



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NEWLETTER, 2ND
QTR 2 JAN 2011

“ALL ALONG THE CLOCK TOWER”



LETTER FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR

By Mr. William H. McQuail

Thank you for taking the time to look at the 266th FMC Newsletter. The 266th FMC has been deployed for several weeks, and the greatest compliment we can provide to our Director, COL Crespo, is to tell him many of our customers were not aware of the deployment. That's testimony to how well COL Crespo prepared the 266th FMC to continue support of USAREUR and USARAF during the deployment. We're not letting the shortage in military personnel stop initiatives for improving our customer support during the FMC deployment. Our offices in Belgium and Italy have many similar initiatives under way, but I'll dedicate this space to the actions in Germany and the Pay Center of Excellence (PCE) in Kaiserslautern. We have consolidated separation payment preparation, audit and release in Kaiserslautern. We have also consolidated most of the finance system input in Kaiserslautern that were formerly done on site with the Finance Customer Support Team (FCST) in each of our 12 communities. Both of these initiative, previously labor intensive tasks performed by the often short-staffed FCST effectively allows our community finance offices greater resources to provide customer support. This allowed us to expand customer service hours throughout Germany. We hope you have noticed the impact on the quality of service you received from your FCST.

POLICY UPDATES

Military Pay E-Message 10-043

Subject: Army Guidance for Non-Chargeable Rest and Recuperation (NCR&R) Leave for Iraq and Afghanistan

The purpose of this message is to provide the Defense Military Pay Offices (DMPOs), Financial Management Companies (FMCs), U.S. Property and Fiscal Offices (USPFOs), and USAR Pay Centers (UPCs) Army guidance for NCR&R.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter From the Deputy Director	1
Policy Updates	1-2
DTS Updates	2-3
Banking	4
Military Pay	5-6
Tax Updates	6
Important Contacts	7-10
Finance Links	10-11

APPLICABILITY: The Department of Defense has designated the land areas of Iraq and Afghanistan as NCR&R areas. The NCR&R leave program for Iraq and Afghanistan is effective 23 March 2010.

Soldiers mobilized/deployed to designated NCR&R locations, which meet established eligibility requirements (270 days boots on ground), may receive an administrative absence of up to 15 days to be used in conjunction with benefits provided under the standard chargeable R&R leave program.

The benefits under the NCR&R program are not retroactive. In the event the Soldier's approved R&R leave days were prior to or included 22 March 2010, those days of leave remain chargeable R&R leave. All R&R leave days on or after 23 March 2010, becomes non-chargeable R&R leave up to a maximum of 15 days.

Soldiers authorized NCR&R must still submit a DA Form 31 with their final travel settlement voucher to Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) to account for the NCR&R period, the same as Soldiers taking regular R&R. In lieu of an individual DA Form 31, the unit commander may provide the Soldiers with a memorandum verifying the period of NCR&R. As a minimum, the memorandum/roster will include the Soldier's name; rank; last four of the social security number and the dates of leave.

Point of Contact for this message is DFAS-IN.SYSTEMS@DFAS.Mil



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NEWLETTER, 2ND
QTR 2 JAN 2011

“ALL ALONG THE CLOCK TOWER”



POLICY

By Mr. Daniel Schorn

Lodging Reimbursement Update

If you have ever made an online reservation, you likely realize how easy and inexpensive they can be. Unfortunately doing so in an official military capacity may cause unnecessary financial burden. Lodging receipts from online booking agents may NOT be reimbursable!

JFTR change number 287, and JTR change number 541, effective 1 November 2010.

A traveler may not be reimbursed for a hotel booked using online booking agents unless an itemized receipt from the hotel is provided and a traveler must not submit a 'lost receipt' statement to substitute for an online booking hotel receipt.

U1039-E2b/C1008-E2b/App O T4050-B2:

- b. Receipts.* The traveler must produce each lodging receipt and each receipt for any individual official travel expense of \$75 or more. *A 'hotel' receipt from an online booking agent, that is not itemized, is not a lodging receipt.*

U2510/C1310 RECEIPT REQUIREMENTS

A receipt is required for:

1. Each lodging expense regardless of amount, and The receipt must show when specific services were rendered or articles purchased, and the unit price.

B. Lost Receipts

A traveler must not submit a 'lost receipt' statement to substitute for an online booking hotel receipt.

U4129-H/4555-B5/App O, T404-A1h added:

H. Online Booking Tool. Despite any savings realized through online booking agents, subject to Service requirements the CTO should be used for lodging arrangements or the traveler should reserve a room directly with the hotel/chain (including the hotel's online website).

Lodging reimbursement is not authorized for hotel lodging obtained through online booking agents unless an itemized receipt from the hotel is provided

The Army Travel Standards and Compliance Office at DFAS states that the intent of the item is to block the use of the on-line booking agent, and to require travelers to go directly to the hotel, or book via DTS or the CTO.

The online agents charge a fee that is hidden in their charges...those fees are not reimbursable. Because the change in the regulation specifically says that the statement in lieu of a receipt is not acceptable, that closes the door to a work around. Bottom line is...don't use them, book directly with the hotel.

DTS UPDATES



Defense Travel System
A New Era of Government Travel

YOU MIGHT NOT GET PAID!
Keep Your Profile Updated

It is important for travelers to ensure that Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), home address, and Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC) information is current in their DTS profile. If this information is not kept up to date, travel reimbursements may be affected. In addition to the information above, travelers should periodically check their profiles in order to update other information such as rank, organization, phone number, emergency contact and other traveler information.

When should I update my profile?

- GTCC expires or is reissued
- Moving/Permanent Change of Station
- Promotion/New job



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NEWLETTER, 2ND
QTR 2 JAN 2011

“ALL ALONG THE CLOCK TOWER”



DTS UPDATES

Traveler Steps for Updating Profile Information in DTS

1. From your DTS homepage (after login), mouse over to Traveler Setup on the top menu bar and select Update Personal Profile.
2. On the My Profile screen, click on each section to verify your information (My Preferences, My Additional Information, My TSA Information, My Account Information).
3. Save changes, select the Update Personal Information button at the bottom of the screen.

LDTA/ODTA must ensure they verify information after receiving traveler profiles into their organizations.

Did You Really Clear Your Unit?

Several of the S-1 and Human Resource sections have not added Defense Travel System (DTS) and Government Travel Card to their in and out processing checklist. This is an important process and should not be forged or ignored. If you have not been released from your prior organization and received into your new organization, it will cause delays in your future DTS travel. With the high tempo of the Army, you can be called to travel at a moment's notice. Don't get left behind.....Be Prepared!

Quarterly Training Schedule for Organizational Defense Travel Administrator (ODTA) and Approving Official (AO) Classes

GRAFENWOEHR

ODTA

25-27 January 2011
22-24 February 2011
22-24 March 2011
19-21 April 2011

AO

28 January 2011
25 February 2011
25 March 2011
22 April 2011

KLEBER KASERNE KAISERSLAUTERN

ODTA

1-3 February 2011
29-31 March 2011
26-28 April 2011

AO

4 February 2011
1 April 2011
29 April 2011

SPINELLI BARRACKS MANNHEIM

ODTA

18-20 January 2011
1-3 March 2011
12-14 April 2011

AO

21 January 2011
4 March 2011
15 April 2011

Training times for all classes are 0900-1600.

Please contact the DTS Helpdesk, 483-6746/6747 or email 266DTSHELPDESK@EUR.ARMY.MIL, to request a training date.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NEWLETTER, 2ND
QTR 2 JAN 2011

“ALL ALONG THE CLOCK TOWER”



BANKING

By CPT Chris Wurst

Community Bank

Overseas military banking facilities were established in 1947, to serve U.S. occupation forces following the end of World War II. The first financial institution to operate overseas under the Overseas Military Banking Program (OMBP) contract was the American Express Company, which opened its first facility in Frankfurt am Main. The OMBP operates under contractual agreements between Department of Defense (DoD) and a commercial bank (currently Bank of America), to provide full banking services that are comparable, in scope and cost, to those available stateside, under the title of Community Bank. Eligible authorized members include active duty U.S. military personnel, DoD civilian employees who are U.S. citizens, and authorized family members of such military and civilian employees.

People often confuse Community Bank with Bank of America. The Community Bank belongs to DoD, but is operated by Bank of America. This is why on Community Bank signage; you also see “operated by Bank of America” in the title. The Community Bank is operated by a contracted bank so that customers can clearly see that the Community Bank is operated and supported by a large and credible U.S. banking institution. It also provides accountability and extra incentive for the contracted bank to provide its absolute best service, since its reputation is at stake. The contracted bank is paid a fixed-fee, after an extensive review of performance by DoD and all military departments (Army, Navy and Air Force). By operating the Community Bank, Bank of America does **not** see any profits. Profits are returned to the program and the Treasury. Any losses are absorbed by the military departments. So, when a customer uses the Community Bank, they are not banking with Bank of America, they are banking with Community Bank. Community Bank will continue to exist, even as new banks are contracted in the future to operate the program.

Community Bank currently services all military branches, and has bank locations in Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, United Kingdom, Japan, Okinawa, Korea, Guantanamo Bay, Diego Garcia, and Kwajalein.

Overseas Credit Unions

A credit union is a cooperative financial institution, owned and controlled by the members who use its services. Credit unions serve groups that share something in common (field of membership), such as their work location or profession. Credit unions are not-for-profit, and exist to provide a safe, convenient place for members to save money and to get loans at reasonable rates. An individual seeking to become a credit union customer must first become a member by opening a nominal share (savings) account.

Like the Community Bank, overseas credit unions provide financial support to military and civilian personnel stationed overseas. However, the credit unions do not operate under a contract, but rather a geographical franchise. A geographical franchise assigns credit unions particular geographic areas that they are permitted to operate in. The credit unions that currently operate in Europe are Andrews Federal Credit Union, Global Credit Union, Keesler Federal Credit Union, Navy Federal Credit Union, and Service Credit Union. Their geographic locations include:

Andrews Federal Credit Union – Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands

Global Credit Union – northern Italy

Keesler Federal Credit Union – United Kingdom

Navy Federal Credit Union – southern Italy

Service Credit Union – Germany

For more information on overseas bank and credit unions, you can refer to DoD Financial Management Regulation Volume 5, Chapter 34. You can also contact your local installation Banking and Credit Union Liaison Officer (BLO/CULO). Your BLO/CULO’s contact information can be found in the lobby of your installation bank or credit union.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NEWLETTER, 2ND
QTR 2 JAN 2011

“ALL ALONG THE CLOCK TOWER”



MILITARY PAY

By Tom Philpott from the *Stars and Stripes*, 18 Dec 2010

Many troops protected from BAH rate decrease

About 400,000 active duty servicemembers will see their Basic Allowance for Housing protected from a rate decrease Jan. 1, thanks to “individual rate protection” Congress adopted nearly a decade ago.

Users of the Post-9/11 GI Bill education program also will be protected from any cut to student monthly stipends, which are based on BAH rates.

For the first time since 1998, average rates across the country will decline next month by 0.6 percent to reflect changes in average rental costs across 366 military housing areas.

Because of rate protection, only members arriving after Dec. 31 to areas where rents have fallen will feel the effect of lowered allowances. Those new arrivals also should face lower rents than did colleagues who arrived in 2010 or earlier, said Cheryl Anne Woehr, BAH Program analyst for the Department of Defense.

For members already living in areas where stateside rates are set to drop, the monthly BAH will not change. The effect of rate protection is that housing allowances nationwide for a million BAH recipients will climb Jan. 1 by an average of 1.1 percent, lifting program costs to \$19 billion.

A typical junior enlisted member with dependents will see BAH rise about \$39 a month. A senior noncommissioned officer with dependents will receive about the same as last year, on average.

Without rate protection, Woehr said, members living off base in the United States would draw \$100 million less in BAH payments in 2011.

Rate protection is just one reason average BAH will climb a percentage point in 2011 despite a depressed rental market.

“The other reason is the distribution of personnel across the country,” Woehr said. “We have more personnel in the areas where rates are going up than in the areas where rates are going down.”

The value of rate protection can be seen in areas like Fayetteville, N.C., where average BAH is dropping 8 percent. Other areas to see sharply lower rates are: Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. (down 7 percent); Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. (7 percent); Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. (5 percent); and Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, N.C. (down 5 percent).

Rate protection is there to recognize that current BAH recipients “entered into housing agreements based on the economy at the time they made those agreements,” Woehr said.

New arrivals should be comfortable with the lower BAH because they “will be obtaining housing in the current economy on which those rates are based,” she said.

Areas where average BAH will rise significantly include: China Lake Naval Air Training Center, Calif. (up 14 percent); Barksdale Air Force Base/Shreveport, La. (9.5 percent); Minot Air Force Base, N.D. (8 percent); Beale Air Force Base, Calif. (7 percent); and Fort Benning, Ga. (up 6 percent).

In areas where rates go up—and we do have quite a lot of them certainly—members still get the benefits of the higher rate regardless of when they reported,” Woehr said.

Veterans in college on the Post-9/11 GI bill get a monthly living stipend equal to BAH in their area for an unmarried enlisted member in pay grade E-5.

Those stipends will be adjusted Feb. 1, because the GI Bill stipend is paid a month in arrears. VA rate protection will allow the stipend to climb where E-5 BAH rates are moving up and stay level in areas where E-5 BAH is set to fall.

Servicemembers living off base overseas are unaffected.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NEWLETTER, 2ND
QTR 2 JAN 2011

“ALL ALONG THE CLOCK TOWER”



MILITARY PAY

By Tom Philpott from the *Stars and Stripes*, 18 Dec 2010

Many troops protected from BAH rate decrease (cont.)

They get an Overseas Housing Allowance, which is based on what they actually pay in rent. OHA is adjusted as the value of the dollar shifts against local currency.

Other military pays will change Jan. 1. Basic pay will climb by 1.4 percent to match wage growth in the private sector. Monthly food allowance, or Basic Allowance for Subsistence, will rise by a third of 1 percent.

Annual BAS adjustments track with price changes for a “liberal food plan” for American males, ages 20 to 50, designed by the Department of Agriculture, said Jerilyn Busch, director of military compensation for DOD.

The new BAS rates will be \$223.04 a month for officers and \$323.87 for enlisted. The reason for the disparity in favor of enlisted members is too arcane to explain here, but it has survived for many years.

Stateside housing allowances are set to cover 100 percent of average rental costs, utilities and rental insurance reported locally for the type of housing deemed appropriate for the military pay grade. There are two rates for each pay grade, one for members with dependents and a lower rate for those with no spouse or child.

Rental cost data are collected from May through July when housing markets are most active. Sixty percent is gathered by local military housing offices. They exclude rents in high-crime areas and for inadequate units like mobile homes. Runzheimer International, a contractor, gathers the rest of the data and verifies the accuracy of all information used to revise BAH rates.

Data are collected on six types of housing with different numbers of bedrooms. Rates then are set based on rents for types of housing deemed appropriate for each pay grade, both with

and without dependents.

Since 2008, “without dependent” rates have been protected by an artificial floor. Those rates, must equal at least 75 percent of the local “with dependents” rate for the same pay grade.

BAH recipients upset about their new rate can complain to their military housing office. It won’t trigger a rate change for 2011 which, once set, can’t be changed for a year. But complaints can be investigated and those found to be legitimate might affect 2012 rates.

TAX INFORMATION

By MilitarySpot.com

A little-known provision of the Home Buyer Tax Credit bill that became effective on Nov 6, 2009, is that certain military personnel and Foreign Service employees have an EXTRA year to purchase a home and qualify for the tax credit.

In addition to that, if they sold a principal residence between Jan 1, 2009 & April 30, 2010 because they had to relocate at least 50 miles due to orders, they qualify for a tax credit, even if they owned a home between the above time periods. Income, age and sales price limitations still apply.

Who qualifies?

- Member of uniformed services
- Member of Foreign Service of the US
- Employee of Intelligence Community
- Spouse of any of the above

And must have had:

- Extended Duty outside the US for 91 days, or
- Extended Duty inside the US for 91 days and had to relocate at least 50 miles from principal residence
- Sold principal residence between Jan 1 2009 & April 30, 2010



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NEWLETTER, 2ND
QTR 2 JAN 2011

“ALL ALONG THE CLOCK TOWER”



TAX INFORMATION

Tax Credit Dates Extended to:

Signed contract by April 30, 2011

Closed by June 30, 2011

Can get tax credit if:

They sold their home or the home stops being their principal residence as of January 1, 2009 (because of government orders)

Extended duty (either inside or outside the US) and had to move at least 50 miles away from principal residence

Extended duty is defined as 91 days service (either inside or outside) the US.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

BENELUX Finance Office (BFO)

Building 212, Room 123

OIC 423-5251
NCOIC 423-8371
Travel Chief 423-4843
Disbursing Chief 423-4687
Accounting Lead 423-8370
CVS Chief 423-5397
Military Pay NCOIC 423-8365
Retirement & Separations Lead 423-7640
In/Out Processing Tech 423-8364

Hours of Operation

Military Pay IOP / Retirement & Separations / Accounting / CVS
Mon – Fri 0900-1600

Disbursing
Mon – Wed, Fri 0900-1600
Thu 0900-1700

ITALY Finance Office (IFO)

Director 634-7612
Travel Chief 634-6444
Retirement & Separations Lead 634-8265
In/Out Processing Chief 634-7450/6734/7531
MILPAY 634-8855

Hours of Operation

In/Out Processing / Retirement & Separations / Accounting / CVS/Local National Pay
Mon – Fri 0900-1200; 1300-1600

Disbursing
Mon – Wed, Fri 0900-1600

MILPAY
Mon - Wed, Fri 0900-1200; 1300-1530

266th FMC Separations

Chief of Military Pay
483-6740

Separations Lead
483-6630

MILPAY Technicians
483-7109/7103/6492/6630/6446

DTS Helpdesk: 483-6746/6747 or email at 266DTSHELP-DESK@EUR.ARMY.MIL.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NEWLETTER, 2ND
QTR 2 JAN 2011

“ALL ALONG THE CLOCK TOWER”



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

FCST Hours of Operation

Mon thru Fri:

0830-1200 Soldier and PAC/S1

Customer Service

1200-1300 Closed for lunch

1300-1600 Soldier and

PAC/S1 Customer Service

Schweinfurt FCST

Building 40 Conn Barracks

FCST Chief

353-8697

Lead Tech and Separations

353-8684

Inprocessing

353-8853

Ansbach FCST

Building 5818 Room 308 & 316 Katterbach Kaserne

FCST Chief

467-3337

Lead Tech

467-3322

In and Out Processing

467-3338

Separations

467-3288

Travel

467-3318

Bamberg FCST

Building 7029 Room 108 & 109 Warner Barracks

FCST Chief

469-9190

Lead Tech

469-7887

Inprocessing and Customer Service

469-7423

Separations and Customer Service

469-9191

Vilseck FCST

Building 215 Room 132-134

FCST Chief

475-6765

Lead Tech, Customer Service

476-3491

Travel

476-2966

Separations

476-3490

Customer Service

476-3491

Grafenwoehr FCST

Building 244 Room 214

FCST Chief

475-6765

Customer Service

475-8651/6619

Travel

475-7286/6957



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NEWLETTER, 2ND
QTR 2 JAN 2011

“ALL ALONG THE CLOCK TOWER”



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

FCST Hours of Operation

Mon thru Fri:

0830-1200 Soldier and PAC/S1

Customer Service

1200-1300 Closed for lunch

1300-1600 Soldier and

PAC/S1 Customer Service

Baumholder FCST

Building 3743 Rooms 2,3,4,5, & 17 Central Processing
Facility

FCST Chief

485-7217

Lead Tech

485-6955/6697

In/Out Processing and Travel

485-6697

Separations

485-6314

Customer Service

485-6697

Hohenfels FCST

Building 10 Room 103

FCST Chief

466-2049

Customer Service and Travel

466-2030

Separations

466-2031

Kaiserslautern FCST

Building 3256 Room 12 Kleber Kaserne

FCST Chief

483-6149

Lead Tech

483-6062

In Processing and Travel

483-6009

Separations

483-6008

Customer Service

483-6025

Wiesbaden FCST

Building 1023W 2nd Floor Wiesbaden Army Air Field

FCST Chief

337-5128

Lead Tech

337-4766

Finance Technicians

337-5529/5431/5501

Heidelberg FCST

Building 3850 Room 180 Heidelberg Shopping Center

FCST Chief

370-8570

Finance Technicians

370-7233/3066/6444



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NEWLETTER, 2ND
QTR 2 JAN 2011

“ALL ALONG THE CLOCK TOWER”



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

FCST Hours of Operation

Mon thru Fri:

0830-1200 Soldier and PAC/S1

Customer Service

1200-1300 Closed for lunch

1300-1600 Soldier and

PAC/S1 Customer Service

Stuttgart FCST

Building 2913 Rooms 013-015 Panzer Kaserne

FCST Chief

431-3181

Lead Tech

431-3197

In-Processing

431-2464

Separations

431-3102

Travel

431-3197

Customer Service

431-3102

Mannheim FCST

Building 255 Basement Sullivan Barracks

FCST Chief

385-2745

Customer Service

385-2959/2748

Separations and In/Out Processing

385-2231

Travel and In/Out Processing

385-2741

Soldier Links

266th FMC Website:

<http://www.21tsc.army.mil/266Finance>

MyPay Website

<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

Thrift Savings Plan Website:

<http://www.tsp.gov>

Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) Website:

<https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm>

Overseas Cost of Living Allowance:

<http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/allowcol.html>

Basic Allowance for Housing:

<http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>

Overseas Housing Allowance:

<http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/allooha.html>

Government Meal Rates:

<http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/faagovmeals.html>

Per Diem Rates:

<http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/pdrates.html>

Mileage Rates:

<http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/faqpovpast.html>

Dislocation Allowance Rates:

<http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/dla.html>



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NEWLETTER, 2ND
QTR 2 JAN 2011

“ALL ALONG THE CLOCK TOWER”



FINANCE LINKS



Regulation Links

DoD Per Diem, Travel, and Transportation Allowance Committee Website :

<http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/>

DoD Financial Management Regulation 7000.14-R

<http://www.defenselink.mil/comptroller/fmr/>

Military Pay Policy Messages

<https://dfas4dod.dfas.mil/centers/dfasin/library/milpay/policy08/index.htm>

Military Personnel Policy Messages

<https://perscomnd04.army.mil/milpermsgs.nsf>



Travel Links

DoD Per Diem, Travel, and Transportation Allowance Committee Website :

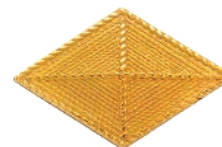
<http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/>

DoD Defense Travel System:

<http://www.defensetravel.osd.mil/dts/site/index.jsp>

Defense Travel Management Office

<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/>



Finance Organization Links:

266th FMC Website:

<http://www.21tsc.army.mil/266Finance>

Office of the Secretary of Defense Military Compensation Website:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/>

Asst Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller

<http://www.asafm.army.mil/>

U.S. Government Accountability Office:

<http://www.gao.gov/index.html>

DFAS Website:

<http://www.dfas.mil/>

US Army Financial Management School

<http://www.finance.army.mil/>

US Army Finance Command

<http://www.asafm.army.mil/fo/fod/fincom/fincom.asp>

US Department of Veteran's Affairs

<http://www.va.gov/>