

## Relocation Tip of the Week - **Relocation Allowances**

Before you move or make any decisions about your move, find out about relocation allowances. Even if you've relocated before, it's important to update your information. New regulations, a change in rank, or a change in the number of family members who will accompany you can all affect your allowances. To access current information on permanent change of station (PCS) allowances and benefits, service members can visit the Defense Travel Management website, [www.defensetravel.dod.mil](http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil).

### **The Basics**

Here are the basics about allowances related to permanent change of station (PCS) moves. To learn more, including when and how to apply for allowances, see your Relocation Assistance Program Office. You can also find information at Defense Travel Management.

**Basic Allowance for Housing** - Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) offsets the cost of housing when you don't receive government-provided housing. The amount depends on your location, pay grade, and number of dependents.

**Overseas Housing Allowance** - Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) offsets the cost of housing for service members living off-installation overseas. Rates depend on your rank and number of dependents.

**Dislocation Allowance** - Dislocation Allowance (DLA) is intended to help with miscellaneous moving costs. The amount is based on your rank and number of dependents. It is not available when your family members don't move to the first duty station, or when you are

- assigned to government quarters, without family members, at the new duty station
- transferred to a nearby duty station (unless a local move of household goods has been pre-authorized)
- separating or retiring from the military.

**Monetary Allowance in Lieu of Transportation** - Also known as "mileage," and based on the Defense Table of Distances, Monetary Allowance in Lieu of Transportation (MALT) is paid when you or your family drive to the new duty station. MALT is payable for moves within the continental United States (CONUS) and outside CONUS (OCONUS) moves. It can usually be paid for one or two vehicles.

**Move-In Housing Allowance** - Move-in Housing Allowance (MIHA), available OCONUS only, reimburses costs related to living in privately owned or privately leased quarters. It applies to three kinds of costs: one-time rent-related expenses, modification of homes for security, and the initial cost of making a home habitable.

**Per Diem Allowance** - This allowance, available for both CONUS and OCONUS moves, reimburses you and your family for costs related to meals and lodging during travel to the new duty station. Per diem is based on a 350-mile one-day travel distance. Rates vary according to ages of family members.

**Temporary Lodging Allowance** - Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) is meant to partially offset costs of temporary lodging and meals while you wait for permanent housing and is available OCONUS only.

**Temporary Lodging Expense** -Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE) is meant to partially offset costs of lodging and meals when you need temporary housing and is available CONUS only.

### **Advances**

If your finances are very tight, it's possible to apply for advances of basic pay, BAH, or OHA to cover PCS-related expenses. Depending on your Service branch, you may also apply for advances of certain travel allowances. Keep in mind that repaying advances can create additional financial burdens at a time when your budget is already stretched. Ask your Personal Financial Management Program Office for more information.

### **Financial Emergencies**

Army Emergency Relief (AER), the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS), and the Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) sometimes provide emergency loans and grants to service members and their families for one-time financial emergencies (for example, for rent, utilities, or vehicle repair).

Army Community Services, Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS), the Navy Fleet and Family Support Program (FFSP), and Airman and Family Readiness Centers (A&FRC) may provide access to emergency food closets or referrals to civilian organizations that can help you.

### **Parenting Tip of the Week - Researching New Schools**

As you prepare for a Permanent Change of Station (PCS), researching schools for your children is inevitably on your "to do" list. Careful planning is a must whether you're choosing a public or private school or homeschooling and whether or not you are paying tuition. Here are four steps for selecting the school that is right for your children:

1. **Consider your child and your family.** Start your search by thinking about what you want a school to do for your child.
2. **Gather information about schools.** You can find reliable school information at the [National Center for Education Statistics website](#).
3. **Visit and observe schools.** Contact the schools you are interested in and make an appointment for a visit. If possible, tour the schools during regular school hours and visit a few classes.
4. **Apply to the schools you choose.** You'll want to begin this process as early as possible to ensure you meet all the deadlines.