

Welcome to the UK! The East Anglian Regional Housing Office is here to support you. We provide a full range of housing services for all United States Visiting Forces in the tri-base area. Whether you're looking for on-base family housing or a home in the local community, we've got you covered.

Your Pre-PCS Checklist

Proper planning makes for a smooth move. Here's what you need to tackle before you depart.

Details & Contact Info

Reserve Lodging	Government lodging should be your first choice. Book your room as soon as you have your orders.
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Liberty Lodging (RAF Lakenheath): DSN: 314-226-6700 Commercial:
+44 01638 526700

Gateway Inn (RAF Mildenhall): DSN: 314-238-2407 Commercial:
+44 01638 542407

Unaccompanied (E-1 to E-4)	If you are an E-1 to E-4 with under 3 years of service, your sponsor must contact the Dorm Management Office at your gaining station <i>before</i> you arrive. This ensures you can move directly into a dorm room or know if you're cleared to live off-base. Failure to do so could impact you financially.
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RAF Lakenheath Dorm Management: DSN: 314-226-2101 Commercial: +44 01638 522101

EMAIL: 48CES.dormmanagers@us.af.mil

RAF Mildenhall Dorm Management: DSN: 314- 238-5735 Commercial: +44 01638 545735

EMAIL: 100CES.UHO@us.af.mil

Change in Family Status?	If you get married or have a child before your PCS, contact the Military Housing Office immediately for assistance with your housing options.
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Join a Pre-Arrival Briefing

Get your questions answered directly by the Military & Family Readiness Center (M&FRC). Sign up for a virtual briefing for the latest information.

RAF Lakenheath M&FRC:

Email: 48fss.fsfr@us.af.mil

Phone: DSN 314-226-3847

Register: [Lakenheath Briefing Sign-up](#)

RAF Mildenhall M&FRC:

Email: 100fss.fsfr@us.af.mil

Phone: DSN 314-238-3406

Register: [Mildenhall Briefing Sign-up](#)

Once you Land

Welcome to the UK! Your first few days are critical for getting your housing and allowances sorted.

Your Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA)

Your TLA period begins on your first day on station. To keep your TLA entitlement, you must be actively searching for a home.

- First 15 Days: View and document at least three properties.
- Every 15 Days After: View and document at least six properties.

Please note:

To be reimbursed for your temporary lodging stay, you must complete your first 15-day claim in person at the Military Housing Office.

If you haven't secured housing, by day 15 you must meet with a housing counselor for assistance.

- If on-base lodging isn't available, you must get a statement of non-availability to be fully reimbursed for off-base hotel stays.
 - Lodging expenses are not reimbursable when you stay with friends, relatives, coworkers, associates. A meals only per diem may be authorized.
 - Reimbursement is only authorized for stays within the local area. (60 minutes/ 20 mile distance of the installation).
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On-Base vs. Off-Base

You have two main options for housing: living in on-base military housing or renting privately in the local area.

On-Base Military Family Housing (MFH)

MFH units are available to active-duty members on accompanied orders and are located across RAF Lakenheath, Mildenhall and Feltwell.

- How to Apply: Contact the MFH Waitlist team upon arrival, *before* you commit to an off-base rental.
- Wait Times: Vary weekly. Contact the team for the most current information. In most situations, your eligibility date for MFH is the date you depart your losing installation.
- Members arriving from an Unaccompanied Dependent Restricted (UDR) tour may qualify for a waitlist credit. Please provide a copy of your PCS orders that took you to the UDR when applying for MFH
- You may be authorized for non-temp storage of your household goods if you live in MFH.

Renting in the Local Community

The area is a beautiful rural landscape of small towns and villages. Here's how to navigate the rental market.

- Start your search on [Homes.mil](https://www.zillow.com/homes) for a list of pre-inspected properties, or use local letting agents.
- Searches can also be conducted through local letting agents, or online search platforms.
- Always verify the available date before viewing a property to ensure it will be available for you to move into within the first 30 days of your arrival. If you place a holding deposit on an occupied property, you will need to move into a short-term let and have your housing allowance started.
- Do not sign a lease until the Military Housing Office has conducted an Adequacy Standard Inspection on the property. We strongly encourage you to attend this inspection.
- While not required, we encourage you to attend the inspection appointment whenever possible.
- All leases must include a Military Break Clause and must be reviewed by our office before you sign. It is illegal for UK rental agencies to charge tenant fees for setting up a lease.
- Security Deposits are typically required and are legally capped at a maximum of five weeks' rent. Your landlord must register it in a government-approved scheme.
- Allow at least 7 days between the date of your scheduled inspection and lease start date/move in to the property. Your last payable night of TLA is the night prior to lease start date!

Your Housing Allowances

Allowance	What It Is	How It Works
Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA)	A reimbursement to cover your actual rental costs, up to the maximum rate for your pay grade. This is not a fixed amount like BAH. You can find the latest rates on the Defense Travel Management Office website .	Your entitlement starts on the effective date of your lease.
Utilities Allowance	A separate monthly payment to help cover utility bills paid directly to companies.	You do not receive this if your landlord includes utilities in the rent.
Advance OHA (AOHA)	An advance on your housing allowance to cover upfront costs like security deposits.	Apply directly with the finance office after your lease is signed. Funds are typically available in 3-5 business days.

Furniture & Appliances

Our Furnishings Management Section (FMS) is here to make your house a home.

- Temporary Loaner Furniture: Available for up to 90 days for both on- and off-base residents. Kits include basics like beds, sofas, and tables.
- Duration of Tour Items: For off-base residents, we provide essential appliances like a washer/dryer, stove, refrigerator, wardrobes, and transformers.
 - Heads Up! The UK uses 220-volt electricity, while US appliances use 110-volts.

Additional Information

The area surrounding RAF Lakenheath, RAF Mildenhall and RAF Feltwell is very rural and comprised of many small towns and villages. Ensure you carefully consider the type of roads you will have to drive when choosing a home. When looking at the drive to the home of your choice, consider the changing daylight hours and weather, depending on the season. It is mandatory that the Housing Office Referral Team inspect all Rental Properties before a Lease is signed. This is referred to as our Adequacy Standards

Program. Referrals can advise/help you with any questions you have on Renting Off Base, Safety Inspections, Right to Rent Letter, Excess Rent Acknowledgement Memo & Council Tax. You do not pay Council Tax, but you need to register Exemption – Follow <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-council-tax-discount> to register your Council Tax Exemption.

Always verify the available date before viewing a property to ensure you will be able to occupy it within your TLA Allowance. Members should aim to move into a house within the first 30 days of arrival. Please be aware that a change in an available date on a property is NOT justification for a Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) extension.

The Housing Office provides a standard lease for you to use when renting a home off base, but some Agents/Landlords may use their own lease. Ensure all Leases are reviewed by yourself and the Referral Team in the Housing Office. You should understand your rights and obligations when renting. The military clause in the standard housing lease allows you to give 30 days' notice to terminate a lease for a military reason (i.e., accepting MFH or PCS, etc.) Before you sign your Lease - email it to Referrals to check that it is good to sign. All community housing leases must include a Military Break Clause and be reviewed by the Referral team prior to signing.

Although your concern at present is finding a home, you may want or need to move again in the future. Notice to end your tenancy must be in writing and in accordance with how your lease states you should serve notice. If you have any questions, please ask the Referrals Team in the Housing Office. FMS must be notified of your move so that the government assets can be transferred to the new property. Failure to do this will result in a delay should you need an appliance engineer visit.

Want more information? Check out the Resources below!



 Newcomer's Briefing



 Renters Right



 DD Form 1746



 OHA RATES



 TLA Application



 On-Base Wait-times



 SHORT TERM LET



 MILITARY BREAK CLAUSE



 COUNCIL TAX EXEMPTION GUIDANCE