

## Basic Entitlements & Allowances

### Per Diem Allowance:

Food and lodging costs are reimbursed when making a PCS move. This allowance is paid at a daily rate for you and your family members. *For transoceanic travel, see your transferring PSD for rates.* Auto travel at a rate of 350 miles per day (not to exceed the official authorized distance) is used to determine how many days Per Diem will be paid. Service members receive \$116.00 per day plus \$87.00 per day for their spouse and each family member at least 12 years old, and \$58.00 per day for each family member under 12. When a spouse travels separately, the spouse receives \$116.00 per day. If the spouse travels separately departing on a different day than the service member, he/she receives full Per Diem of \$116.00 per day. The Per Diem for other family members traveling separately is either \$87.00 or \$58.00 per day, depending on age. Per Diem may be drawn up to 10 days in advance of the move or upon arrival.

### Mileage in Lieu of Transportation (MALT):

Service members receive MALT when they drive to a new assignment. This allowance is computed using federal tables of the mileage between the old and new duty stations. This official distance determines the allowance payable, though actual mileage driven may be longer or shorter. MALT is also paid to those going overseas if they drive from their stateside location to the port of embarkation for transcontinental plane/ship or from the port of debarkation to the new duty station.

Service members and/or authorized family members traveling alone or together will receive a flat rate of 24 cents per mile. This rate also applies to travel in a second car when its use is authorized. Specific approval for the use of three Privately Owned Vehicles (POVs) is required in advance. MALT may be paid up to 10 days in advance.

### Dislocation Allowance (DLA):

Active duty personnel with or without dependents are entitled to a Dislocation Allowance to offset some of the hidden costs of closing one home and setting up another. These costs can include rent deposits, utility hookups, etc. This allowance is based on pay grade and is equal to two and one half months of Basic Allowance for Quarters (BAQ) and can be drawn up to 10 days in advance of the transfer date or upon arrival at the new

duty station. Single or unaccompanied service members may draw DLA at the "without dependent" rate if they are moving into non-government quarters. DLA does not require repayment.

Currently, DLA is *not* available to service members ordered from home of record to their first duty station, single or unaccompanied service members who are assigned to unaccompanied government quarters at a new duty station, or those transferred to a duty station within the same geographical location. DLA is not payable on separation or retirement orders. Please consult your local PSD for current restrictions.

### Temporary Lodging Expense Allowance (TLE):

This allowance is for PCS transfers in the United States. TLE provides service members up to \$290.00 a day, depending on location, for 10 days to offset temporary costs (food and lodging) incurred locally before departing an old duty station or after reporting to a new duty station. Personnel going overseas are entitled to TLE for five days prior to departure to the overseas duty station. The actual TLE allowance is calculated using a complex formula and differs in each area. To claim TLE, service members must turn in receipts for TLE expenditures with completed travel claim. Single service members must receive a non-availability statement from the BEQ/BOQ to be eligible for TLE. Partial TLE can be paid if staying with friends and family. TLE cannot be drawn in advance. Active duty members coming from home of record or to their first duty station are not eligible.

### Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA):

New arrivals at overseas bases are eligible for this allowance to help offset the cost of temporary housing and meals. You are entitled to TLA even if you move into temporary government quarters. The amount of TLA payable depends on several factors, including family size, local Per Diem rate, actual cost of quarters, whether the quarters have cooking and dining facilities, and other allowances you may be receiving. A single member or one family member receiving TLA gets 65% of the local Per Diem if actual expenses are at least that amount. A member with one or two family members receives 100% of the Per Diem if expenses warrant. For each additional family member, the maximum TLA is increased by 25% for children under 12 years old and

35% for children over 12 years old. TLA is paid in 10- to 15-day increments and usually has a 60-day limit for those arriving, and a 10- to 15-day limit for those departing overseas.

#### **Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH):**

BAH is paid to offset actual housing costs. You must be eligible for BAQ to receive BAH and not occupy military family housing. BAH will be based on civilian rental costs by pay grade, depending on status and location.

#### **Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA):**

OHA is paid in addition to BAQ to service members who live in private housing at their overseas duty station. OHA replaces BAH in overseas locations and, like BAH, is designed to make up the difference between BAQ received and actual housing costs. Receipt of OHA is not automatic. Once you have secured a rental, you must apply for OHA. Not all overseas areas receive OHA. To determine your eligibility and application procedures, check with your Disbursing Officer or sponsor.

#### **Cost of Living Allowance (COLA):**

COLA is paid to service members stationed in high-cost areas overseas and in United States (CONUS) locations. COLA is designed to help maintain the purchasing power of the dollar so service members can maintain the same standard of living overseas and throughout the U.S. The amount of COLA received varies depending on location, number of family members accompanying you, and pay grade. COLA overseas may be adjusted as often as every payday due to the variance in exchange rate. Families living in base housing are eligible to draw COLA, as well as those who live off base. Not all overseas areas are authorized to draw COLA, and only select CONUS areas are authorized COLA. Check with your Disbursing Officer or sponsor to verify whether your area is eligible for COLA, as well as the estimated amount allotted for your area.

#### **Move-in Housing Allowance (MIHA):**

Service members assigned to many overseas locations can receive a lump-sum allowance to help meet expenses for major appliances, other improvements, or to pay non-refundable, rent-related taxes or fees. Landlords usually provide such items as kitchen cabinets in the U.S., but apartments overseas often come without these basic amenities. To be eligible for MIHA, service members must also be eligible

for OHA. MIHA rates are dependent on the OHA rate for the area and does not require repayment.

#### **Advance Pay and Allowances:**

Advance Basic Pay can be drawn up to 60 days prior to your move. Up to three months worth of advance pay can be drawn with PCS orders and must be approved by the Commanding Officer (CO). Repayment is made in equal installments over 12 months or extended to 24 months with CO approval.

Advance Basic Housing Allowance (Advance BAH) may be issued to cover the expenses of renting a new home or apartment. A copy of the rental agreement and receipts or bills for one month's rent, security deposit, etc. are required for payment. The advance must be requested for actual expenses, not to exceed an amount equal to three months BAH. Repayment of Advance Basic Housing Allowance is normally made in equal installments over 12 months, though it may be spread over a longer period if circumstances warrant. Repayment generally begins the month after the advance is drawn.

#### **Additional Benefits:**

House hunting leave – permissive travel for house hunting can be authorized by your CO. This time off is executed by no cost Temporary Additional Duty (TAD) orders and cannot exceed 10 days, only five of which can be work days. House hunting leave can be authorized before you transfer or after you report to a new command.

Proceed time – administrative absence not charged as leave (normally four days). It can be granted to personnel ordered to or from ships, mobile units having a sea/shore rotation code of 2 or 4, from an "all others tour," and to or from overseas accompanied tours.

#### **NOTE:**

Remember to maintain records and keep receipts during your move in order to file a claim at Personnel Support Detachment (PSD).

Entitlement to any pay or allowance is based on meeting specific requirements. Check with your servicing Personnel or Disbursing Officer for more details on pay entitlements in conjunction with your PCS move.

