

Basic Entitlements and Allowances

Service members on PCS orders are entitled to personal travel and transportation allowances for themselves and their families. Remember to maintain records and keep receipts in order to file a claim. Upon receipt of your orders, you may request an advance on authorized travel allowances.

Entitlement to any pay or allowance is based on meeting specific requirements. Check with your disbursing officer or PSD for more details on PCS entitlements and allowances Quick Links and Resources <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/allowances.cfm>.

Monetary Allowance In Lieu of Transportation (MALT)

Service members receive MALT when they drive their own vehicle to a new assignment. This allowance is figured on a per-mile basis using federal tables of mileage between the old and new duty station. Authorization must be obtained prior to your travel if you wish to be reimbursed for driving more than two privately owned vehicles. MALT also is paid to those going overseas if they drive from their old duty stations to the port of embarkation, or from the point of debarkation to the new duty station. MALT may be paid up to 10 days in advance. Visit <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/otherratesMile.cfm> to find the most current rates



Per Diem Allowance

Per Diem - A daily amount available to a traveler on official business to meet lodging and subsistence expenses. DTMO establishes per diem rates for overseas non-foreign areas (e.g., Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and other Non-Foreign Locations). More information can be located on the following website: <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/perdiem.cfm>.

Dislocation Allowance (DLA)

Dislocation Allowance (DLA) is designed to partially reimburse a service member, with or without dependents, for the expenses incurred when relocating in connection with a PCS move. These costs include rent deposits, utility hookups, etc. The allowance is based on pay grade and dependency status. DLA can be paid three to ten days in advance of transfer and doesn't require repayment. DLA is not a given allowance and must be requested by the service member before PCSing. More information can be found at <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/otherratesDLA.cfm>.

Temporary Lodging Expense Allowance (TLE)

You and your family can receive Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE) allowance at a rate of up to \$290 per day, depending on location, to help defray the cost of meals and temporary housing incurred during a PCS move within the continental United States (CONUS). TLE is available for a maximum of 10 days lodging in the vicinity of either your old or new duty station in CONUS. TLE is limited to 5 days if transferring to a location overseas. Payment is made through the settlement of your travel claim (cannot be drawn in advance). Keep receipts, as TLE is a "reimbursement-only" benefit. Proof of expenditures must be provided. For entitlement questions, contact your local PSD.

Advance Pay and Allowances

The purpose of advance pay is to help the service member meet extraordinary expenses incidental to relocation during a PCS move. It is designed to help service members living in a high-cost area maintain the same standard of living as those in lower-cost areas. Advance pay may be drawn up to 60 days before your move. Up to three months of advance pay can be drawn with PCS orders and the approval of the commanding officer.

Written justification clearly showing that accrual or anticipated out-of-pocket PCS expenses are equal to or exceed the amount of advance pay requested must be provided. This pay may be collected up to 30 days before departure or as late as 60 days after reporting. Repayment is in equal installments over 12 months or extended with a commanding officer's approval.

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)

BAH is based on geographic duty station, pay grade and dependency status. The intent of BAH is to provide service members with accurate and equitable housing compensation based on housing costs in local civilian markets. It is payable when government quarters are not provided when living within the 50 United States.

Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)

COLA is paid to service members stationed in high-cost areas, both CONUS and OCONUS. It is designed to help service members maintain the same standard of living when living in high-cost areas. The amount of COLA received depends on location, cost of living, exchange rates, pay grade, and number of family members. Not all OCONUS sites are authorized to draw COLA, and only a few CONUS sites are authorized. Check with your disbursing officer or sponsor.

Overseas Allowances

Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA), Move-In Housing Allowance (MIHA), and Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) are available for service members and their families stationed OCONUS. These allowances are based on many factors including the cost of living in a particular country or area. Check with the finance or disbursing office regarding rates and limits.

- The OHA is paid to service members who live in private housing at their overseas duty station. It includes rent and a utility/maintenance allowance and is designed to make up the difference between BAQ received and actual housing costs. You must apply for OHA, and it is not available at all locations.
- MIHA covers occupancy-related expenses. It is paid in lump-sum supplemental payments, and one must be eligible for OHA. It is designed to cover expenses for major appliances, improvements, security, rent-related taxes or fees. MIHA does not require repayment.
- TLA offsets the costs of temporary lodging and meals when arriving or departing OCONUS. The amount of TLA payable depends on several factors including family size, local per diem rate, actual cost of quarters, and other allowances you may be receiving.

The appearance of external links in this handout does not constitute official endorsement on behalf of the U.S. Navy or Department of Defense.