



NEWCOMERS INFORMATION

Transatlantic Division – Kuwait (TAD-KU) is headquartered at Camp Arifjan, 45 minutes southeast of Kuwait City. TAD-KU is sometimes known as TAD Operational Command Post or TAD OCP. The relationship between TAD-KU and USACE elements that arrive is not addressed in this welcome package as applicable Request For Forces (RFF) and Operations Orders would determine that relationship. Camp Arifjan is the home to Area Support Group-Kuwait, Coalition Forces Land Component Command. TAD-KU is a tenant on Camp Arifjan. The normal population grows to nearly three times its normal population during major troop rotations. A Civilian Contractor operates most of the installation support facilities. Individuals receiving this information and scheduled to be assigned to Camp Arifjan should be aware that missions, living conditions, available facilities, and location are always subject to change based on the mission needs of the USACE customer. Maps of areas are not given for OPSEC reasons and can be obtained upon arrival if needed.

TRAVEL

A passport is not required to enter into Kuwait. If you fly to Kuwait on a commercial aircraft, please make sure not to present your passport when arriving to Kuwait International Airport; use your orders and ID Card.

ARRIVAL

Commercial

A passport is not required to enter into Kuwait. If you fly to Kuwait on a commercial aircraft, please make sure not to present your passport when arriving to Kuwait International Airport; use your orders and ID Card. Have your Military ID card and a copy of your orders at the Immigration desk. Immigrations will place a number on the back of your ID card. Do not remove this number from your ID card as you will need it later. Retrieve your ID card, and then proceed through the customs area to claim your baggage. As you get your baggage, there may be someone who tries to help you with your baggage. This person will expect a tip and may “help” you until he receives a tip. Before you depart the United States ensure that you have coordinated with TAD-KU where you will be picked up at the airport. For security reasons, the pickup point isn’t published in this document and is changed to ensure that a pattern is not established.

Military Air

If you are flying Military Air, you will fly into the Aerial Port of Debarkation (APOD) on the military side of KCIA. You will be required to have your orders and ID card as well. You will be guided to buses that will bring you to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait to be in-processed and receive your in-country brief at the Gateway. After collecting your luggage, you may have to clear through customs. Have your military ID card available and present it to the customs agent.

If a USACE LNO has not made contact with you after you have completed in processing at the Gateway, just ask where the LNO building is located (next door) and go to the USACE LNO area (well marked) and see the LNO. If the LNO is not there, the phone number is posted at the desk and they can be contacted.

After you have processed through the Gateway, you will proceed to your billeting. Your sponsor should be with you at this time and able to guide and assist you.

POST FACILITIES

Billeting.

Bed linen, blankets and pillows are not issued if your orders are for greater than 14 days. Bring your bedding if your orders are more than 14 days.

I Bay (Most will be assigned to the I Bay)

The I Bay consist of a big room with approximately 40 ea 7' X 7' cubicles that contain a bunk bed and two small metal wall lockers. This puts the population at 80 people per room. Currently there is only one person per cubicle but it is designed for two and two could be assigned to the cubicle. The cubicle provides some privacy and many hang a blanket across the open doorway to make it more private. At times, the I Bay can be quiet, while other times the residents can become noisy at night. There are many rules about quiet times and noise level as occupants may work various shifts. The temperature in the I Bay ranges from cold to colder.

In the building with the I Bay is the latrine area. The toilets, urinals, and sinks usually have availability and there is no waiting time. Sometimes there can be a short wait time to get into showers during peak times.

Also in the I Bay area is a self service laundry area. This can have waiting times and some occupants are less than thoughtful by leaving their clothes in the washers and dryers for periods of time without retrieving them. Additionally, the maintenance of the washers and dryers can sometimes be less than good and many of the machines can be inoperable. There are locations mentioned below where laundry can be turned in and picked up at no cost.

There are day rooms in the I Bay area that has a sitting area and a television set. The channel selection is not so great.

There are some other accommodations on base but living accommodations are based on factors such that make it rare that USACE in a TDY status receive other than the I Bay. TAD-KU leadership always strives to obtain the best living conditions available for USACE assets in Kuwait but be prepared for the I Bay.

Dining Facility

Camp Arifjan has three dining facilities, which serve all the typical military fare. Currently there are only two dining facilities that are open. The fruit bar and ice cream are a favorite with the troops. Although it is probably not applicable to anyone assigned to TAD-KU, those on separate rations are required to pay for meals.

The dining facility hours are subject to change so they are not posted here. However there are typically 4 meals a day that are served and the hours are sufficient.

When you inprocess at the Gateway, your orders will receive a stamp indicating that your meals are free (if applicable). Later, you will receive a blue "Meal Card".

Restaurants

There is a small food court that has a Burger King, Taco Bell, Subway, Baskin Robbins, Pizza Hut, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Inn, Charley's, Hardee's, Starbuck's and Panda House.

Community Centers

There are two community centers located on post in Zone 1 and Zone 6. They hold music nights, have a game room, provide free snacks, as well as the free movie theaters. There are pool tables, foosball tables, ping pong, and a wealth of board games available at the centers.

AAFES Facilities

There are two AAFES PX's located on post and provides most basic items needed. If you want a specific brand of a product, the PX may not have it, but if you just want the basics and name brand does not matter, they have most items that could be needed. They also have clothing and other household items. You may also use debit cards and receive cash back. Additional facilities include: free laundry service, AAFES laundry, barbershops, beauty salons, and souvenir shops. You can purchase phone cards from the PX. You can check out videotapes and DVDs for no charge from the Camp Arifjan Video check out.

Gyms

Camp Arifjan Zone 1 Gym is open 24 hours. It is equipped with racquetball, basketball, and volleyball courts, saunas, a weight room with Nautilus and free weights, and many treadmills, bikes, elliptical trainers, stair steppers, and cross country skiers. Zone 6 Gym is well-equipped as well. There is also a fully equipped 2nd gym located in Zone 1. There is also an outdoor swimming pool. All females are required to wear a one piece swimsuit while utilizing pool facilities.

Medical Facilities

Medical facilities are limited on Camp Arifjan. Any serious medical or dental care problems you have should be handled in CONUS prior to departure. Personnel should bring enough prescription medication for at least six months.

Red Cross

There is a Red Cross on base which is open 24 hours and located in the same building as the PX.

Chapel

The local post chapel offers services for the following religions: Catholic, Christian, Traditional, General Protestant, Gospel, Episcopal/Lutheran, Seventh Day Adventist, Spanish Protestant, Latter Day Saints, and Islam. A 600-seat Chapel/Movie Theater has opened in Zone 1. There are services held in Zone 6 as well.

Education Center

The Camp Arifjan Education Center provides basic lower level college courses plus access to computers and a multimedia center. If you wish to attend courses on post or via online, the Education Center will assist you.

Library

There is a library located in Zone 1 right next to the PX. The library also contains an internet cafe.

Post Office

There is an APO office located on Camp Arifjan. They provide most services normally offered by a stateside post office. Packages up to 70 pounds and 108 inches in length + width can be mailed to and from the APO office. There is a consolidated mailroom for you to pick up all letters and packages. Postage for letters up to 13 ounces are mailed free from the AOR.

The mailing address is:

Your Name Here
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kuwait Resident Office (KAO) Bldg T-340
APO AE 09366

*Please do not mail anything until you are 30 days out. If you mail sooner than 30 days before your report date it will be returned to sender. The law prohibits keeping mail for more than 30 days at a time.

Expect packages to take about 2 to 3 weeks to arrive. However there have been packages arrive as quickly as 5 days.

Driver's License

A valid stateside driving permit is required to drive in Kuwait. The Government of Kuwait does not accept expired driver's licenses even though some U.S. states accept a service member's expired license until separation from the service.

To drive a vehicle in Kuwait, you will need to attend a separate drivers training on base and receive a military issued drivers license.

Finance

There are ATMs available on base and there are finance offices that will cash personal checks and convert U.S. currency to Kuwait Dinars. Currency rates are monitored daily through Camp Arifjan's finance office where you can exchange currency. Camp Arifjan's finance office will cash personal checks (\$200 per week limit) and the PX limit is \$50 a day. There are four ATMs available on Camp Arifjan and several ATMs at the Kuwait Naval Base in Downtown Kuwait. Kuwait is a good place to save money and finance offers the Savings Deposit Program upon arrival.

Currency

The Kuwait Dinar (KD) is the unit of currency, with one KD equal to 1000 fils. Currency notes are written in x.xxx KD format and typical paper denominations are 1/4 KD, 1/2 KD, 1 KD, 5 KD, 10 KD and 20 KD. While the exchange rate with U.S. currency varies, 1.000 KD is roughly equal to \$3.40.

Climate

It is a desert climate. It is hot in the summer with temperatures in the 120's. Long sleeves often protect against the sun. Be aware of the high heat and dress appropriately to provide protection against the strong sun. The winters have cool nights in the 50's to 60's and a light jacket is needed.

Off Post Travel

Work and residence is currently on post. The base does offer some recreation trips off base and that can be looked into upon arrival. This would be something done subject to time off and OIC permission.

Below is a list of items NOT to bring:

- a. Pornographic material or printed material that could be interpreted as offensive to our host nation.
- b. Alcoholic beverages.

- c. Illegal drugs or expired prescription drugs.
- d. Clothing that is revealing, excessively tight or suggestive in nature. Tank tops and sleeveless tops are not allowed to be worn. All tops must cover the shoulders.
- e. Clothing that is worn, tattered, torn, or has printed slogans that could be interpreted as offensive to our host nation.
- f. Privately owned weapons.

Below is a list of recommended items to bring:

Plan to have a bed with mattress provided. Everything else you need, you will need to bring or purchase when you arrive. The PX typically has the basic items that would be needed.

However, if you have something specific that you want (IE: a hard pillow), you may want to ship it.

- a. A warm blanket or sleeping bag because it is cold in the I Bay.
- b. Shower shoes
- c. Bedding if orders are for greater than 14 days.
- d. Towel and wash cloth.
- e. Personal hygiene items

Remember that based on your mode of travel, amount of items issued during deployment, and authorized number of bags on your orders; you may not be able to bring everything you want. Ordering of items on line has proven to work well and many use this to receive things they need. The military is not required to provide everything you need.

Electronic Devices

If you bring electrical devices to Kuwait, try to obtain items that are dual voltage or operate on 240 volts, 50/60 hertz. The dual hertz (cycles) rating allows you to operate items on provided step-down transformers without damage. For those appliances that have motors rated at 60 hertz, operating the unit on Kuwait power will cause the motor to run slower. This also means that any device with an internal battery will not charge properly if it is rated at only 60 hertz. Standard U.S. televisions will not receive Middle East stations, but can be used in conjunction with a DVD player since Camp Arifjan video rentals are U.S. standard, not PAL. Computers and should be used in conjunction with a good surge protector as there are power fluctuations due to the extreme heat, particularly when operating devices rated at 120 volts and 50-60 cycles which are operated on the 220 to 120 volt step-down transformers. It is recommended that you do not bring 120 volt items unless the label says they can operate at 120-240 volt.

For security reasons, certain electronic devices cannot be used in a work area that contains SIPR. Known devices that cannot be used in the area containing SIPR are devices such as a cell phone or wireless iPod. Before bringing any electronic device into an area containing SIPR, consult with the security manager.

Internet and local phone service

There is a wireless internet service provider on base and the rates are based on the period of use.

Additionally, some choose to purchase a hotspot device and local service for the hotspot. If you bring your hotspot device from the United States it is not guaranteed to work as it may be using a different technology than the local network.

Local phone service with data plans can be purchased if desired. Some unlocked stateside phones can accommodate the local sim card and be used. Not all unlocked stateside phones can be utilized as the voice technology differs from carrier to carrier. Typically an unlocked phone from a GSM network will work in the Middle East.

It is not recommended to use your stateside cell phone service provider in Kuwait as the cost can be extremely high.

Skype, Netflix, and Hulu

Some subscriptions do not work when on an overseas network. Some individuals utilize VPN services to appear as if they are located in the United States. VPN for entertainment and entertainment type activities should be with non government issued equipment.

Uniforms

Military will receive ACU's (if needed) and Civilians will receive DCU's (if needed) at the CRC. Civilians will not receive any other uniforms unless there is an O6 authorization that has been endorsed by the Pentagon G3/5/7. That's a long process and not really needed for civilians in Kuwait.

Civilians are not authorized to wear any military uniforms in Iraq.

Military in ACU's and Civilians in casual dress is the standard dress in Kuwait. It is recommended that the civilians consider getting at least two sets of the DCU's just in case (for mission support). As the civilians go thru the CRC/CIF issue, make sure that they get the name tags sewn onto their uniform tops.

It has been stated that the Military will switch to the Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) in January 2015 but that has not been published in writing. If you are military and have questions on this contact the TAD-Kuwait OIC.

It is not recommended that our team members wear any Logo-Styled clothing. Recommended that all blend in – dress trousers, blue jeans, collared shirts, and such. Of course for PT dress the Military has to wear the appropriate service PT attire and civilians have to remain very conservative in their work-out attire as well.

Civilian wear is worn off base in Kuwait.

Getting around base

The accommodations, dining, recreation, and work areas utilized by USACE are typically walking distance. There is a bus system on base that can utilize if walking is not desired. Bus maps are not added to this document for security reasons.

TAD-KU has vehicles and tries to accommodate as many needs as possible. The vehicles are for mission purposes. If you need to utilize a vehicle for a specific mission, contact the TAD-KU OIC or his/her designated representative.

USACE Work Area

The Gulf Area Office (GAO) has allowed TAD-KU to utilize areas within the GAO building subject to availability. All USACE visitors need to respect that GAO has been gracious enough to loan us this space and not abuse this generosity. The population of USACE constantly changes and tight work conditions frequently exist. In tight work areas with many folks, noise level can sometimes be more than a normal work environment.

The TAD Operational Control Post (OCP) is just down the street from the GOA and in a different building than the GAO building. SIPR and SVTC capabilities exist in this area. Cellular or wireless enabled devices are not allowed in the room so please put them in the lockbox at the door.

Some may be assigned to building 505 with the CJTF Engineers. A badge or escort is required to enter this area. Cellular or wireless enabled devices are not allowed in the area of Building 505 and must be checked at the gate.

Phones

The USACE work area(s) typically have VOIP phones with a 540 area code. You may not have a phone assigned to your desk but there is availability to phones.

Computers

USACE

The USACE work area(s) have access to the USACE network. If you bring a USACE laptop with you, you will be able to access your USACE e-mail.

SIPR

There are SIPR workstations available at the OCP and Building 505 for those who have a SIPR account.

USACE Issued Blackberry

If you have been issued a USACE Blackberry, ensure it is activated for international service. Use of the telephone should be limited as the cost per minute is very expensive. There is SVOIP

in the work areas, so calls should be made from SVOIP whenever possible. Use of the Blackberry to check email is relatively cheap in cost.

Summary:

The living and working conditions at Camp Airfjan are better than average type deployment conditions that servicemen typically are sent to in the CENTCOM AOR. There is not a USACE specific living area as many USACE staff may have been accustomed to in Iraq and Afghanistan. There are sufficient facilities to serve the needs of those assigned to Airfjan who have chose to deploy to support the military mission.