

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

2100 Second Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20593-0001
Staff Symbol: CG-122
Phone: (202) 475-5360
Fax: (202) 475-5927

7220

OCT 16 2006

MEMORANDUM

From: 
M. C. COSENZA
Acting
COMDT (CG-12)

Reply to: CG-1222
Attn of: P.Q. Bekken

To: CG MLC PAC (md)

Subj: YERBA BUENA ISLAND MILITARY HOUSING AREA BOUNDARY CHANGE

Ref: (a) COMDT (CG-122) memo 7220 of 12 Apr 06
(b) CG MLC PAC memo 7220 of 6 Sep 06
(c) COMDT COGARD Washington DC 151843Z Dec 05/ALCOAST 624/05
(d) CG Pay Manual, COMDTINST M7220.29A, Ch. 3, sec. 7

1. Reference (a) announced a Coast Guard Headquarters initiative to transition Coast Guard units located on and home ported at Yerba Buena Island, zip code 94130, from the San Francisco, CA Military Housing Area (MHA) to the Oakland, CA MHA. This relocation was approved by reference (b) to move this zip code into the Oakland, CA MHA effective 1 January 2007. Effective on and after 1 Jan 2007, members executing a permanent change of station (PCS) to a unit located on or home ported at YBI will receive, if authorized BAH, the BAH and CONUS COLA rate for the Oakland, CA MHA.
2. Although there are provisions to rate protect the BAH for eligible members stationed on and home ported at YBI, effective 1 Jan 2007, members stationed at units located on and home ported at YBI will transition to and receive the CONUS COLA index rate for the Oakland, CA MHA.
3. Under the provisions of reference (c) regarding individual Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rate protection, members who initially were ordered and reported to Coast Guard units located on and home ported at YBI prior to 1 Jan 2007, and are in receipt of the San Francisco BAH rate on 31 Dec 2006, will retain individual rate protection for their respective pay grades at the San Francisco rate. In accordance with reference (d), if the San Francisco rates increase, such protected members are not authorized the increased rate. If the San Francisco rates decrease below the 2006 rate, these members, as long as they maintain eligibility, are individually rate protected at the 2006 rate. Should a rate protected member receive a PCS order to a unit located in an adjacent San Francisco Bay Area MHA, and the member's PCS meets the eligibility requirements for BAH rate protection, the member may submit a CG PSC-2025A, Housing Allowance Protection Worksheet, to this office requesting to retain their previous (YBI) duty station BAH rate. Upon receipt of a PCS order, the principal eligibility requirements for BAH protection are:

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- a. The member's residence location must be within 50 miles and/or a 60 minute travel time to both their current and new duty station. If their residence location exceeds either the mileage distance or travel time the PCS order will be issued with PCS entitlements for the member to relocate household goods and dependents (if with dependents) to the new duty station. The member may elect not to utilize the PCS entitlements, but it is considered a personal decision by the member. If a member relocates closer to their new PDS at personal or government expense, BAH rate protection eligibility is voided.
 - b. If their residence location is within the mileage and/or travel time distance to the new duty station, the member has no intention of relocating their residence for which the member based this housing decision on while receiving the San Francisco BAH rate.
 - c. If a member receives a written rate protection authorization from COMDT (CG-1222) to retain the BAH rate for their previous PDS, and the member then relocates their residence out of the MHA boundary their residence is located in, the member forfeits BAH rate protection and will inform their command and servicing personnel office to have their BAH rate based on their PDS location. The member is no longer basing their housing decision on the BAH rate for which the member was protected at.
 - d. On or after the effective date the PCS order is issued, the member voids BAH rate consideration if the member relocates their residence. The member will receive the BAH rate for their new duty station effective their PCS reporting date.
3. A member stationed at a unit located on or home ported at YBI who is assigned to single or family-type government quarters on 31 Dec 2006, and vacates quarters on or after 1 Jan 2007 and obtains private sector quarters, will receive the Oakland, CA MHA BAH rate or the rate applicable to their current PDS, whichever appropriately applies.
 4. Prior to their current YBI assignment, members who were previously stationed at a unit in the adjacent MHAs of Oakland, Marin/Sonoma, TRAVIS AFB/Vallejo, or Santa Clara, who received a no-entitlement PCS order or assignment to a unit located on or home ported at YBI, and who subsequently receive a PCS order or assignment back to a unit in one of these MHAs, are not eligible for rate protection at the San Francisco rate. There is no authority to rate protect members who receive a no-entitlement PCS order to a unit in a MHA with a more equitable BAH rate than their previous duty station, who continue to maintain their residence, or execute a residence relocation at while in receipt of the higher BAH rate, and who subsequently receive a PCS order or assignment back to an adjacent MHA. If, while in receipt of the higher BAH rate, the member relocates his/her residence at own expense, BAH will not be protected at the higher rate. This is viewed as a personal decision for which BAH rate protection will not be authorized.

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5. A member who was originally stationed at a unit located on or home ported at YBI, and received a no entitlement PCS order to a unit located in an adjacent MHA, and received written BAH rate protection authorization from COMDT (CG-1222) to continue receipt of the San Francisco rate, who subsequently receives a PCS order or assignment back to a unit located on or home ported at YBI, may request from COMDT (CG-1222) to continue receipt of the San Francisco rate. This protection is contingent upon the fact that the member continues to maintain the same private residence for which they originally based their housing decision on when originally stationed at a unit located on or home ported at YBI.
6. Although you requested in your memorandum that CG PSC notify affected members via their leave and earning statement, we believe this may send a false message, primarily for a member who falls under the situation addressed in par. 3. Instead, please disseminate this information to CG Sector San Francisco units located on and home ported at YBI, and other commands you deem necessary, to educate personnel on BAH rate protection policy. We will however send a copy of this memorandum to CG PSC. If commands have questions or concerns, please address them to e-mail address: COMPENSATION@USCG.MIL.
7. With regard to San Francisco Bay area MHA boundaries, because eight counties border various bay waters, along with six toll bridges and hundreds of miles of roadways linking these counties, we agree that the San Francisco Bay Area is unique with regard to BAH and its five military housing areas (MHA). We acknowledge your endeavor to realign the MHAs and will forward your concerns to the BAH Director and request a review of the current MHA boundaries.

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Copy: PDTATAC BAH Director
CG PSC (MAS) (FAIR)