

Military Family Guide to

Fort Cavazos

A publication of



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Welcome to *Fort Cavazos!*



Photo from Canva

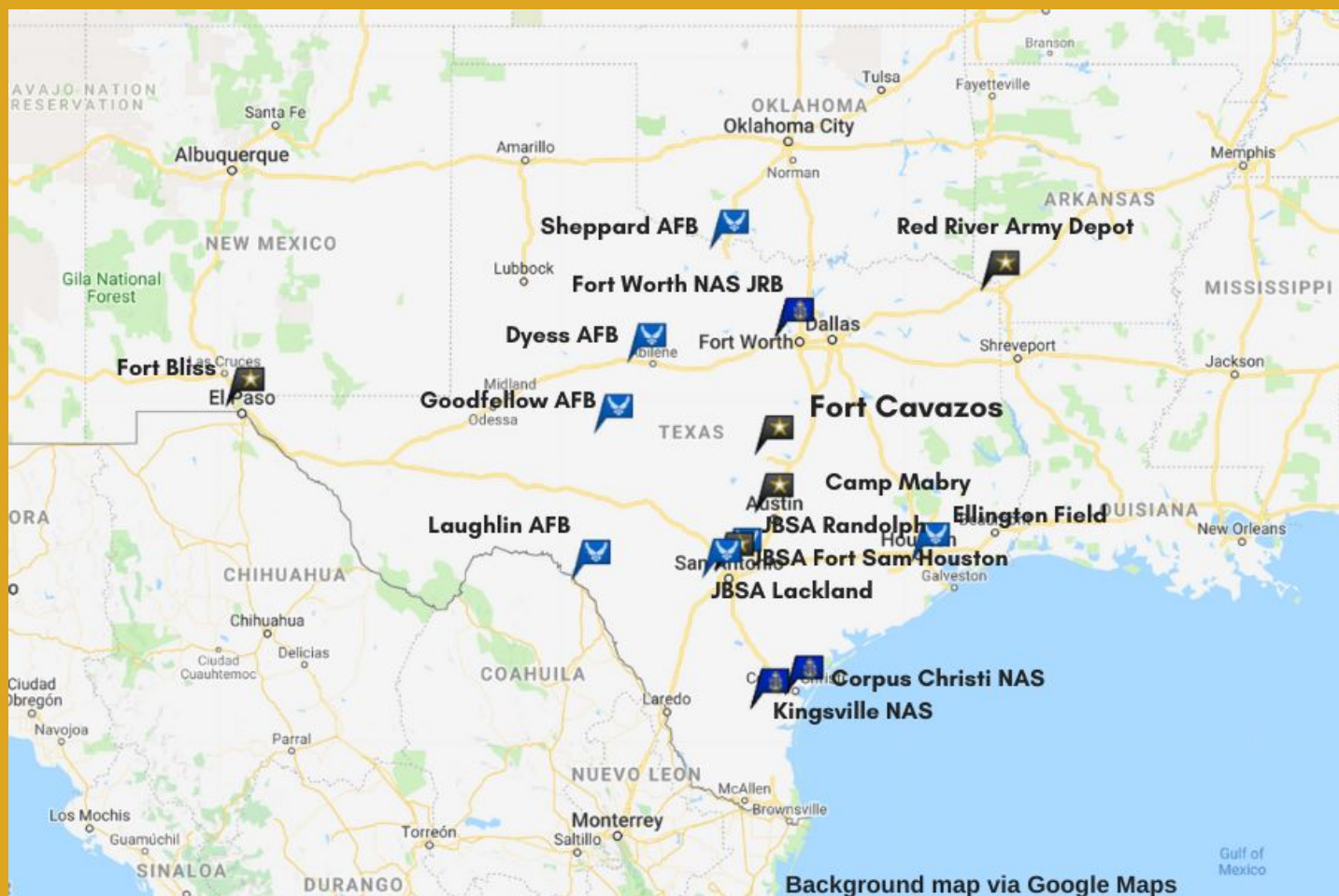
If you love sunshine, barbecue, and armor-plated armadillos, you're going to feel right at home in the Lone Star State.

But, if you don't care for the official state symbols, you're in luck, because everyone loves the state flower, Bluebonnets!

Army pride is strong on Fort Cavazos because it's home to the 1st Cavalry Division, the largest armored division in the United States.

It's easy to see why Fort Cavazos, formerly named Fort Hood, is nicknamed "The Great Place." Those who live here agree quality of life is high—especially if you appreciate long, humid summers and pleasantly snowless winters.

Fort Cavazos Area Military Installations



Located between Waco and Austin, Fort Cavazos, Texas, is the largest active duty U.S. military installation. The post is over 300 square miles—so if you aren't already familiar with the area, you might feel a little overwhelmed when you get orders to PCS here.

Since it's such a large installation, it's important to know which side of the post your service member will spend most of his or her time. The base has three main entrances: Clear Creek Gate, TJ Mills Gate, and WS Young Gate.

Getting Around Fort Cavazos



Map courtesy Military Town Advisor

Killeen is a typical military town with a lot of chain restaurants, big brand stores, and strip malls. Killeen is a great place to live with pockets of nicer neighborhoods and, as with many military installations, it seems the farther you get away from the base, the nicer the areas become.

Surrounding off post neighborhoods near Fort Cavazos include Harker Heights, Copperas Cove, Nolanville, and Belton.

What to Expect at Fort Cavazos



Photo via U.S. Army

More than 43,000 soldiers operate at Fort Cavazos, which means the base is so large that one out of 10 active duty soldiers in the Army is assigned to Fort Cavazos.

Who comes along with those soldiers? About 14,000 family members. And that's just who live on base; 35,000 more live off base.

To accommodate their needs, Fort Cavazos has two large commissaries, multiple Exchanges and seven elementary schools! But, this many soldiers, families, and employees make for daunting traffic, to, from, and on Fort Cavazos.

Recreation is plentiful thanks to strong MWR and outside-the-gate water sport adventures. Support networks on and off base are tight knit.

Duty Station: *Fort Cavazos, Texas*

What to Expect:



Fort Cavazos is located in Killeen, Texas, halfway between Austin and Waco and occupies approximately 339 square miles. It is one of the most populous military installations in the world. The state of Texas hosts several other military installations, but the closest to Fort Cavazos is Camp Mabry, about 66 miles to the south.

Neat Things About Fort Cavazos

- Great local beers and wine
- 2 commissaries on post
- Low cost of living
- Great family support networks
- Military friendly
- Short drive to other neat TX towns
- Mild winters
- Great school options
- Close to many hospitals
- Tons of water parks and lakes
- Awesome food trucks
- Great farmer's markets
- H-E-B grocery stores
- Amazing BBQ
- Cowboy hats and boots

Not So Neat Things About Fort Cavazos

- Base traffic can get heavy
- Limited job opportunities
- A ton of chain restaurants
- Must travel for cultural venues
- City is not walkable
- Transient nature to the area
- Long, hot, humid summers

Fort Cavazos Area

Weather & Climate



*Texas Hill Country south of
Ft. Cavazos. Photo from
Canva.*

Pack away or sell heavy winter gear. Seriously. You won't need it. The local governments don't even own snow plows!

Instead, stock up on sweatshirts, shorts, jeans, T-shirts, and cowboy boots if you want to be an official Texas transplant.

Spring rains bring wildflowers and fields of iconic Bluebonnets. In summer, the average temp is a sweltering 94 degrees, with a mere 2.3 inches of rain to cool off surfaces. In fact, rain just produces steam!

The fall season takes its time rolling in. Don't expect September to feel brisk. Instead, keep an eye out for hurricane threats. You know that high quality of life mentioned before? Here's where it kicks in if you hate cold, snowy winters.

Weather Overview:

Fort Cavazos, Texas =



Two seasons, mild winters and hot summers.

WINTER

December through February



Typical day:
Short, cold and windy

Gear you'll need:
Windbreaker, light layers

Fun fact:
Rarely snows

Average temperature:
36°F through 60°F

Average precipitation:
3.7 inches

Local weather characteristic:
January is the coldest month

SPRING

March through May



Typical day:
Warm, occasional showers

Gear you'll need:
T shirt, shorts, umbrella

Fun fact:
Amazing bluebonnets and wildflowers

Average temperature:
53°F through 75°F

Average precipitation:
3.3 inches

Local weather characteristic:
April has warm pleasant days

SUMMER

June through August



Typical day:
Hot & humid

Gear you'll need:
Shorts and sunglasses

Fun fact:
Air conditioning is a must

Average temperature:
71°F through 94°F

Average precipitation:
2.3 inches

Local weather characteristic:
Occasional summer thunderstorms

FALL

September through November



Typical day:
Mostly mild and comfortable

Gear you'll need:
Shorts, light jacket

Fun fact:
Clear skies for stargazing

Average temperature:
55°F through 79°F

Average precipitation:
3.1 inches

Local weather characteristic:
Hurricane threats in early September

Area Attractions

Things to Do and What the Locals Know!



Photo from Canva

Texas hasn't always been the tourist draw it is today. Within the last decade, you've heard about how amazing everything in Austin is, and how life-changing a visit to the Gaines' Silos in Waco can be.

Both cities happen to be a short trip away from Fort Cavazos. So is San Antonio, where military families take advantage of their free admission to SeaWorld.

Closer to Fort Cavazos, festival enthusiasts can take heart because agreeable weather all year long allows the family's schedule to be packed with outings dedicated to wine, art, rodeos, and a visit to the Central Texas State Fair.

Find great food where the locals eat: Miller's Smokehouse, Schoepf's, and El Taco Jalisco.

Destination: Fort Cavazos, Texas



Things to See and Do near Fort Cavazos



Family Friendly Attractions

The Rockin SF Ranch and Transportation Services

Luv 2 Play Killeen

Mayborn Science Museum

Bell County Museum

Killeen Family Aquatics Center

Vive Les Arts Theatre

Topsey Exotic Ranch

Summer Fun Water Park



Food & Drink

MOD Pizza

Richard Rawlings Garage

Rosa's Cafe

Rudy's Bar-B-Q

El Taco Jalisco

C & H Hawaiian Grill

Billy Bob's Burgers

PEKING Restaurant



Local Festivals

KNCT Wine Classic

Killeen Salutes the Arts

Rodeo Killeen

Four Winds Powwow

Holiday Under the Stars

Central Texas State Fair

Bluebonnet Festival

Hutto Crawfish Festival



Day Trips & Weekend Getaways

Magnolia Market at the Silos in Waco

Dr Pepper Museum in Waco

Austin Zoo

Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum

Austin Children's Museum

SeaWorld San Antonio

Texas Rodeo

San Antonio River Walk and Alamo



Pro & Semi-Pro Sports

Fort Hood Central Texas Knights - semi pro

Dallas Cowboys - NFL

Dallas Mavericks - NBA

Dallas Stars - NHL

Dallas Wings - WNBA

FC Dallas - MLS

Houston Astros - MLB

San Antonio Spurs - NBA

Texas Rangers - MLB



Concert Venues

Vive Les Arts Theatre - Killeen

Bell County Expo Center - Belton

AT&T Center - San Antonio

American Airlines Center - Dallas

Cowboys Stadium - Arlington

An Overview of *Fort Cavazos Neighborhoods*



[View Harker Heights
Homes for Rent or Sale](#)

Harker Heights is an extension of Killeen with newer planned neighborhoods and good schools.

Copperas Cove, known as "the cove," is located out the back gate of Fort Cavazos and is a great place for a nice starter home.

Nolanville seems to be the newest of the desirable communities with lots of new construction homes in a very family friendly area.

If you don't want to live close to post and want to be near a beautiful lake, then Belton may be a great place for you. Lake Belton area has a mix of military and civilians in the area. Most homes in Belton are larger and more expensive with less of a military feel, especially the closer you get to the water.

Fort Cavazos Neighborhoods Popular with Military Families

Military Town Advisor features reviews from military families who've lived and worked where you're headed!

Here are just a few Fort Cavazos area neighborhood reviews. [Visit Military Town Advisor](#) for even more information.

Harker Heights

“Great area near Fort Cavazos.”

“Harker Heights is a great place to live...It takes about 20 minutes to get to base. Traffic can be bad during certain times. We live near the High School and really like it. I definitely recommend people look at Harker Heights. Also, since Fort Cavazos is so big, it really depends on where your service member will be working and try to live near that side of base. Harker Heights, Copperas Cove, Belton, and Nolanville..” [-MTA Reviewer](#)

Copperas Cove

“Quiet area.”

“Quiet area on the north side of Copperas Cove, west of Ft. Cavazos. If you want to stay away from the crowded nature of Killeen, this is a good option. There is a good amount of local restaurants, churches, parks, Walmart, and grocery store. If you need much more shopping, you have to travel 10 or 15 minutes to Killeen. Schools are great! House Creek North subdivision is okay, but since it's newer it lacks character, trees, etc. All the houses are similar. But most neighbors were friendly, lots of military, lots of children. No park as of yet in the subdivision but Copperas Cove has a couple nice parks..” [-robertsblr](#)

Killeen - East Rancier Rd.

“Large yards, mature trees.”

“This area had very affordable rent and large yards with mature trees. The park nearby (long branch) was very nice. I would recommend this area of town for anyone looking for more affordable rent, without sacrificing too much peace of mind in safety. The area was decent, but most shopping and restaurants are 15-20 min away” -Erin B.

Harker Heights - Evergreen Estates

“Family friendly.”

“This neighborhood is filled with families with children aging young to old. Military families flow throughout. The neighborhood stays connected with a neighborhood Facebook page to stay up-to-date on local info, incidents, and keep everyone in the know. Yards and landscaping well maintained throughout. All homes have privacy fences. In high rated school district with Elementary, Middle & High School within 2 miles.”
-LP

[View Killeen Homes for Rent or Sale](#)

Belton - Oak View

“Idyllic, convenient, high quality living.”

“Best schools in county and others pay tuition to bring kids here. Everything you need every day is extremely close but you can't see or hear it because you are backed up to a greenway with wildlife and tons of oaks and other trees. No through traffic. Extremely safe, very low traffic, kids encounter very little traffic, elderly walk even when dark. Extremely quiet. Tons of new shopping. Only 18 minutes the back way through countryside to Fort Cavazos. Solid brick (not veneer) well maintained homes give you a chance to buy low and put in sweat equity to update before reselling but they are extremely livable. Most have fireplaces and fenced back yards. Look for ones with sprinkler systems as sprinkler water is half price!” -MTA reviewer

Killeen - White Rock Estates

“Great neighborhood.”

“Good schools, safe and a nice variety of home builders... Short commute to Ft. Cavazos with easy access to shopping.”
-Museumgirl007

[View Copperas Cove Homes for Rent or Sale](#)

Fort Cavazos

Schools & Education



Photo from Canva

Two major systems serve school aged children: Fort Cavazos Post Schools and the Killeen Independent School District.

Private schools are available and, when researching, you'll see names like Grace Lutheran School, Memorial Christian Academy, and Temple Learning Center, although more exist, especially those religiously affiliated.

Homeschoolers know that the burden is on them to find the best resources for their school kids; start with Texas Home Educators. There, you'll be able to connect with other families who will provide PCS to Fort Cavazos tips. The Student Liaison Officer on Fort Cavazos should also be knowledgeable about home school transitions.

Killeen Independent School District Map



There are eight independent school districts surrounding Fort Cavazos: Belton, Copperas Cove, Florence, Gatesville, Killeen, Lampasas, Salado, and Temple.

Copperas Cove Independent School District (CCISD) is a public school district serving approximately 7,400 students in Copperas Cove and surrounding areas. There are seven elementary schools and two middle schools located on post. High school students living on post are zoned for Killeen High School or Shoemaker High School.

Map via Google Maps

Fort Cavazos School Information

There are many schooling options for your military family!
Following are some helpful links with more information.

[Killeen Independent School District](#)

[Fort Cavazos Area Schools](#)

[Fort Cavazos School Liaison Office](#)

[Private School Review](#)

[Texas Home Educators](#)

[Texas Charter Schools](#)

[School Digger \(school ratings\)](#)

[School Quest \(find and compare schools\)](#)

[Military Child Education Coalition](#)

Military Spouses

Employers, Volunteering, Higher education & Childcare



Photo from Canva

Who rules the world?

Military spouses, of course!

The sheer number of milspouses assigned to Fort Cavazos requires an abundance of educational, volunteer, and career improving possibilities.

Some of the top employers in the area include the City of Killeen, Central Texas College, Metroplex Hospital, Lowe's, and Home Depot.

If you're on the road to earning a degree or taking classes for personal enrichment, Excelsior College, A&M Central Texas, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, and Temple College are nearby.

If a job isn't in the cards during a stay at Fort Cavazos, plenty of volunteer and social opportunities exist!



Military Spouse Information

FORT CAVAZOS

Major Area Employers

III Corps & Fort Cavazos

Central Texas College

Teleperformance

Metroplex Hospital

Home Depot

Lowes

Nearby Education

Central Texas Community College

Excelsior College

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

Temple College

CyberTex Institute of Technology

A&M Central Texas

Volunteer Opportunities

Ft Cavazos USO

Habitat for Humanity

American Red Cross

Fort Cavazos Thrift Shop

Guardian Angels for Soldiers Pets

Operation Phantom Support

Area Child Care

Fort Cavazos CDC's

Kiddos Kollege

Creation Station Learning Academy

The Learning Zone

Little Lambs Learning Academy

TLC Childcare Center

Local Social Groups

Tri City Bicycles riding group

Giggles & Grins SAHMs

Waco Striders Running Club

Temple Homeschooling Meetup

Crossroads to Texas Quilt Guild

Central Texas Women's Social

Enjoy Fort Cavazos!

We wish your military family all the best during your time at Fort Cavazos! Of course, there's nothing like connecting with others in the area.

Check out some of the groups below.

[Fort Cavazos Family Readiness Groups](#)

[Fort Cavazos Army Community Services](#)

[Fort Cavazos MWR](#)

[Fort Cavazos New Parent Support Program](#)

[Fort Cavazos Spouses' Club](#)

[Fort Cavazos Facebook](#)

All links are for informational purposes only and do not constitute endorsement.

[Find Off-Base Housing near
Fort Cavazos](#)

**Want more info on the
Fort Cavazos area?**

**Follow *MilitaryByOwner's*
Ft. Cavazos Pinterest board
for tips and resources and
connect with us on
social media!**

