- [ ] Register with Child and Youth Services
- [ ] Attend the Victory Welcome
- [ ] Enroll in TRICARE at Irwin
- [ ] Enroll kids in school
- [ ] Visit ACS for the lending closet