

ARCENT Kuwait

Always First — Always Ready!



**UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES CENTRAL
COMMAND**

Information packet assembled by
Army Community Service
Relocation Readiness
Fort Gordon, Georgia



Third U.S. Army

www-ku.arcent.army.mil

Congratulations on your new assignment to United States Army Forces Central Command-Kuwait (ARCENT-KU). Soon, you will join us here at Camp Doha, where you will be an integral part of the Army's mission in an important part of the world. A tour of duty in Kuwait affords you the opportunity to help in our Nation's efforts to maintain peace and stability in Southwest Asia.

ARCENT-Kuwait is headquartered at **Camp Doha** near Kuwait City. Camp Doha has been the focal point for U.S. Armed Forces in Kuwait since the end of Operation Desert Storm in February 1991. ARCENT-Kuwait's mission is to maintain a forward presence and exercise command, control and force protection over assigned and attached Army forces in Kuwait. ARCENT-Kuwait also provides logistical, installation and contract support for the Kuwait area of responsibility. Soldiers and units assigned to this area of responsibility conduct multi-service and multi-national operations and exercises.

The country of Kuwait is a beautiful area with a rich history and culture and very friendly, hospitable people. Living in Kuwait is an interesting and rewarding experience for U.S. personnel. Americans are very welcome in Kuwait and opportunities for friendly relationships are abundant.

Your sponsor or gaining unit will be able to answer most of the questions you may have about your assignment. If you call Kuwait, please keep in mind that the time here is eight hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. There is no daylight savings time Kuwait, so during the summer months, the time difference is only seven hours.

For those of you who have received assignment on short notice, we hope this information sheet provides you with information to make this an easier transition for you.

Traveling to Kuwait

As you make your travel plans, there are a few things you need to know:

- Soldiers assigned to ARCENT fall into three broad categories: permanent party, augmentees and rotating units. Permanent party soldiers are on PCS orders. Augmentees (often Reservists and National Guard) and rotating units are on TDY or TCS orders. This distinction is an important one, as it determines for example, financial entitlements. Generally speaking, permanent party soldiers serve one-year tours and augmentees and rotating units serve tours that are six months or less in length.
- Although you can travel to Kuwait on orders and your I.D. card, you should bring your blue passport with you, in case you get an opportunity to travel to another country in the region. If you don't have a blue passport, go to your post Troop Support Command (TSC) or a local Kinko's to have a passport photo taken. Bring those photos to your local post office. Post offices carry the passport application, and you can attach the photos, fill out the application and send it in. It will take about 6 weeks for you to receive your passport in the mail. If your job here in Kuwait will require you to travel on TDY frequently throughout the region, you should consider getting an official government passport authorized on your orders. You will need your original birth certificate to get an official passport. If you have not already applied for your official passport, contact your personnel office as soon as possible. It often takes three months to complete the process for an official passport.
- Your installation travel office should connect you to fly the AMC rotator flight originating from Baltimore Washington International (BWI) Airport and flying into Kuwait City. That is our primary aerial point of debarkation for all soldiers both TDY and PCS.
- If your orders have you traveling via a commercial airline, you will arrive at Kuwait City International Airport. Be sure to contact your sponsor or gaining unit at least two weeks out before you travel, to give them your flight times/airlines information. Someone will be there to pick you up and bring you back to Camp Doha.
- Keep the name and number of your sponsor handy while you travel over here, in case there are last minute changes to your schedule. Communicate via e-mail and DSN, if you have access. If possible, e-mail or fax a photo of yourself and members traveling with you so that your sponsor knows what you look like.
- Total flying time from the East Coast is approximately 16 hours. This doesn't include layover time. It's a long flight over, so you may want to pack your toiletries in your carry-on bag.
- You should travel to Kuwait in civilian clothes, whether on a military or civilian flight. Appropriate civilian attire is a must (sandals, shorts, short skirts or obscene shirts are not authorized during travel). Check with your transportation office regarding recent changes on authorized civilian clothing or appearance -- especially concerning visible tattoos.
- Clearly mark your luggage so you can easily identify it at your destination. Many bags look alike and a distinctive tag or bright contrasting color of tape on a bag will speed the recovery of your bags.

- You will process through Kuwaiti customs at either the military air base or the civilian airport. For that reason, it is imperative that you read and observe the CENTCOM General Order 1 before you depart CONUS to ensure you will not violate it. In this general order you will learn that you cannot bring pornography or sexually explicit material or videos, alcohol, narcotics, firearms, etc. You can find this general order and policy letter on this website. The bottom line is don't test the system.
- Once you arrive, your gaining unit or sponsor will meet you at the airport and bring you back to the billeting office on Camp Doha, which is open 24 hours a day. The airport is about a 30-minute ride from Camp Doha. At the billeting office, you'll be assigned a place to live for your stay in Kuwait.

As with all official travel, keep the receipts for your airline tickets and your travel expenses. You will need them when you in-process finance. If you do not have dependents, you will forfeit BAQ, since you will be living in government quarters. The good news: you will receive hazardous duty pay, foreign duty pay (enlisted personnel only) and family separation allowance (if you have dependents.) Soldiers are excluded from federal income tax while assigned here, and many states do not tax military pay while stationed here.

Soldiers here on TDY retain their separate rations or BAS, receive hazardous duty pay, family separation pay, and receive a small TDY allowance for each day here.

Conduct a thorough preparation for overseas reassignment before you leave. Go to your health clinic and have your medical records screened to see if you need any pre-deployment immunizations. If you need any dental work, get it done before you depart, since emergency and limited routine dental care are the only dental services available on Camp Doha. If you wear glasses, you must bring two pair of military eyeglasses and your protective mask inserts. Update your SGLI and Emergency Data (DD 93) at your personnel office and bring those with you for inprocessing. See the SJA to review your will and to prepare any Powers of Attorney that your family members may need while you are gone.

Duty Uniform

The duty uniform in Kuwait is the desert combat uniform (DCU). You are not required to bring the woodland battle dress uniform (BDU). You will be issued at least three sets along with two pair of boots. There is no military clothing sales store here, and there is a limited supply at the PX, so bring a sufficient amount of socks, t-shirts, pin-on and sew-on rank and badges. You will need the complete Army Physical Fitness Uniform including sweat top and bottom. (It can get very cool in the winter). Civilian attire is required for off-post wear unless you are on official business. Males and females should bring several pairs of conservative slacks and several shirts with collars (long or short sleeve) for wear when off-post and off duty. Tank tops, t-shirts, and shorts can only be worn on post. Neither male nor female soldiers can wear shorts off-post, so plan accordingly.

Camp Doha Amenities

Camp Doha facilities include a mid-sized post exchange, full-service post office, a finance office, a movie theater, a recreation center with a swimming pool, and a large 24-hour gym where you can train on free weights, Nautilus or cardio machines and go to aerobics, Tae-bo or martial arts classes. The Education Centers here in Kuwait can also provide educational services such as DANTES, CLEP, self-pace courses, online courses and regular college classes. Tuition assistance is available while you are here.

Though Kuwait is far from home, you will find your tour here to be comfortable as well as professionally rewarding.

Living in Kuwait

Living Arrangements



Permanent party soldiers and some civilians assigned to ARCENT-Kuwait live and work primarily on Camp Doha. Depending on the length of your tour, you will be living in a trailer or a dorm-style room, and permanent party and TDY personnel will normally have private bedroom and either a private or shared latrine. Each room has a color TV/VCR combo with cable hook-up, a refrigerator, a microwave, a bed, and an armoire for your clothes, a desk and a chair. If you bring American electronic items, you will need to sign for a voltage regulator from the furnishings office to use.

Mail

You should begin re-routing your mail about one month before you leave for Kuwait. Letters arrive in about a week and packages arrive in one to two weeks, generally. Submit change of address cards to your post office or unit mailroom. Be sure to give your new address to all personal and business contacts so you don't experience a delay. Our mailing address is:

Rank and Name
ARCENT-KU
UNIT # (ask your gaining unit)
APO AE 09889

Dining Facility – One of the Best in the Middle East

The Camp Doha Dining Facility is a very well-run eating establishment with a lot of variety and a very friendly staff. It is open to U.S. service members, civilians and family members. Dining at this facility is free for TDY personnel.

Sports and Entertainment Galore!

The Camp Doha gym is open 24 hours, 7 days a week. You can work out using free weights and Nautilus machines, treadmills and a variety of the latest sports equipment. Many people leave Kuwait in the best shape of their lives.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation office on Camp Doha is one of the best in the Army and offers a variety of sports programs and entertainment opportunities for service members and civilians. From softball, football, basketball, tennis and other sports tournaments to 5K fun runs each month, you'll find plenty to keep you busy while you're in Kuwait. MWR also offers local shopping and sightseeing trips each week.

The PX Area and Food Court

Camp Doha has a well-stocked, mid-sized PX that carries some basic commissary items as well. You will find everything from clothes to CDs, towels to toothpaste and batteries to non-alcoholic beer. The PX area also houses several service shops: photo processing, souvenirs, alterations and jewelry. At the alterations shop you can have desert-color patches sewn on your DCUs and custom embroidery on souvenir items.

The food court area contains several familiar restaurants: KFC, Baskin Robbins, Pizza Inn, Hardees as well as two restaurants that carry local dishes and Asian food.

The Marble Palace Recreation Center

If the sun and swimming are your idea of relaxation, the Marble Palace is a great place to go. Located across the street from Camp Doha, the Marble Palace is a recreation center that soldiers and civilians enjoy during their time off. Not only can you lounge by the pool or lay out on the beach; but you can also play tennis, volleyball, ping pong, miniature golf, foosball, pool, soccer, basketball and horseshoes. You can also check out a movie and play a video game, get something at the snack bar or even grill out in one of the picnic areas. It's a place to get away, without having to go too far away.

Uncle Frosty's

If you need a late night snack or just want to relax and play pool, head to Uncle Frosty's. Uncle Frosty's is the Camp Doha hang-out where you can listen to music, play in various tournaments, eat for free at the snack bar, play board games, sing karaoke or watch live entertainment on the stage. Many of the MWR and USO shows are performed on the stage at Uncle Frosty's.

Movie Theater and Free Video Checkout

Camp Doha has a full-size movie theater that shows new box office hits and classics. Feel free to bring your own popcorn and soda into the theater as you enjoy the movie. For quieter nights in your room, you can check out a variety of free videotapes at the MWR Video Library, located at Uncle Frosty's. You can check out up to two movies and they must be returned before closing time on the second day.

Library

The MWR library on Camp Doha holds more than 36,000 books of all types – novels, biographies, non-fiction titles, children's books and reference books that will help you do things like study for your CLEP test or other exams.

You can also use the computers at the library to access and surf the Internet or just check your e-mail. Next door to the MWR library is the MOS library -- for all those regulations and field manuals you didn't have room to pack but need to reference.

Financial Services

There are no credit unions, savings and loans or banks available in Kuwait. However the Camp Doha Finance Office is a full-service finance center that will cash your checks, make direct deposit payments and help you save money through various programs. Make sure to bring plenty of checks and a debit or cash card if you have one. There is one ATM machine on Camp Doha that dispenses both U.S. dollars and Kuwaiti dinar.

Free Laundry Service

For U.S. servicemembers, there is a free laundry service on Camp Doha. The staff will clean and press your DCUs for no charge. The service is excellent, and you will have your uniforms back in two business days. If you want your DCUs starched, you will need to take them to the AAFES dry cleaner on post.

Barber & Beauty Shops

Camp Doha offers two barbershops and a beauty shop. Military haircuts at the barbershop cost less than \$5. The beauty shop charges based on the type of cut or hairstyle, however prices are reasonable.

Education Center

The Education Center has a full-time staff to help improve your ASVAB scores for re-enlistment, knock out some college courses, or earn a degree. Life experience, long distance learning options, Internet, and classes taught at night can actually earn you a degree. Full tuition assistance is available, just like any other Army Education Center.

Bazaars

Bazaars are held at occasionally on Camp Doha. Each bazaar features local merchants and their crafts or wares: woodwork, etchings, pottery, carpets, clothes, jewelry and novelty items.

Map of Kuwait

