



JOINT TASK FORCE-BRAVO WELCOME GUIDE



SOTO CANO AIR BASE, HONDURAS



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT TASK FORCE-BRAVO
SOTO CANO AIR BASE, HONDURAS
APO AA 34042-5000

Dear Service Member,

Congratulations on your assignment to Joint Task Force-Bravo at Soto Cano Air Base in Honduras. You are joining the U.S. military's longest task force, which has a history spanning more than 40 years. JTF-Bravo is a subordinate command of U.S. Southern Command, responsible for a Joint Operations Area that encompasses seven Central American countries. JTF-Bravo is a joint organization composed of more than 700 U.S. Department of Defense personnel and more than 700 U.S. and Honduran civilians who serve across several different units, including the Army Forces Battalion, 612th Air Base Squadron, and the exceptional 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment.

JTF-Bravo reports directly to USSOUTHCOM's Commander, focused on strengthening partnerships, countering threats, and building our teams through various exercises and operations throughout the year with our partner nations. You will get several opportunities to work side-by-side with our Central, Caribbean, or South American partners. Ensure you procure an official or personnel passport before your deployment to make sure you are ready to support missions to these countries.

JTF-Bravo is a disciplined organization built on good communication, accountability, and preparation. These are qualities you should strive for in service at JTF-Bravo. This assignment will prove to be both challenging and rewarding, as we work in a complex environment with a high operations tempo. Although it is an unaccompanied tour, you will have many opportunities for leave or a pass to enjoy this region with your family or experience our host nation's culture.

Please review our essential Welcome Guide to prepare you for coming into this country and to what to expect at Soto Cano. Like any overseas deployment, there are details you need to know for a smooth transition. Our Welcome Guide contains expansive information about the base's facilities, the unit you may be assigned to, administrative details, and a brief history of JTF-Bravo. Don't hesitate to reach out to your sponsor and ask questions about your upcoming deployment. We look forward to having you as a valued member of our joint team.

Welcome to Joint Task Force-Bravo – "Progress through unity!"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald R. Harris".

Donald R. Harris
CSM, U.S. Army
Command Sergeant Major

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel C. Alder".

Daniel C. Alder
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I

A History of Progress Through Unity	Page 4
Joint Task Force Bravo	Page 5
JTF-Bravo's Major Subordinate Commands	Page 6
Garrison Command	Page 8
Living Quarters	Page 9

SECTION II

Prior to Arrival	Page 10
------------------	---------

SECTION III

In-processing	Page 13
Life at Soto Cano	Page 14
Services on Base	Page 17
Chapel Services & Opportunities	Page 21

SECTION IV

About Honduras	Page 22
U.S. Embassy Consular Services	Page 24
Contact Information & Social Media	Page 25

*The inclusion of company names or products in this document does not imply endorsement by the U.S. government.

A History of Progress Through Unity

U.S. and Honduran forces conducted combined training exercises as early as 1965. In 1983, the Honduran government requested an increase in the size and number of those exercises.

Joint Task Force-Bravo was established in August 1983 to exercise command and control of U.S. forces and exercises in the Republic of Honduras. It is a subordinate command of U.S. Southern Command. Before being designated JTF-Bravo in 1983, this task force was known as JTF-11 and then later as JTF-Alpha.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- **1982:** Palmerola Air Base is constructed.
- **1983:** JTF-11 is established and later re-designated JTF-Alpha.
- **1984:** JTF-Alpha is re-designated as JTF-Bravo with the added mission to deter Nicaraguan aggression (2000+ personnel).
- **1992-1994:** Bilateral humanitarian and civil assistance operations. Transitional period (1,130 personnel).
- **1995:** Downsizing/reorganization (710 personnel).
- **1996:** Revised OPOD Central Champs (684 personnel).
- **1997:** Commander-in-Chief's Theater Engagement plan issued, calling for Soto Cano to serve as strategic gateway to theater.
- **1998:** JTF-Bravo provides disaster relief assistance in Honduras after Hurricane Mitch.
- **1999:** 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment assigned as tenant unit from Panama.
- **2000:** 612th Air Base Squadron activated.
- **2002:** JTF-Bravo's mission revised to include joint and interagency operations.
- **2007:** JTF-Bravo dispatches medical team to Peru in response to a severe earthquake.
- **2010:** JTF-Bravo supports operation Unified Response in Haiti.
- **2014:** JTF-Bravo provides repatriation flights and aid to regions in Honduras following Tropical Storm Hannah.
- **2016:** JTF-Bravo provides support fighting wild-fires in Tela, Honduras, and the Darién Province, Panama.
- **2016:** JTF-Bravo provides assistance and humanitarian aid to Haiti following Hurricane Matthew.
- **2017:** JTF-Bravo provides support in combating large forest fires in Honduras.
- **2018:** JTF-Bravo provides hurricane relief assistance in collaboration with USAID/OFDA as part of JTF-Leeward Islands.
- **2019:** Medical Element and Joint Security Forces Major Subordinate Commands deactivated — Medical Detachment and Security Forces created to fall under the Army Forces Battalion.
- **2020:** JTF-Bravo personnel provide assistance to Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, and Colombia after hurricanes Eta and Iota.
- **2021:** JTF-Bravo deployed ~200 personnel in support of JTF-Haiti after a 7.2 magnitude earthquake devastated the country.
- **2022:** Within 24 hours, JTF-Bravo deployed a forward C2 and fuel capabilities to Haiti. Effectively delivering over 123,000 gallons of fuel as a part of FUELED COMMITMENT.
- **2024:** U.S. humanitarian aid for Honduras tops 6 million pounds with the Denton Program and through the help of JTF-Bravo.



Soto Cano Air Base, 1980s



JOINT TASK FORCE-BRAVO

What we do:

JTF-Bravo conducts and supports joint operations, activities, and investments throughout the joint operational area, maintaining a forward presence to enhance regional security, stability, and cooperation in support of the USSOUTHCOM Commander's Campaign Plan. Further, we conduct operations that support the National Military Strategy, National Security Strategy, and U.S. strategic interests in the region.

Key Tasks

- Operate a forward operating site capable of day/night airfield operations
- Conduct foreign humanitarian assistance and disaster relief
- Support and enable component theater campaign efforts
- Support operational access and combined/multilateral exercises
- Plan and conduct operations in support of U.S. law enforcement agencies
- Facilitate the Central America Community of Interest
- Provide expeditionary capabilities

JTF-Bravo supports U.S. interests in Central America by:

- Conducting operations and activities in support of law enforcement agencies
- Developing cooperative security arrangement and confidence-building measures between neighbors that contribute to reduced regional tensions
- Meeting and coordinating with ambassadors, country teams, military group commanders, senior defense officials and defense attachés
- Exercising combined forces; JTF-Bravo typically participates in three to five large exercises annually that are directed by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Our Motto: *"Progress Through Unity"*

Our Mission:

JTF-Bravo conducts and supports SOUTHCOM operations, activities and investments across all domains, in support of U.S. Government agencies and partner nations in the region, in order to enhance regional security and defend the U.S. homeland and national interests. On order, JTF-Bravo will deploy for crisis response as directed by the SOUTHCOM Commander.

Our Vision:

A team of teams that provides agile response options and persistent trusted partnership for the SOUTHCOM CDR across the region. We achieve that vision by taking care of the mission, taking care of each other, and taking care of ourselves. We demonstrate agility through our response to crisis and persistent presence through our civ-mil operations, aviation support, 612th regional engagement, security, and medical missions.

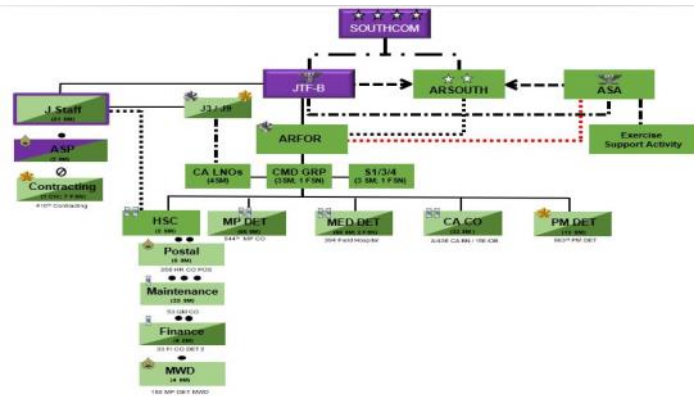
Who we are:

Located at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, JTF-Bravo outcompetes adversaries; organizes multilateral exercises in cooperation with partner nations and U.S. agencies; counters transnational organized crime, provides humanitarian assistance/disaster relief, and promotes regional cooperation and security in Central America.

JTF-Bravo's Major Subordinate Commands

Joint Staff

The staff provides command and control, staff assistance, operational, logistical, and administrative support for forces deployed in the geographic area in support of U.S. Southern Command-directed operations. The staff includes Manpower & Personnel (J1), Intelligence (J2), Operations (J3), Logistics (J4), Strategy, Policy, & Plans (J5), Communications (J6), Engineers (J7), Resource and Budget (J8), Civil Military Operations (J9), as well as Protocol, Judge Advocate, Provost Marshall, Surgeon, Chaplain, and Public Affairs.



Army Forces Battalion (ARFOR)



The ARFOR Battalion mission is to provide Command and Control of forces for Base Operational Support Integration services, Joint-Reception, Staging, onward movement, and integration to rotational forces. Additionally, the Battalion provides operational support to JTF-Bravo. The five companies that enable the mission are: Headquarters and Support Company, Military Police, Civil Affairs, Field Hospital, and Preventive Medicine. Rotational Forces include PCS, 9-month rotations and individual augmentees.

The ARFOR website can be accessed at:
<https://www.jtfb.southcom.mil/Units/Army-Forces-Battalion-ARFOR/>

Field Hospital

The ARFOR Field Hospital consists of U.S. Soldiers and civilians, along with Honduran professionals working together to provide a wide range of healthcare services to U.S. troops stationed at Soto Cano Air Base. The clinic provides routine clinical care/sick-call, emergency medical care, dental services, pharmacy, patient administration, laboratory, veterinarian care for military working dogs, preventive medicine, radiology, behavioral health services, and physical therapy.

The clinic also offers on-call services after hours and facilitates TRICARE referrals to Tegucigalpa for services not provided on base.

All service lines are on-call 24/7, 365 days per year, with services available for emergencies outside normal duty hours. The medical team also engages in medical readiness training exercises and surgical missions, working with our partners throughout Central America.

Sick Call Hours

0730-0900, M-F (Ancillary services available)

Clinic Hours

24/7

Pharmacy, Lab, & Dental

0800-1600 M, T, W, F, & 1300-1600 Th

Front Desk (24/7): DSN 322-684-4724

Civil Affairs Company

The ARFOR Civil Affairs Company is made up of five teams located throughout the Central American region that work in communities on-the-ground to illuminate and mitigate vulnerabilities within the populace and build partner nation capacity for humanitarian civic assistance response.



Military Police

The ARFOR Military Police conduct installation security, force protection and security support for personnel recovery, search and rescue, counter transnational organized crime, disaster response, noncombatant evacuation order, and humanitarian/civic assistance in support of JTF-Bravo operations and U.S. Southern Command operations throughout Central America. Their mission capabilities also include military working dogs and handlers who are used on-base for narcotics and explosive detection, as well as patrol. The unit actively participates in subject-matter expert exchanges with forces in Central America to enhance partner nation capacity.

1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment (1-228 AVN) - Winged Warriors

The 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment's (Winged Warriors) mission is to conduct general support aviation operations supporting JTF-Bravo with UH-60L Black Hawks, CH-47F Chinooks, and MEDEVAC HH-60L helicopters. As the only forward deployed aviation asset in SOUTHCOM, the 1-228 AVN is critical to the execution of the nation's strategic initiatives and objectives. With rapid-deployment capabilities, the 1-228 AVN is mission-ready alongside Joint and Partner Nations to execute and sustain a broad range of operations, including Counter-Narcotics, CTOC (Countering Transnational Organized Crime), HA/DR (Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief),



DLOs (Deck Landing Operations), NEO (Noncombatant Evacuation Operations), Air Movements to austere and secluded locations, CASEVAC (Casualty Evacuation), and SAR (Search and Rescue), in any complex terrain, maritime setting, and disaster-stricken zones.

The 1-228 AVN RGT website can be access at: <https://www.jtfb.southcom.mil/Units/1-228th-Aviation-Regiment/>

612th Air Base Squadron (612th ABS)

The 612th Air Base Squadron provides essential airfield services to maintain Soto Cano Air Base as a strategic, C-5M Super Galaxy capable airfield in Central America. The squadron directly supports the 1-228 AVN and JTF-Bravo, the Honduran Air Force, transient aircraft operations, and other deployed aviation units. The squadron is organized into four flights, with expertise spanning air traffic control, meteorology, airfield and radar system maintenance, transient aircraft services, fuels delivery, vehicle maintenance, airfield rescue and firefighting, base civil engineer support, supply, airfield management, small air terminal, contracting, finance, supply, logistics, vehicle repair, and aerospace ground equipment.

The 612th ABS website can be found at: <https://www.jtfb.southcom.mil/Units/612th-Air-Base-Squadron/>

GARRISON COMMAND



Army Support Activity

Army Support Activity (ASA) is Southern Command's only Forward Operating Site located in Central and South America. ASA was established in 2008 to manage and provide base operations support to tenant units, organizations, and activities operating on and from Soto Cano Air Base.

ASA Soto Cano manages the garrison and installation activities and services in direct support of the Commanding General, U.S. Army Southern Command. The ASA commander serves as the SOUTHCOM Senior Responsible Officer on Soto Cano AB to enable readiness and mission execution, while providing quality services and facilities, optimizing resources, sustaining the environment, and enhancing the wellbeing of the entire Soto Cano AB community.

Mission: ASA Soto Cano simultaneously integrates installation operations and delivers base operations support in order to enable tenant organizations to conduct operations, activities, and investments within the USSOUTHCOM area of responsibility.

ASA-Soto Cano's higher headquarters is U.S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM). IMCOM is the Army's Home — maintaining facilities and services so that warfighting commanders can focus on their mission.

ASA also manages the Soto Cano AB Dining Facility, the Education Center, and the Base/Post Exchange facility. Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs are also available (see page 20 for more information).

Living Quarters for Soto Cano Service Members

Furnished government quarters are provided for military and DOD civilians on orders to Soto Cano AB. Lodging consists of temporary quarters, barracks, and quads for all personnel based on rank and availability. All rooms except temporary lodging have running water indoors.

E-1 to E-6: Alpha and Bravo barracks with their own small room with shared bath.

E-7 and E-8: Large room with private bath.

WO1, CW2, O-1 to O-3: In 12-plex, with large room and private bath.

1SG, E-9, CW3 to CW5, O-3 commander/flight commander, O-4 and above: In "Red Roof" quad with large room and private bath (kitchen when available).

Due to ongoing refurbishment and construction, **all** personnel may be required to live in temporary/transient quarters for a portion of their tour at Soto Cano. Temporary quarters have central bathrooms located outside.

Civilians without meal card authorization will be afforded a quad with kitchenette based on availability and if there are no other military members waiting on the same room.

LIVING QUARTERS

Transient housing (all ranks)



12-plex (W01, CW2, O-1 to O-3)



Small room (E-1 to E-6)



Red Roof quad (1SG, E-9, CW3 to CW5, O-3 commander, O-4 and above)

Large room (E-7 and E-8)



SECTION II

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

Requirements and Preparations

Unaccompanied Tour

Personnel at Soto Cano AB serve unaccompanied, non-command sponsored tours. However, there are policies that allow your loved ones to visit. Please refer to page 16 for more information.

Passport and Clearances

Though the Foreign Clearance Guidance states Honduras does not require an official passport to enter the country, **per the USSOUTHCOM reporting instructions official no-fee passports are required for all personnel** who PCS or TDY for 30 days or more. Due to the various missions within Central America, once again, **official no-fee passports are required**. Personnel should obtain an official passport **before** traveling with-in theater. Requesting a new or renewing an expiring passport in-theater can take up to three months or longer.

Personnel traveling to Honduras in TDY status for 29 days or less may enter the country with a valid identification card and travel orders in accordance with the Foreign Clearance Guide. Please see: <https://apacs.milcloud.mil/fcg/loginForm.cfm>

All personnel will initiate a passport (*check for service specific requirements based on PCS, TDY, or deployment status*) upon assignment notification. The Honduran Government, through coordination with the JTF-Bravo liaison at the U.S. Embassy, will allow personnel to enter the country for up to 90 days if the passport is delayed. Contact JTF-Bravo J1 for assistance with passport issues (see *directorate*). Additionally, all personnel need to obtain theater and country clearances through the Aircraft and Personnel Automated Clearance System (APACS) prior to arrival (see SOUTHCOM and service-specific Reporting Instructions for additional information).

Medical Records and Screening

The DD Form 2766, Deployment Health Record, and Dental Records are required to in-process. Service members are required to be fully deployable with a current HIV test, tuberculin skin test, PHA, hearing test, vision screening, and dental exam. Screening should be in accordance with USSOUTHCOM regulation 40-501, DOD ASD (HA) memo, and DOD USD (P&R) Instruction 6490.07

Immunizations

The following immunizations must be valid for the duration of assignment and received prior to arrival on station: annual Influenza, hepatitis A (two shot series with the second shot six months after the first), hepatitis B (required for medical personnel, recommended for non-medical), MMR, polio, tetanus/diphtheria, typhoid, and Yellow Fever. Negative HIV results must be recorded within three to six months of assignment, but this is dependent on your particular tasking — check with your sponsor. You must also have recorded results of the purified protein derivative (PPD) tests for tuberculosis. Personnel must have vaccination record in-hand (digital version is fine) for arrival to station, **including a separate Yellow Fever shot record**.

Medications

All personnel take anti-malaria medication while at Soto Cano AB and should arrive with a sufficient supply to cover their entire length of stay, plus an additional 42 days. Pay attention to the directions for the particular anti-malaria medicine you are prescribed, as most require you to begin taking them prior to arrival. Personnel should bring enough medication for the entire length of tour. You can enroll in the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy at: <https://militaryrx.express-scripts.com/>



Flight Status Personnel

Bring a copy of your current DA Form 4186 (up-slip). Ensure you have a current completed flight physical in AERO with your flight surgeon before departing for Honduras. Any needed waivers must be completed prior to your departure as medical resources are limited and may require you to return to CONUS permanently if not completed.

Administrative Requirements

- Official Passport (mandatory)
- Yellow Fever shot record (yellow card)
- SIPR token
- Theater and Country Clearance (APACS)
- Isolated Personnel Report (ISOPREP)
(Note: Must be current within 6 months. This will be verified by Personnel Recovery Coordination Cell upon arrival).
- Immunization Record (digital, with exception of physical Yellow Fever card).
- Government Travel Card
- SGLI Option Form (digital)
- Record of Emergency Data (digital)
- ID card (CAC)
- ID tags (2 sets)
- 10 copies of orders
- Digital copies of last performance evaluation, Weapons Qualification Scorecard, Physical Fitness Test Scorecard
- Copy of Defensive Driving Certificate (if job requires it)
- Valid driver's license (DL must be current to drive off post. Members with an expired DL accompanied by a Military Expiration Endorsement from their issuing state can only drive on post).
- DTS Account
- Human Rights Certificate
- Anti-terrorism Level 1 Certificate
- SERE 100

NOTE: There are some requirements that are based on PCS, TDY, or deployment status. Please refer to your gaining unit and sponsor for any additional requirements.

Medical Personnel

Doctors, dentists, physicians assistants, and nurse anesthetists need to send a copy of their transfer brief, delineation of privileges, current license, MD/DO/DDS/PA/RN/CRNA diploma and any special diplomas to the JTF-Bravo Surgeon Cell Credentials Coordinator, Ms. Juana Torres, juana.e.torres.fn@mail.mil, no later than 60 days prior to arrival. The Honduran Ministry of Health requires these documents to grant provider privileges. If you have questions, contact DSN 684-4165 or 684-4376.

Suggested Reading

Contact your sponsor for a list of pertinent directives and/or regulations related to your assigned duties. At a minimum, personnel should be familiar with Joint Publication 3-33, *Joint Task Force Headquarters*, to understand the guidance governing day-to-day operations of JTF-Bravo and its contributive directorates, staff agencies, and units. You can read The History of JTF-Bravo at: <https://www.jtfb.southcom.mil/Portals/14/documents/A%20History%20of%20JTF-Bravo.pdf>. Another good historic overview can be read in "Our Hemisphere" by Britta Crandall & Russell Crandall.



You should also bring:

- CPR/BLS/PALS/ATLS certifications
- EMT certification
- LPN license

Required Equipment:

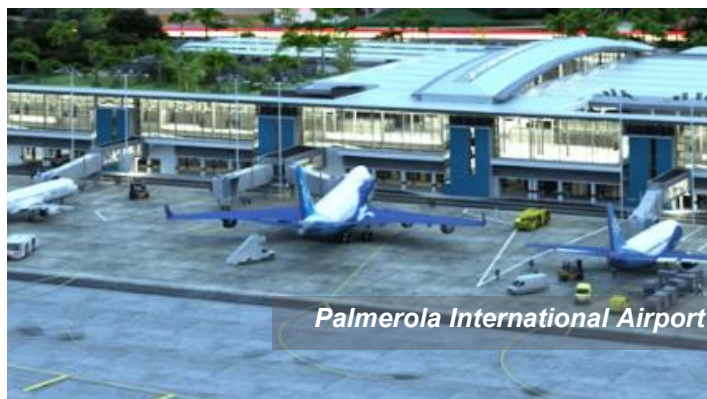
- OCP/Woodlands MARPAT (3x)
- Boonie hat and/or Patrol cap
- T-shirts and boot socks
- Class A/B with rank (PCS) / Class B with rank (TDY/Deployed)
- Physical training uniform (4x)
- Civilian clothes
- A set of business casual civilian clothes
- Personal hygiene items
- Bath towels
- Shower shoes
- Wash cloths

For job specific equipment requirements, please coordinate with your unit sponsor. Some of these items can be purchased at The Exchange on base, though uniform items can be limited in supply.

Arrival in Honduras Must-Know Information

Travel to Honduras and Excess Baggage

All personnel must travel to Honduras in civilian attire. Service members must check their orders for authorized bag and weight limitations; there may be job-specific exceptions.



Palmerola/Comayagua Intern. Airport (XPL)

Immigration form: PRIOR to landing in Honduras, fill out the “PECH” immigration form at: https://sisglobal.aduanas.gob.hn/Pech/#/plataforma/otra_gestiones/formularioDJRV

Please use your mobile device to screen capture the QR code, as this will speed up processing through customs. There is free WiFi at XPL.

Upon arrival to XPL, located in Comayagua, personnel will go through the immigration area. Use the diplomatic/official passport line if open, not the tourist line. Passports will be checked and stamped.

Proceed to the baggage claim area then through the main exit. Depending on the number of bags you have, a local may assist if you desire; their tip should be in U.S. dollars if used.

The ride from XPL to Soto Cano is about 5 minutes. For information on the Shuttle Schedule, reach out to your sponsor for specifics on when and where to meet the shuttle. **Do not use Uber.**

Security and Policies for Service Members:

When traveling off base, be mindful of your surroundings. Be on the lookout for persons following you or showing an unnatural amount of interest in your activities.

Traffic conditions are extremely hazardous and petty crime is prevalent. Polices have been put in place to protect you from these hazards, suspicious or unusual activities. Report any suspicious or unusual activity.

See page 16 for more information.

In-Processing

Service members and DOD civilians will need their military/DOD ID card to get onto Soto Cano Air Base. Your unit sponsor will meet you upon arrival and escort you to your quarters and unit.

In-processing activities are mandatory and will not be superseded for any reason. You must go to J1 first to obtain your overall base in-processing checklist. Customer service hours are 0900-1130 and 1300-1530 M-F. You will also receive an in-processing checklist from your specific unit. Please see below under "Reporting Information" concerning your unit assignments.

All personnel, regardless of rank or position, are required to attend the Newcomers' Orientation Briefing held the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 0900 at the Fellowship Chapel.

Unaccompanied Baggage & Household Goods

Incoming personnel who PCS with personal property shipments need to in-process through the Joint Personnel Property Shipping Office (JPPSO). Personnel must provide their name, building number, and phone number. This information is needed to contact members when their shipment arrives.

JPPSO will contact service members once their shipment arrives to arrange for delivery. Deliveries are usually scheduled for Fridays only.

An aerial photograph of Soto Cano Air Base, showing various buildings, runways, and surrounding greenery under a cloudy sky. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text titled "Reporting Information".

Reporting Information

For members assigned to ARFOR:
Contact the ARFOR BN S1 at DSN: 684-6216
and report with your sponsor to Building M-06.

For members assigned to the 1-228 AVN:
Contact the 1-228 S1 at DSN: 684-6471 and
report with your sponsor to Building R-32.

For members assigned to the 612th ABS:
Contact the 612th CSS at DSN: 684-6253
and report with your sponsor to Building M-01.

For members assigned to ASA or any unit not
mentioned: Contact the J1 Staff at
DSN: 684-4642 and report with your sponsor
to Building E-0059.

A JPPSO representative will be present during delivery in case questions arise. If loss or damage occurs to a shipment, members may file a claim with the legal office within 70 days of receipt of shipment. You will need all shipping documentation as well as DD Form 1840.

LIFE AT SOTO CANO

Basic Guidelines

Policy Guidelines

- Service regulations governing standards of uniform wear and appearance will be followed
- JTF-Bravo newcomers should become familiar with both JTF-Bravo and ASA Command Policy Letters upon arrival

JTF-Bravo Command Policy Letter #1 is the JTF-Bravo commander's policy that outlines expectations for individual conduct and behavior while at Soto Cano AB. You should ask your sponsor for a copy and review it first.

All events and issues within the base boundaries must adhere to ASA policy. All personnel will adhere to the ASA Commander's policies with MSC Commanders able to be more restrictive. For mission-related policy outside the installation, the JTF-Bravo Commander has the authority to enforce for mission units within the structure.

Uniform Wear

- The service fatigue (OCP/Woodlands MARPAT (3x) is the duty uniform

- For service dress, bring the following: Class A/B with rank (PCS) / Class B with rank (TDY/Deployed)
- Aviators or service members whose duties involve flight operations can wear flight suits

This policy applies to military personnel assigned to Soto Cano AB.

Civilian Clothing

- Clothing will reflect good taste and decency
- Attire with sexual or demeaning messages, logos, or drawings will not be worn
- Service members will not wear uniforms off base unless conducting official duty
- Appearance must create a favorable impression
- Men must wear shirts with sleeves off base, but collared shirts are not required
- Wear civilian clothing while traveling on civilian air in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility
- It's advisable to bring work gloves for various volunteer events and work requirements

General Guidelines

- Identification tags must be worn during missions and while flying in military aircraft
- Service members will comply with respective service regulations for jewelry, tattoos, and piercings

Prohibited Items

The purchase, possession, carrying, or concealment of privately owned firearms is prohibited. The concealment of firearms and ammunition by U.S. military and DOD civilian personnel in Honduras is forbidden unless authorized by the JTF-Bravo Commander, DOD regulations, applicable service regulations, or other federal agency regulations.

Service members are not authorized to ship privately owned weapons or ammunition to Honduras, regardless of what their orders may say.

Additionally, the possession or use of other weapons such as pellet guns, throwing stars, throwing darts, bows/crossbows, nun-chucks, blow guns, brass knuckles, etc., are prohibited. Knives with blades longer than five inches will not be carried (openly or concealed) on/off Soto Cano AB.

Privately owned vehicles are not allowed for U.S. service members.

This policy applies to military personnel assigned or attached to JTF-Bravo and those performing duties with or under the command/administrative control of the JTF-Bravo Commander.

Service members and DOD civilians are not authorized to bring or possess pets while assigned to Soto Cano AB.

Pay & Allowances

Military will receive hardship duty pay for location in the amount of \$150 per month. All TDY personnel must be in country for at least 30 days prior to receipt.

Service members permanently stationed here also receive a Cost of Living Allowance. To calculate yours, reference <https://www.travel.dod.mil/allowances/overseas-cost-of-living-allowance/overseas-cola-rate-lookup/>.

Military members with dependents will receive family separation allowance in the amount of \$250 per month.

All personnel should have direct deposit and make necessary allotments required for dependent care and financial obligations prior to arrival.



Be Advised!

Weapons, pets, and privately owned vehicles are not authorized for service members at Soto Cano AB.

The Government Travel Card is the medium for travel advances. Members should be issued a GTC prior to departure.

Infrequent travelers (two TDYs or less per year) are not required to have a GTC. The JTF-Bravo resource manager (J-8), will re-activate/transfer the GTC upon arrival at Soto Cano AB for Army PCS personnel only.

Wi-Fi Connectivity

There are multiple options for private internet services for members stationed at Soto Cano AB. The two most used are *Intesa* and *Cable Color*, which offer different packages. There are also locations around base including the gym and the MWR center that have free WiFi connectivity.

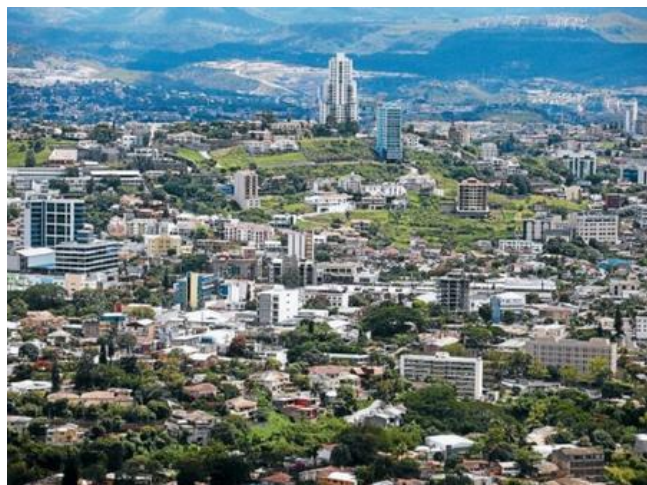
Military Leave Entitlements

The following guidelines will be used for leave entitlements based on the rate of 2.5 days for each full month of active service.

Honduras does not fall under the Special Leave Accrual (SLA) program and service members who are at risk of losing leave during their deployment (FY use-or-lose) should plan on using the leave prior to arriving. Deployed AF on J-Staff do qualify for SLA.

Leave may not be used to shorten a tour (i.e., during the last month of a tour).

Leave is authorized for all PCS personnel and Army TDY personnel. Leave is NOT authorized for Air Force personnel deployed for six months.



Central and South American Travel

JTF-B Command Policy Letter #10, *Leave and Pass* and #13, *Off-Limit Establishments and Areas*, provide guidance on traveling within Central and South America, including: use only taxis from the vetted taxi list, Uber is not authorized outside of Tegucigalpa, the “Battle Buddy Rule,” and avoid travel after dark. Be cautious when using online dating platforms too. Check the JTF-B SharePoint page for travel advisories and updated threat conditions.



Visitor Base Access Pass Procedures

Personnel may apply for a base access pass for official and unofficial visitors by submitting a request form through their chain of command. The appropriate approval authority, as defined by the most senior commander of the tenant unit (i.e. JTF-B Commander, SFAB Commander, AOB Commander), must approve both types of pass requests prior to consideration by ASA Commander.

Guests (Unofficial Visitors): Defined as adult (18 years+) immediate family members and DoD dependents. Unofficial visitors may visit SCAB to the extent mission and the Honduran Military Base Commander allows. Visiting is a privilege, and as such, the ASA Commander must be informed in writing of all visit requests and may deny the visit based on military-related events and mission requirements. Sponsors must always maintain accountability of their guests.

Overnight Visitation and Accommodations.

Unofficial Visitors/Guests may be permitted to stay on base for a maximum of 14 days during any six-month period provided billeting is available. Unofficial Visitors/Guests may reside in the quarters with their sponsor, except if the sponsor resides in quarters with another service member or roommate.

Finance

The Finance Office provides check cashing, foreign currency exchange, as well as military pay and travel services.

The Finance Office will cash personal checks up to \$250, and accept all U.S. Treasury Checks, money orders, and travelers' checks. However, third-party checks cannot be cashed at the JTF-Bravo Finance Office.

Note for deployed Air Force personnel: You will go through your home station Finance Office to process your travel voucher, or to request Family Separation Allowance or Hardship Duty Pay.



For information on how to get/use an Eagle Cash card:
https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsservices/gov/pmt/eagleCash/eagleCash_home.htm

Currency

U.S. dollars are used in most on-base facilities. Off-base establishments take the local currency, Honduran Lempira.

Base personnel may exchange dollars for Lempira at the Finance Office or U.S. Embassy located in Tegucigalpa.

Soto Cano AB has ATMs serviced by the Bank of America PLUS System, Armed Forces Financial Network, American Express Company, Discover and other financial organizations. Honduran ATMs are also available to obtain Lempira.

Legal Office Services

Available services include powers of attorney, translations, notarial services, and international claims, as well as claims for lost or damaged personal property. Service members are advised to complete powers of attorney, wills, and settle legal matters prior to arrival.

Mail Service

- U.S. Postal Services on Soto Cano AB include stamps, money orders, and package mailing. Only U.S. currency and Eagle Cash card are accepted for payment.
- National Guard and Reserve personnel, DoD civilian personnel and contractors in support of U.S. Armed Forces and DoD activities are authorized APO privileges while assigned to Soto Cano AB.
- Service Members assigned or attached for six months or more will be issued an APO box—all others will be able to use general delivery.
- Retired U.S. military personnel and their families are authorized APO privileges, but are limited to sending and receiving items weighing less than 16 ounces.
- Organizations or persons in the U.S. cannot send anything intended for anyone other than the authorized APO box owner.



Mailing Address

Name
PSC 1300, Box # or General Delivery
APO, AA 34042

Dining Facility

The dining facility offers a great variety of foods on both the main line and the short-order line. The menu includes many ethnic meals, taco, potato, and pasta bars on different days, and a salad bar every day.

Military personnel, DOD civilians, approved government contractors, and official and unofficial guests of the ASA Commander are authorized to use the dining facility.

Meal Rates

	Discount	Standard
Breakfast	\$ 3.20	\$4.35
Lunch	\$ 5.35	\$7.00
Dinner	\$ 4.60	\$6.05
Holiday	\$ 8.45	\$11.40
Monday-Friday		
Breakfast		0630-0900
Lunch		1130-1330
Dinner		1700-1900
Weekends and Holidays		
Breakfast		0630-0930
Lunch		1130-1330
Dinner		1700-1830



Education Services

The Education Center is committed to improving the readiness of all service members by planning and implementing quality educational programs and services.

The Education Center offers a full range of services to support both personal and professional development. Services include: distance learning, counseling, education financial programs, testing, language proficiency, and computer lab facilities. Additionally, the Education Center offers English as a Second Language, Rosetta Stone, virtual study, and Head Start Spanish course, which allows personnel to fully immerse themselves into the Honduran culture. Personnel completing the 40-hour Spanish course receive a certificate of training.



Laundry Service

Army Support Activity also operates an on-base laundry service (at a cost), which includes uniform pressing, dry cleaning, and alterations.

All service members residing on base have access to free washers/dryers, but must provide their own laundry detergent.

The Laundry Shop is located in building K-80, and is open Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Base/Post Services*

Soto Cano AAFES Main Exchange is a retail facility offering a variety of food, snacks, health and beauty care, cleaning, laundry, house wares, clothing, some electronic products, soda, sports and energy drinks, and flavored waters are also available.

In 2024, the PX moved to two temporary facilities pictured below and to the right, while the main facility under goes upgrade repairs.

Espresso Americano has moved from the PX to the MWR facility and it offers cappuccinos and other varieties of hot and cold drinks made with premium local coffee.

TIGO provides cellular phone services (Telecom Services) and is located next to The Place across the street from Cable Color, an internet provider. Another internet provider offered on base is Intesa.

“Beauty and Barber Services” are located on base and provides haircuts, manicures, pedicures, and other services.

Service members should bring sufficient quantities of uniform items as the Exchange does not carry these items.



Soto Cano PX

Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel, and U.S. civilians meeting special employment criteria with the U.S. government are authorized AAFES complex privileges.

Family members who are visiting Soto Cano AB or residing in the local area are authorized privileges as well.

Family members of personnel assigned or attached to the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Military Group in Tegucigalpa are authorized access upon presentation of their Embassy badge. Military personnel and DOD civilians are authorized to use the U.S. Embassy Exchange.

The Exchange accepts U.S. currency only.

Other services provided are:

In-store services

- Western Union money transfer
- Military Star Card enrollment
- Postage stamps
- Gift cards

Convenience special order

- <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/>


There are also Honduran vendors not operated/owned by AAFES or the U.S. Government located on Soto Cano AB.


**No federal endorsement intended*



Soto Cano PX Retail

Morale, Welfare and Recreation

 Find our group at “Soto Cano Life”

 @mwr.scab

The MWR office provides service members with a wide variety of recreational activities and exotic trips throughout Honduras.

MWR offers terrific programs at hard-to-beat prices. However, most activities are free and transportation is provided.

For those activities and travel arrangements with costs, MWR continually strives to offer the highest quality at the least cost to customers.

Service members will be able to experience the many aspects of this Central American country when participating in these events and activities.

Programs offered:

- Recreation center and library
- 24/7 fitness center
 - Quarterly weightlifting competitions
- Wood and hammock shops
- Theater with free movies/popcorn
- Outdoor semi-Olympic swimming pool
- Basketball and tennis courts
- Soccer, softball and multipurpose fields
- Bikes, equipment, board game checkout
- Scuba classes
- Intramural sports seasons
- Outdoor 1/4-mile running track
- Computer rooms with free Wi-Fi
- The Last Resort Community Clubhouse
- USO events
- Armed Forces Entertainment events
- Trips on weekends and 4-day weekends:
 - The “Valley of Angels”
 - Pulhapanzak Waterfalls
 - Lake Yojoa
 - And more places around Honduras!



CHAPEL SERVICES & OPPORTUNITIES

Soto Cano Friendship Chapel

The JTF-Bravo Command Chaplain's Office provides for the free exercise of religion and implements the Commander's vision through employing core competencies (e.g. religious support & advisement), and conducting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The command chaplain serves as the POC for humanitarian outreach to local villages.

If you have questions about chapel services or programs, including humanitarian outreach volunteer events, or if you have concerns about your spiritual fitness and would like to make an appointment for confidential pastoral counseling, please contact the Chapel Office.

- Chapel Office DSN 684-4845
- Resource specialist DSN 684-4845
- Religious affairs NCO DSN 684-4844
- Command chaplain DSN 684-4895

Sunday

- 0900 Roman Catholic Mass
- 1000 Protestant Fellowship
- 1100 Protestant Worship Service
- 1400 Latter-Day Saints Fellowship

Tuesday

- 1730 Protestant Bible Study

Thursday

- 1200 Protestant Bible Study (Spanish)
- 1800 Roman Catholic Bible Study



Orphanages visit Soto Cano

House Builds, Chapel Hikes, and Orphanage Visits

The Friendship Chapel team regularly hosts humanitarian opportunities to benefit and engage with the local community. Service members have the chance to donate their time and/or money to help build houses for local families, which are typically fully constructed over a weekend.

Additionally, Chapel Hikes have also become a feature at Soto Cano AB, having already completed 97 of them. Service members hike thousands of pounds of donated food up into remote communities in the mountains surrounding the base.

Finally, there are at least seven orphanages that are sponsored by different units on base, that are responsible for improvement projects, fundraising, and hosting events on base or at the orphanages.

About Honduras

Background Information

The Republic of Honduras is located at the heart of Central America. It borders the Caribbean Sea (to the North), Guatemala, Nicaragua, and the North Pacific Ocean between El Salvador and Nicaragua (to the South). Honduras has a total area of 112,090 square miles, making it slightly larger than Tennessee.

On the northern part of the country, bordering with the Caribbean Sea, lie the Bay Islands. They are very popular for scuba diving and are known for their massive coral reef barrier, which is the second largest natural reef in the world.

Across the country you may find clear turquoise waters, pristine beaches, lush jungles, breathtaking mountains, and challenging rivers to explore as well as enjoy the history of the country through the Mayan ruins of Copán or colonial cities and towns such as Comayagua.

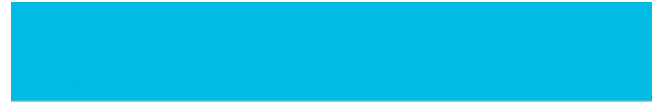
Honduras has 18 departments and its capital city is Tegucigalpa, located in the department of Francisco Morazán, and is approximately 51 miles away from the historical city of Comayagua.

The official language is Spanish but English is widely spoken in businesses and it is the main language used in the Bay Islands.

Official currency is the lempira but dollars are accepted in most commercial areas and some parts of the country. Exchange rate as of August 2024 is L. 24.83 per \$1.

The climate is sub-tropical in low lands, temperate in mountains. The rainy season is from May to October and the dry season is from November through April.

The estimated population is 8.5 million people.



The Basics in Honduras

Do

- Respect host nation laws, regulations, customs, traditions, and people
- Stay alert while traveling, remain security conscious (review off-limits areas)
- Greet and shake hands with everyone when introduced or meeting someone
- Use official titles and last names unless told otherwise
- Purchase items on local currency if possible
- Pay the posted price for taxi fares or agree on a price before getting into a taxi

Don't

- Ridicule host nation customs, traditions, standard of living or people
- Visit areas or establishments deemed off-limits
- Give rides to strangers
- Display arrogance or intimidate host nation civilian populace
- Beckon anyone with the index finger
- Make unauthorized transfer of U.S. currency or merchandise
- Drink tap water on or off-base



USEFUL SPANISH PHRASES

- Good day/afternoon/night.
- Hello.
- Goodbye.
- Please.
- Thank you.
- You are welcome.
- Yes/No.
- Sorry.
- Pleased to meet you.
- Where is the bathroom/phone?
- I am a member of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- What is your name?
- My name is...
- Help, Police!
- I need help, quick!
- Can you help me?
- Does anyone here speak English?
- I want to go to the American Embassy.
- How much does this cost?
- Thank you for your help.
- How are you?
- Very well, thank you.
- Excuse me.
- Please speak slowly.
- What time is it?
- The menu, please.
- What did you say?
- I am hungry.
- I am thirsty.
- One soda please.
- The bill please.
- Another one please.
- What is happening?
- See you later.
- See you tomorrow.
- I need a taxi.
- Ok.
- Buenos días, buenas tardes/noches.
- Hola.
- Adiós.
- Por favor.
- Gracias.
- De nada.
- Sí/No.
- Lo siento.
- Gusto en conocerle.
- ¿Dónde está el baño/ teléfono?
- Soy miembro de las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos.
- ¿Cuál es su nombre? / Cómo se llama?
- Mi nombre es ... / Me llamo...
- Ayuda, policía!
- Necesito ayuda, rápido!
- ¿Puede ayudarme?
- ¿Alguien aquí habla inglés?
- Quiero ir a la Embajada de los Estados Unidos.
- ¿Cuánto cuesta esto?
- Gracias por su ayuda.
- ¿Cómo está? / ¿Qué tal?
- Muy bien, gracias.
- Con permiso. / Permiso.
- Hable despacio, por favor.
- ¿Qué hora es?
- El menú por favor.
- ¿Qué dijo?
- Tengo hambre.
- Tengo sed.
- Un refresco por favor.
- La cuenta por favor.
- Otro por favor.
- ¿Qué pasa?
- Hasta luego.
- Hasta mañana.
- Necesito un taxi.
- Cheque.

U.S. EMBASSY CONSULAR SERVICES

Are you a United States Citizen under Military or Government orders?

You may file a residency petition at the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa for the following:

- Honduran spouse
- Single biological children under the age of 21
- Stepchildren under the age of 21 if marriage took place before his/her 18th birthday

For more information please contact:

tggi-130@state.gov



Are you a Legal Permanent Resident who has served honorably in the U.S. armed forces for at least one year?

You may be a candidate to apply to be naturalized abroad. For more information please contact: tggivnatz@state.gov

Do you require notary services?

Consular officers are authorized to notarize documents and issue Single Statements. A 'Single Statement' is required for U.S. citizens getting married in Honduras.

Are you a U.S. Citizen who needs to apply for/ renew a U.S. Passport?

The Consular section in Tegucigalpa processes United States passport applications for U.S. citizens abroad. All applicants must appear in person to submit their passport applications.

You may apply for:

- Tourist
- Service
- Official
- Diplomatic

For more information please visit:

<https://hn.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/passports/>

Are you a U.S. Citizen who wishes to transmit citizenship to your child born in Honduras?

If your child was born outside of the United States and you believe he/she may have a claim to U.S. citizenship, your first step is to apply for the child's Consular Report of Birth Abroad. This document is proof of U.S. citizenship and is generally a prerequisite for the issuance of a U.S. passport. Although applications are accepted until the child's 18th birthday, you should apply for the Consular Report of Birth Abroad immediately after his/her birth.

For more information please visit: https://hn.usembassy.gov/crba/?_ga=2.53213864.1211556843.1724258616-1761080021.1716926199

It is recommended to email your request for an appointment to the following email:

usahonduras@state.gov



CONTACT INFORMATION & SOCIAL MEDIA

Contact Information

The country code for Honduras is 504. If calling from the United States, commercial dial 011 504 2713-5123 + extension number, or dial direct via DSN at (312) + extension number. The extension number will be the 7-digit phone number (684-XXXX).

Public Affairs

Access the JTF-Bravo Newcomers website at <https://www.jtfb.southcom.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/434595/information-for-inbound-personnel/> for more information.

For additional questions, please email JTF-Bravo Public Affairs:
southcom.sotocano.jtfb-pao.mbx.jtf-b-public-affairs-office@mail.mil

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