

There are various housing and pay allowances associated with military moves within the continental United States (CONUS). Here is a look at a few you may know about, and some you may not. Be sure to check with your transportation or relocation office to see exactly what you can receive.

Certain allowances can be paid in advance, but most are reimbursed once your move is completed and the proper paperwork has been submitted. Again, check with your finance office for information on the timeliness of these payments (and payback schedules, if necessary).

Advance Basic Allowance for Housing is an advance against your normal BAH to help you cope with the costs of rental housing off base. This is available for CONUS and OCONUS moves. Note: unit commanders must authorize advances in BAH. Payback requirements are determined by the length of the tour.

Advance Basic Pay is an interest-free loan you can get when you make a permanent change of station move. The collateral is your military salary and you repay advance basic pay in 12 equal installments.

Advance Basic Pay is available for both CONUS and OCONUS moves. A member may draw up to three months basic pay in advance, interest free. Your finance office can provide more details specific to your situation.

Dislocation Allowance (DLA) is intended to help with miscellaneous moving costs. In general, it is paid once per PCS move. DLA is available CONUS and OCONUS. It is based on your rank and dependent status. DLA is not available from home to your first duty station; when assigned to government quarters, without family members, at new duty station; when transferred to a nearby duty station, unless a local move of household goods has been pre-authorized; and when separating or retiring from the military.

DLA is NOT PAID on the last move.

DLA is not paid on a local move, unless movement of household goods has been authorized.

DLA is not paid if the service member is assigned to government quarters at the new duty station and is not accompanied by family members.

Monetary Allowance in Lieu of Transportation (MALT) "mileage": is the amount paid when a member and/or the member's family drive to their new duty station, based on the Official Military Table of Distances. MALT is available CONUS and OCONUS. It is figured on a table of miles times the number of travelers and approval is needed before MALT can be paid for more than two vehi-

cles. Mileage is set at a standard rate per mile (\$0.165/mile as of January 2010). May be advanced at 80 percent before the move, and is paid by travel voucher.

PCS Travel Advances: When making a PCS move, servicemembers can request advance payment of 80 percent of the DLA, MALT, and per diem amounts. The remainder will be paid upon processing of the travel voucher filed after the move is completed. This money does not have to be repaid, if the proper paperwork is completed. It can go a long way toward paying the initial cost of setting up household in the new location.

Advances may typically be requested 10 days before signing out of the losing unit. The funds will be deposited into the servicemember's checking account, so do not close the account when leaving the installation.

If an advance is not requested, entitlements will be paid after completing the move and filing the travel voucher, and payment can take several weeks.

Per Diem Allowance is designed to reimburse you and your family for the costs associated with meals and lodging when you travel to your new duty station. Per Diem is available for both CONUS and OCONUS moves. Per diem rates for car travel are based on a flat rate (\$116/day as of October 2009). The military uses 350 miles per day as the standard one-day travel distance to compute per diem rates. To determine the number of days per diem, take the Official Government Mileage between duty stations and divide by 350. An additional day of travel is allowed if the remainder is 51 miles or more.

Per diem rates vary by age. Each family member is entitled to a different percentage of the applicable per diem rate on the days they are eligible. The total per diem reimbursement on your move is the sum of the allowable per diem for each family member.

Service Member — 100 percent of rate

Spouse — 75 percent of rate

Children over 12 — 75 percent of rate

Children under 12 — 50 percent of rate

Temporary Lodging Expenses

Allowance (TLE): TLE may be authorized for 10 days when PCSing to a CONUS permanent duty station or when reporting to the first CONUS PDS from the HOR or initial technical school and moving dependents.

Travel by Privately Owned

Conveyance (PCS): Mileage is set at a standard rate per mile between duty stations. (\$0.165/mile as of January 2010).

Transportation of Privately

Owned Vehicles (POV): Uniformed Service may authorize/ approve the transportation of one POV incident to a PCS within CONUS or travel to a first PDS within CONUS when: (1) advantageous and cost effective to the government or (2) the member is medically unable to drive or does not have the time to drive, or (3) a military unit home port change, and (4) under JFTR, par. U5417 authority.

Source: The Department of Defense's It's Your Move website

Do NOT assume that you will receive any of these allowances. Allowances change periodically. Check with the finance office on your installation to determine the exact amount of your allowances. Be sure to visit the Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee website at www.defensetravel.dod.mil/perdiem/faqpcs.html for the most up-to-date information on benefits and allowances.