

# WELCOME PACKET



## AREA SUPPORT GROUP-QATAR

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES ARMY CENTRAL  
AREA SUPPORT GROUP-QATAR  
CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, QATAR  
APO AE 09898**

Welcome to Area Support Group-Qatar (ASG-QA), Camp As Sayliyah (CAS)

The Area Support Group Qatar Command Sergeant Major and I are pleased to welcome you as part of our team. Here in Qatar, we are a team of teams comprised of ready, resilient, and responsive Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen, Department of the Army Civilians, and contractors prepared to fight tonight and committed to supporting the defenders of peace across the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR).

ASG-QA conducts mission command of CAS, CAS-South, Falcon 78, and assigned units and activities within the USCENTCOM AOR in order to support ongoing operations and enable U.S. Army Central partnerships and Joint, Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration. ASG-QA provides force protection, serves as the Base Operating Support Integrator, and exercises Title 10 responsibility to U.S. Army Forces in Qatar. We also partner with the U.S. Embassy, U.S. Air Force, and Qatari Armed Forces.

We hope that this Welcome Packet will help you transition to life in Qatar and provide you the resources you need for a successful tour here.

The Command Sergeant Major and I look forward to meeting you.

Again, welcome to ASG-QA. We look forward to your arrival and joining our team of teams.

Patton's Own - Third Always First!

*Jose R. Hernandez*

JOSE R. HERNANDEZ  
CSM, USA  
Command Sergeant Major

STEPHEN A. FABIANO  
COL, LG  
Commanding

## **ASG-QA FOCUS AREAS**

### **ASG-QA VISION**

A team of teams comprised of ready, resilient, and responsive Service Members, DA Civilians, and contractors prepared to fight tonight and committed to supporting the defenders of peace across the USCENTCOM AOR.

### **ASG-QA MISSION**

ASG-QA conducts mission command of CAS, CAS-S, Falcon 78, and assigned units and activities within the USCENTCOM AOR in order to support ongoing operations and enable USARCENT partnerships and Joint Reception Staging Onward movement and Integration.

### **ASG-QA PRIORITIES**

1. Protect the Force – ASG-QA secures infrastructure, critical assets, and personnel on CAS, CAS-S and Falcon 78 and deters/defeats threats to the force.
2. Execute Army Title 10 – ASG-QA provides timely and effective Title 10 Support to tenant and directed adjacent units and surges capabilities to support Contingencies.
3. Build Partnership Capacity – ASG-QA enables a strong U.S.ARCENT-QELF Relationship built on trust and respect that develops mutually beneficial training Events.
4. Ensure Quality of Life – ASG-QA provides a generous quality of life to all service members, DA civilians, contractors, and family members and improves installation infrastructure.

## ASG-QA HISTORY



The Army component of U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM), U.S. Army Central Command (USARCENT), maintains a forward presence in the region. Government-to-government agreements were negotiated with Qatar and Kuwait to allow the prepositioning of military assets. These facilities support USCENTCOM's efforts to protect U.S. interests in this region in accordance with the National Security Strategy. U.S. forces use these facilities under a variety of agreements, which include host nation involvement with providing and managing the facilities.

The largest pre-positioning base outside the U.S. is in Qatar. For the Army, facilities were built in three fiscal year packages to accommodate a heavy armored brigade. Under governmental agreements, the State of Qatar is responsible for providing land and utilities for the warehousing facilities.

The Army's newest and largest pre-positioned stock facility opened in Qatar in August, 2000. The facility falls under the command of Area Support Group -Qatar (ASG-QA), which is one of three forward commands in the region maintained by the Third U.S. Army currently based at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

The primary reason for this installation was to contribute to the National Security Strategy that called for rapid deployment and a forward presence. The Army prepositioned equipment allows for a much more rapid deployment of troops in the area. The mission of the 262-acre, climate-controlled facility is to store and maintain a brigade-sized equipment set and selected supplies to facilitate the rapid movement of personnel, equipment, and supplies by land, sea, or air to other countries in the region.

The existing military installation, known as Camp As Sayliyah (CAS), is located on the outskirts of the capital city Doha, Qatar.

## **PRE-ARRIVAL AND ARRIVAL**

1. Congratulations on your assignment and welcome to CAS located in Qatar. ASG-QA is a united, vigilant, and integrated team that provide responsive, world-class support and customer service to our tenant units, forward deployed service members, and families in Qatar and the surrounding region.
2. This information packet is designed to provide you general information in preparation for a successful tour. It is important for you to become familiar with the material in this packet.
3. You will be assigned a sponsor to assist you in your move to Qatar. If you do not have a sponsor within 60 days of your report date, please contact the ASG-QA S1 (Number Below) and provide your full name, email address, report date, and contact information.
4. We look forward to your arrival and joining a professional organization committed to excellence.
5. Complete the following prior to departing your current duty station:

### **MEDICAL**

- a. Update MEDPROS.
- b. Request a six month supply of medications.
- c. Hand carry all medical records.

### **DENTAL**

- a. Request a complete dental examination and cleaning prior to departing your parent unit.
- b. Hand carry all dental records.
- c. Communicate with your Sponsor

### **COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR SPONSOR**

- a. Establish a healthy communication flow with your sponsor. They will be able to answer any questions not covered in this packet.
- b. Prior to arriving, you will be assigned a sponsor from your gaining unit who will help answer any questions that arise as you prepare for this assignment, and also assist you with transition actions after your arrival.
- c. Inform your sponsor of your arrival flight. He or she will be picking you up at the airport.
- d. If you are not contacted by your sponsor within 60 days of your report date, or request a change of sponsor, please contact the S1 at DSN 318-432-2240/2275/2811 or by commercial line at 011-974-5580-7546/5556-3202.

### **CONCURRENT TRAVEL OF DEPENDENTS**

Concurrent travel of dependents with the military member is not automatic and depends primarily on the availability of housing at the time of your report date. If concurrent travel is not authorized and the military member arrives ahead of the family, military members will reside in on-base quarters and civilians will reside in leased quarters until quarters are issued to the residence by Housing.

## **PASSPORTS AND VISAS**

Visas are no longer required for entry into Qatar. You must have an official (maroon) passport to apply for Qatar residency. Residency has to be established for you to be eligible for some things such as internet, driver's license, and school enrollment. Applications for official, no-fee (maroon) passports will be processed by your servicing passport agent at your local civilian personnel office (CPAC). This is typically a 6-8 week process; however, if you are within 120 days of your report date, you can request to expedite the processing of your passport application.

You may also want to obtain a regular tourist passport at your own expense for international touring purposes. Apply at any U.S. post office. For more information on passports, please visit the DoD Passport Matters website at: <https://passportmatters.hqda.pentagon.mil/index.aspx>

## **IMMIGRATION**

Command Sponsorship Program family members of U.S. military personnel and DOD civilians may travel into the country via Hamad International Airport or the Al Udeid Air Base (AUAB) Passenger Terminal. Family member travel via military means in and out of CAS must be coordinated through either your local or the CAS Travel Office Command Sponsorship Program. Dependent children under the age of 10 are required to have an Identification card prior to departing the U.S for Qatar. Updated information can be found at: <https://www.fcq.pentagon.mil/fcq.cfm>

For initial entry into Qatar, CSP members will use their military CAC or dependent ID cards and their sponsor's PCS orders for immigration documentation. Once residency is established, all CSP members will use their Qatari IDs and passports as immigration documentation to enter (immigrate) and exit (emigrate) Qatar. Visas are NOT to be purchased. If a visa is accidentally purchased, please contact the Host Nation Coordination Cell (HNCC) ASAP to help rectify the situation as hefty fines can be levied if visas are not canceled in a timely manner. Updated information can be found at: <https://www.fcq.pentagon.mil/fcq.cfm>

## **RESIDENCY**

In order to live in Qatar, it is required that you and your family members obtain a residency permit, better known as a Qatar ID. The S9/HNCC will assist you with this process upon your arrival.

## **DRIVER'S LICENSE**

After receiving your Qatar ID, also known as your residency permit, Qatar requires you and your family members to obtain a Qatar Driver's License (QDL) for off-base driving. Prior to receiving your QDL, only DoD civilians and military members may operate government leased vehicles with a valid, non-expired U.S. driver's license with picture. CSP dependents will need an international driver's license (IDL) to lease and/or drive a personal vehicle while awaiting their QDL. You can only drive a rental car in Qatar for 6 months using an IDL. Several companies offer IDLs (e.g. AAA) and it is recommended that you and your dependents purchase an IDL prior to arrival in Qatar. The IDL becomes null and void once a Qatar Residency card has been issued.

If your U.S. driver's license will expire during your tour in Qatar, renew it before you leave the U.S. You should also ensure that the word "temporary" does not appear on your U.S. license. Additionally, your driver's license must include a picture. Individual states may automatically extend a license for active duty military, but the State of Qatar will not recognize a driver's license beyond its expiration date or without a picture.

If you are unable to obtain an IDL prior to your departure for Qatar, you can obtain a temporary QDL for a fee. However, you cannot obtain a temporary QDL if you have already applied for residency.

## **PACKING**

Your living facilities are fully furnished. This includes a television and movie player, a shared small refrigerator and microwave, furniture for all rooms, sheets, towels, dishes, silverware, glasses and pots and pans.

Pack civilian clothing according to the weather and culture. Summer temperatures average 106 F, and move between 85-116 F throughout the day and night. We recommend that the majority of clothing suits this weather. Summer clothing also works for fall and spring, but the winter is often chilly and we recommend packing a light jacket, fleece, or sweater.

## **CLOTHING**

Don't forget to pack sweaters and a few coats. It is very humid here, and it is wise to layer from November to February. Boots are common, especially with expats. From April to November it is very hot. Men and women should avoid exposing their knees, shoulders, cleavage or stomach and not wear tight, revealing clothing out of respect for local customs. For women, maxi dresses are a great idea. If they are sleeveless or strapless, just add a thin, short-sleeved cardigan or shirt. Scarves are a good idea to wear with lower cut shirts/blouses.

Men can get away with a polo shirt and jeans or slacks almost all year long. Housing compounds are not very strict about swim wear in the pools. Many ladies wear 2-piece swimsuits in the pool, then wear cover-ups (that do not cover knees/arms) when going back and forth from the pool to their residence.

There are "dress up" opportunities when suits and sport coats are appropriate, such as symphony performances, 5-star hotel dining, high tea, off-base church events, special holiday events, etc. Women should bring at least one formal wear outfit for balls as there will be opportunities to wear them.

Clothing choices during Ramadan are strict. Men and women must cover their elbows and knees during this time. Short sleeved shirts can be worn at any time other than during Ramadan.

Service members should bring their ASUs. It is recommended that men bring at least one suit, and one sports jacket; and women bring at least one long dress. Most functions and nicer restaurants require smart casual or more formal attire. Women should remember that if their top/dress is sleeveless they will need some kind of a wrap to cover their shoulders.



It is also recommended that you bring at least a three-month supply of your favorite brands of personal items such as lotions, shampoos, and conditioners. There are many brands available but it may take time to find a brand that will replace your favorites.

Select recreational equipment according to your available space. If you enjoy cooking you may want to bring some of your favorite utensils, cookware, and spices. Doha and Camp As Sayliyah are full of recreational activities such as scuba diving, golf, cycling clubs, triathlon, musical opportunities, tennis and racquetball. Many Soldiers also bring holiday decorations. Your billeting space will be limited, so prioritize according to the available space. To estimate your available space, please see the housing section for pictures.

Bring copies of all important paperwork such as birth certificates, adoption records, marriage license, divorce decree, official travel orders, DA 31, all medical/shots/dental records, current weapons qualification and APFT cards, and your previous OER or NCOER.

### TRANSPORTATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Consult your travel orders for your entitlement to ship personal property to Qatar. Most Permanent Change of Station (PCS) Soldiers are authorized to ship Unaccompanied Baggage (UB).

While the below chart demonstrates the maximum weight allowances for your UB, this weight allowance far exceeds your billeting space. It is recommended you prioritize which goods are shipped to Qatar based on your available housing space. To coordinate shipment or if you have any questions on your entitlements, please contact the transportation office of your departing station.

PCS and NTS Weight Allowance (Pounds)		
Grade NOTE 1/NOTE 3	With Dependents NOTE 2	Without Dependents
<b>Officer Personnel</b>		
0-10 to 0-6	18,000	18,000
0-5/W-5	17,500	16,000
0-4/W-4	17,000	14,000
0-3/W-3	14,500	13,000
0-2/W-2	13,500	12,500
0-1/W-1/Service Academy Graduates	12,000	10,000
<b>Enlisted Personnel</b>		
E-9	15,000 Note 4	13,000 Note 4
E-8	14,000	12,000
E-7	13,000	11,000
E-6	11,000	8,000
E-5	9,000	7,000
E-4	8,000	7,000
E-3 to E-1	8,000	5,000
Aviation Cadets	8,000	7,000
Service Academy Cadets/Midshipmen		350

### RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

Installation Transportation Office (ITO) provides counseling and services to inbound and outbound personnel. The CAS ITO is located in Bldg. 110. Personal property representatives will assist you and provide instructions on the process of completing your personal property and personal data sheets. The ITO team will help ease your transition to Qatar and provide information on driving, licenses, safety, customs regulations, and many other important issues.

The ITO has answers to many questions and can refer you to other sources for more detailed information. To register for relocation go to [www.move.mil](http://www.move.mil) and click on DPS registration and follow the appropriate steps to register/create a new account, you will be directed to the ETA website to register: ([https://eta.sddc.army.mil/dps Register/dodCustomer.aspx](https://eta.sddc.army.mil/dps/Register/dodCustomer.aspx))

For further information the lead transportation specialist can be reached at DSN: 432-2216 or call Commercial: 3004-1659

### **RESTRICTED ITEMS**

The following items are prohibited. If shipped or transported on person, these items will be permanently confiscated by the Qatari Customs Agents. You and/or your family may be permanently deported.

Handcuffs, military issued batons, ammunition clips, gun parts, hunting knives or swords, (display or non-display), war trophies, parts of military weapons or vehicles, police zip ties, small arms protective insert (SAPI) plates, toy weapons, pornography or adult (sex) toys, alcohol, pork

### **HOUSEHOLD GOODS SHIPMENTS**

The total weight of household goods shipped to Qatar will be based on what is authorized on your orders in accordance with the Joint Travel Regulation (JTR) weight allowance. Qatar has strict customs guidelines on what and how items may be shipped. You should speak with a personal property counselor at your local Installation Transportation Office (ITO) to ensure all entitlements and benefits are understood and applied for. You should also reference the Personal Property Consignment Instructions Guide located at <https://tops.ppcigweb.sddc.army.mil/ppcig/menu/home/warning.do>. This site offers the latest information on restrictions and instructions for shipping items into Qatar and is only accessible from a government computer. To ensure you qualify for full replacement value of any damaged or lost items, register at [www.move.mil](http://www.move.mil).

### **BEDS**

For your comfort consider bringing a mattress pad. You may want to send to your sponsor or unit address so it's waiting for you when you arrive. Beds are not the same size as American beds but deepen king sheets fit the king beds and full- sized sheets fit double beds if you fold them under. Quilts work well as they are warm enough in the winter (or easy to layer), and cool enough in the summer with the air conditioning. Finally, high-quality bed linens are very expensive and harder to find.

### **GRILLS**

Charcoal is prevalent and easier to find legally than propane. However, if you want a propane grill, you should know that they can be expensive here and have different connections than those in the U.S. If you ship one, it may need work done to get the connections right. You can purchase grills in the PX. Propane can be purchased at many places where you see a "WOQOD" sign, but make sure you get the correct connection. The initial propane tank costs \$100 and refills cost \$5-15. You can purchase 12Kg or 6Kg tanks. The propane tanks are larger than in the States. They are also plastic, which helps to see fluid level, but may not take the heat well.

## **KITCHEN ITEMS**

Items are provided by the housing office, but you can bring what you normally use on a day-to-day basis. If you require serving plates for special occasions, it is advised that you bring those too. You may find that cookware/kitchenware is not of the same quality here, and you can get by with what you bring. Nevertheless, we have had families who wish they had brought more kitchen items from home (pots and pans, bake ware, cooking tools, dishes, serving trays, etc.) for potlucks and such. Remember, 120V items will need a transformer to work. If you drink wine, bring your wine glasses as there are not many options locally and what is available gets picked over very quickly.

## **HOME GOODS**

If you enjoy gardening, you might want to pack gardening tools such as rakes, shears, and outdoor brooms and flower pots. Manual mowers and weed eaters are usually good for ground maintenance. Housing compounds are furnished similarly in terms of art and furniture. If you want to decorate your home in a unique way that reminds you of home/ holidays/ family/ favorites, be sure to pack accordingly. Storage bins and plastic drawers/ tubs can be more expensive than in the U.S. Your house or apartment may have a storage room, but it will not have outdoor storage.

## **UNACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE**

Shipping your unaccompanied baggage (UB) as early as possible will ensure your household items are here and ready for delivery when you arrive. Include items for comfort and those that allow you to perform your duties while waiting for your household goods to arrive. These recommended items include, but are not limited to, kitchen items, bathroom items, clothing, linens, iron, etc. Ensure your home station ITO understands that the Personal Property U.S. Government Bill of Lading (PPGBL) is required on all personal property shipments to Qatar.

Send advance PPGBL to ASG-Qatar, Doha, Qatar. Provide both the airway bill and PPGBL numbers. UB must be declared: "Used Personal Effects for Personal Use" on Personal Property Government Bill of Lading.

All inbound shipments are subject to a cursory inspection by Qatar Customs Officials. All carrier agents in CONUS must use the carrier that Surface Deployment and Distribution Command Qatar has in order to avoid your goods being held in a customs warehouses for an extended period of time.

## **ARRIVAL IN QATAR**

If traveling commercial, you will arrive at Hamad International Airport, Qatar. You will de-board the aircraft and enter the airport shuttle buses that will transport you to the Blue arrival terminal for immigration and customs. Everyone must immigrate into the country using their official travel orders and CAC.

Note: Do not, under any circumstance, purchase a tourist visa upon arrival to Qatar. You should only use your orders and CAC card. If you enter with your personal passport, you will enter under a 30-day tourist visa and be forced to pay heavy fines before you depart.

For issues, questions or concerns, please call the ASG-QA S9 at cellular +974-5588-9345 or Host Nation Coordination Cell (HNCC) at +974-5589-1157 or +974-5551-0815.

Once you have cleared immigration and customs with your bags, please follow the exit sign to be greeted by your sponsor.

More than likely, you will travel on a military rotator from Baltimore, MD to Al Udeid Air Base (AUAB), Qatar arriving on a Thursday. They will stamp your orders. Be sure to preserve the original orders with the "blue" stamp. Provide itinerary to sponsor so they can bring you to CAS.

### **EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

If you encounter an emergency in transit or after arrival, call your sponsor. You may also call:

Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC) at International 011974-4460-9869 or DSN 318-432-2348 and identify any issues or concerns (24/7)

For immigration matters, the Host Nation Coordination Cell (HNCC) at DSN318-437-6107 (0900-1700 local) or Cell Phone 011-974-5551-0815 (after hours)  
U.S. Embassy in Doha at commercial11-974-4496-6000 (emergencies only)

### **U.S. EMBASSY SUPPORT**

U.S. consular officers at the U.S. Embassy in Qatar assist Americans who encounter serious legal, medical, or financial difficulties. They can also provide information about dangerous conditions affecting your overseas travel or residence. One way to receive information from the U.S. Embassy is through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), which is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to or living in a foreign country. Americans living in Qatar who enroll in this online service will receive routine information from the U.S. Embassy in Qatar.

To enroll in STEP:

- a. Visit <https://step.state.gov/step/>
  - b. Click "Create an Account," follows instructions.
  - c. Once you have created an account, you can register with a specific U.S. Embassy or consulate by clicking on the "Add Overseas Residence" button
- qa.US.embassy.gov

### **MEDICAL**

The ASG-Qatar Troop Medical Center (TMC) located on Camp As Sayliyah is a military medical treatment clinic designed primarily to care for deployed military members in an acute care setting and is not staffed or equipped to provide routine or continuity of care for children or members with chronic conditions. Therefore, when considering an assignment to CAS, it is important to understand that the majority of care for dependents, especially children 12 and under will be provided by an off-base provider utilizing the TRICARE overseas program.

A high western-standard of medical care exists in Doha and English is spoken widely in the medical community. There are some cultural differences you may experience when accessing healthcare in Doha such as separate waiting rooms for men and women; however, overall the experience is similar to what you would experience in the United States. In addition, many medical facilities in Doha are accredited by international healthcare accrediting agencies such as the Joint Commission International and the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards International. All families must be cleared via the overseas clearance process in order to PCS to CAS. This overseas clearance is accomplished by your home station Military Treatment Facility.

If you have additional questions on the availability of healthcare, or have any healthcare questions prior to arrival, please do not hesitate to contact U.S. at DSN 318-432-3508/3506.

### **PCS REPORTING PROCEDURES**

If traveling to CAS/AI Udeid via the AMC Military rotator for your PCS, military members are allowed to travel in civilian clothes.

When you arrive in Qatar, you will be met by your sponsor. If traveling with dependents, you will be taken directly to your off-base residence. If you arrive ahead of your dependents, you will go to CAS and reside in on-base lodging until your dependents arrive. Civilians will be housed off-post until dependents arrive. You must in-process with the S1 within two day of arrival to start in-processing actions.

### **PETS**

Dogs and cats may be brought to Qatar but they cannot be less than four months old and they must have a veterinary certificate of good health and rabies vaccination issued within 30 days prior to date of entry.

Qatar requires an import permit from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture. Cats with proper documentation are allowed to enter with no difficulty but some breeds of dogs are not admitted. Application forms for import permits may be obtained from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture or through an agent such as Qatar Pet Travel. A copy of the pet's health certificate/vaccination record must be submitted with the application. Qatar does not quarantine healthy pets that have a permit.

As of June 2011, the Qatar Ministry of Environment requires that any pet arriving in Qatar not already registered with them, must be presented for registration within 48 hours of arrival, have its microchip scanned, original vaccination history reviewed, and documents collected. Also note that as of April 2012, all pets leaving Qatar must be micro-chipped.

The following breeds of dogs are not allowed to enter Qatar: Afghan hound, Boerboel, Boxer, Bulldog, Doberman, Japanese Akita, Rottweiler, American Staffordshire terrier, Boston terrier, Bull Terrier, Chinese Shar-Pei, Great Dane, Neapolitan Mastiff, and Staffordshire bull terrier.

Breeds may be removed or are added to this list regularly. For more information contact HNCC or go to <https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm>.

You will pay out of pocket to fly your pet here, even on military aircraft (costs can vary). Commercial airlines have different rules, so check with your carrier for specifics well in advance. Some airlines will not ship pets during temperature extremes and others limit the size of the carrier. It is encouraged that you check with your airline for specific information.

The following websites may be helpful in helping you plan your pets' relocation to Qatar:

[www.pettravel.com/immigration/qatar.cfm](http://www.pettravel.com/immigration/qatar.cfm)

[www.qatarpetrelocators.com/index2.php](http://www.qatarpetrelocators.com/index2.php)

<http://dohavets.com/pet-relocation/>

<http://qatarvet.com/pet-relocation/>

## **VETERNARIANS AND PET BOARDING**

Veterinary services are limited, but the standard of care is high. As there are no official pet sitter or dog walking services in Qatar, most residents get neighbors to look after animals for short periods or house them in a boarding facility during longer periods. Demand for pet boarding is high; it is recommended you book well in advance.

As of June 2011, the Qatar Ministry of Environment requires that any pet arriving in Qatar, not already registered with them, must be presented for registration within 48 hours of arrival, have its microchip scanned, original vaccination history reviewed, and all supporting documents collected. In addition, all pets leaving Qatar must be microchipped.

## **AIRPORT**

Hamad International Airport is located at the southern end of the Corniche waterfront area. It is home to Qatar Airways and several other airlines. For more information, visit:

<https://dohahamadairport.com>

Airport Security: 4410-9555

Customs: 4457-7457

Immigration and Passport Control: 4465-6490

## **TRANSPORTATION**

It is the member's responsibility to procure personal transportation. Domicile to duty use of non-tactical vehicle/Transportation Motor Pool Government Owned Vehicles is not permitted. Off installation transportation options includes leased or purchased vehicles, public transportation including taxis and Uber.

## **DRIVING AND ROAD CONDITIONS**

Traffic accidents are among Qatar's leading causes of death. If it is a minor vehicular accident, Qatari law requires drivers to remove their vehicles from the road in order to not impede traffic flow. Unless both you and the other driver can agree who is at fault, call the police as soon as possible. They will come, and make notes and give you a time to be at a police station. You will have to be in attendance for this appointment in order to obtain a police report. If both drivers involved in an accident agree on who is at fault, they must proceed to the nearest police station in order to obtain a police report. Without this report, you will not be able to have your vehicle repaired. Informal rules of the road and local

driving customs often prove frustrating for first time drivers in Qatar. The combination of Qatar's extensive use of roundabouts, many road construction projects, and the high speeds at which drivers may travel can prove challenging. In rural areas, poor lighting and shoulder less roads present other hazards.

Roundabouts are very common in Doha, and have their own rhythm, but in time you will get used to the flow of traffic. Here are some additional tips:

- a. At traffic lights, green lights blink five times before the light changes to yellow (amber).
- b. Stop when you see the blinking green light because the amber cycle is very short and you will probably not make it through the intersection before the light turns red.
- c. Some intersections are equipped with cameras and take pictures of cars that run red lights. If you are caught, the fine ranges between QR 1,000-10,000 (\$274-\$2,740) and you may not be notified of the violation. You can check online at [www.moi.gov.qa/site/english/](http://www.moi.gov.qa/site/english/) under the "Traffic Violations" link on the right side of the page.

Roads are rarely marked by name. Most signs say where they are going or the neighborhood they are near. Also, many roads change names at roundabouts. There are five concentric roads moving out from the Corniche in the southern part of the city called A, B, C, D, and E Rings. Crossing these "rings" are three roads you will use often: Salwa Rd, the shopping and restaurant road; Grand Hamad Street, which runs through the Souqs; and Al Rayyan which runs toward Education City.

Despite the aggressive driving on Qatar's roads, drivers should avoid altercations or arguments over traffic incidents, particularly with Qatari citizens who, if insulted, have filed complaints with local police that resulted in the arrest and overnight detention of U.S. citizens. Drivers can be held liable for injuries to other persons involved in a vehicular accident, and local police have detained U.S. citizens overnight until the extent of the person's injuries were known.

Due to its conservative Islamic norms, Qatar maintains a zero-tolerance policy against drinking and driving with a DUI being defined as anything greater than a 0.00 Blood-Alcohol Level.

### **FUELING UP**

Gas stations only accept cash and attendants will pump your gas for you. If you would like to tip the attendant you may but it is neither required nor customary.

### **ACCIDENT PROCEDURES**

If there are no major injuries or damage to the vehicles, the vehicles must be moved to a nearby spot so that traffic flow is not interrupted. Do not move if you are unsure of damage to vehicle.

Contact the ASG-QA BDOC (DSN: 432-2348; Cell 5501-4094) and provide your name, your sponsor's name, unit, location of accident, type of damage and details of the accident.

Contact the Qatari Police at 999 and provide the location of accident.

Do not admit liability or sign any documentation.

Make sure to collect the following: Police Report or date to collect the police report, Name of officer responding and doing the report, officer's phone number, police station where the officer works.

Contact Mr. Anwar (Cell: 3300-2208) for towing if necessary. (POV Cost 100-300 QR).



## UNACCOMPANIED BILLETING

Welcome to the unaccompanied housing portion of the welcome packet. Our goal is to help you transition to your new assignment by providing the information you need as early as possible.

### APPLIANCES AND ELECTRONICS

Small appliances are easy to find here with a variety of price categories. However, if you can buy 220V blow dryers and curling irons, we highly recommend bringing them. They are available but can be more expensive and lower quality. Most laptops, iPads, etc. are dual voltage, but it is best to check.

Electrical outlets in Qatar both on and off base operate under European Power Standards (i.e. 220V, 50Hz.)

Electrical sockets are type G (Checked Below).



Personnel in a PCS status will billet in hard-stand quarters meeting space requirements entitled to PCS Soldiers IAW AR 420-10: Army Facilities Management. The space is similar to a shared college dorm or hotel room. Sample photos are included below. Each Soldier has their own private room, but bathrooms and kitchenette spaces are shared between two roommates. Each building has a full kitchen as a common room. Depending on your rank and entitlements, you may receive a larger room.

### JUNIOR ENLISTED HOUSING, E1-E6



Photos of a Soldier's Individual Room

Two Individual Rooms Share a Common Bathroom and Kitchenette

**SENIOR LEADER QUARTERS, E7 and 2LT-CPT**



Photos of Senior Leader Quarters Unaccompanied Housing  
Two Individual Rooms One Bathroom and Kitchenette

**SENIOR LEADER QUARTERS, O4-O6; CW4-CW5; and E9**



Photos of Senior Leader Quarters Unaccompanied Housing.  
One Individual Room, One Living Room, Bathroom, and Kitchen.

## DEPLOYED AND TDY/TCS QUARTERS 400 Block Containerized Housing Unites (CORMEX)

Personnel arriving in a TDY or TCS status will be billeted in Containerized housing Units (CHUs.) IAW AR 420-10. Although most CHUs in theater are exposed to the elements, CAS houses its CHUs inside an external structure to improve quality of life for its Soldiers. Bathrooms, showers, and laundry machines are shared. A free, contracted laundry service is also available. Depending on your rank, you will be either in an individual or shared CHU.



Example of a Shared CHU



Examples of a Shower Stalls, a Hallway of CHUs, and a Common Area

## ACCOMPANIED HOUSING

Welcome to the housing portion of the welcome packet. Our goal is to help you transition to your new assignment by providing the information you need as early as possible.

Electrical outlets in Qatar both on and off base operate under European Power Standards (i.e. 220V, 50Hz.)

Electrical sockets are type G (Checked Below).



Your quarters will be set up with household items that will carry you throughout your stay. A list of these items are included at the end of the packet. We have covered your basic needs, however you may need to purchase specialty items once you arrive or bring them with you. These items are for you to use throughout your stay, but if you would like to return them once your household goods arrive, please arrange that through the off-post Housing Coordinators, Mr. Gene Carter and Ms. Riham Mohammad at DSN 432-2344 /2351 or email [gene.a.carter.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:gene.a.carter.ctr@mail.mil).

Please be advised that all apartments and villas are fully furnished. All villas are four bedrooms with two living areas, a dining room and a maid's quarters. There are washers and dryers in all quarters. All master bedrooms have king beds. The secondary rooms have queen, full or twin beds. You are allowed to arrange the furniture in any way you like. Currently our housing is under the management of Danat Qatar (Al Fardan Gardens II and V) and Ramaco Inc. Management for Y Village. Any change of furniture or removal of furniture will be coordinated through the housing Office. The style of villas is more traditional than the typical American home. There are no "open" floor plans. The kitchens are closed off from the living and dining areas. It is the same in the apartments, with the exception of the 2nd floor units.

The voltage here is 220. We recommend that you not bring any large furniture items. Any items that do not fit in your respective apartment or villa, you will be responsible for storing. Neither ASG nor DOL will pay for storage. It is suggested that you bring only decorative and personal items, clothing, household goods and small appliances. In the villas, you may be able to bring small pieces such as computer desks, bookshelves, some storage items and children's furniture.

Currently we are housed in three compounds, all within close proximity of one another and about a 10-15 minute drive from CAS: Y-Village, Al Fardan II and Al Fardan V.

### Y-VILLAGE

Y-Village is a mixed housing compound with both apartments and villas and is managed by Ramaco Inc. All of our unaccompanied personnel will be housed here. All the apartments are one bedroom units that range in size per floor location. The apartment buildings are

either three or four floors and there are no elevators. Housing is based solely on what is available at the time of arrival. You may not request a particular unit or floor, however if there are special circumstances, they will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the ASG-QA housing director.

The apartments are furnished with living, dining, bedroom and office furniture (in select units only). There is a combo washer/dryer unit in the 1st and 2nd floor apartments and a full sized unit on the 3rd floor. There is one TV and one AFN connection per unit. The management company will not remove any furniture from the apartment, if you bring additional furniture that will not fit in the apartment; you will be responsible for storing these items. Again, neither ASG nor DOL will pay for storage.

The villas at Y-Village are three stories and do not have elevators. They are also fully furnished and contain an oversized living room plus an upstairs family room. The washer and dryer are full sized. The villas here are a little more modern than they are in the Al Fardan Compounds. There are three bedrooms on the 2nd floor and a bedroom/office on the 3rd floor. As with the apartments, the villas have one AFN connection, most likely in the 1st floor living room and two TV's per unit, one up and one down. Again, please consider this when packing and selecting household items to bring. There may be room for some additional small items already mentioned, but please keep in mind the compound will not remove any furniture from the residence, and you will be responsible for storing any items that do not fit.

Tenants are responsible for their own cable and internet/Wi-Fi connections. There is free Wi-Fi at the clubhouse which is fully functional with a gym, sauna, steam, pool, lounge area and restaurant. This compound also has a hair salon, ATM, mini mart and dry cleaners. The compound maintenance team will assist you with hanging any pictures or wall art. We strongly encourage you contact them for this so that any damage to the walls are minimal and you are not held responsible.

The following pictures are of the apartments in Y-Village; 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors.





These compounds are where our families reside. Housing is based on what is available at the time of your time of arrival. You may not request a particular compound or villa, however if there are special circumstances, they will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the ASG-QA housing director.

The villas in both compounds are two stories and fully furnished. In Al Fardan V, the smaller units have two living rooms downstairs side by side, dining room, kitchen and maid's room with all bedrooms upstairs. The larger units are the same layout with an additional family room upstairs. In Al Fardan II, the downstairs consists of a foyer, large living room, dining room, kitchen and maid's room. All bedrooms and a family room are upstairs. The villas have one AFN connection, mostly likely downstairs and two TV's per unit, one up and one down. The washer/dryer is combo style in Al Fardan V and full sized stackable in Al Fardan II. Tenants are responsible for their own cable and internet/Wi-Fi connections. The compound maintenance team will assist you with hanging any pictures or wall art. We strongly encourage you contact them for this so that any damage to the walls are minimal and you are not held responsible.

Having seen these villas first hand, there is really no need to bring any furniture. Just bring items to make the villa a home for you and your family. Doha has an Ikea and a few home goods stores where you will be able to purchase small disposable pieces. Please remember the voltage here is 220, so if you bring appliances from the States, you will need to purchase adapters or a transformer in order for them to work. Both are available on base at the PX.

The following pictures are of villas in Al Fardan II and Al Fardan V respectively. Please keep in mind the living room furniture may be different than in the pictures.





Here are some more tips/differences about your new home and area:

The weekend is Friday and Saturday, Sunday is the first working day of the week. Friday is the holy day and unlike the States, stores actually close for worship. Everything is closed from 11:30am – 12:30pm, and several stores don't open until late afternoon like 2 or 3pm.

Voltage is 220V 50 Hz, Electrical sockets are type D or G.

Doha television/cable transmits on PAL B system and not NTSC frequency which is standard in the U.S. If you have a "multi-system" TV you should be okay.

There is sand or dust everywhere.

Do not bring high wattage devices such as steam irons or hair dryers. It's best to buy them here so you won't need a transformer to use them.

Sewer gases or smells are unfortunately a way of life. They will seep into your bathroom sometimes. Doha has no drainage system or underground network of pipes, pumps and/or hoses.

It is a good idea to subscribe to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) such as Vonage. We also recommend having your friends and relatives to sign up with internet video chat providers that you can also use on your phone such as Skype, WhatsApp and Viber.

Your typical neighbors in the compound are Gulf Country residents, other Military families and American or European expats.

The flooring in the villas/apartments are tile so you might want to bring rugs or be prepared to buy some here. Doha has an Ikea and a few other home goods stores.

Most malls house a grocery store and goods are a bit more expensive than they are in the States. Carrefour and Geant are similar to Target and Wal-Mart, but you will probably do a great deal of “household” item shopping online.

Mega Mart is your best bet for finding “American” grocery items. There are three locations; C-Ring area (off Salwa Rd), Ain Khalid area (01 Mall) and Barwa Village. Other grocery stores are Lulu’s, Al Meera, Family Food Center, Spinney’s and Safari.

Qatar Distribution Center (QDC) is the only place in the city where you can purchase alcohol or pork products. You must be a resident and have a QDC membership card in order to shop here.

Only Hotels hold liquor licenses’ so you cannot order an alcoholic beverage at a restaurant that is not attached to a hotel. This includes areas such as The Pearl, The Souk Waqif, stand-alone restaurants or any restaurant inside a mall.

No hamburger you order will have pork bacon, but veal bacon is pretty good.

The following is a list of items provided by Housing in each villa:

Item/description	Quantity
Pillows (3 Kg/Qu 2 Stnd)	12
King Comforter/sheet set	2
Queen Comforter/sheet set	2
Twin Comforter/sheet set	2
Towel set (per person)	1
Cookware 16 pcs	1
Silverware set	1
Dinnerware set	1
Cooking utensils/holder	1
Knife set w/block	1
Drinking glasses	1
Chopping board set	1
Salt and Pepper Shaker	1
Paper towel holder	1
Glass ovenware set 2 pcs	1
Mixing bowl set 2 pcs	1
1 set Measuring Cups	1
Can Opener	1
Whisk	1
Toaster	1
Blender	1
Coffee cups (4)	1 set
Wine glasses (6)	1 set
Coffee pot	1
Kettle	1
Hand Mixer	1
Dish towels	1 set
Dish rack	1



Silverware holder	1
Broom and dust pan	1
Mop and bucket	1
Shower squeegee	1 (per bath)
Toilet brush	1 (per bath)
Iron/ironing board	1 each

## MILITARY PAY ENTITLEMENTS

1. Sponsor must have memorandum signed by S1 office stating date arrived in country to start combat zone entitlements.
2. Combat Zone Tax Exclusion: The amount of the maximum combat zone tax exclusion in effect for a qualifying month equals the sum of the basic pay for the senior enlisted member and the amount of hostile fire or imminent danger pay actually payable to the officer for the qualifying month.
- 3.
4. Hardship Pay (\$50)
5. Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) (PCS Only)
6. Basic Allowance for housing (BAH) (PCS Soldiers without dependents do not qualify)
7. Savings Deposit Program-Up to \$10,000 may be deposited during each deployment and will earn a guaranteed 10% interest annually. Your money will continue to accrue interest for 90 days once you've returned home or to your permanent duty station. Visit <http://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/payentitlements/sdp> for additional information.
8. Enroll in the Thrift Saving Plan (TSP) by going to: <http://www.tsp.gov> or visit the finance office to enroll. Contributions to your TSP, while stationed in Qatar, will not be taxed as earnings or upon withdrawal (similar to a ROTH IRA).
9. Living in Qatar is expensive. Although gas is much cheaper here than in the U.S. you might find your monthly grocery bill is more expensive based on your preference. That, combined with the potential expense of a rental car or driving service, makes it imperative that you consider your financial situation before you apply.
10. Accompanied permanent party personnel receive almost all of the financial entitlements as those who are deployed to this location—plus a cost of living allowance (COLA).



## **ON-CAS FACILITIES**

### **ASG-QA Troop Medical Clinic (TMC)**

Sick Call: 0730-0930 Saturday-Thursday

Immunization: 1300-1500 Monday – Thursday

Routine Appointments: 1000-1500 Saturday –Thursday

The TMC provides routine primary care to all active duty and civilians eligible for care in accordance with your orders, memorandum of agreement, or letter of instruction (LOI). It provides both physical and mental support. The TMC does not have urgent or emergency medical capabilities. All emergencies are transported by ambulance to a host nation hospital.

### **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINIC**

Hours of operation: 0900-1500 Sunday-Thursday (Appointments Only), DSN: 432-3508  
Emergency after hours care may be accessed through the local hospital.

### **CAS RELIGIOUS SUPPORT**

Protestant Service 1030 Sunday

Catholic Service 1730 Sunday

Hours of operation: 0900- 1700 Daily 24 hour on call chaplain support

The mission of the CAS chaplain staff is to ensure every service member has access to their constitutional right to free expression of religion, to perform or provide counsel and spiritual direction to all regardless of group or belief. Some of our worshipping faith groups include Protestant, Catholic, Muslim, and Jewish. We also have small-group studies, fellowship, and choir as well as special events and seasonal celebrations. For a full schedule of religious services contact the CAC at DSN 318-432-4338/2198 or request more information from your sponsor.

### **POST EXCHANGE (PX)**

Open 0800-2200 Daily

The entrance for the PX is across from the Oasis Club. The PX sells a wide range of items including food, clothing, CDs/DVDs, video games, electronics, pre-paid phone cards, greeting cards, magazines, souvenirs, and household items. New shipments arrive continuously so check back often. An ATM is located in the store which dispenses both U.S. Dollars and Qatari Riyal. The building also hosts several smaller stores.

1. Jewelry Shop- 0900-1930 Daily
2. Tailoring and Embroidery Shop- 0900-1930 Daily
3. Green Beans Café- 0600-2100 Daily
4. Barber (\$7.25 Haircuts)- 0900-2000 Daily

5. Salon- 0900-2000; Ethnic Beauty Appointments by Request

### **FINANCE OFFICE**

Open Monday – Friday 0900-1600  
Saturday 0900-1200  
Sunday 1300-1600

Offers check cashing, foreign currency exchange, Eagle Cash Cards, and cash collection services. They also support military service members receiving the correct entitlements, setting up Savings Deposit Plans (SDPs) and setting up Thrift Savings Plans (TSPs).

The Eagle Cash Card is the preferred method of financial transaction in theater. The dining facility will only accept Eagle Cash. Please see a financial representative for more details.

### **POST OFFICE**

Open Monday-Thursday 0830-1630; SUN 1230-1630  
Located near the PX, the post office sells stamps and accepts all types of mail (letters, packages, and parcels). Everything except letters must be inspected by the post master.



Alcohol, pornography, and pork products are not authorized to be sent or received. Doing so violates U.S. Central Command and U.S. Postal Service policies. Note also that there is no registered mail service, only certified mail.

CAS has a postal operation for mailing outgoing packages and letters, and has limited post office boxes to receive mail. Packages and letters mailed to you in Qatar can be sent to a PO Box or the military member's unit address. Delivery time for mail can vary for a variety of reasons.

### **ARMY EDUCATION CENTER AND COMPUTER LAB**

Open 0900-2100hrs Daily  
Located in Building 111, the education center offers courses through Central Texas College and other online sources through its 20-computer IT lab. Educational counseling services are also available with topics such as selecting a college, classes, majors, distance learning and eArmyU.

## **ASG-QA S1 OFFICE**

Open 1300-1600 Monday-Friday

Located in Building 111, the S1 office provides ID card and tag services, DEERS, records management, and will issue your "boots on ground memo" and installation in-processing form. This memo is required to start military pay entitlements.

## **HOST NATION COORDINATION CELL**

Hours of operation: 0900-1700 daily  
DSN: Customs (24-hr: 455-5295/5596)  
Cellphone: 011-974-5042-9832  
Security (24-hr: 437-6104)

The Host Nation Coordination Cell (HNCC) serves as a liaison between CAS, Al Udeid AB base agencies and the host nation. Its many services include translation, travel clearances, customs, and immigrations coordination. e-mail: 379AEW/hnccworkflow@auab.afcent.af.mil.

## **ASG LEGAL OFFICE**

Hours of Operation: 0900-1700 Monday- Wednesday and Friday, 1300-1500 Thursday.  
DSN: 432-2409

Provides legal assistance to service members, DoD civilians, dependents, and retirees. Wills, powers of attorney and notaries are performed on a walk- in basis. Legal assistance attorneys are not authorized to represent service members and dependents in off-base disputes. Individuals with off-base disputes should retain the services of a host nation attorney.

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND VISUAL INFORMATION MULTIMEDIA CENTER**

The Visual Information Multimedia Center is located in Bldg. 100B. Its phone number is 432-3400. Its hours of operation are Sunday-Thursday from 0900 to 1730. The VIM produces photos, posters, and videos for official purposes. The VIM also creates the pre-recorded CAS TV program on Wednesday each week and is seen on AFN channels or at static monitors throughout CAS.

The ASG-Qatar PAO is located in Building 101. He/she is the VIM's contracting officer representative and the installation PAO. The ASG-Qatar PAO manages social media, conducts media relations, and liaises with the USARCENT PAO.

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## ON CAS ENTERTAINMENT

Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) at CAS has a robust program with a wide range of activities and services. These include a swimming pool, bowling lanes, gymnasiums, basketball, volleyball, soccer, dodge ball, foosball, aerobics, weightlifting, men's and women's athletic competitions, tennis courts, golf driving range, salsa dancing, and a diverse set of live entertainment and holiday events. . Free trips varies from The City Center Mall, Vallagio Mall, Ezden Mall, Doha Festival City Mall, The Mall of Qatar, and the Souqs. Paid Trips varies from Water Sports, DHOW Entertainment Cruise, Deep Sea Fishing, Banana Island Picnic, Qatar's History VS Future Tour, Qatar Sports & Education Tour, North of Qatar Heritage Tour, Sheikh Faisal Camel Race Track & Equestrian Club, and Sea Picnic.

## THE BIG GYM

Open 24/7  
(BLDG 109)

The "Big Gym" has a large array of aerobic, condition, bodybuilding and free weight equipment. It hosts spin classes in a room dedicated to cycling. Towels and cold water are provided and lockers are located at the back of the building. The video hut provides free DVD, CD, and audio book rentals

Equipment Issue- 24/7

Miniature Golf Course- 24/7

Video Hut- 0900-2200 Daily

Spa 0900-2000 Daily

Internet Café and Telephone Center- 24/7

Game Room: 0900-2000 Daily; Available upon request

### Spa 0900-2000 Daily

The following amenities are available:

Manicure

Pedicure

Faial (Regular)

Herbal Facial

30 Minute Massage

1 Hour Massage

Eyebrow Waxing

Upper Lip Waxing

Arm or Leg Waxing

Full Face Threading

Chest or Back Waxing

Packages are also offered.

## **THE SMALL GYM**

(BLDG 106)

Open 24/7- No Excuses!

The "Small Gym" has several exercise bikes, treadmills, and stair climbers as well as a fully stocked weight room. It also has an indoor basketball court used for basketball, volleyball, aerobics, indoor dodge ball and Tae-Bo. Towels, lockers, shower facilities and cold water are available.

## **THE SWIMMING POOL**

Open 0500-0900 and 1030-2300

A large 25- meter outdoor pool complex is located on CAS and is used for lap swimming and recreation.

## **FREE WI-FI AREAS**

Located inside the DFAC, Big Gym, Small Gym, Green Beans, Oasis and Top Off, free Wi-Fi is available 24/7.

## **FOOD ON BASE**

### **PATTON'S OWN DINING FACILITY (DFAC)**

Breakfast: 0630-0830 (Grab and Go 0700-0900) Monday-Saturday

Lunch: 1130-1330 (Grab and Go 1200-1400) Daily

Dinner: 1700-1900 (Grab and Go 1700-1930) Daily

Midnight Meal: 2345-0045 (Grab and Go 2345-0100) Daily

Sunday Brunch 0900-1300 (no Grab and Go for breakfast and lunch)

## **TOP OFF CLUB**

Located in Building 406, the Top Off club is a Wi-Fi hub, bar, lounge, dance-hall, restaurant, auditorium, and activities center. Food is served 24/7 and available for delivery. Alcohol is available from 1800-2400. There is a three-drink maximum. Please see posted MWR schedules for daily activities like Texas Hold 'em tournaments, karaoke, and Salsa Night.

## **OASIS**

Open for lunch Monday - Friday 1130-1400;

Dinner Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 1700-2400

Tue and Wed 1700-2200

Saturday and Sunday 1130-2400

Located near the PX, the Oasis is a smaller version of the Top Off Club and offers free Wi-Fi, food services, and a dance floor. Alcohol is served from 1800-2400.

## **PIZZA HUT**

Open daily from 1000-2200  
Located in the PX.

## **GREEN BEANS COFFEE**

Open daily from 0600-2000  
With three locations on CAS to better serve you: Outside the PX, Building 103 by CAS headquarters, and inside the Top Off. Free Wi-Fi available at the Building 103 and Top Off.

## **MOVIE THEATER**

Hours of Operation: 1700-2200 Thursday-Saturday, 1430-2200 Sunday

At the CAS Theater, patrons can enjoy new releases provided by AAFES. There is a \$4 fee for contractors. Military members and DoD civilians enter for free. Monthly movie schedules are posted throughout the base at various locations.



## **QATAR FACTS**

Qatar is located in the Middle East, a well-known geographical region of South West Asia. Current population 2,723,617 as of February, 2019. It is in the heart of the Arabian Gulf and is a dynamic, modern, rapidly developing country that is among the wealthiest in the world. The country extends into the Persian Gulf from the Arabian Peninsula, bordered by Saudi Arabia. It is about 180 kilometers long and 85 kilometers wide, and covers an area about the size of New York's Long Island. The landscape is generally flat. Sand dunes and minor hills are in southern regions. Saline swampy mud flats are common along the coastal areas.

## **WEATHER**

Qatar is classified as hot tropical desert filled with sand and very little vegetation. The humidity is at its highest between the months of March and October where the temperature ranges from 90 to 130 degrees. Winter is short, with temperatures ranging from the 50's to high 80's. Qatar is also affected by windblown dust and occasional sandstorms. The country has only intermittent lakes and rivers formed from an average of six inches of rainfall each year.

## **CURRENCY**

The official currency in Qatar is the Riyal. Each Riyal is divided up into 100 dirham and abbreviated as QR. The exchange rate is fixed at \$1 = 3.64 QR.

## **ETHNIC COMPOSITION**

Qatar's ethnic composition is diverse. Qatari citizens compose only 11.6% of the total population, the rest of the country's inhabitants are made up of citizens of other countries such as Pakistan, India, Iran, Philippines, Nepal, Jordan, Egypt, Europe, and the United States. Doha is often considered the melting pot of the Middle East.

## **RULING FAMILY**

Qatar is an absolute monarchy governed by the ruling Al Thani family in consultation with a council of ministers, an appointed advisory council, and an elected municipal council. Islamic beliefs and tribal traditions provide the foundation of the country's customs, laws, and practices. The capital is Doha. The official Qatar website offers a wealth of knowledge and information on Qatar and all it has to offer. [www.visitqatar.qa](http://www.visitqatar.qa)

## **RELIGION**

Islam: The Five Pillars of Islam are core beliefs that shape Muslim society.

Belief (Shahada): The Shahada is the Islamic proclamation that "There is no true God except Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."

Prayer (Salat): Prayer begins with the purification of the body and ends with the purification of the soul. Prayer is performed five times a day.

Fasting (Saum): Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam, and is the ninth month of the Muslim lunar calendar. During Ramadan, able Muslims abstain from food, liquids, tobacco,

profanity, and marital relations from sunrise to sunset for a period of 30 days. The purpose of fasting is to resist temptation and sympathize with the poor and needy. The month of Ramadan is a sacred time for Muslims, and serves as a time for spiritual reflection.

The beginning and end of Ramadan are determined by the lunar Islamic calendar, and therefore, exact dates are determined by the sighting of the “new moon”. During the holy month, nobody is allowed to eat or drink in public. Violators will be subject to Qatari punishment. Most restaurants will be closed during fasting hours. Stores will be open to purchase food and drinks. Children are allowed to eat and drink at any time.

Alms-giving or charity (Zakat): It benefits the poor and helps the giver spiritually.

Pilgrimage (Hajj): All able-bodied Muslims are to make at least one pilgrimage to Mecca during their lifetime.

Eids: There are two Eids (holidays), which are celebrated after two separate holy occasions. Eid al-Fitr begins after the sighting of the new crescent moon, marking the end of Ramadan. Eid al-Adha is celebrated during the month of Hajj, again with the sighting of the new crescent moon the evening before.

Qatar is a predominantly Muslim country and observes all Muslim holidays. Due to the large and diverse expatriate population living in Doha, many Western holidays are also celebrated, including Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and even Valentines and Easter. Friday and Saturday serve as Qatari weekends.

## **HOLIDAYS**

Qatar celebrates two major religious holidays every year, Eid al-Fitr (Marking the end of Ramadan) and Eid al-Adha (during the month of the Hajj). The length of the two Eid Holidays varies from year to year, and is typically announced in local newspapers.

Eid al-Fitr: “Feast of breaking the fast” marks the end of the Muslim Holy Month of Ramadan, and is celebrated worldwide. During Eid al-Fitr, most government offices are closed for at least three days in observance of the holiday.

Eid al-Adha: “Feast of the Sacrifice” is the second of two Muslim holidays celebrated worldwide each year, and considered the holier of the two. This holiday honors the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God’s command.

Qatar National Day: Is observed on December 18, every year, and celebrates the commemoration of Qatar’s unification in 1878. Most of the public are given the day off from school and work on that day, accompanying festivities include celebrations at malls and designated areas in the country, fireworks display, and a full on Qatari military parade.

National Sports Day: Is observed every 2nd Tuesday in February, with the main objective of promoting a healthy lifestyle among its population. Most of the public are given the day off from school and work on that day, accompanying festivities include public sporting events at designated areas across the country.

## LIFESTYLE

Qatar is fast developing as a major Middle Eastern destination that boasts major historic forts, luxury hotels impressive, seascapes and sand dunes and is home to the headquarters for Al Jazeera News Network. Doha, the capital of Qatar, is located halfway down the east coast of peninsula. Doha is an important commercial and cultural center and is connected in an excellent manner with the outside world through state-of-the art seaports, airports and telephone links. Soldiers can explore the natural environment of Qatar by driving, shopping, taking an exciting desert safari, relaxing at the many beaches and pools or just enjoying their favorite sport, be it bowling, tennis, snookers, billiards, golf, or ice skating. As part of its authentic cuisines from around the world, Qatar hosts numerous. American fast food chains such as McDonalds, Burger King, KFC, Hardees, Dairy Queen, Johnny Rockets, Papa John's, Dominoes, and Pizza Hut.

## WEEKENDS IN DOHA

The local weekend is Friday-Saturday, not Saturday-Sunday. This is important to note if you will have children in school or if you prefer to shop on Friday or Saturday evenings (when the crowds are largest).

## SHOPPING

### **City Centre 4483 9990**

The City Centre Mall is one of the largest shopping malls in the Middle East. The Carrefour inside the mall is the largest grocery store in the city. The mall has five levels which feature a range of family entertainment venues; 14 screen Cinema complex, Fun City for family and kids, amusement park with roller coasters, an ice skating rink and bowling alley. There are 64 restaurants available in the Food Court.

Hours of Operation: Saturday – Thursday 10 a.m. – 10 p.m., Friday 3 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Location: Al Dafna area, West Bay

### **The Mall 4467 8888**

Qatar's first mall, opened in 1997, is situated in the midst of lush greenery, well-kept lawns, tastefully trimmed plants and beautiful flowers. The ambience of this mall is different from any other mall in the area. The Arcade (southern side) offers the feeling of an English Shopping Arcade, The Boulevard (eastern side) French High Street, Mall Cineplex (western side), and restaurants offering casual and fine dining (north side).

Hours of operation: Saturday – Thursday 10 a.m. – 10 p.m., Friday 4 p.m. – 10

p.m.(Thursday is for families only), Location: D Ring Road (facing Al Ahli Stadium)

### **Landmark Mall 4487- 5222**

The Landmark is probably the mall that started the mall culture in Qatar. There's the usual play area, Virgin, Carrefour and other brands.

Hours of operation: Saturday – Thursday 10 a.m. – 10 p.m., Friday 12 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Location: Junction of North Road and Al Markhiya Street

### **Al Asmakh Mall (CenterPoint Mall) 4413 1940**

The 36.5 thousand square meter shopping center also boasts a children's entertainment area called Fun City. It also has a small food court on the ground floor.

Hours of Operation: Open Daily from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Location: Jawaan Street

Hyatt Plaza/Villaggio 4499-9666

Hyatt Plaza Shopping Mall and the Villaggio Mall are situated in one of the fastest growing areas in Doha, Al Waab. It is located next to Aspire Park and in the vicinity of sports city. Hyatt plaza provides the right ambience for families to shop, relax, dine and enjoy. It is also home to Jungle Zone, the first and most popular theme park of its kind in Doha. The plaza also offers a full service laundry facility. Hours of operation: Saturday – Wednesday 10 a.m. – 10 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. – 11 p.m., and Friday 1 p.m. – 11 p.m. Location: Al Waab Street

### **Royal Plaza 4413 0000**

Royal Plaza is an elegant three story shopping mall located along Al Sadd Street. The plaza boasts 105 stores, a concierge service to attend to your personal shopping needs, Cinema Palace and Kid Care Services.

Hours of Operation: Saturday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 10 p.m., Friday, 3:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Location: Al Sadd Street, Doha, Qatar

Note: Periodically stores and malls in Qatar designate family day or women only time. Please be cognizant of this since men are not allowed. Men are only allowed in the company of their family on Family Day.

## **GROCERY SHOPPING**

There are many foods and fresh produce available at Doha's grocery stores, but remember goods can be a bit more expensive than in the States. Walmart.com or Amazon.com provide free shipping to APO boxes and an alternative to local food shopping.

### **Carrefour at Villaggio**

This French chain of grocery stores are large and well stocked; a particular strength is its own-brand products, which represent very good value, including a wide range of foods in its refrigerated section. Carrefour, similar to a Super Wal-Mart, is a little less expensive and much larger than Mega Mart.

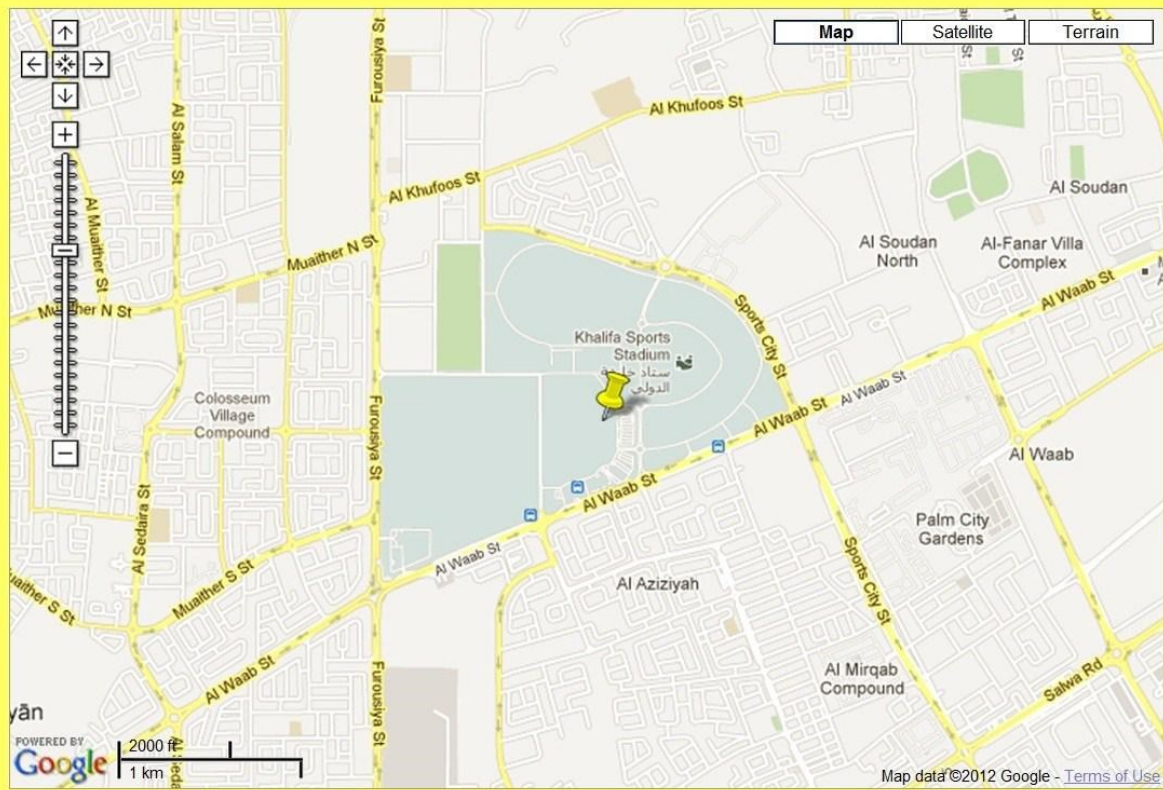
Hours of operation: Sat-Thu 8am-12am; Fri 8am-11.30am, 12.30pm-12 am

## Carrefour - Villaggio

P.O.Box: 24798, Doha, Qatar  
+974 4413-9666

## Physical Address

Villaggio Mall  
Al Waab Street  
Doha, Qatar



## Lulu's Hypermart

Lulu's particular strength is in imported goods to include produce. There's a refrigerated and frozen food section, with many American and British goods for reasonable prices. It also has a wide range of authentic Indian ingredients, as well as many meat-alternatives for vegetarians. It has a popular hot food section, and its fruit and vegetable section is varied. You will also find clothing and electronics.

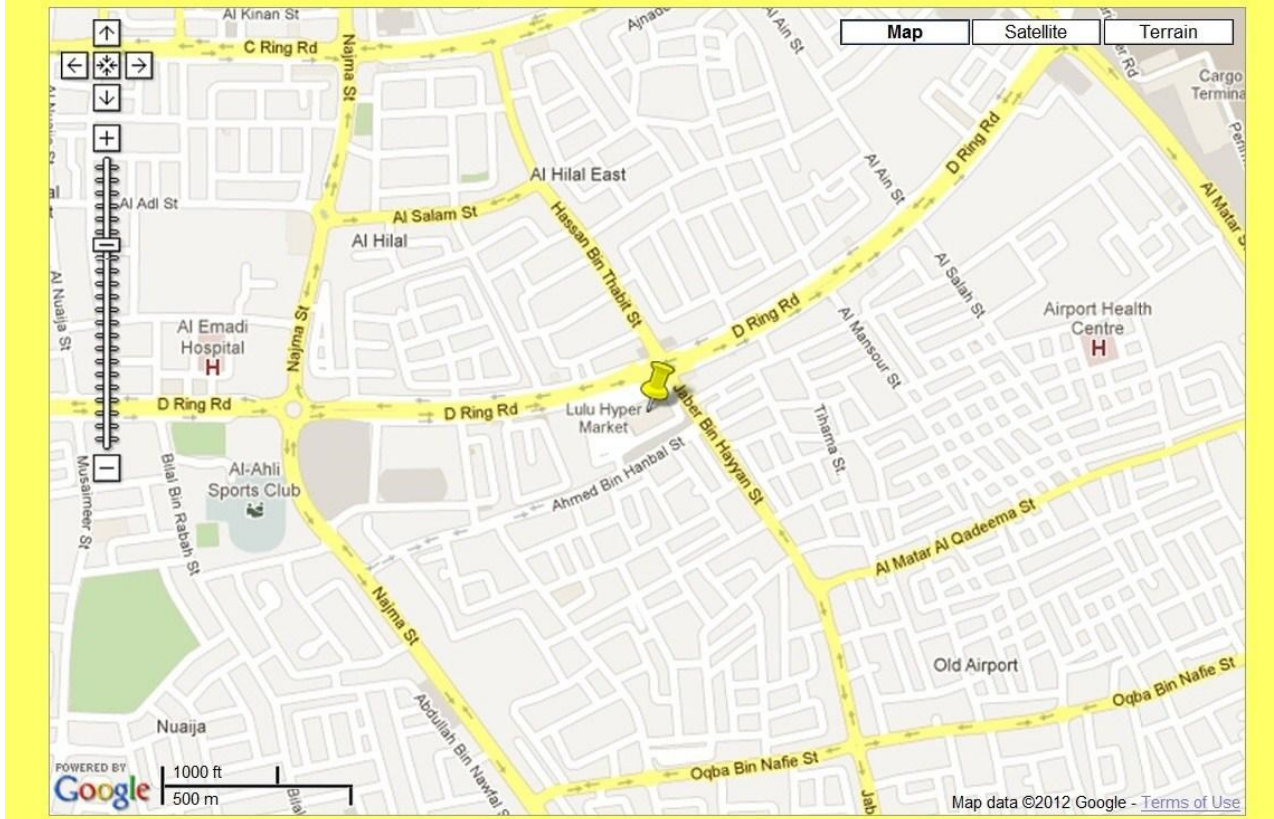
Hours of operation: Sat-Thu 8am-11.45pm; Fri 9am-10.30am, 12.30pm-11.45pm.

## Lulu Hypermarket

P.O.Box: 9763, Doha, Qatar  
+974 4466-7780

### Physical Address

D-Ring Road, Old Airport  
Doha, Qatar



### Geant Store

Geant's flagship Doha store is in Hyatt Plaza next to the Villaggio Mall. The store is two levels. The top offering a range of household goods and electronics, a large toy section and a shop that sells DVDs for reasonable prices. Downstairs there are clothes, household goods, a small garden and outdoors section, a bakery and fish counter as well as a produce section. You will also find an aisle dedicated to U.S. imports. Hours of operation: Sat-Thu 10 am– 10 pm; Fri 2 pm-10 pm

Physical Address: Hyatt Plaza, Al Waab St, Ar Rayyan

## SOCIAL

Doha is often called the melting-pot of the Arabic world due to its diverse population. The city holds all the major benefits of an urban American city such as theater, restaurants, athletic and social groups, volunteer opportunities, and sports events.

### QATAR HAPPENING

[www.qatarhappening.com](http://www.qatarhappening.com)

QH provides you with timely, up-to-the minute entertainment, arts and culture, sports and restaurant news. It is the online companion to the popular Qatar Happening Magazine.

### TIME OUT: DOHA

<http://www.timeoutdoha.com/>

A monthly periodical which showcases the best restaurants, films, things to do and places to see in Doha.

## AMERICAN SCHOOL OF DOHA

American School of Doha (ASD) hosts the majority of American children in Doha from Pre-K to 12th Grade. CAS is active engaged in assisting their Cub and Boy Scout program, T-Ball, Soft-ball, and Baseball programs as well as Soccer, Ice-Hockey, and other sports.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Here are some of the popular groups you will find in Doha.

American Women's Association (AWA) of Qatar

AWA meets monthly to share experiences, make acquaintances, provide a resource for those new to Qatar and learn more about local culture. Membership is open to any woman resident of Qatar who is a citizen of the U.S. or whose spouse is a citizen of the Americas. More information can be found at <http://awaqatar.com>.

### **Doha Bay Running**

This is a group of mainly European expatriates who meet socially and for distance running and swimming. Go to [www.dohabayrunningclub.com](http://www.dohabayrunningclub.com).

### **Doha Garden Club.**

The club promotes good gardening practices through the correct usage of appropriate plants and plant materials sensitive to the local environment. Go to [www.dohagardenclub.com](http://www.dohagardenclub.com).

### **Doha Expat Mums And Kids**

Formed in November 2008, Doha Mums (formerly Doha Expat Mums and Kids) is a community of over 1,400 passionate mothers who come together to celebrate all things family. Go to [www.dohamums.com](http://www.dohamums.com).

### **Qatar Professional Women's Network**

An informal networking group for Qatari and expatriate professional women. Open to any woman regardless of nationality, profession, age, or educational background. Women who are currently not working outside the home and want to maintain their professional network and skills are also welcome. Go to [www.qpwn.org](http://www.qpwn.org) or email [info@qpwn.org](mailto:info@qpwn.org).

### **Tuesday Ladies Group (TLG)**

Formed in February 1976 as the British Ladies Coffee morning. TLG has become an international ladies group with over 40 nationalities represented. The group welcomes those new to Doha, shares information and advice about living here, provides activities to join, and supports each other during your time in Qatar. Go to [www.tlgdoha.com](http://www.tlgdoha.com).

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Here is just a small sampling of the many activities in Doha for families with children:

Aspire Play Park - Doha's largest park with a lake, jogging track, and shaded areas  
[www.aspirezone.qa](http://www.aspirezone.qa)

Circusland - features a large play area with carousels, arcade games, a soft play area, rides [www.landmarkdoha.com](http://www.landmarkdoha.com) / 4487-6111

Gondolania - located in Villaggio Mall, indoor ice skating rink, gondola boat ride, roller coaster, kiddie rides, and more [www.gondolania.com](http://www.gondolania.com) / 4403 9800

Jungle Zone - located in Hyatt Plaza, jungle-themed activities for kids [www.hyattplaza.com](http://www.hyattplaza.com) / 4499-9699

Ray's Reef - a small play area for younger children and babies at the Royal Plaza mall [www.royalplazadoha.com](http://www.royalplazadoha.com) / 4413-0000

Bounce - The biggest trampoline in the Middle East Tawar Mall 2nd floor/ 4408-6500.

KidZania - an interactive city made for children ages 4-14. KidZania blends learning and reality with entertainment. Qatar Mall/ 4488-1071.

## **SITE SEEING**

### **MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ART**

The Museum of Islamic Art boasts a collection of works gathered since the late 1980s, including manuscripts, textiles and ceramics. It is one of the world's most complete collections of Islamic artifacts, with items originating in Spain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, India, and Central Asia.

Location: Al Corniche

Hours: Sat - Mon, Weds, and Thurs from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Museum is closed on Tuesdays, December 25 and the first day of Eid.

Admission: There is no charge for admission to the Museum, or to the first Temporary Exhibition. A charge will be made for future Temporary Exhibitions.

### **THE CORNICHE**

Still the top destination to have a walk, Doha's famous. 8 km-long Corniche offers panoramic view of the capital. Overshadowed by palm trees, this promenade is well appreciated as night, when the lights of Doha's skyline reflect across Doha Bay, from the Museum of Islamic Art to the business district of West Bay.

The landscaped waterfront provides paved and grassed areas that are popular with walkers, joggers and picnickers. Several hotels, government ministries and the Emir's working palace are located along the route, and opposite the Diwan, traditional wooden boats are anchored in the fishing harbor. At the harbor's entrance is an attractive fountain in the shape of a pearl oyster, a reminder of Qatar's pearling heritage. Also accessed from the Corniche are the Museum of Islamic Art, Souq Waqif, the main souq areas, Al Rumeila Park, and the Qatar National Museum.

There are numerous benches dotted along the Corniche, and the sea wall is also a convenient height to sit on. The paved areas are wheelchair-friendly. Car parking is available along the entire length of the Corniche, and the park close to the Sheraton Doha Hotel and Resort has restrooms and a small cafeteria.



This park is one of several in which the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning and ICT Qatar introduced free Wi-Fi access in 2007 as part of its 'iPark' initiative. Powerboat championships and sailing regattas are held in Doha Bay and the Corniche is the ideal place to view firework displays on festive occasions.  
Location: West Bay Business District

### **SOUQ WAQIF**

This is the place to look for the national Qatari dress, including beautifully embroidered hijabs and abayas (girl's head covering and robe/cloak), spices, perfumes and oud, an exotic incense made from agar wood. For a fun souvenir, take an empty glass jar and ask the spice traders to fill it with layers of colorful cumin, fenugreek, turmeric and ginger. If you get tired wandering round the antique shops or wondering what the newly built caravansary will be used for, then rest up at one of the many cafes with a mint tea and watch the world go by. There are dozens of restaurants serving cuisines from all over the world, as well as Shisha lounges. Location: Between Musherib and Al Rayyab Rd Phone: Hours: Sun - Mon 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. until midnight.

### **KATARA CULTURAL VILLAGE**

Katara was born out of a long held vision to position the State of Qatar as a cultural beacon, a lighthouse of art, radiating in the Middle East through theatre, literature, music, visual art, conventions and exhibitions. Katara showcases not only Qatar's culture, but diverse cultures from different countries of the world as well. It resembles the simplicity and sentiments of the past and gives you a glimpse of what's in-store for the future. Location: Between Doha's West Bay and the Pearl, near the Intercontinental Hotel, Hours: Sunday- Monday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### **ARABIAN ADVENTURES/ARABIAN NIGHTS**

4436 1461

Private tours are half-day desert safari, full day desert safari and overnight desert safari and all tours are custom designed to your timeframe, needs and budget. Desert safari is undertaken in an adequately equipped 4-WD vehicles by equally talented Qatari guides. Our camps are equipped with Bedouin style tents, carpeted with traditional seating, separate wash room/toilet for ladies and gents.

Time: 9:00am-1:00pm 'or' 2:00pm-6:00pm

\*Please call to make a reservation

### **PERSONAL SECURITY**

Due to their desire for cultural and economic progress, the State of Qatar takes great steps to ensure the safety of westerners and mitigate the regional threat of Islamic extremists. As such, the country boasts an extremely low crime rate. Although there is a history of safety, residents should remain aware that they are in a dangerous region and be vigilant to potential threats. Always remember common sense and situational awareness.

Develop a contingency plan while traveling such as:

- a. What actions you will take if you feel threatened or a hostile action occurs?
- b. What are your rally points if/when separated?
- c. Communicate the rally point prior to traveling.

- d. Know where you are parked and how to get to your vehicle at all times.
- e. Know the nearest two exits in the event of a fire.

#### Countering Threats:

- a. If you are alone, you are always more vulnerable to any adversary. Traveling alone is not recommended.
- b. If approached and asked suspicious questions, be prepared with what you are going to say. Do not answer personal questions or questions relating to DOD.
- c. If you witness or are a part of suspicious activity, report it immediately.
- d. If a vehicle is unattended for any amount of time, a quick search is recommended.
- e. Walk around exterior of vehicle. Look for obvious signs of tampering. Look inside of the vehicle through windows prior to opening doors.
- f. If at any point you find something suspicious, stop your search (remember you are not the expert), move away from the immediate area, and call an emergency contact that is preprogrammed in your phone.

## **CULTURAL ETIQUETTE**

### **“LADIES ONLY”**

There are many “ladies only” places. The gyms often have “ladies only” times, restaurants have “family sections” (men are allowed in only when with their families), and many businesses will have ladies divisions. Some of the malls have “families only” nights.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY RESTRICTONS**

Do not take pictures of Qataris without permission. It is forbidden to take pictures of government buildings, airports, mosques, and accident/incident scenes. You can be arrested for it. You are discouraged from carrying cameras in the malls. Carrefour will ask you to check your camera at the security desk if they see you carrying one.

## **DRESS AND APPEARANCE**

It is offensive to many Gulf Arabs for men in public to wear shorts or sleeveless vests without a shirt. This applies especially to shopping in supermarkets. Though it is not illegal for non-Qataris to wear Qatari national dress in the country, it is not advisable due to potential cultural sensitivity issues by some locals.

Muslim women usually wear long and loose clothing, sometimes covering their head and face, as part of their religious and cultural beliefs. Although western women are not expected to dress likewise, women traveling in Muslim countries should dress conservatively as a mark of respect for the host country’s religion and traditions. As a guideline, your legs and arms should be covered with loose, non-hugging clothing e.g. trousers, long skirts, long sleeved t-shirts or shirts especially when visiting non-Western areas. If you are staying in a large hotel with many westerners it will acceptable to wear your ordinary clothes, and you’ll be able to swim in a swimming costume (preferably not a bikini) around the pool. Rules are often more rigid in mosques and holy places. You will not be allowed to enter if you are not dressed appropriately. Out of respect, please do not use the Abaya unless it’s part of your religious or cultural identity at home.

## **PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION**

Any intimacy in public places between men and women (including teenagers) is prohibited and could result in legal ramifications.

### **ALCOHOL**

Those living on-post may consume three drinks at the Top Off or Oasis clubs on post in a 24-hour period. They may not consume, transport, or purchase alcohol off-post.

### **PORK**

There is one store off-base in Doha where you can purchase alcohol and pork: the Qatar Distribution Center (commonly referred to as the QDC). You can purchase a license to do so, after obtaining a residency permit. There are limits on how much you can buy each month, and a membership fee is required. You will also need a salary verification form which is processed through HNCC. Remember: do not send alcohol or pork products in the mail, do not ship it in your household goods, and do not try to bring it in your suitcases.

## **EDUCATION**

There is no Department of Defense Dependent School in Qatar, so all school age children attend local private schools in the area or are home schooled. Both options are funded by the Department of Defense Educational Activity (DoDEA).

### **PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

You will find that many private schools in Qatar provide a quality of education that is on par with or exceeds many U.S. schools. However, many have waiting lists and one of the biggest challenges parents face is securing admission to their school of choice.

You should research schools that interest you as soon as you know you are coming to Qatar, and apply for enrollment as soon as you are approved for the Non-DoD School Program (NDSP). Once accepted for CSP, the School Liaison Officer on base will contact you with a list of schools attended by students from Al Udeid. They will help answer any specific questions and walk you through the application process for each individual school. Each school has specific registration requirements that must be completed prior to enrollment, some of which you may be able to accomplish prior to arriving in Qatar.

To find out more about schools, contact the Al Udeid School Liaison Officer, at the Airman and Family Readiness Center, at 379efss.arc@auab.afcent.af.mil or call DSN: 318-437-8001

### **HOME SCHOOLING/VIRTUAL LEARNING**

The home schooling community in Doha is well-established. If this is a more viable option for you, you may find the Doha Home Educators website especially useful:  
<http://dohahomeeducators.wordpress.com/>

DoDEA also offers its fully-accredited "DoDEA Virtual High School" (DVHS) to expand access to education and provide curricular options similar to programs delivered within DoDEA schools.

Currently, DVHS is only for students in grades 9 through 12. Nevertheless, with over 44 courses available, and more to be added in the future, the online courses in DVHS have the same level of rigor and adhere to the same standards of the traditional DoDEA curriculum. DVHS courses are customized, standards based courses specifically designed to meet DoDEA's graduation requirements of 26 credits for a standard or honors diploma.

Children who meet the eligibility for the Non-DoD School Program NDSP are eligible to attend DVHS. More information on the DVHS program can be found here:  
<http://www.dodea.edu/virtualhs/DV/HS/dvhs/>

### **PAYING FOR EDUCATION**

At overseas/international locations where there is not a Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) school, NDSP supports a variety of options for your children, ranging from public or private schools to home school programs. We encourage you to contact the NDSP Liaison responsible for your area of assignment as soon as possible for specific school information. Your receiving command can provide contact information for the NDSP

Liaison. Additionally, NDSP has a team of education specialists who are available to provide transition and educational support and coordination for all students, including those with special needs. For more information, please contact the School Liaison Officer or visit the NDSP website at: <http://www.dodea.edu/nonDoD/>

## **NURSERIES AND PRE-SCHOOLS**

There are no Child and Youth Programs or Child Development Center on Al Udeid AB, or other on-base options for childcare like you would find at overseas bases. However, there are off-base nurseries and pre-schools, as well as mother and baby groups in Doha that are a good resource for childcare.

Most nurseries and pre-schools in Doha are not just a “day care” institution, but follow formal international curricula designed to facilitate educational and social development of children. They are open five days per week, but some will allow you to enroll children for fewer days. Rates depend on the age of the child and how often they attend. A typical estimate is QR 2,000 (\$55)/ per month for a 2-year-old child attending 5 days per week. (NOTE: DoDEA will not fund nursery, pre-school, or pre-K education.)

A recent Qatari Educational Council ruling set the nursery age limit at four, at which time a child must be in a pre-K program, not a nursery.

Playgroups are also popular in Doha and typically meet in homes, housing compound clubhouses or public parks. An excellent resource for information on nurseries, pre-schools, and playgroups used by expatriates in Doha is [www.dohamums.com](http://www.dohamums.com).

## **COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

For families with college-aged dependents, there are several internationally renowned universities with branches in Qatar, to include Texas A&M, Carnegie Mellon, Northwestern, and Georgetown. They offer a wide range of degrees with both full- and part-time studies available.

Camp As Sayliyah and Al Udeid both offer on-base degree programs to both military members and their dependents. College classes are offered by central Texas College and the University of Maryland’s University College- Europe. For more information, you can contact the CAS Education Office at DSN 432-2774

## COMMUNICATIONS INFORMATION

To call a CAS DSN line from a commercial line outside of Qatar, dial 011-974-4460-9869, wait for the dial tone, then dial the seven digit DSN number. To call from within Qatar, dial 4460-9869.

To call an AI Udeid AB DSN line from a commercial line outside of Qatar, dial 011-974-4458-9555, wait for the dial tone, then dial the seven digit DSN number. To call from within Qatar, dial 4458-9555.

## CELL PHONES

A cell phone is vital here! You can get a local phone or see if your phone company will unlock your phone for use here.

### International Calls

Qatar has direct dialing with more than 215 countries. For international calls dial 00+country code + required number.

### Calling Qatar from Abroad

To call Qatar from abroad dial 011-974 + the required number. For additional information, visit: <http://www.ooredoo.qa>

### Calling within Qatar

To call within Qatar dial the number without adding extra numbers for calls outside Doha or calls made to mobile phones. Telephone numbers consist of 8 digits. Fixed telephones (landlines) start with digits (44), mobile phones start with digit (55 -66-33-77).

### Calling CAS from Commercial or Cell Phones

To call CAS, Dial 4460-9869; input the seven digit DSN number followed by the pound sign.

## MAIL

Letters generally arrive in 7-10 work days and priority packages arrive in roughly two weeks. Contraband material (e.g. pornography, weapons, alcohol) must not be mailed to military forces in the U.S. CENTCOM Area of Responsibility. Doing so violates U.S. CENTCOM and U.S. Postal Service policies regarding non-mail able items. For the full list of contraband material, please see "Restricted Items."

### Sample Address to ship to CAS:

Name (Full: First, MI, Last) – DO NOT USE RANK  
ASG-QA  
Box 500  
APO AE 09898

## RED CROSS NOTIFICATION

When a military family experiences a crisis, the American Red Cross is there to assist by providing emergency communications 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Red Cross relays urgent messages containing accurate, factual, complete and verified descriptions of the emergency to service members stationed anywhere in the world. Red Cross

emergency communications services keep military personnel in touch with their families following the death or serious illness of an immediate family member, the birth of a service member's child or grandchild or when a family experiences other emergencies.

No matter where a military member and their family are stationed, they can rest assured the Red Cross will deliver their notifications in times of crisis. Even if the service member receives notification of an emergency through an e-mail or a phone call, Red Cross-verified information assists commanding officers in making a decision regarding emergency leave. Without this verification, the service member may not be able to come home during a family emergency.

If you need to contact the Red Cross, please call (877) 272-7337 and be prepared to provide the service member's full name, rank/rating, branch of service, social security number, date of birth, and military address.

## POINTS OF CONTACT AND USEFUL NUMBERS

Area Support Group Staff Duty / Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC)	DSN: 318-432-2348/3027 Cell: 011-974-5530-5583 Bldg. 101
Directorate of Human Resources (S1)	DSN: 318-432-2339/2240/6863/6547 Cell: 011-974-5037-6471/5036-6485 Bldg. 111
Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) and Family Readiness Group	DSN: 318-432-6356/6355/6357 Cell: 011-974-5038-4891 Bldg. 112
Host Nation Civil Military Operations office (S9)	DSN: 318-432-2413/2490/2683 Cell: 011-974-5588-9345/3352-2190/ Bldg. 102 Room 4
Housing	DSN: 318-432-2382 Cell: 011-974-5581-2549 Bldg. 106A (near the small gym)
Troop Medical Clinic (TMC)	DSN 318-432-3508/3524/3506/2255 Cell: 011-974-5041-5997 Bldg. 300
Chapel	DSN: 318-432-4338/2198 Cell: 011-974-5036-3767/5039-2738 Bldg. 126 (CAC)
Transportation	DSN: 318-432-2849/2490/2331 Cell: 011-974-3367-7886 Bldg. 110
MWR	DSN: 318-432-3033/3497/3049 Cell: 011-974- 5586-7850/5586-3529 Bldg. 109
Provost Marshall Office (PMO)	DSN: 318-432- 3674/6730/2346/6794 Cell: 011-974-5037-1263/5036-3764 Bldg. 200A