

OVERSEAS HOUSING ALLOWANCE

OVERVIEW

The Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) is designed to partially offset housing expenses at overseas duty locations when Service members live in privately leased housing on the local economy when government-leased or on-base housing is not available. Approximately \$1.5 billion is paid in OHA benefiting nearly 51,000 members annually.

The Overseas Housing Allowance Program is a reimbursement system that takes into consideration the amount Service members spend on rent, utilities and associated move-in costs.

KEY FACTS

- OHA enables Service members to rent comparable housing at an overseas duty-station when on-base or government housing is not available
- OHA partially offsets the housing costs of living on the local economy by adapting to varied housing conditions worldwide
- OHA reflects what Service members are actually paying in housing costs and is adjusted for local currency exchange rates

OHA COMPONENTS

- **Maximum Rental Allowance.** A monthly payment designed to help compensate Service members for rental expenses at assigned overseas location.
- **Utility/Recurring Maintenance Allowance.** Paid monthly to help offset expenses for members who pay utilities, recurring maintenance, and minor repair expenses.
- **Move-in Housing Allowance (MIHA).** A one-time payment to all OHA recipients designed to cover average move-in expenses, such as utility installation, at an overseas location.

Rental allowances are computed using actual rental payments reported through the finance system and are designed so that 80% of members with dependents have rental payments fully reimbursed. For other members, Rental allowance may cover the majority of the rental expenses.

The Utility/Recurring Maintenance allowance and MIHA Miscellaneous are determined by surveys. One survey collects data annually to identify how much members spent in the previous year for utilities and recurring maintenance. The data is then used to determine Utility Allowances, as part of the computation of a Service member's OHA. Additionally, every three years a MIHA survey is conducted to identify how much money members spend on move-in expenses.

Service members can make a difference in the amount of Utility/Recurring Maintenance allowance and MIHA Miscellaneous that they receive by keeping accurate expense records and participating in these surveys.

For more information, visit: <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/oha.cfm>

Visit the DTMO website for more information on OHA:

- OHA Calculator
- Locality Code Look-up
- OHA Rate Archive
- Survey Information
- FAQs

