



Pre-Arrival Guide to Norfolk and Virginia Beach, VA

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Area Information

TIDEWATER

The Tidewater area is defined as that around the southern point of the Chesapeake Bay and stretches north to Williamsburg and SE to Virginia Beach. Its focal point is the city of Norfolk in the state of Virginia (about 3hrs SE of Washington DC).



NORFOLK

The city of Norfolk is one of the oldest settlements in the nation and has evolved to become vibrant and diverse. It has a long history as a strategic military and transportation point, located in the southeastern Hampton Roads region at the mouth of one of the nation's fastest-growing ports. Norfolk is home to the largest naval base in the world, Naval Station Norfolk, along with one of NATO's two Strategic Command headquarters.

VIRGINIA BEACH

Virginia Beach is an independent city located on the south east coast of Virginia. While it is suburban in character it is the most populated city in Virginia. Virginia Beach is a resort city and has miles of beaches and many hotels and restaurants.

UK PERSONNEL IN NORFOLK AND VIRGINIA BEACH

In addition to Naval Station Norfolk, there are several other major US installations in the area. UK personnel are predominantly focused at three units:

- NATO's 4* Strategic Command Transformation headquarters (HQ SACT)
- NATO Joint Force Command Norfolk
- Dam Neck Annex (a US Navy facility)

THINGS TO DO IN NORFOLK AND VIRGINIA BEACH

- Outdoor activities – with 144 miles of coastline fishing and sailing are popular

- Dining out – enjoy patios and rooftops from March to November
- Entertainment - Shows, concerts and festivals
- Museums, art galleries and gardens

[See VisitNorfolk.com for more >](#)

[See VisitVirginiaBeach for more >](#)

LANGUAGE

English

TIME ZONE

Eastern Standard Time (EST) / Eastern Daylight Saving Time (EDT)

-5hrs, London UK. During US DST (approx. 2 months of the year) it is -4hrs.

CURRENCY

United States Dollar (USD)

CLIMATE

Norfolk has a humid subtropical climate. Summers are warm and humid. Temperature consistently from 20-32°C. Winters are usually mild with lows of 0°C up to 13°C with snow occurring sporadically.

DIALING CODE

00	00 is the international prefix used to dial somewhere outside of United Kingdom.
1	1 is the international code used to dial to USA.
757	757 is the local area or city code used to dial to Norfolk.

UNIT / COMMAND IN LOCATION

BDSUS

NEAREST EMBASSY

The British Embassy Washington
3100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20008. USA.

Tel: +1 202 588 6500

The consular team in Washington provides consular assistance to British nationals in the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

In-Country Administration

ARRIVAL BRIEFINGS

The [Arrivals Brief](#) is mandatory and usually in advance of or during March-In.

SPONSORS

On an overseas assignment in Virginia, a sponsor is assigned by the gaining unit to provide assistance before, during and after a move. They will:

- Be a point of contact for the Service person throughout the moving process
- Respond to questions and provide information about resources
- Meet Service person and family members upon arrival
- Go with Service person to unit check-in point
- Familiarise Service person and families with the station and key locations

DOCUMENTATION

Social Security Number (SSN)

A SSN is not required upon arrival in the US, as you will be issued with a foreign identification number (FIN), which serves the same purpose for non-US citizens.

It is recommended you apply for a SSN when you arrive in-country, as they can take a few weeks to process. It can make a significant difference to your credit rating, making it easier to obtain hire cars, store cards, American Express card etc.

Virginia driving licence (spouse and dependents only)

If you are an active duty member of the military stationed in Virginia, you may drive with a valid UK driver's licence. Partners and dependents with a UK driving licence will need to apply for a local drivers licence within 60 days of moving to Virginia (unless you have an International Driving Permit, as recommended in our 'before you go' checklist, then you have a year to take the test.

Documents will be required to prove:

- Identity
- Virginia residency
- Legal presence – either US citizenship or legal authorisation by the federal government to be in the US
- SSN/FIN

[Further information can be found here >](#)

For partners and dependents learning to drive, it is recommended to do this before you arrive in-country. Whilst the test is easier in the US, the residency of partners and dependents makes applying for the initial stages of a learners permit difficult, as a work permit is required prior to application.

Work permits

Anyone accompanying personnel on a USA assignment will require an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) to work, paid or unpaid. An EAD can only be applied for once in-country and you should not make any fixed arrangement to begin work until it is received. (Also see [spousal employment](#).)

[Where to start \(BDSUS\) >](#)

Alternatively, you can apply in-country by attending a social security office – View the [Branch locator](#).

Note: spouses and partners can only get an SSN if they also apply for an EAD.

Common Access Card (CAC)

The CAC is an identification card for Service personnel and enables physical access to buildings and controlled spaces. On arrival your sponsor will help you to arrange registration.

[Find out more >](#)

Spouses and partners will be issued with a Department of Defence (DoD) ID card which will provide them with access to bases in and around Norfolk/Virginia Beach.

Note: CAC Cards and DOD ID cards may automatically grant you with access to all base locations in the area, it is advised to check at respective Pass and Permit Offices. This is particularly relevant if Service personnel and/or partner wish to register at Military Treatment Facility (MTF) which is not at the primary work location but closer to their residence.

Finances

TAX

Sales tax rates of 6% are applied to goods purchased in the 'Hampton Roads' area of Virginia. Across the state sales tax varies from 5.3%-7%. Food for consumption at home and personal hygiene products are taxed at the lower rate of 2.5% state wide.

Unlike the UK, in the United States **tax is added to the price paid at the checkout** or added on to the bill.

BANK ACCOUNTS

Unless you are a US citizen, with a local US Social Security Number (SSN), you will not be able to open a US bank account from overseas. You will need to visit a branch, your sponsor will guide you through the process. You will need to take with you:

- Contact details, including full residential address (PO boxes not accepted)
- Passport
- Immigration documents
- Opening deposit payment

Note: If you do not have proof of address you can get a verified letter from the Embassy instead.

Tip: Money transfers from the UK to the US can take up to 4 days and instant transfers often have a high fee. Therefore, it is useful to take the equivalent of up to £2,000 in cash with you. This can be used as a cash deposit when you set up an in-country bank account and will mean you have immediate access to the money. Alternatively consider a [Transferwise](#) account, as it provides an easy and cheaper means of transferring funds.

Banking fees

Maintenance fees - It's common for a monthly service or maintenance fee on a US bank account. This can often be waived if you maintain a minimum monthly balance, or have a certain amount paid into the account every month. A basic account may cost \$10-\$15 a month.

ATM Fees -In most cases, you'll get free withdrawals from ATMs operated by your bank, and often from other partner banks in their network. However, if you use an ATM outside of the bank's network, even within the US, you'll likely be charged a fee - check what your bank charges.

CREDIT

When you arrive in the USA you will not have a credit score. Therefore, it may not be possible to take out a credit card or finance agreement at a competitive rate. If you anticipate you will require a lump sum of money, perhaps to purchase a vehicle, it is worthwhile taking out a loan in the UK before you travel – either an [advance of pay](#) (where you can request up to 1/3 of annual pay, paid back over 12 months) or a personal loan.

Navy Federal Credit Union

The Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU) is a bank for US Armed Forces and their dependents. Usually, you will be directed to the NFCU to setup your in-country bank account. Although you will have no US Credit history, they do work with Foreign Exchange Personnel and have the ability to offer credit without a US credit history.

Whilst not guaranteed, it is very common for the NFCU to offer credit cards when you set up your bank account, and they can offer very competitive rates for Car Loans (provided against a car purchase agreement) and personal loans.

Car leases

Many larger car manufacturers offer car leases to UK Service personnel through “Foreign Professional Workers Programs”. This allows them to offer competitive leasing options for personnel without US credit. They use a proof of earnings document provided on behalf of the Embassy and a copy of your orders to prove tour length.

Unlike the UK, ‘haggling’ with car dealers is more common. It is worth shopping around to see who will offer the best deal. Whilst leasing is a more expensive option, it provides worry free motoring as servicing and repairs are included in the cost.

Caution: For those that do lease; the sales staff are likely to inform you that you can cancel your lease with no penalty if you receive military orders during your lease. This is incorrect as it only applies to US Citizens.

Note: You will require a SSN before you can apply for a car lease.

[Further advice on buying/leasing a car \(BDSUS\) >](#)

INSURANCES

It is important to take out insurances. Cover is recommended for:

- Military kit
- Home contents
- Stored contents
- Accidental damage to rental property
- Travel insurance

Note: many military kit insurance companies will offer a policy that covers home contents, stored contents, contents in transit and tenants’ liability.

Car insurance

Regardless of what car you have, on arrival car insurance will be expensive as you have no credit score. Expect **very high** premiums for the first 6 months until you have built up creditworthiness with your chosen provider.

The following providers have been recommended to us. Whilst we are not in a position endorse them, they could be useful to assess; Progressive, Geico and AAA.

CLAIMING BACK EXPENSES

T&S for Service personnel is claimed back via JPA. Utility bills are claimed an [online portal](#) – to apply for portal access email: BDSUS-Onlineclaims@mod.gov.uk

For other expenses, including; education and healthcare, housing, military pay and advances, and miscellaneous payments, appropriate forms can be found on [BDSUS.info](https://www.bdsus.info).

During COVID-19 there is a temporary process to be followed which can be found at:
<https://www.bdsus.info/covid-19-temporary-claims-process/>

MOBILE PHONES

Like in the UK, in the US there are many mobile phone operators and plans to choose from. Prices are more expensive than the UK, expect to pay the same price for a “line only” plan as what you would pay for a device and line contract in the UK. Obtaining a premium ‘cell phone’ without an established credit history can be more difficult, options are:

- Use a pre-paid phone
- Use your own unlocked phone with a service only plan
- Buy a device and get a service only plan

[More about mobile phones and internet provision \(BESAUSA\) >](#)

T-Mobile currently offer a very competitive [Military plan](#).

Note: many families retain a device on a UK contract, as roaming costs in the UK on a US phone are very expensive. Some service providers in the UK offer roaming in set countries as part of the package, which you may want to consider.

UK service contract breaks

Most major UK mobile operators can offer a service break for military personnel assigned overseas. This, in effect, suspends your contract for some or all the time you are overseas. You will not pay your contract during this term, but the remaining time will be added to your contract on return to the UK.

INTERNET, CABLE AND HOME PHONE

Internet, cable and home phone lines tend to be sold in bundles. There will only be one or two options for each address: COX is the main provider for the area.

Costs in the US are more expensive than in the UK. You can expect to pay >\$75 per month for “high speed internet”. For cable TV and internet bundle it will be in the region of \$100-150 per month. A deposit of \$100 is often required upon set-up and will be credited back to you (usually after 12 months).

Note: One advantage of a home phone bundle is that many providers offer free international calling as part of this bundle, allowing you to phone UK numbers at no additional cost.

Accommodation

In the Tidewater area in Virginia there are no married quarters and therefore you will live in a private hiring for the duration of the tour.

Note: Housing entitlements ([Accommodation policy 4 – 8](#)) are based on your family size and not on military rank.

Personnel in Norfolk will have property sourced on their behalf or choose to self-source. If accommodation is sourced for you, to enable appropriate accommodation to be sourced, [an Initial Housing Proforma \(IHP\)](#) must be completed.

More information on [BDSUS.info >](#)

CHOOSING WHERE TO LIVE

Norfolk

Norfolk is the 3rd most populated city in Virginia, after Virginia Beach and Chesapeake. It is known as the financial, urban, historical and cultural centre of the area. There are a great many benefits of living here and good neighbourhoods, however there are pockets of high crime to be aware of.

The following locations have been suggested as less desirable by the military community based there and you may wish to explore them extensively for yourself before making a housing decision:

- I264 and I64 intersect on the border of Virginia Beach and Norfolk

Virginia Beach

Whilst it sounds rural, Virginia Beach is the most populated city in Virginia and it is especially popular with the military community. There is a lot to do for both adults and children and it is very family oriented. It is a tourist town which does bring some drawbacks for residents.

The following locations have been suggested as less desirable by the military community based there and you may wish to explore them extensively for yourself before making a housing decision:

- I264 and I64 intersect on the border of Virginia Beach and Norfolk
- South end of Oceanfront, Virginia Beach

Note: Personnel assigned to NOPF Dam Neck are required to be accommodated within 10 miles of the facility. Anything outside of this requires prior approval and justification by the NOPF Senior British Officer.

SELF-SOURCING ACCOMMODATION

If you wish to self-source your accommodation need to notify [the BEET](#) of their intent to take this option at the application stage. Personnel with very specific personal needs (childcare, approved special needs, exceed rental ceiling etc) should consider this option.

A period of 2 weeks is given initially to find and move into self-sourced accommodation from the local market.

[See Accommodation Policy points 17 – 27 \(BDSUS\) >](#)

Useful sites to identify rental properties

The following sites have been recommended to us for those wishing to self-source. Whilst we are not in a position to endorse them, they could be useful to evaluate what is available and where:



[Zillow](#) is the leading real estate and rental marketplace dedicated to empowering consumers with data, inspiration and knowledge around the place they call home, and connecting them with the best local professionals who can help.



The website provides advertising for homes located near military bases as well as resources related to real estate, homeownership, and military life. [MilitaryByOwner.com](#) has become the "go to" site for military families finding, selling, or renting homes near military bases.

SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES

On arrival in country, you can apply for an Accommodation Supplemental Grant (ASG) and a Small Electrical Grant (SEG) this will assist with the purchase of bedding, mattress covers, curtains, Hoover, coffee maker and other household items. Further information can be found within the [Arrival Preparations section on BDSUS.info](#).

Note: receipts for items purchased must be kept for 4 years.

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

Kitchen appliances

Many of your appliances in the UK will not work in the USA, as they are the wrong voltage and wattage. However, it may be worth taking with you some small appliances to save money on arrival, reserving your [SEG](#) to purchase a step up/down transformer to safely use your UK items.

Additional hold luggage

You will get 2 hold bags per person when you travel. It is often worthwhile considering purchasing an additional bag (at your own expense) – this will enable you to take items you may require right away, such as:

- Electronics and chargers
- Towels
- Bedding
- Unpacking tools – scissors, etc.
- Kitchen utensils
- Children's toys
- Sports equipment

Local shopping

For the items you need to purchase in-country it's worthwhile going to the following retailers:

- NEX – tax-free shopping (CAC required)
- Walmart – large range and best prices
- Target – good homeware, more pricey

Health

In the USA the majority of medical care will be carried out 'on-base', at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF), for both the Service person and any family members accompanying them.

The local Military Hospital (Portsmouth) is a large hospital, bigger than many UK NHS hospitals. It has all the facilities you would expect and require for a family including a dedicated pediatrics unit.

If the MTF is unable to provide the treatment required, you may be referred 'off-base'. If a family member is referred off base you will need to contact the Healthcare and Education Department at the British Embassy for authorisation before attending appointments or receiving care with a civilian provider.

[See full details on BDSUS.info >](#)

Note: authorisation for treatment can take time because often the Embassy need to involve other stakeholders.

NORFOLK MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE PROVISION

Medical and Dental care is provided on base; Dam Neck, Norfolk, Little Creek and Oceana. **On arrival any family members must be registered**, it is not automatic, your sponsor can assist with this.

[Health FAQs answered by BDSUS>](#)

Dental care for 'dependents' is via community providers who are part of the Meritan Network. You receive information and your card for this 4 months after arrival.

Note: Dental care cover for dependents is based on the NHS guidelines, so if it will be free on the NHS, expect it to be covered by the provision. If you would have to pay in the UK, expect to do so here.

EMERGENCY CARE

Familiarise yourself with the [BDSUS Guide to Emergency Medical Care in the United States leaflet](#), so you are prepared if the unexpected happens.

FAMILY PLANNING

Children born in the USA will automatically have dual citizenship. New taxation arrangements became law in 2010 which mean from the age of 18 US/UK citizens are liable to pay US taxes on worldwide income. So you will need to be aware of this and [how to rescind citizenship](#) and apply for Foreign Earned Income Exclusion.

Education and Childcare

Education is a common concern for families moving overseas. Outside of the UK curriculums, qualification and entry ages vary, so it is always important to conduct your own research before you apply for overseas service.

As well as considering the challenges of transitioning to a non-UK school it is important to cast your eye further ahead at the potential challenges when returning to UK education. Read our [Education Overseas guide](#) to help you make an informed decision.

LOCAL EDUCATION OPTIONS

[Education in the USA](#) is very different to the UK and there is no national curriculum. Whilst the Norfolk and Virginia Beach areas have a highly regarded public school system, like in the UK, standards will vary from school to school, so it is important to do your research first.

Norfolk is categorised as a [non MOD school location](#), therefore the following options are available for school age children:

Public schools

Public schools in the USA are largely funded by property taxes. Therefore, it is common to find schools in wealthier suburbs to have better facilities. However, public schools are assigned strictly by catchment areas based on home address.

[View Norfolk Public Schools >](#)

Private schools

Private schools in America do not have to conform to government education directives and therefore teachers have a greater degree of flexibility.

Unlike public schools, securing a place is not determined by geographical location.

[View Private School in Norfolk >](#)

There is not an Education Suitability Review (ESR) for public (state-funded) schools in Norfolk, and reportedly education standards are 'mediocre'. There is an ESR for Virginia Beach (the guide was created in 2018 and is planned for review), available on request from [Children's Education Advisory Service](#) at the [Directorate of Children & Young People](#) which will help you to understand the offerings available to you there.

The [BDSUS lead](#) for dependent schooling can also advise on the suitability of schooling across the US.

Note: We strongly advise carefully exploring advice on offer from CEAS on overseas education options when considering any overseas posting, and you can contact the Families Federation for advice from our specialist policy adviser too.

Norfolk school year information

This is to be used as a guide as the US "grade" your child will go into is usually based on their ability. Schools will conduct written and reading assessments and a review of UK reports (it is recommended that you bring a copy of their latest report). It is not uncommon for UK children to move up a grade, as the UK and US curriculum do not fully match.

Pre-school age 3-4 years

Kindergarten age 4-6 years

Elementary age, 6 – 11 years

Middle school, 11-14 years

High school, 14-18 years

Norfolk school registration requirements

If you select local schooling options, there are requirements before registering. Notably, a comprehensive physical examination must be completed within the last 12 months and proof of immunisations provided.

[Minimum immunisation requirements\) >](#)

UK QUALIFICATIONS

There are no schools in the Norfolk, VA area that offer iGCSEs. There are, however, a number of public and private schools in the area that offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, which is recognized in the UK. You can locate a school using the [IB website](#).

More information about local education in Norfolk can be found on [the BDSUS website](#).

EARLY YEARS PROVISION (ECEC)

In the US early years childcare is referred to as early childhood education and care (ECEC) this term encompasses; kindergartens, preschools or nursery schools, centre-based childcare and family childcare.

From provider to provider hours and emphasis varies, some focus more on care and others more on education. Every family's and every child's needs vary, so it is important to research providers.

[Find out about Nursery Allowance \(BDSUS\) >](#)

Tip: make enquiries as early as possible in order to identify availability, accessibility, if they operate a waiting list and any other differences that can be expected, eg formula, nappies, vaccination requirements, etc.

Welfare Provision

The Welfare provision for the USA footprint is currently under review as it is widely acknowledged there is a lack of subject matter experts available in-country.

WELFARE PROVISION IN NORFOLK

Welfare for Service personnel and their families in the Tidewater area in Virginia is provided by the Health & Education Team at the Embassy. They work with the [British Forces Social Work Service](#) and have the authority to approve services such as counselling and marriage guidance, etc.

Contact the Health & Education Team on: BDSUS-SpGp-HEALTHED-GROUP@mod.gov.uk (Multi-user inbox)

Locally the only welfare provision is that of a US Padre, who can be called upon to assist with welfare situations.

What is a Padre?

Padres are authorised leaders from the major world religions and provide pastoral and spiritual care for all personnel and their dependants irrespective of religious belief or status. Anything shared with a Padre will be held in the strictest confidence and is not communicated back to the chain of command, a common misconception.

[View our general overseas welfare services list >](#)

Local laws and customs

DRIVING LAWS

Driving laws in Virginia are similar to driving laws in the UK.

- Maximum speed limit is 70mph – anything 10mph over the speed limit, is considered reckless!
- Seatbelts must be worn
- Hand-held devices must not be used whilst driving
- The legal Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) is 0.08%

Laws vary from state to state - if you plan to drive outside of Virginia check the regulations before you travel.

ALCOHOL LAWS

The sale of alcohol is prohibited to persons under 21 years of age.

GUN LAWS

The USA offers some surprises in certain aspects of daily life, particularly guns. The Second Amendment that allows citizens to bear arms is alien for most UK citizens.

Virginia allows individuals to openly carry firearms without a permit, with some exceptions, and carry concealed handguns with a concealed handgun permit.

Note: UK personnel are not permitted to own a firearm without permission from the UK Embassy.

OTHER LAWS OF NOTE

Laws for unaccompanied children

There are laws in place regarding unaccompanied children; both the age they can be left at home alone, and the times they are permitted to be out unaccompanied. The laws vary from city to city so check local advice.

Laws for pets

It is illegal to own some breeds of dog in Virginia and travel providers will refuse to transport them.

LOCAL CUSTOMS

Tipping

In the UK we tip for good service, in the United States tipping is customary. If you are unsure what you should tip [BDSUS provide guidance](#).

Tipping culture was standardised in law in the 1960s. It has since evolved from the familiar tipping for good service to it being usual to tip for any personal service received. Generally, wages in the service industry are low and workers are reliant on tips to bolster earnings.

Politics

In Virginia voting in the presidential elections has swung several times in the last decade. Locally, Norfolk and Virginia Beach have a Republican majority.

Note: as with rules in the UK, military personnel are to refrain from stating their political beliefs online, in the US you are mandated to follow the same rules.

LGBT

Virginia was the first southern state to enact comprehensive non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people.

[Find LGBT friendly activities in Virginia>](#)

General information

VOTING

If you are a member of the Armed Forces or you are the spouse or civilian partner of someone in the Armed Forces, you can [register to vote whilst overseas](#) without a permanent home address in the UK.

GETTING AROUND

Traffic

Because the northern part of Virginia is close to Washington DC traffic is heavy which will have an impact on travel/commute times.

Public transport

Unless you live in one of the bigger cities, public transport isn't easily accessible. The system typically uses a network of buses and trains, which can be slow and sometimes unreliable.

You will need a car if you plan to live in Virginia because most workers commute and accommodation in the city centers will likely exceed rental ceilings.

SPOUSAL EMPLOYMENT

An [Employment Authorisation Document \(EAD\)](#) is required to work or volunteer in the United States. It can take between 6-10 weeks to process, and over depending upon demand. Therefore, you will need to plan for a break in earnings and should not make any fixed arrangement to begin work until you have the EAD.

Note: despite guidance, most positions at the Embassy aren't open for those with a NATO visa type.

Spousal employment support



A careers guide written by a military spouse who experienced the challenges of finding employment overseas first-hand. Go to [Career pursuit guide >](#)



Championing and finding gainful employment for spouses and partners to members of our Armed Forces. Visit [Recruit for spouses >](#)



A support service (at zero-cost to the participant) to help military spouses and partners get the job they want. Visit [Life Works >](#)



Forces employment charity offers programmes for families. Visit [RFEA >](#)



Courses, now accessible online, to mentally and emotionally meet the demands of being in a forces family. [Find out about Warrior Courses >](#)



Online courses to support the military community considering self-employment. [Go to X-Forces >](#)



A Global network supporting UK military spouses, partners and other-halves to build a business. Go to [Milspo Business Network >](#)



The latest information on employment topics for Service families overseas. [Go to iHive Blog >](#)

Communications

Communications channels to help you feel a little closer to home:



A bespoke service for HM Forces only whilst overseas, the best of UK TV all in one place. Watching via a laptop, mobile or tablet using your Defence Gateway ID. [BFBS TV >](#)



A radio station for the serving community at home in the UK and overseas. [BFBS Radio >](#)

BFPO

If you are based outside of the British Embassy (Washington DC) you should email the BDSUS mail room with your permanent address in order to obtain a mail stop. [Send mail >](#)

Useful links

INFORMATION SOURCES



Bay Brits is the British Embassy USA Support Group for Tidewater providing a members only website providing useful information and support to the Tidewater community - to register [visit the BayBrits website >](#)



The British Embassy Support Association is a voluntary organisation set up to support its members throughout all stages of their posting to the USA, providing them with up to date information and advice, and social activities. Membership is free – to join [visit the Association website >](#)



The BDSUS has an online information portal to support the MOD and its people in the USA. You can find help and advice on a range of topics there. To find out more visit [the BDSUS website >](#)



This website will help you in your search for utility providers based on your in-country zip code – [visit inmyarea.com >](#)

ONLINE COMMUNITIES



[The Bay Brits Facebook page](#) is used to communicate relevant local updates to British Serving personnel and their families in the Tidewater area.

[SOPC](#) is a social club group for HQ SACT Officers', Non-Commissioned Officers', and Staff Members' Partners. Its aim is to build a better and closer community of NATO spouses, offering clubs, social activities and networking.

Viva Virginia Group closed Facebook Group for Serving personnel, their partners and family members, usually access is verified by a sponsor.



RAF Families Federation
13-15 St George's Road
Wittering
Peterborough
PE8 6DL

raf-ff.org.uk

01780 781650

enquiries@raf-ff.org.uk



**ROYAL
AIR FORCES
Association**
The charity that supports the RAF family

The RAF Families Federation's contract is held by the RAF Association registered Charity 226686 (England & Wales), SC037673 (Scotland).

**Royal Air Force
Benevolent Fund**

The RAF Benevolent Fund is a supporting partner of the Families Federation