LOCATION GUIDE

Joint Base San Antonio, Texas

Housing, BAH, schools, check-in and Texas know-how for Fort Sam Houston, Lackland, Randolph and Camp Bullis.

SERIES
CONUS
PCS

FROM	TO	GUIDE
Your current duty station	San Antonio, TX	Area
BRANCH	**BAH AREA**	**INSTALLATIONS**
Army · Air Force · All	San Antonio, TX	4 covered

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

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WELCOME

Joint Base San Antonio at a glance

JBSA is the Defense Department's largest joint base, with locations spread across San Antonio — Military City USA.

LOCATION	AREA	MAIN SERVICES	NOTES
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston	Northeast of downtown	Army, joint medical	BAMC, the only military ER
JBSA-Lackland	Southwest side	Air Force, Space Force	Basic Military Training
JBSA-Randolph	Universal City	Air Force	AETC HQ and AFPC
Camp Bullis	Northwest, off I-10	All services	Field training land

Getting here

OPTION	DETAIL
San Antonio International (SAT)	North-central; 15–30 minutes to most locations
Austin (AUS)	About 1.25 hours; another option for fares
By car	I-10, I-35, Loop 410 and Loop 1604

One base, many gates

Each location has its own housing, lodging and clinic. Your sponsor's location matters more than "San Antonio."

COUNTDOWN

Before you arrive

JBSA is one joint base, but its posts are far apart. Choose a neighborhood by your sponsor's actual duty location.

As soon as you have orders 90+ DAYS OUT

- [ ] Find out which JBSA location you'll work at
- [ ] Apply for base housing
- [ ] Look up your BAH for San Antonio
- [ ] Compare districts — several are on base
- [ ] Request a sponsor from your gaining unit
- [ ] Call the School Liaison about districts
- [ ] 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 rental or home search
- [ ] Check flood zones before choosing a home
- [ ] Reserve lodging (avoid BMT graduation weeks if you can)
- [ ] Gather school, shot and IEP/504 records

Final prep 30 DAYS OUT

- [ ] Print orders 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

Turn around, don't drown

Central Texas is "Flash Flood Alley." Low-water crossings flood fast in storms — never drive through water.

BASE NOTES

Fort Sam Houston, Lackland and Randolph

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston NORTHEAST OF DOWNTOWN

- U.S. Army North, U.S. Army South and the Medical Education & Training Campus
- Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) is the area's only military ER
- No reception center — Army members sign in with their unit S1
- Housing office: Building 1161, (210) 221-0881

UNIT S1 SPONSOR

JBSA-Lackland SOUTHWEST SIDE

- Home of Air Force and Space Force Basic Military Training
- Balfour Beatty housing: (210) 674-9366 · Housing office: (210) 671-1840
- Report to your CSS, or Customer Service in Building 5616: (210) 671-9955
- Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center; urgent care daily 6 AM–6 PM

CSS SPONSOR

JBSA-Randolph UNIVERSAL CITY, NORTHEAST

- AETC headquarters, the Air Force Personnel Center and flying training
- Housing office: (830) 483-9900
- After hours, the 24-hour arrival point is Lodging, Building 112
- Randolph Clinic is outpatient only — no ER

Camp Bullis NORTHWEST, OFF I-10

- More than 27,000 acres of field training land
- Patriot Inn lodging books through Lackland: (210) 671-4277

WHERE TO LIVE

Housing by neighborhood

Each JBSA location has its own housing office. Off base, the metro average for a 3-bedroom apartment is about $1,800 a month.

Base housing BY LOCATION

- Fort Sam Houston: Hunt Military Communities
- Randolph: Hunt Military Communities
- Lackland: Balfour Beatty Communities
- Housing offices can review a lease before you sign

Off base PICK BY COMMUTE

AREA	BEST FOR	FEEL
Schertz / Cibolo	Randolph	Suburban; SCUC ISD
Universal City / Live Oak	Randolph	Right outside the gate
Converse	Randolph, Fort Sam	Affordable; newer subdivisions
Windcrest / Northeast SA	Fort Sam, Randolph	Established neighborhoods
Alamo Heights	Fort Sam Houston	Upscale and older
Stone Oak	Fort Sam, Camp Bullis	North side; US-281 traffic
Helotes / Alamo Ranch	Lackland, Camp Bullis	Growing northwest side
Far West Side	Lackland	Closest to Lackland

Lackland to Randolph is a haul

Driving across town can take 45 minutes or more at rush hour. Live near the post you'll report to.

THE NUMBERS

2026 BAH and rent vs. buy

All JBSA locations use the San Antonio, TX housing area. Monthly rates below.

GRADE	WITH DEPS	WITHOUT
E-1 to E-4	$1,728	$1,359
E-5	$1,869	$1,500
E-6	$2,094	$1,596
E-7	$2,112	$1,731
E-8	$2,121	$1,920
E-9	$2,157	$1,977
W-1	$2,109	$1,692
W-2	$2,118	$1,917
W-3	$2,130	$1,986
W-4	$2,178	$2,085

GRADE	WITH DEPS	WITHOUT
W-5	$2,280	$2,097
O-1	$1,905	$1,584
O-2	$2,091	$1,827
O-3	$2,127	$2,007
O-4	$2,307	$2,088
O-5	$2,457	$2,100
O-6	$2,475	$2,103
O-1E	$2,115	$1,866
O-2E	$2,124	$1,965
O-3E	$2,196	$2,082

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?

- San Antonio is one of the more affordable big Texas cities
- Texas has no income tax, but property taxes are high — check the bill on any home
- Many families buy for long tours; homes rent easily to incoming families

Budget for property tax

Property tax shows up in both home prices and rents. Get the real tax and HOA numbers before you make an offer.

KIDS

Schools and child care

Three small districts run schools on base. Off base, your address decides the district.

DISTRICT OR SCHOOL	SERVES
Fort Sam Houston, Randolph Field and Lackland ISDs	Independent public districts on base (not DoDEA)
Northside ISD	West and northwest; Lackland and Camp Bullis areas
North East ISD	North-central and northeast; Fort Sam and Stone Oak
Judson ISD	Converse and Live Oak
Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD	Randolph-area suburbs

School Liaisons

Each JBSA location has its own School Liaison. Contacts are in the table below.

Military Interstate Compact

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

Colleges nearby

UTSA, Texas A&M–San Antonio and the Alamo Colleges.

School Liaison Offices

LOCATION	ADDRESS	CONTACT
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston	2514 Stanley Road, Bldg. 2515	210-221-5151 (DSN 471-5151)
JBSA-Lackland	2310 Kenly Ave., Bldg. 8210	210-671-8388 (DSN 473-8388)
JBSA-Randolph	555 F Street West, 78150	jbsa.slo@us.af.mil

Child care

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

FAMILY LIFE

Spouse, family and Texas rules

Spouse support

- Family centers help with job searches and federal applications
- Texas offers licensing help for military spouses
- Health care, military medicine and cybersecurity are big employers
- MyCAA can fund certificates for eligible spouses

Family programs

- Fort Sam Houston M&FRC: (210) 221-2705
- Randolph M&FRC: (210) 652-5321
- Free counseling through Military OneSource
- Free Texas hunting and fishing licenses for eligible active duty

Texas rules for military families

TOPIC	WHAT TO KNOW
State income tax	Texas has no state income tax
Property tax	High and set by each county; disabled veterans can get homestead exemptions
Vehicle registration	Keep home-state registration while stationed here; new Texas residents have 60 days
Driver's license	Service members and dependents with a valid home-state license can keep it
Weather	Summer heat over 100°F and flash flooding

OFF DUTY

Living here

You'll need a car. Loop 410 and Loop 1604 circle the city, and I-35 and I-10 connect the posts.

BMT graduations

Every guest must be on the trainee's visitor access list and bring photo ID. Hotels fill up — book early.

Climate

Long, hot summers, mild winters and spring storms with hail.

Culture

Tex-Mex, Fiesta in April, Spurs games and a big military community.

Day trips

DESTINATION	DRIVE	WHY GO
River Walk and the Alamo	~15 min	Downtown history and dining
San Antonio Missions	~15 min	UNESCO World Heritage missions
Natural Bridge Caverns	~30 min	Cave tours
New Braunfels	~30–40 min	River tubing and water parks
Gruene	~35 min	Historic dance hall and shops
Fredericksburg	~1–1.25 hr	Hill Country wineries and peaches
Austin	~1.25 hr	Live music and the Capitol
Enchanted Rock	~1.5 hr	Granite dome hike
Port Aransas / Corpus Christi	~2.5 hr	Gulf beaches

KEEP THIS HANDY

Key contacts

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

OFFICE	PHONE
JBSA appointments	(210) 916-9900
BAMC information	(210) 916-4141
Fort Sam Houston housing office	(210) 221-0881
Lackland housing office	(210) 671-1840
Randolph housing office	(830) 483-9900

OFFICE	PHONE
Lodging: Fort Sam Houston	(210) 357-2705
Lodging: Lackland	(210) 671-4277
Lodging: Randolph	(210) 652-1844
Lackland Customer Service	(210) 671-9955
School Liaison: Fort Sam Houston	210-221-5151
School Liaison: Lackland	210-671-8388
School Liaison: Randolph	jbsa.slo@us.af.mil
TRICARE East	(800) 444-5445

Add your own

MY UNIT OR CSS

LACKLAND M&FRC

VET CLINIC

Links

JBSA welcome · BMT graduation info · TxDMV military · BAH Rate Lookup · Plan My Move

Sources: JBSA official pages; Military OneSource JBSA pages; housing.af.mil; TxDMV and Texas Comptroller; Apartments.com (Oct 2026); 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 BASE	SCHOOL DISTRICT	NOTES

First-week checklist

- [ ] Report to your unit or CSS
- [ ] Update DEERS; get dependent IDs
- [ ] Turn in travel and moving paperwork
- [ ] Register with Child and Youth Programs
- [ ] Attend newcomers orientation
- [ ] Enroll in TRICARE
- [ ] Enroll kids in school
- [ ] Learn your flood-safe routes