LOCATION GUIDE

Fort Polk, Louisiana

Housing, BAH, schools, gates, contacts and rural Louisiana know-how for the home of the Joint Readiness Training Center.

SERIES

CONUS

PCS

FROM	TO	GUIDE
Your current duty station	Fort Polk, LA	Location
BRANCH	**BAH AREA**	**MAIN GATE**
Army	Fort Polk, LA	ACP 1

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

- Quick facts and the name change
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WELCOME

Fort Polk at a glance

Fort Polk sits in the piney woods of west-central Louisiana, next to Leesville. It's rural and quiet, with a very low cost of living and the Kisatchie National Forest all around.

FACT	DETAIL
Location	Vernon Parish, LA, next to Leesville
Nearest cities	Alexandria (about 50 mi), Lake Charles (about 65 mi), Houston (about 190 mi)
Mission	Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC)
Major units	3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division; 32nd Hospital Center
Size	About 198,000 acres with training lands; about 8,000 active duty
Founded	1941, as Camp Polk
BAH housing area	Fort Polk, LA
Hospital	Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital

Getting here

OPTION	DETAIL
Alexandria International (AEX)	About 1 hour; the closest airport with regular flights
Lake Charles (LCH)	About 1.25 hours
By car	US-171 to Louisiana Avenue and ACP 1, open 24/7; Houston is about 3.5 hours

About the name

The post was Fort Johnson from 2023 to 2025. In 2025 it became Fort Polk again, now honoring Gen. James H. Polk, a World War II cavalry commander.

COUNTDOWN

Before you arrive

Fort Polk is remote, so plan ahead for shopping, child care and medical needs. Apply for housing up to 90 days before you arrive.

As soon as you have orders 90+ DAYS OUT

- [ ] Apply for on-post housing with Corvias (up to 90 days out)
- [ ] Call the School Liaison about schools
- [ ] Look up your BAH for Fort Polk
- [ ] Plan for JRTC rotations and time apart
- [ ] 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 FEMA flood maps for any address
- [ ] 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

Hurricanes reach inland here

Hurricane season runs June to November, and storms like Laura in 2020 hit this area hard. Build a kit and know your shelter plan.

DAY ONE

Arrival and in-processing

Soldiers report to the Reception Company at 1716 3rd Street. The welcome desk is staffed 24/7, and in-processing includes the required School of Standards.

1

Reception Company

1716 3rd Street; weekdays 9 AM to 4 PM: (726) 780-2160. After hours, go next door to Building 240 (Warriors Keep).

2

Flying in?

Look for the Fort Polk liaison desk at airport baggage claim. Reception desk: (726) 780-0423.

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
ACP 1 (main gate)	Louisiana Avenue; open 24/7
ACP 7	K Avenue at Alligator Lake; open 24/7
ACP 2 and ACP 5	Weekdays only
Visitor Control Center	(726) 780-0897; check current hours

New phone numbers

Fort Polk is moving to new 726-780 phone numbers. If an older 337-531 number doesn't work, try the post phonebook.

WHERE TO LIVE

On-post and off-post housing

Corvias manages family housing in six neighborhoods on post. Off post, most families live in Leesville, New Llano or DeRidder.

On post CORVIAS

- Neighborhoods include Dogwood, Maple and Palmetto Terrace
- On-post kids attend Vernon Parish schools
- Apply up to 90 days before you arrive
- Corvias: (337) 537-5060

Off post PICK BY COMMUTE

TOWN	FEEL	COMMUTE
Leesville	Small town, limited retail	5–15 min
New Llano	Newer homes; Walmart nearby	5–15 min
Rosepine / Pickering	Rural, big lots	15–25 min
DeRidder	Most shopping and dining nearby	25–40 min
Toledo Bend area	Lake living	Longer drive

Use the Housing Services Office

The Housing Services Office can review a lease before you sign and help with off-post landlord problems: (337) 531-6000.

THE NUMBERS

2026 BAH and rent vs. buy

Fort Polk BAH is set by the Fort Polk, LA housing area. Monthly rates below.

GRADE	WITH DEPS	WITHOUT	GRADE	WITH DEPS	WITHOUT
E-1 to E-4	$1,206	$1,026	W-5	$2,100	$1,881
E-5	$1,218	$1,128	O-1	$1,296	$1,191
E-6	$1,833	$1,374	O-2	$1,827	$1,407
E-7	$1,872	$1,404	O-3	$1,938	$1,611
E-8	$1,911	$1,434	O-4	$2,124	$1,866
E-9	$1,989	$1,527	O-5	$2,262	$1,884
W-1	$1,854	$1,392	O-6	$2,277	$1,917
W-2	$1,887	$1,416	O-1E	$1,875	$1,410
W-3	$1,941	$1,551	O-2E	$1,929	$1,488
W-4	$2,010	$1,839	O-3E	$2,022	$1,827

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 Polk has one of the lowest costs of living in the Army
- Leesville-area rents for a 3-bedroom often run about $1,000–$1,500
- Homes can be slow to resell in a small market — think before you buy
- Flood and wind insurance can add real cost

Check flood maps first

Low ground floods in heavy rain and tropical storms. Check FEMA flood maps and get insurance quotes before you sign.

KIDS

Schools and child care

There are no DoDEA schools at Fort Polk. Vernon Parish runs the schools on post and around Leesville. Your exact address decides the upper-grade school.

DISTRICT OR SCHOOL	SERVES
North Polk and Parkway Elementary	On post: PreK–K and grades 1–4
Vernon Middle / Pickering Elementary	Grades 5–6, depending on your address
Leesville Junior High and High School	Grades 7–12 for much of post
Pickering High School	Grades 7–12 for other on-post addresses
Beauregard Parish Schools	DeRidder area

School Liaison

Call (337) 537-6673 for zoning, enrollment help and IEP or 504 transitions.

Military Interstate Compact

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

Northwestern State University

Leesville campus and Natchitoches, with programs for spouses.

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
- Off-post options are limited — get on the list early

FAMILY LIFE

Spouse, family and Louisiana rules

Spouse support

- ACS Employment Readiness helps with job searches and federal applications
- Louisiana 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: (726) 780-1073
- Relocation Readiness: (726) 780-0384
- EFMP through ACS — register before you arrive
- Unit family readiness groups for JRTC rotations

Louisiana rules for military families

TOPIC	WHAT TO KNOW
State income tax	Nonresident service members aren't taxed by Louisiana on military pay
Louisiana residents	Some military pay may be excluded; 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
Parishes	Louisiana has parishes instead of counties

OFF DUTY

Living here

You'll need a car. US-171 is the main road, and bigger shopping trips mean a drive to Alexandria or Lake Charles.

Climate

Hot, humid and very rainy; mild winters and a long storm season.

Shopping

PX and commissary on post. Alexandria and Lake Charles for malls and big stores.

On post

Alligator Lake, Catfish Cove, trails and 600,000+ acres of Kisatchie National Forest nearby.

Day trips

DESTINATION	DRIVE	WHY GO
Toledo Bend Reservoir	~45 min	Fishing, boating and camping
Kisatchie National Forest	~1 hr	Hiking, canoeing and scenic byways
Alexandria Zoo	~1 hr	Family-friendly zoo
Natchitoches	~1.25 hr	Historic town and the Festival of Lights
Lake Charles	~1.25 hr	Creole Nature Trail and festivals
Lafayette	~2.25 hr	Cajun food and music
Houston	~3.5 hr	Space Center and big-city weekends
New Orleans	~4 hr	French Quarter and WWII Museum

KEEP THIS HANDY

Key contacts

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

OFFICE	PHONE
Reception Company	(726) 780-2160
Reception desk (24/7)	(726) 780-0423
ACS	(726) 780-1073
Relocation Readiness	(726) 780-0384
Transportation (HHG/PPM)	(726) 780-0505

OFFICE	PHONE
Corvias	(337) 537-5060
Housing Services Office	(337) 531-6000
Bayne-Jones ACH	(337) 531-3118
School Liaison	(337) 537-6673
Visitor Control Center	(726) 780-0897

Add your own

EFMP

LODGING

MILITARY POLICE

SPONSOR

Links

Fort Polk home page · Fort Polk MWR · Bayne-Jones ACH · BAH Rate Lookup · Plan My Move

Sources: Army.mil (2025 name restorations); Fort Polk reception, gate 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 Reception Company
- [ ] Update DEERS; get dependent IDs
- [ ] Turn in travel and moving paperwork
- [ ] Register with Child and Youth Services
- [ ] Complete the School of Standards
- [ ] Enroll in TRICARE at Bayne-Jones
- [ ] Enroll kids in school
- [ ] Build your hurricane kit