

Frequently Asked Questions: TLE

The actual rules for TLE are in JFTR, pars. U5700 through U5725. Following are answers to some basic questions concerning TLE and an extract from the JFTR (par. U5720) indicating TLE computation steps and showing computation examples.

Q1. What is the purpose of TLE?

ANSWER: To *partially* offset lodging and meal expenses when a member and/or dependents need to occupy temporary lodging in CONUS in connection with a PCS.

Q2. When is TLE Payable?

ANSWER: When temporary lodgings are occupied:

a. before leaving the old CONUS permanent duty station (PDS), designated place (see JFTR, Appendix A), or a member's CONUS Home of Record (HOR) or technical school, if the member is reporting to the first PDS,

NOTE: TLE is payable incident to a move when entering active duty to the first PDS beginning 5 October 1999 for enlisted members, and for officer members with orders issued on or after 1 January 2002.

b. after arriving at the new CONUS PDS (including a member's first PDS, if the member is reporting there from HOR or initial technical school), designated place,

c. when house-hunting is performed after the member completes PCS travel to the new PDS (i.e., in conjunction with a PCS after arrival at the new PDS),

d. for the elapsed time between PDSs when per diem is not payable, and

e. when the member's PCS order is cancelled/revoked after the member occupies temporary quarters, the member is authorized TLE reimbursement up to the maximum number of days allowable.

NOTE: The days covered must have been spent in the vicinity of the old/new PDS, designated place, or (ICW being ordered to active duty a member's CONUS HOR or initial technical school).

Q3. Where must the temporary lodgings be located?

ANSWER: The temporary lodgings must be in the vicinity of the old and/or new PDS and/or in the vicinity of the designated place.

Q4. May a member be paid TLE for the same days that per diem is payable?

ANSWER: No, a member may not be paid TLE on any day that the member is being paid per diem for travel time. If per diem for travel time isn't being paid, TLE may be paid for not to exceed the number of days authorized (5 or 10 days), regardless of how those days are labeled. For example, if a member authorized TLE has 8 days elapsed time (e.g., proceed, delay, travel, etc.) between PDSs and the allowable travel time is 7 days, the member may be paid for one day. If a member has 22 days elapsed time between PDSs and the allowable travel time is 7 days, the member may be paid the maximum TLE allowance.

Q5. What will a member's TLE allowance be if the member isn't authorized travel for a 'new' dependent (also known as an acquired dependent) to the current PDS?

ANSWER: Upon subsequent PCS the member may be paid TLE for temporary lodgings occupied by the member and/or 'new' dependent in the vicinity of the place the person became a dependent.

Q6. What are temporary lodgings?

ANSWER: Temporary lodgings are lodgings (including Temporary Lodging Facilities as defined in JFTR, Appendix A) used as a temporary place of residence. Lodgings occupied upon initial arrival at a new PDS and/or designated location which are permanent type residence quarters which you continue to occupy indefinitely aren't temporary lodgings.

Q7. Is a member required to use Government quarters?

ANSWER: Yes, you must use available Government quarters including temporary lodging facilities in the area of the old or new PDS. If Government quarters aren't available, you must provide a statement signed by you indicating that Government quarters weren't available to support your claim voucher.

Q8. Will I be paid TLE if I am assigned family-type Government quarters?

ANSWER: Yes, if the assigned quarters aren't occupied because:

- a. HHG haven't been shipped from the old PDS;

- b. HHG haven't been received at the new PDS;
- c. the quarters are undergoing repair/renovation, etc., or
- d. the HHG have been packed, picked up and/or shipped from the losing PDS.

Q9. Do I have to provide lodging receipts?

ANSWER: Yes, receipts for lodging are required to support the lodging costs.

Q10. Will TLE be paid for days I stay with friends or relatives?

ANSWER: Yes, but the lodging cost for those days will be zero.

Q11. Will I be paid TLE for my first or last PCS?

ANSWER: No, the law that authorizes TLE doesn't permit payment of TLE to a member moving from a PDS when leaving active duty. However, you may be paid TLE incident to a move when entering active duty to the first PDS.

NOTE: TLE is payable incident to a move when entering active duty to the first PDS beginning 5 October 1999 for enlisted members, and for officer members with orders issued on or after 1 January 2002.

Q12. For how many days will I be paid TLE?

ANSWER: The time limitation for TLE is:

- a. 10 days in connection with a PCS to a PDS in CONUS, (the days may be split between old PDS, new PDS and designated place as you wish), or,
- b. 5 days in connection with a PCS to an OCONUS PDS, (the days may be split between old CONUS PDS and designated place in CONUS as you choose). There's a separate allowance called TLA at the OCONUS site, or
- c. 10 days for a member reporting to the first PDS from the HOR or initial technical school (a member may split the days among CONUS HOR, initial technical school, designated place in CONUS, and CONUS PDS; if the first PDS is OCONUS, a member may split the days between CONUS HOR, initial technical school, and designated place in CONUS).

Note: TLE can't - under any circumstances - exceed 10 days.

Q13. How much will I be paid per day?

ANSWER: You may be paid or reimbursed up to a total of \$180 per day. This maximum applies if you and your dependents occupy temporary lodgings on the same or different days. When you and your dependents occupy temporary lodgings on different days, you may elect the days for which TLE is claimed. For example, you occupy temporary lodgings for 12 days during the period 1-12 April at the new PDS. Your dependents also occupy temporary lodgings at the old PDS for 12 days but for the period 18-29 April. The period 1-10 April (you) and 18-27 April (dependents) could be selected by you for TLE purposes. Reimbursement for the combined total expenses incurred for the first days you claim TLE (1 April for you and 18 April for your dependents) may not exceed \$180 per day. The same limitation applies for the remaining days.

Q14. What TLE rules apply in the case of a member married to member?

ANSWER:

- a. When both spouses are members, each is entitled to TLE.
- b. Each member is entitled to TLE whether or not temporary lodgings are jointly or separately occupied.
- c. Each member may be paid or reimbursed up to a maximum of \$180 per day.
- d. A member shall not be considered as a dependent for TLE payment.
- e. Both members may not claim the same dependents for TLE purposes.
- f. Each member must certify, in accordance with procedures prescribed in Service regulations, that temporary lodgings were occupied for the number of days for which TLE is claimed.

Q15. How is TLE computed?

ANSWER: Compute TLE using the following steps:

Step 1: Determine daily M&IE and ceiling for lodging. Multiply the percentage in the following table by the applicable M&IE and lodging locality per diem rates prescribed in

<https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/perdiemrates.html>.

No. of Eligible Persons Occupying Temporary Quarters	Percentage Applicable
Member or 1 dependent	65%
Member and 1 dependent, or 2 dependents only	100%
For each additional dependent 12 and over, add:	35%
For each additional dependent under 12, add:	25%

NOTE: For member married-to-member couples, each spouse begins with 65%. Each dependent then increases the percentage for the member claiming that dependent.

Step 2: Determine lodging

Compare the actual daily lodging cost (including lodging taxes) to the lodging cost ceiling found in Step 1. Use the lesser.

Step 3: Determine gross daily equivalency. Add the result in Step 2 to the daily M&IE rate obtained in Step 1.

Step 4: Determine applicable daily rate

Compare \$180.00 with the amount found in Step 3. Pay the lesser of these two amounts for that day.

EXAMPLE 1 -- TLE ALLOWANCE

NOTE: Locality per diem and the M&IE rate used in this example may not be the rates currently in effect and are for illustration purposes only.

A member with no dependents is ordered on a PCS from one CONUS PDS to another. Each PDS has a different per diem rate. After reporting at the new PDS, the member occupies temporary quarters at the new PDS for 4 nights \$47.50 (\$42.75 per night plus \$4.75 tax). The new PDS locality per diem rate is \$112 (\$34 for M&IE and \$78 for lodging). The member certifies that Government quarters are not available. The member is authorized TLE, computed as follows:

1. Determine maximum rates (given percent x locality rate).	
	M&IE 65% x \$34 = \$22.10
	Lodging 65% x \$78 = \$50.70
2. Compare the actual daily lodging cost (including lodging tax) to the Step 1 maximum lodging rate and use the lesser.	\$47.50 vs. \$50.70 \$47.50
3. Add the Step 1 M&IE to the selected lodging in Step 2.	\$22.10 + \$47.50 = \$69.60
4. Compare \$180 with the Step 3 amount and pay the lesser amount for each day. Pay \$69.60 for that day.	\$180 vs. \$69.60; \$69.60 x 4 days = \$278.40

EXAMPLE 2 -- TLE ALLOWANCE

NOTE: Locality per diem and the M&IE rate used in this example may not be the rates currently in effect and are for illustration purposes only. See par. U2025 or <https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/perdiemrates.html> for the current Standard CONUS per diem rate.

A member, with a spouse (not a member entitled to basic pay) and two children (12-year old and 9-year old) is ordered on a PCS from one CONUS PDS to another (the standard CONUS per diem rate applies to both PDSs, \$60 for lodging and \$31 for M&IE). After reporting to the new PDS, the member and dependents occupy temporary quarters off-post for 8 nights at \$80 per night (\$72 per night plus \$8 tax). The member certifies that Government quarters are not available. The member is authorized TLE, computed as follows:

1. Determine maximum rates (given percent x locality rate).	
M&IE	160% x \$31 = \$49.60
Lodging	160% x \$60 = \$96.00
2. Compare the actual daily lodging cost (including lodging tax) to the Step 1 maximum lodging rate and use the lesser.	\$80.00 vs. \$96.00 \$80.00
3. Add the Step 1 M&IE to the selected Step 2 lodging cost.	\$49.60 + \$80.00 = \$129.60
4. Compare \$180 with the Step 3 amount and pay the lesser amount for each day. Pay \$128.00 per day.	\$180.00 vs. \$129.60; \$129.60 x 8 days = \$1036.80

EXAMPLE 3 -- TLE ALLOWANCE

NOTE: Locality per diem and the M&IE rate used in this example may not be the rates currently in effect and are for illustration purposes only. See par. U2025 or <https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/perdiemrates.html> for the current Standard CONUS per diem rate.

A member-married-to-member couple with two dependents (14-year old and 10-year old) is ordered on a PCS from one CONUS PDS to another. The Standard CONUS per diem rate applies to both PDSs, \$60 for lodging and \$31 for M&IE. After reporting at the new PDS, the members and dependents occupy temporary quarters off-post for 6 nights at \$100 (\$90 per night plus \$10 tax). Each member is authorized TLE up to \$180 per day. The \$100 lodging cost is divided evenly between both members. The members certify that Government quarters are not available. The members are authorized TLE, computed as follows:

Member #1 (with 1 dependent)	
1. Determine Maximum rates (Given percent x locality rate).	100% x \$31 = \$31.00

	M&IE	100% x \$60.00 = \$60.00
	Lodging	
2. Compare the actual daily lodging cost (including tax) to the Step 1 maximum lodging rate and use the lesser.		\$50.00 vs. \$60.00 \$50.00
3. Add the Step 1 M&IE to the Step 2 lodging cost .		\$31.00+ \$50.00 = \$ 81.00
4. Compare \$180 with the Step 3 amount and pay the lesser amount for each day. Pay \$81.00 for that day.		\$180.00 vs. \$ 81.00; \$81.00 x 6 days = \$486.00

Member #2 (with 1 dependent)		
1. Determine Maximum rates (Given percent x locality rate)	M&IE	100% x \$31.00 = \$31.00
	Lodging	100% x \$60.00 - \$60.00
2. Compare the actual daily lodging cost (including lodging tax) to the Step 1 maximum lodging rate and use the lesser.		\$50.00 vs. \$60.00 \$50.00
3. Add the Step 1 M&IE to the selected Step 2 lodging cost.		\$31.00+ \$50.00 = \$ 81.00
4. Compare \$180 with the Step 3 amount and pay the lesser amount for each day. Pay \$81.00 for that day.		\$180.00 vs. \$ 81.00; \$81.00 x 6 days = \$486.00

The **daily** rate paid to each member is \$81. The combined **daily** amount paid to both members is \$162.00 (\$81.00 + 81.00). The combined amount paid to both members for 6 days is \$972.00 (\$162.00 X 6).

EXAMPLE 4 -- TLE ALLOWANCE

NOTE: Locality per diem and the M&IE rates used in this example may not be the rates currently in effect and are for illustration purposes only. See par. U2025 or <https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/perdiemrates.html> for the current Standard CONUS per diem rate.

A member-married-to-member couple with two dependents (5-year old and 7-year old) are each ordered on a PCS from one CONUS PDS to another. The locality per diem rate for the new PDS is \$100 (\$34 for M&IE and \$66 for lodging). After reporting at the new PDS, the members and dependents occupy temporary quarters off-post for 30 nights at \$100 (\$90 per night plus \$10 tax). Each member is entitled to TLE up to \$180 per day for 10 days. The \$100 lodging cost is the same whether 3 people or 4 people occupy the room. The members certify that Government quarters are not available. **(Note: In this example, each member claims the two dependent children BUT for different days.)** The members are authorized TLE, computed as follows:

Member #1 (with 2 dependents)	
1. Determine Maximum rate (Given percent x locality rate).	
M&IE	$125\% \times \$34.00 = \42.50
Lodging	$125\% \times \$66.00 = \82.50
2. Compare the actual daily lodging cost (including lodging tax) to the Step 1 maximum lodging rate and use the lesser.	$\$100.00$ vs. $\$82.50$ $\$82.50$
3. Add the Step 1 M&IE to the selected Step 2 lodging cost.	$\$42.50 + \$82.50 = \$125.00$
4. Compare \$180 with the Step 3 amount and pay the lesser amount for each day. Pay \$125.00 for that day.	$\$180.00$ vs. $\$125.00$; $\$125.00 \times 10 \text{ days} = \$1,250.00$

Member #2 (with 2 dependent)

1. Determine Maximum rate (Given percent x locality rate).	
M&IE	125% x \$34.00 = \$42.50
Lodging	125% x \$66.00 = \$82.50
2. Compare the actual daily lodging cost (including lodging tax) to the Step 1 maximum lodging and use the lesser.	\$100.00 vs. \$82.50 \$82.50
3. Add the Step 1 M&IE to the selected Step 2 lodging cost.	\$42.50 + \$82.50 = \$125.00
4. Compare \$180 with the Step 3 amount and pay the lesser amount for each day. Pay \$125.00 for that day.	\$180.00 vs. \$125.00; \$125.00 x 10 days = 1,250.00

The first member may claim TLE for any 10-day period and the second member may claim TLE for any other 10-day period (with no overlap in days) in temporary quarters. Each member is authorized up to the maximum of 10 days (\$180.00 per day x 10 days = \$1,800.00). The combined amount paid to both members in this case for 20 days is \$2,500.00 (\$1,250.00 + \$1,250.00).

EXAMPLE 5 -- TLE ALLOWANCE

NOTE: Locality per diem and the M&IE rates used in this example may not be the rates currently in effect and are for illustration purposes only. See par. U2025 or <https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/perdiemrates.html> for the current Standard CONUS per diem rate.

A member with a spouse (not a member entitled to basic pay) and two children (14-year old and 11-year old) is ordered on a PCS from one CONUS PDS to another. Before departing the old PDS the member and dependents occupy temporary quarters off post for 2 nights at \$120 per night (\$105 per night plus \$15 tax). The locality rate for the old PDS rate is \$110 (\$34.00 for M&IE and \$76 for lodging). After reporting to the new PDS, the member and dependents occupy temporary quarters off-post for 6 nights at \$85 per night (\$77 per night plus \$8 tax). The

new PDS locality rate is \$90.00 (\$30.00 for M&IE and \$60.00 for lodging). The member certifies that Government quarters are not available at either PDS. The member is authorized TLE, computed as follows:

OLD PDS

1. Determine maximum rate (given percent x locality rate).	
M&IE	160% x \$34.00 = \$ 54.40
Lodging	160% x \$76.00 = \$121.60
2. Compare the actual daily lodging cost (including lodging tax) to the Step 1 maximum lodging rate and use the lesser.	\$120.00 vs. \$121.60 \$120.00
3. Add the Step 1 M&IE to the selected Step 2 lodging cost.	\$54.40 + \$120.00 = 174.40
4. Compare \$180 with the Step 3 amount and pay the lesser amount for each day. Pay \$174.40 per day.	\$180 vs. \$174.40 \$174.40 x 2 days = 348.80

NEW PDS

1. Determine maximum rate (given percent x locality rate).	
M&IE	160% x \$30.00 = \$48.00
Lodging	160% x \$60.00 = \$96.00
2. Compare the actual daily lodging cost (including lodging tax) to the Step 1 maximum lodging rate and use the lesser.	\$85.00 vs. \$96.00 \$85.00
3. Add the Step 1 M&IE to the selected Step 2 lodging cost.	\$48.00 + \$85.00 = 133.00
4. Compare \$180 with the Step 3 amount and pay the lesser amount for each day. Pay \$133.00 for that day.	\$180 vs. \$133.00; \$133.00 x 6 days = 798.00

The member is authorized a total of \$1146.80 (\$348.80 + \$798.00) for TLE.

EXAMPLE 6 -- TLE ALLOWANCE

NOTE: Locality per diem and the M&IE rates used in this example may not be the rates currently in effect and are for illustration purposes only.

A member occupies temporary quarters at the new PDS for 12 days (1-12 April) at \$45.00 (\$40.50 per night plus \$4.50 tax). The new PDS locality per diem rate is \$95.00 (\$30.00 for M&IE and \$65 for lodging). The member's dependents (spouse and one child) occupy temporary quarters at the old PDS for 12 days (18-29 April) at \$60 (\$54.00 per night plus \$6.00 tax). The locality per diem rate for the dependents' location is \$115.00 (\$34.00 for M&IE and \$81.00 for lodging). The member selected 1-10 April (member) and 18-27 April (dependents) for TLE. The member certifies that Government quarters were not available at either location. The member is authorized TLE, computed as follows:

	Member	Dependent(s)
1. Determine Maximum rate (given percent x locality rate)		
M&IE	65% x \$30.00 = \$19.50	100% x \$34.00 = 34.00
Lodging	65% x \$65.00 = \$42.25	100% x \$81.00 = \$81.00
2. Compare the actual daily lodging cost (including lodging tax) to the Step 1 maximum lodging rate and use the lesser.	\$45 vs. \$42.25 \$42.25	\$60.00 vs. \$81.00 \$60.00
3. Add the Step 1 M&IE to the selected Step 2 lodging cost.	\$19.50 + \$42.25 = 61.75	\$34.00 + \$60.00 = \$94.00
Combined Total:	\$61.75 + \$94.00 = \$155.75	

4. Compare \$180 with the Step 3 combined total and pay the lesser amount for each day. Pay \$155.75 for that day.

\$180.00 vs. \$155.75

$\$155.75 \times 10 \text{ days} = \$1,557.50$