



FACT SHEET

Potential Entitlements Associated with a Permanent Change of Duty Station

Last Reviewed: June 29, 2018

Background

Many expenses and issues are relevant when contemplating a permanent change of duty station (PCS). Fortunately, many PCS-associated expenses incurred by active duty PHS Officers are covered as an allowance or reimbursable expense. This Fact Sheet summarizes the most common rates and allowances. More resources are listed at the end of this Fact Sheet.

Eligibility

PCS refers to the assignment, detail, or transfer of an officer to a different permanent duty station (PDS) through an order that does not specify the duty as temporary, provide for further assignment to a new PDS, or direct return to the old PDS. Depending on your agency/operational division, your move may be coordinated by an agency shipping officer, your local transportation office, or a local military base. Authorization for some allowances must clearly be stated in PCS orders to obtain reimbursement.

Highlights

[Rates and allowances](#) vary based on whether a move is within the continental U.S. (CONUS) or outside the continental U.S. (OCONUS). Refer to [Joint Travel Regulations \(JTR\)](#) for the most up-to-date information. Some highlights are summarized below.

Rate or Allowance	Description	CONUS	OCONUS
Dislocation Allowance (DLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps cover relocation expenses May be advanced before a move Rates change annually, vary by rank, and whether an officer has dependents For current rates: www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/otherratesDLA.cfm 	Yes	Yes
Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps cover lodging and meal expenses when officer/dependents occupy temporary lodging in CONUS if per diem not payable (e.g., near new or old PDS) TLE reimbursement is based on the per diem rate of the PDS location (old or new) Current maximum received by family is \$290 per day 	Up to 10 days (CONUS to CONUS)	Up to 5 days (CONUS to OCONUS)
Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps cover expenses that exceed normal lodging and meal costs OCONUS before permanent housing is available at PDS Per diem based on the assigned duty station Usually limited to 60 days after OCONUS arrival and 10 days before OCONUS departure 	n/a	Yes
Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to a housing allowance, OHA provides a one-time move-in housing allowance based on average "move-in" costs 	n/a	Yes
Per Diem Allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily payment for each travel day between authorized points, up to the official number of travel days authorized Per diem allowance is paid instead of reimbursement for actual expenses for lodging, meals, and incidental expenses Travel by privately-owned conveyance (POC): per diem for officer is the flat standard CONUS per diem rate, currently \$144 in addition to MALT (see below) Travel by commercial means: per diem for officer is at the 'Lodgings-Plus' rate for the new PDS or the rate for the delay point if an overnight stop is required Dependents' per diem rate is calculated as a percentage of officer's per diem and varies according to number of dependents traveling, age of dependents, and whether traveling with officer Advances for Per Diem can be authorized; check most current information for amount authorized 	Yes	Yes

Monetary Allowance in Lieu of Transportation (MALT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONUS: Officer paid a monetary allowance in lieu of transportation for the authorized use of a POC during official PCS travel, currently at \$0.18 per mile, based upon the official distance between the old and new duty station. Officers can locate the official distance as calculated for their PCS travel on their transfer orders (orders will be in their eOPF). Members with dependents are authorized reimbursement for travel in two cars within CONUS. • Advances for MALT are authorized; check most current information for amount authorized 	Yes	Yes
Transport of Privately Owned Vehicle (POV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONUS: May be authorized if officer is medically unable to drive, does not have time to drive, or other limited circumstances. Suggested to arrange well in advance because of potential need to submit medical documentation to justify. • OCONUS: May authorize transportation for one POV to, from, or between OCONUS stations subject to weight limits. The officer is authorized storage of a POV when ordered to an OCONUS PDS to which a POV transport is not permitted. 	Occasionally	Usually
Shipment of Household Goods (HHG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONUS: Authorized weight varies by grade & dependency status. Range: 10,000 pounds (O-1 without dependents) to 18,000 pounds (O-6 or above) • OCONUS: If government furniture provided, generally authorized 2,500 pounds or 25% of HHG weight allowance, plus unaccompanied baggage, non-available furniture items, professional books, papers, and medical equipment. If not, the shipper may have restrictions beyond those allowed for CONUS destinations. • Some officers may prefer personally procured over government procured transportation [formerly known as do-it-yourself or DITY moves]. This may be cost saving, but officer must fully understand responsibilities as outlined in the resource documents. 	Yes	Yes
Temporary Storage of Household Goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorized up to 90 days of “storage-in-transit” for authorized HHG when necessitated by a PCS • Extensions may be granted in certain circumstances • OCONUS moves may authorize non-temporary storage (See Officer’s Overseas Benefit Fact Sheet) 	Yes	No

*NOTE: This Fact Sheet is meant to ensure officers are aware of potential benefits while executing a PCS and does not cover potential changes to all benefits (e.g. Basic Housing Allowance or Cost of Living Allowance). Additionally officers should ensure required documents are filed with both their PCS coordinator (en route travel, TLE, etc.) and Compensation Branch (Notice of Arrival and Request to Change Mailing Address) to prevent delay in appropriate benefit pay.

Resources

- ▶ https://dcp.psc.gov/CCMIS/Travel/assignments_travel_relocate_m.aspx - General PCS information from the CC website
- ▶ <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/fagpcs.cfm> - FAQ on PCS from DoD Center for travel excellence
- ▶ http://www.transcom.mil/dtr/part-iv/dtr_part_iv_app_k_1.pdf - Defense Transportation Regulation: information on moving for Armed Forces
- ▶ https://dcp.psc.gov/CCMIS/Travel/ASSIGNMENTS_travel_frequently_asked_questions_m.aspx FAQ from CC website
- ▶ <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/travelreg.cfm> - The Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) are the final authority on rates and policies relating to all travel for the Uniformed Services and civilians. Chapters 5 and 9 specifically contain information about PCS (referred to as “Permanent Duty Travel” in the JTR).

Note: Feedback and suggestions for this fact sheet are welcome and may be sent to PPACBenefitsSC@gmail.com.

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