LOCATION GUIDE

Fort Rucker, Alabama

Housing, BAH, schools, gates, contacts and Wiregrass know-how for the Home of Army Aviation.

SERIES

CONUS

PCS

FROM	TO	GUIDE
Your current duty station	Fort Rucker, AL	Location
BRANCH	**BAH AREA**	**REPORT TO**
Army	Fort Rucker, AL	Bldg 5700

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WELCOME

Fort Rucker at a glance

Fort Rucker sits in the Wiregrass region of southeast Alabama, between Enterprise, Daleville and Ozark. Every Army aviator trains here, so turnover is high — and the Gulf beaches are about two hours away.

FACT	DETAIL
Location	Dale and Coffee counties, AL, in the Wiregrass region
Nearest cities	Enterprise, Daleville and Ozark (next door), Dothan (about 30 min), Montgomery (about 1.5 hr)
Mission	U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence — the Home of Army Aviation
Major units	1st, 110th and 128th Aviation Brigades
Size	About 64,500 acres
Founded	1942, as Camp Rucker
BAH housing area	Fort Rucker, AL
Health care	Lyster Army Health Clinic (no ER or labor and delivery)

Getting here

OPTION	DETAIL
Dothan Regional (DHN)	About 35 minutes; no shuttle — use a taxi or rideshare
Montgomery (MGM)	About 1.5 hours
Atlanta (ATL)	About 3.5 hours; the most flights and fares

About the name

The post was Fort Novosel from 2023 to 2025. In July 2025 it became Fort Rucker again, now honoring Capt. Edward W. Rucker, a World War I pilot.

COUNTDOWN

Before you arrive

Flight-school classes start year-round, so housing and child care move fast. Apply for both the week orders arrive.

As soon as you have orders 90+ DAYS OUT

- [ ] Apply for on-post housing with Corvias
- [ ] Call the School Liaison about schools
- [ ] Look up your BAH for Fort Rucker
- [ ] Pick a delivery hospital if you're expecting
- [ ] Request a sponsor from your gaining unit
- [ ] In EFMP? Call EFMP now: (334) 255-9277
- [ ] Get on the CDC waitlist 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
- [ ] Look for leases that fit a school-length tour
- [ ] Reserve on-post lodging
- [ ] Gather school, shot and IEP/504 records

Final prep 30 DAYS OUT

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

Storms and sirens

Southeast Alabama gets tornadoes and Gulf hurricanes. Sirens are tested the first Wednesday of each month at 11 AM — learn what they mean.

DAY ONE

Arrival and in-processing

Report to the Soldier Service Center on weekdays in duty uniform. Flight students report to their own office in Building 5911.

1

Soldier Service Center

Building 5700, Room 280; weekdays 7:30 AM to 4 PM. After hours, call the operations center at (334) 255-3100.

2

Newcomers' Welcome

Required within two months of arrival, at The Landing, Building 113, 9 AM. Ask your unit for the date.

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
Daleville Gate	Open 24/7; visitor center 8 AM to 4 PM daily; (334) 255-0797
Ozark Gate	Open 24/7; visitor center weekdays 8 AM to 4 PM; (334) 255-0798
Enterprise Gate	Open 24/7; no visitor center
Faulkner Gate	Weekdays 4:30 AM to 8:30 PM

Visitor passes online

Family can request visitor passes 5–14 days ahead online. A REAL ID is required.

WHERE TO LIVE

On-post and off-post housing

Corvias manages more than 1,400 homes in three neighborhoods on post. Off post, Enterprise is the most popular choice, with Daleville and Ozark close behind.

On post CORVIAS

- Availability is lowest in summer PCS season
- Corvias leasing: (334) 440-8988
- DoDEA elementary school on post
- Housing Services Office: (334) 255-2224

Off post PICK BY COMMUTE

TOWN	COMMUTE	TYPICAL 3BR RENT
Enterprise	~10 min	$950–$1,200; popular schools
Daleville	~5 min	$850–$1,050
Ozark	~15 min	About the same as Daleville
Dothan	~30 min	Regional hub with the most shopping
New Brockton / Elba	20–30 min	Rural and quiet

Short tours, short leases

Many flight-school families rent for a year or less. Ask landlords about military clauses and short-term leases.

THE NUMBERS

2026 BAH and rent vs. buy

Fort Rucker BAH is set by the Fort Rucker, AL housing area. Monthly rates below.

GRADE	WITH DEPS	WITHOUT	GRADE	WITH DEPS	WITHOUT
E-1 to E-4	$1,440	$1,167	W-5	$2,502	$1,977
E-5	$1,572	$1,251	O-1	$1,602	$1,305
E-6	$1,743	$1,317	O-2	$1,740	$1,533
E-7	$1,929	$1,446	O-3	$2,262	$1,767
E-8	$2,136	$1,611	O-4	$2,541	$1,941
E-9	$2,346	$1,761	O-5	$2,742	$2,058
W-1	$1,761	$1,407	O-6	$2,760	$2,247
W-2	$2,013	$1,608	O-1E	$1,968	$1,569
W-3	$2,268	$1,764	O-2E	$2,232	$1,674
W-4	$2,373	$1,800	O-3E	$2,394	$1,797

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?

- The Wiregrass has a low cost of living, and BAH stretches far
- Homes rent easily to incoming aviation families
- Flight-school tours often fit renting better than buying
- Budget for summer air conditioning

KIDS

Schools and child care

DoDEA runs one elementary school on post. Older students attend Enterprise, Daleville or Ozark city schools, depending on where you live.

DISTRICT OR SCHOOL	SERVES
Ellis D. Parker Elementary (DoDEA)	PreK–6 on post: (334) 255-1607
Enterprise City Schools	Enterprise and many on-post grades 7–12: (334) 347-6687
Daleville City Schools	Daleville
Ozark City Schools	Ozark
Dothan City Schools	Dothan

School Liaison

Call (334) 255-9812 for district maps, enrollment help and IEP or 504 transitions.

Military Interstate Compact

Alabama is a member — it helps with placement and graduation rules.

Colleges nearby

Enterprise State Community College and Troy University Dothan.

Child care

- Get on the Child Development Center waitlist 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 Alabama rules

Spouse support

- ACS Employment Readiness helps with job searches and federal applications
- Alabama offers licensing help for military spouses
- Local jobs are limited — remote work and on-post jobs are popular
- MyCAA can fund certificates for eligible spouses

Family programs

- ACS: (334) 255-3161
- Relocation Readiness: (334) 255-3735
- EFMP: (334) 255-9277
- New Parent Support — babies are delivered off post

Alabama rules for military families

TOPIC	WHAT TO KNOW
State income tax	Nonresident service members aren't taxed by Alabama on military pay
Alabama residents	Active-duty pay is taxed; military retirement pay is exempt
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
Severe weather	Tornadoes and Gulf hurricanes; monthly siren tests

OFF DUTY

Living here

You'll need a car. US-231 runs to Dothan and the Florida line, and you'll hear helicopters overhead most days.

Climate

Hot, humid summers, mild winters and a long storm season.

Shopping

PX and commissary on post. Dothan has the malls and big stores.

On post

Free U.S. Army Aviation Museum, Lake Tholocco beach and Beaver Lake Trail.

Day trips

DESTINATION	DRIVE	WHY GO
Boll Weevil Monument	~15 min	Enterprise's famous landmark
Dothan	~30 min	Museums and the National Peanut Festival
Lake Eufaula	~1 hr	Bass fishing and state park
Florida Caverns State Park	~1.25 hr	Cave tours and springs
Montgomery	~1.5 hr	Civil rights history sites
Panama City Beach, FL	~1.75 hr	Gulf beaches
Destin / 30A, FL	~2 hr	Emerald water and beach towns
Pensacola, FL	~2.5 hr	National Naval Aviation Museum

KEEP THIS HANDY

Key contacts

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

OFFICE	PHONE
Military Personnel Division	(334) 255-1814
Operations center (after hours)	(334) 255-3100
ACS	(334) 255-3161
EFMP	(334) 255-9277
Transportation (HHG/PPM)	(334) 255-9842

OFFICE	PHONE
Corvias leasing	(334) 440-8988
Housing Services Office	(334) 255-2224
Lyster appointments	(800) 261-7193
School Liaison	(334) 255-9812
Lodging	(334) 598-5216

Add your own

FLIGHT STUDENT COMPANY

ID CARD OFFICE

MILITARY POLICE

SPONSOR

Links

Fort Rucker home page · Fort Rucker MWR · Lyster Army Health Clinic · BAH Rate Lookup · Plan My Move

Sources: Army.mil (2025 name restorations); Fort Rucker newcomers, visitor and phonebook pages; Military OneSource; 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 Soldier Service Center
- [ ] Update DEERS; get dependent IDs
- [ ] Turn in travel and moving paperwork
- [ ] Register with Child and Youth Services
- [ ] Schedule the Newcomers' Welcome
- [ ] Enroll in TRICARE at Lyster
- [ ] Enroll kids in school
- [ ] Learn the siren signals