LOCATION GUIDE

# McConnell AFB, Kansas

Housing, BAH, schools, gates, contacts and local know-how for the tanker capital of the Air Force in Wichita.

SERIES

CONUS

PCS

| FROM | TO | GUIDE |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Your current duty station | McConnell AFB, KS | Location |
| **BRANCH** | **BAH AREA** | **MAIN GATE** |
| Air Force | Wichita / McConnell | East Gate |

## INSIDE THIS GUIDE


- Quick facts and getting here
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WELCOME

# McConnell at a glance

McConnell sits on the southeast side of Wichita, Kansas's largest city. It's a compact base with big-city amenities, short commutes and a low cost of living.

| FACT | DETAIL |
|---|---|
| **Location** | About 10 miles southeast of downtown Wichita, KS |
| **Nearest towns** | Derby (just south), Andover (northeast), Mulvane (about 10 mi south) |
| **Host unit** | 22nd Air Refueling Wing, flying the KC-135 and KC-46 |
| **Tenants** | Kansas Air National Guard 184th Wing and Reserve units |
| **Size** | About 5,600 military members and families |
| **BAH housing area** | Wichita / McConnell AFB, KS |
| **On-base housing** | Privatized family housing managed by Mayroad |
| **Health care** | Clark Health Clinic (22nd Medical Group) |

## Getting here

| OPTION | DETAIL |
|---|---|
| **Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower (ICT)** | Wichita's airport, on the west side of town |
| **Kansas City Intl (MCI)** | About 3 hours northeast if you need more flight options |
| **By car** | I-35 (Kansas Turnpike) or K-96 to the East Gate, open 24/7 |

**Small base, big city**

With a metro area of more than 600,000 people, Wichita offers jobs, schools and activities many families don't expect.

COUNTDOWN

# Before you arrive

McConnell is a quick base to settle into. Most families choose between on-base housing, Derby and east Wichita.

## As soon as you have orders 90+ DAYS OUT

- [ ] Contact the Housing Office about on-base homes
- [ ] Call the School Liaison Office about districts
- [ ] Look up your BAH for Wichita / McConnell
- [ ] Compare Derby, Andover and Wichita schools
- [ ] Request a sponsor from your gaining unit
- [ ] In EFMP? Contact EFMP-Family Support 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-base rental or home search
- [ ] Check pet rules for base housing
- [ ] Reserve on-base lodging
- [ ] Gather school, shot and IEP/504 records

## Final prep 30 DAYS OUT

- [ ] Confirm your CSS check-in plan with your sponsor
- [ ] Book a DEERS/ID card appointment if needed
- [ ] Keep registration, insurance and license handy at the gate
- [ ] Set up utilities and internet at the new address

**Tornado country**

Spring storms move in fast. Learn the base and city siren systems, and pick a shelter spot as soon as you move in.

DAY ONE

# Arrival, check-in and gates

During duty hours, report to your unit's Commander Support Staff (CSS). After hours, check in at on-base lodging, which is staffed 24 hours.

1

### Commander Support Staff

Your unit CSS handles sign-in during duty hours. Your sponsor will give you the location and contact.

2

### Visitor Center

22nd Security Forces Squadron Visitor Center, Building 169, 52802 Kansas Street. Weekdays 7 AM to 4 PM. (316) 759-4713.

## Bring with you

- Orders and any amendments, with copies
- Marriage and birth certificates for dependents
- Vehicle registration and insurance
- Your CAC and recent LES
- Travel receipts and PPM weight tickets
- Lease or mortgage papers, if you have them

## Gates to know

| GATE | NOTES |
|---|---|
| **East Gate (main)** | Open 24/7 |
| **Housing gate** | Open 24/7 for military and DoD |
| **West Gate** | Hours vary — check before you go |

**Relocation help**

The Military & Family Readiness Center runs newcomer briefings, a loan closet and relocation help: (316) 759-4626.

WHERE TO LIVE

# On-base and off-base housing

On-base homes are 2- to 4-bedroom single-family and duplex homes. Off base, Derby is the top pick for its schools and short commute.

## On base MANAGED BY MAYROAD

- Homes assigned by rank and family size
- Mayroad housing: (316) 347-2929, option 2
- Unaccompanied housing: (316) 759-4611
- Wineteer Elementary sits next to base housing
- Housing Management Office: (316) 759-3910

## Off base PICK BY COMMUTE

| AREA | FEEL | COMMUTE AND PRICE |
|---|---|---|
| **Derby** | Suburban; Derby USD 260 schools | About 12 min; ~$220K–$350K |
| **South / East Wichita** | City living with every amenity | 8–20 min; ~$240K–$380K east |
| **Andover** | Suburban with newer homes | About 22 min; ~$260K–$400K |
| **Mulvane / Haysville** | Small-town feel | 15–25 min |

**Use the Housing Office**

The Housing Management Office can review a lease before you sign and help with landlord issues off base.

THE NUMBERS

# 2026 BAH and rent vs. buy

McConnell BAH is set by the Wichita / McConnell AFB, KS housing area. Monthly rates below.

| GRADE | WITH DEPS | WITHOUT | GRADE | WITH DEPS | WITHOUT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E-1 to E-4 | $1,320 | $1,137 | W-5 | $2,190 | $1,800 |
| E-5 | $1,377 | $1,212 | O-1 | $1,422 | $1,263 |
| E-6 | $1,689 | $1,266 | O-2 | $1,686 | $1,362 |
| E-7 | $1,779 | $1,335 | O-3 | $1,938 | $1,572 |
| E-8 | $1,878 | $1,443 | O-4 | $2,232 | $1,779 |
| E-9 | $2,022 | $1,530 | O-5 | $2,445 | $1,833 |
| W-1 | $1,710 | $1,317 | O-6 | $2,463 | $1,920 |
| W-2 | $1,821 | $1,440 | O-1E | $1,797 | $1,374 |
| W-3 | $1,941 | $1,545 | O-2E | $1,923 | $1,512 |
| W-4 | $2,052 | $1,707 | O-3E | $2,073 | $1,683 |

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?

- Wichita home prices are moderate, so many families buy
- Derby and Andover cost more but have strong schools and resale demand
- Buying usually makes sense for a 3+ year tour
- Ask about hail damage history — roof claims are common here

KIDS

# Schools and child care

There are no DoDEA schools at McConnell. Derby USD 260 serves base housing and is a Purple Star district.

| DISTRICT OR SCHOOL | SERVES |
|---|---|
| **Derby USD 260** | Base housing (Wineteer Elementary next door; grades 6–12 bused to Derby) and Derby |
| **Wichita USD 259** | Most of Wichita |
| **Andover USD 385** | Andover |
| **Mulvane and Haysville** | Smaller districts south of Wichita |

### School Liaison Office

Call (316) 759-6020 for district help, enrollment and IEP or 504 transitions.

### Military Interstate Compact

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

### Wichita State University

Degree programs for spouses and teens across town.

## 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 base fill gaps
- Fee assistance can help with off-base care

FAMILY LIFE

# Spouse, family and Kansas rules

## Spouse support

- The M&FRC helps with job searches, résumés and federal applications
- Aviation and aerospace employers make Wichita a strong job market
- Kansas offers licensing help for military spouses
- MyCAA can fund certificates for eligible spouses

## Family programs

- Military & Family Readiness Center: (316) 759-4626
- EFMP-Family Support through the M&FRC
- New parent and family programs
- Key spouse program through your unit

## 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 |

OFF DUTY

# Living here

You'll need a car. K-96 and I-135 loop around Wichita, and most commutes to base are 25 minutes or less.

### Climate

Hot summers, windy springs with severe storms, and cold winters with occasional ice.

### Shopping

Commissary and BX on base. East Wichita and Derby have the main retail.

### On base

Fitness centers, outdoor rec rentals, golf and family events.

## Day trips

| DESTINATION | DRIVE | WHY GO |
|---|---|---|
| **Old Town Wichita** | ~15 min | Restaurants, shops and the farmers market |
| **Keeper of the Plains** | ~20 min | Riverfront landmark and evening fire bowls |
| **Sedgwick County Zoo** | ~25 min | One of the top zoos in the region |
| **Exploration Place** | ~20 min | Hands-on science museum for kids |
| **Botanica Wichita** | ~20 min | Gardens and seasonal light shows |
| **El Dorado Lake** | ~30 min | Boating, camping and trails |
| **Cosmosphere (Hutchinson)** | ~1 hr | Space museum with real spacecraft |
| **Flint Hills** | ~1.5 hr | Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve |
| **Kansas City** | ~3 hr | Pro sports and a big-city weekend |

KEEP THIS HANDY

# Key contacts

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

| OFFICE | PHONE |
|---|---|
| Military & Family Readiness | (316) 759-4626 |
| Visitor Center | (316) 759-4713 |
| Mayroad housing | (316) 347-2929, opt. 2 |
| Housing Management Office | (316) 759-3910 |
| Unaccompanied housing | (316) 759-4611 |

| OFFICE | PHONE |
|---|---|
| School Liaison Office | (316) 759-6020 |
| Wineteer Elementary | (316) 684-0097 |
| TRICARE West | (888) 874-9378 |
| Nurse advice line | 1-800-874-2273 |

## Add your own

CLARK HEALTH CLINIC

LODGING

EFMP

VET CLINIC

## Links

McConnell AFB · 22nd Force Support Squadron · BAH Rate Lookup · Plan My Move

Sources: PCS Pay It Forward McConnell AFB guide; MyBaseGuide McConnell AFB; 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

- [ ] Check in with your unit CSS
- [ ] Update DEERS; get dependent IDs
- [ ] Turn in travel and moving paperwork
- [ ] Register with Child and Youth Programs
- [ ] Attend the newcomers briefing
- [ ] Enroll in TRICARE at the clinic
- [ ] Enroll kids in school
- [ ] Visit the M&FRC loan closet