

**APPENDIX M**

**COMMAND, SENIOR OFFICER, COUNTRY ALLOWANCE COORDINATOR  
RESPONSIBILITIES  
AND  
STATION ALLOWANCE AND TRAVEL PER DIEM REPORTING PROCEDURES  
(MEMBERS ONLY)**

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## APPENDIX M

### PART 1: COMMAND, SENIOR OFFICER, AND COUNTRY ALLOWANCE COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Purpose. Reports required by this Appendix provide actual cost data needed to establish or adjust the Overseas Cost-of-Living Allowances (COLA), Overseas Housing Allowances (OHA), and non-foreign area travel per diem allowances (e.g., Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and other U.S. territories and possessions). See Part 2 for required reports and reporting procedures.

B. Senior Officer Responsibilities. The Senior Officer of the Uniformed Services in each country has responsibility for the quality and timeliness of all allowance and travel per diem reports for that country. As used in this Appendix, the term “country” also applies to Hawaii, Alaska and territories and/or possessions of the United States. See Part 6, Table A, for a list of required reporting locations and the responsible Command/Senior Officer.

1. Appointment of Country Allowance Coordinator. The Senior Officer should:

- a. Formally appoint a Country Allowance Coordinator and an alternate to conduct the allowance surveys and submit allowance reports required by Part 2. See Part 5 for a sample Appointment Letter. See Part 1, par. D for Country Allowance Coordinator Responsibilities.
- b. Provide a copy of the Country Allowance Coordinator's appointment letter to the Defense Travel Management Office's (DTMO) Allowances Branch.
- c. Ensure that the appointed Country Allowance Coordinator has sufficient authority to coordinate data collection with other duty stations and other Services.

2. Designation of Overseas Housing Allowance Approval Authority. The Senior Officer in Country should:

- a. Designate an individual(s) to validate the DD Form 2367 (Individual Overseas Housing Allowances (OHA) Report) submitted by members claiming OHA.
- b. Designate a ‘Certifying Official’ to validate entries in appropriate blocks on DD Form 2367. See App N1, pars. E4, E5, and E6.
- c. Designate an individual(s) to adjudicate cases involving questionable OHA claims. While the Senior Officer may not change a member's entitlement to an allowance, he or she may adjudicate the parameters under which they are paid. For example, there are instances where the housing office may appropriately put certain sets of quarters or neighborhoods off limits or refuse to approve a lease because the rental amount is excessive and not reflective of available housing.

3. Overseas Allowance Survey Oversight. See Part 2: Station Allowance Reporting Procedures for Overseas Allowance Survey requirements. The Senior Officer should:

- a. Solicit the support of other commanders in country to designate local survey coordinators to work with the Country Allowance Coordinator in the preparation of timely, high-quality reports.
- b. Encourage maximum participation by service members in all Overseas Allowance Surveys.
- c. Ensure that the required reports are properly prepared and forwarded to DTMO's Allowances Branch by the due date (see Part 6, Allowance Reporting Schedules).
- d. Report economic changes or other factors that substantially alter the cost of living in the country.

- e. Ensure that other commanders do not establish policies that direct members to rent either above or below published rental allowance ceilings.
- f. Advise members that station and travel per diem allowances are subject to decreases, as well as increases, based on exchange rate fluctuations and DTMO's Allowances Branch cost data submission reviews.

C. Overseas Commander Responsibilities. Overseas commanders are responsible for providing information to service members on all overseas allowances.

1. Cost of Living Allowances. Local commanders are responsible for:

- a. Appointing local survey coordinators.
- b. Ensuring maximum participation in COLA Surveys.

2. Overseas Housing Allowances. Commanders should explore every means possible to help members obtain adequate, reasonably priced local economy housing. Additionally, the Commander should:

- a. Require new arriving members to register with the local housing office.
- b. Emphasize the need for new members to keep the housing office informed of their progress in locating housing.
- c. Provide a copy of the OHA briefing sheet (see App K1) to the incoming member.
- d. Advise incoming members of the responsibility to aggressively seek adequate, reasonably priced housing. OHA is designed to provide for reasonable, adequate quarters, not personal enrichment.
- e. Follow-up on members' progress in obtaining housing.
- f. Advise members of what constitutes an illegal rental contract (e.g., a lease that stipulates rent in an amount different from the amount agreed to between the landlord and member).
- g. Inform members of their obligation to avoid illegal rental contracts.

D. Country Allowance Coordinator Responsibilities. See Part 2: Station Allowance Reporting Procedures for required allowance reports. The Country Allowance Coordinator responsibilities include:

1. COLA Surveys. For COLA surveys the Country Allowance Coordinator should:

- a. Maintain a list of all duty stations for the country as well as the Locality Allowance Coordinators and offices responsible for annual COLA report preparation.
- b. Retain copies of two prior Retail Price Schedules and the latest Living Pattern Survey.
- c. Maintain copies of forms and instructional materials needed for local survey coordinators.
- d. Train local survey coordinators on data collection.
- e. Widely advertise the Living Pattern Survey and encourage participation by all permanently-assigned members that have been stationed at least three months.
- f. Consolidate completed Retail Price Schedules and forward the reports to DTMO's Allowances Branch to the address in Part 2, par. D5.

2. OHA Utility and Utility & Move-In Expenses Surveys. Once the Country Allowance Coordinator receives notification from DTMO's Allowances Branch that a Utility Survey or Utility & Move-In Expenses Survey is scheduled, the allowance coordinator should:

- a. Widely publicize the upcoming survey.
- b. Stress the importance of the member completing the survey.
- c. Issue supplementary utility survey instructions that help the member complete the questionnaire.

3. Currency Rates. For localities reporting daily exchange rate information the Country Allowance Coordinator ensures that currency reports are accurate and provided as required.

4. Locality Allowance Coordinators. At least twice per year, the Country Allowance Coordinator sends DTMO's Allowances Branch an updated list of the Locality Allowance Coordinators responsible for OHA and COLA surveys for each of the JTR-reporting localities in country. The list should contain the name, rank, telephone number, and email address of each Locality Allowance Coordinator.

5. Station Allowance Change Messages. On the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> of each month, the Country Allowance Coordinator is responsible for reviewing the Station Allowance Change Message on the DTMO website and informing all local commands of changes in OHA, COLA or currency exchange rates for the country.

E. Country Allowance Coordinator Training. DTMO's Allowances Branch periodically conducts an in-depth 2 day training session for Overseas Country Allowance Coordinators. The training provides a working knowledge of overseas allowances, survey coordination, and reporting requirements. The objective of the class is to train overseas allowance coordinators to conduct and coordinate surveys and to submit accurate and complete allowance reports. The important role that the Country Allowance Coordinator plays in the allowance setting process is also covered. The Senior Officer should plan for new Country Allowance Coordinators to attend a minimum of one session. This is especially helpful prior to conducting the country's allowance surveys.

1. Training and/or Scheduling Information. For training and/or scheduling information send e-mail message to: [dodhra.mc-alex.dtmo.mbx.allowances@mail.mil](mailto:dodhra.mc-alex.dtmo.mbx.allowances@mail.mil).

## PART 2: STATION ALLOWANCE REPORTING PROCEDURES

### A. Required Allowance Reports. Required allowance data reports include:

1. Cost-of Living (COLA). COLA indexes are determined by using data provided by two surveys:
  - a. Living Pattern Survey (LPS) identifies where and how members purchase goods and services, and
  - b. Retail Price Schedule (RPS) records the prices of a market basket of goods and services.
2. Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA). Overseas Housing Allowances are determined by using data provided by the following surveys and reports:
  - a. OHA Utility Expenses Survey collects actual utility cost data and is used to adjust the Utility and Recurring Maintenance Allowance.
  - b. OHA Move-in Expenses Survey collects data on costs associated with moving into privately-leased housing and is used to adjust the Move-in Housing Allowance.
  - c. Actual rent data derived from pay systems is used to adjust OHA rental allowances.
3. Travel per diem. Per diem travel allowances are determined from data reported on Department of State Form DS-2026, Hotel and Restaurant Report.

### B. Cost-of-Living (COLA) Reports

1. Forms and Handbooks used to collect COLA Data. For copies of the required forms, handbook, and other information see the DTMO website at: <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/surveyInst.cfm>. Use the following forms and handbook to collect COLA data:
  - a. Retail Price Schedule (RPS). RPS data is collected annually and reports actual prices for a market basket of goods and services at the overseas location. The report can be completed on any computer.
  - b. Retail Price Handbook. The RPS Handbook provides step-by-step instructions on collecting prices and completing the RPS.
  - c. Living Pattern Survey (LPS). The LPS is required once every three years to determine where service members shop and how they allocate their purchases between local market and U.S. Government shopping facilities. The survey is fully automated and can be completed on any personal computer.
2. Required COLA Reporting Localities. The localities that are required to submit reports are listed in Part 6, Table B. These reporting localities are determined by DTMO's Allowances Branch in conjunction with Command input. Reporting locations can be changed or updated as the Command deems necessary. The Department of State (DOS) Standardized Regulations require COLA reports from select overseas cities, not listed in Part 6, Table B, used to prescribe the Post Allowance for civilians. DOS forwards these reports to DTMO's Allowances Branch to determine the COLA for service members in these locations.
  - a. Countries with large numbers of duty stations need only submit a sample of COLA data collection reports. These reports determine COLA indexes for other localities with similar living costs. See Part 6, Table B, for a list of required reporting locations and their reporting schedule.
  - b. For locations where DOS is responsible for report submission, the Senior Officer in the area is responsible for maintaining liaison with DOS and cooperating in report preparation. If the DOS reported prices or the reported sources of supply and services are not representative for service members, the Senior Officer has two options:

- (1) Request that the reporting agency include separate RPS pages and a statement showing the points of difference, or
- (2) Prepare and submit separate RPS pages and a statement showing the points of difference.

In both cases, prior to starting a separate price collection, the Senior Officer must submit a signed memo stating the reason for a separate DoD-led price collection to DTMO.

3. Voluntary RPS Reports. Because the preparation of RPS reports requires significant resources, voluntary reports should only be submitted:

- a. After the Commander confirms the necessity of the report with the Country Allowance Coordinator,
- b. When costs are considered substantially different from the costs in other areas of the country for which reports are already required, and
- c. The value of the U.S. dollar has changed by more than 15% against the unit of local currency.

4. Out-of-Cycle Reports

a. Retail Price Schedule. Out-of-cycle RPS reports should only be considered when unusual changes have occurred since the submission of the last RPS, for example:

- (1) When prices change materially, or
- (2) Sources of supply or services change materially (i.e. a commissary or exchange facility is added or removed from the military installation, a new local outlet is established that members utilize, etc.).

To authorize an out-of-cycle RPS, the Senior Officer in the area is required, prior to the start of an out-of-cycle RPS, to submit a signed memo stating the reason for the out-of-cycle survey and providing relevant data to DTMO for approval.

For localities where DOS is responsible for report submission and is unable or unwilling to prepare an out-of-cycle report, please see Part 2, Section B2 (page M-5) for more information.

b. Living Pattern Survey (LPS). An out-of-cycle LPS should only be considered when unusual changes have occurred since the submission of the previous LPS, for example:

- (1) The value of the dollar (in terms of the local currency) has increased or decreased more than 15 percent since the last survey,
- (2) A commissary or exchange facility opens, closes, or expands at or near the duty station, or
- (3) Local market outlets open or close or become more or less accessible.

To authorize an out-of-cycle LPS, the Senior Officer in the area is required, prior to the start of an out-of-cycle LPS, to submit a signed memo stating the reason for the out-of-cycle survey and providing relevant data to DTMO for approval. DTMO typically conducts overseas allowance training before an out-of-cycle LPS is initiated, when possible, to ensure accurate data is captured.

5. Survey Coordinator. The survey coordinator should be familiar with sampling and survey techniques. If possible, the same individual should coordinate the surveys for more than one year. The survey coordinator must:

- a. Coordinate surveys with all of the Uniformed Services assigned to a Joint Service location, and

b. Maintain formal COLA survey files, including:

- (1) Copies of at least two prior years RPS for reference purposes,
- (2) A copy of the most recent LPS,
- (3) Instruction and training materials, and
- (4) Correspondence and other feedback information from the Country Allowance Coordinator and DTMO's Allowances Branch.

6. Conducting the Living Pattern Survey (LPS). Before an LPS is conducted, the Country Allowance Coordinator contacts DTMO'S Allowances Branch for survey instructions and guidelines. For required reporting locations and scheduled reporting dates see Part 6, Table B. LPS reports must be submitted at least once every three years and must precede the RPS survey.

a. LPS Sample Size. Based on population data provided by Defense Manpower Data Center , and the unique population characteristics of the area, DTMO's Allowances Branch determines the minimum sample size necessary to validate the survey results for each reporting location. In locations where fewer than 150 service members are assigned, the entire population (a census) should be surveyed. DTMO's Allowances Branch forwards the minimum sample size to the Country Allowance Coordinator by e-mail at least one month prior to the survey due date.

b. Survey Distribution. Prior to the start of the LPS, DTMO's Allowances Branch will send the Country Allowance Coordinator an Installation Outlet List for completion. This list pre-populates the automated LPS with outlet choices. DTMO's Allowances Branch will post the LPS to the DTMO website and forward the LPS web address to the Country Allowance Coordinator. The Country Allowance Coordinator notifies members of the web address and the cut-off date for survey completion.

c. LPS Survey Participation

- (1) The survey coordinator must actively publicize the dates of the LPS and emphasize the importance of participating in this survey to service members. A sample LPS Survey notification to send to local Commands is in Part 4, par. A. To ensure statistical validity, the survey coordinator should elicit maximum response to the survey.
- (2) The survey should be completed by uniformed members with the assistance of all shoppers in the household. It asks service members and their families to identify the local market outlets where they usually shop and how they allocate their purchases between different sources of supply.
- (3) Participation in the LPS should be limited to members who have been at the duty station for three months or longer.

d. Reports. All LPS data from the automated survey must be appended to create reporting files. This data is used by the Country Allowance Coordinator to prepare the Retail Price Schedule and is used by DTMO's Allowances Branch in setting the source of supply percentages for computing COLA indexes.

7. Completing the Retail Price Schedule (RPS). RPS reports are required annually for locations identified in Part 6, Table B. When more than one location in a country is due to report, the Country Allowance Coordinator should ensure that all reporting locations collect prices and prepare the reports during the same time period (usually the first 10 days of the reporting month).

a. Collect and report prices from:

- (1) The local market outlets identified on the most recent LPS, and

- (2) U.S. Government facilities if the locality has an exchange and/or commissary. A separate report with a full set of prices in U.S. dollars is required.
- b. Reported prices should be appropriate for families of three to four persons in middle-income pay grades (E-6, E-7, and O-2, O-3). When possible, family members should be involved in price collection.
  - c. Price collection may not be delegated to a local national, although they may accompany U.S. price collectors and may assist in translation. A sample Letter to local merchants informing them of price collection is in Part 4, par. B; translation into the local language is encouraged.
  - d. Prices collected from local market outlets are reported in the local currency that is normally used.
  - e. When preparing a report for a commissary or exchange, the survey coordinator may request the manager's help for customer purchasing preferences. When prices for U.S. Government facilities are reported in U.S. dollars but tied to the fluctuation of the local currency, clearly annotate that information on the report.
  - f. Collect prices from the same outlets used in the previous RPS (unless a new LPS was conducted). If different outlets are used provide an explanation (e.g., the most frequently used outlet has closed).
  - g. Review the reports for price omissions. Price omissions delay processing and may jeopardize calculation of an appropriate index.
  - h. Before submission, the survey coordinator should compare the current report to the previous report. If current prices differ substantially from the previous report, the survey coordinator should provide explanations or comments. If errors are discovered in the previous report, they must be reported to permit valid comparisons between reports.
  - i. The completed RPS must be signed by Officer with Overall Responsibility.
  - j. Forward the completed RPS report to the Country Allowance Coordinator. The Country Allowance Coordinator reviews the data and forwards to DTMO's Allowances Branch. Note any significant issues in the Comments section at the end of the survey.

8. Submitting COLA Reports. All LPS and RPS files must be forwarded in sufficient time to reach DTMO's Allowances Branch no later than the last day of the month indicated in Part 6, Table B. For example, if the RPS month is October the report should reach DTMO's Allowances Branch by 31 October. If the Country Allowance Coordinator is unable to meet that date, a request for extension should be submitted prior to the due date. Completed RPS files should be forwarded by email to [dodhra.mc-alex.dtmo.mbx.allowances@mail.mil](mailto:dodhra.mc-alex.dtmo.mbx.allowances@mail.mil).

C. Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Reports. The following reports are used in determining Overseas Housing allowances:

1. Utility and Recurring Maintenance Allowance. DTMO's Allowances Branch conducts an annual OHA Utility Expenses survey. Actual utility cost data is collected and used to adjust Utility and Recurring Maintenance Allowances. To ensure that proper allowances are set, accurate and complete reporting of costs is essential. Service members should retain copies of all utility expenses for later survey completion and cost reporting.
2. MIHA/Miscellaneous. Once every three years DTMO's Allowances Branch collects data to determine the cost of initially occupying dwellings. The OHA Utility and Move-In Expenses survey collects actual cost data for move-in expenses. To ensure that proper Move-In Housing Allowances are set, accurate and complete reporting of costs is essential. Service members should retain copies of all move-in expenses for later survey completion and cost reporting.



3. Conducting Utility and Move-In Expenses Surveys. The schedule of the surveys is listed in Part 6, Table C. Survey dates are determined by DTMO's Allowances Branch in conjunction with command input and recommendations. The survey coordinator must actively publicize the dates of the Utility Expenses Survey and emphasize to service members the importance of participating in this survey. A sample notification to send to local Commands is in Part 4, par. C.

4. Rental Data Reports. Rental data for members in privately leased quarters is based on costs reported by service members through the finance system.

a. Established Duty Locations. Members report their rental costs to their finance centers by completing DD Form 2367 (Individual Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Report).

b. New Duty Locations. When a member is assigned to a PDS for which no rental data is available, the Country Allowance Coordinator must provide the following information to DTMO's Allowances Branch.

- (1) Member's name and grade;
- (2) Member's email address;
- (3) Number of Dependents accompanying the member;
- (4) Type of dwelling (house, apartment, duplex, etc.), number of bedrooms and baths, total net size of dwelling (square feet);
- (5) Commuting distance to PDS (time and distance);
- (6) Amount of monthly rent (in the currency used to pay the rent); and
- (7) Which utilities, if any, are included in the rent.

*Use encryption when emailing the above information.*

D. Travel Per Diem Reports. DTMO's Allowances Branch is responsible for setting per diem travel allowances for non-foreign OCONUS areas. Overseas foreign location rates are determined by the Department of State; however, local commands may submit supplemental Restaurant & Hotel cost reports along with Cost-of-Living retail price schedules as warranted.

1. The Hotel and Restaurant Report. The Hotel and Restaurant Report (Department of State Form DS-2026) is used to provide price data for the most used lodging and restaurant facilities in the non-foreign areas. The annual report is used to review and determine appropriate per diem allowance rates for these localities.

2. Required Travel Per Diem Reporting Locations. Hotel and Restaurant Report (Department of State Form DS-2026) should be submitted annually for the OCONUS non-foreign area locations listed in Part 6, Table D.

3. Travel Per Diem Reporting Instructions. Reporting officials should ensure that the reports include lodging and meal costs experienced by all typical Government travelers, not just uniformed personnel. Facilities reported should be those used by both Federal civilian employees and uniformed personnel. FEMA-compliant or equivalent, three and four star establishments should be priced. Lodging costs reported should include discounts available to civilian personnel and uniformed personnel. When non-commercial lodging and meal facilities are available, reports should also contain the following information:

- a. Name of facility,
- b. Operating agency, and

c. Amount of meal charges for uniformed personnel, for Department of Defense civilian employees, and for other U.S. Government civilian employees.

4. Requesting a Travel Per Diem Rate Change. When the travel expenses in the area appear to be significantly different than the prescribed per diem rate, the local commander and/or the senior officer should forward to DTMO's Allowances Branch:

- a. A request for a review/change in the per diem rate, and
- b. Department of State Form DS-2026, Hotel and Restaurant Report, submitted through the Country Allowance Coordinator.

For other locations, see par. 4120 for submission requirements.

5. Forwarding Travel Per Diem Reports. All reports must be forwarded in sufficient time to reach DTMO's Allowances Branch no later than the last day of the month indicated in column two of Part 6, Table D. For example, if the **'Month Annual Travel Report Due'** is October the report should reach DTMO's Allowances Branch by 31 October. If unable to meet that date, an explanation must be furnished prior to the due date.

Forward completed reports to [dodhra.mc-alex.dtmo.mbx.allowances@mail.mil](mailto:dodhra.mc-alex.dtmo.mbx.allowances@mail.mil)

### PART 3: CURRENCY ADJUSTMENTS

**Country and locality coordinators should ensure that members understand that allowances can and will vary over time owing to adjustments based on changes in the pay system exchange rates independent of any other economic activity.**

A. Currency Adjustments. Overseas allowances are paid to the member in U.S. dollars. However, some members pay for rent, utilities, move-in items, and many goods and services in the local currency. This necessitates periodic adjustment of allowances to ensure that members maintain their purchasing power in the local currency used. Those purchases made in U.S. dollars are not adjusted for currency fluctuation (e.g., for COLA, dollar purchases made on U.S. on-base facilities).

1. Reviewing and Adjusting Exchange Rates. DTMO's Allowances Branch reviews and adjusts (as necessary) exchange rates for countries where members are assigned. Based solely on the currency fluctuations, adjustments can be made:

- a. As often as twice monthly,
- b. To Overseas Housing Allowances (OHA), and/or
- c. To Overseas Cost-of-Living Allowances (COLA).

Adjustments are done EXACTLY the same way whether the dollar is increasing or decreasing in value.

2. Determining Allowance Pay System Exchange Rates. The new exchange rate selected by DTMO's Allowances Branch ensures that over time neither the member nor the Government is in-pocket or out-of-pocket: both the member and the Government 'break even'. Twice each month, in conjunction with military pay days, DTMO's Allowances Branch reviews exchange rates for countries where uniformed personnel are assigned and, as warranted, makes adjustments to COLA and OHA based solely on fluctuations in the rates of exchange. Since the exchange rate model is either paying out or buying back under payments or over payments, members may not see the actual allowance exchange rate at the military banking facility when changing their dollars for local currency. DTMO's Allowances Branch uses a tracking and adjustment currency model that:

- a. Compares the daily difference between the current allowance exchange rate in the pay system and the accommodation rate members receive for their U.S. dollars,
- b. Compares the weekly difference between the current allowance exchange rate and the trading rate members receive for their U.S. dollars,
- c. Accumulates both positive and negative exchange rate differences,
- d. Makes a new exchange rate selection when the weekly differences reach an accumulated five-percent threshold,
- e. Ensures that the selected rate buys back the accumulated difference (either negative or positive) in a stable economy over an eight-week period.

B. Collecting Daily Exchange Rates. DTMO's Allowances Branch collects daily exchange rates from overseas locations:

1. DoD Community Bank and overseas Commands (in countries where most members are assigned),
2. The Wall Street Journal, and
3. The Department of State.

C. Currency Adjustment Effective Dates. Currency adjustments are effective the 1st and 16th of each month; however, processing time requires that the exchange rate review take place on or before the 9th of the month (for the 16th adjustment) or the 23rd of the month (for 1st adjustment).

**PART 4: SAMPLE OVERSEAS ALLOWANCE SURVEY NOTIFICATIONS****A. Living Pattern Survey**

From: *(Country or Locality Survey Coordinator)*

To: ALL: PLEASE GIVE THIS INFORMATION WIDEST DISTRIBUTION IN THE MILITARY COMMUNITY

Subject: COLA LIVING PATTERN SURVEY FOR *(Country and Locality Name)*

The Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) Living Pattern Survey (LPS) for *(Locality and Country Name)* is now available on-line. Here is the link to access the survey:

**[URL FOR CONNECTING TO SURVEY PROVIDED BY DTMO'S ALLOWANCES BRANCH](#)**

**WHAT IS IT?** This is a COLA Survey that asks military members and their families which local economy outlets they use when they shop for food items, clothing and many other goods and services, such as hair care, and auto repair. It also asks how much of their shopping is done on the local economy, and how much is done at the Commissary/Exchange or on the internet.

**WHY THIS SURVEY IS IMPORTANT:** The data reported in this survey will be used to adjust the COLA for *(Location, Country)*. The Living Pattern Survey is one of the "Building Blocks" of COLA. Every 3 years a LPS is conducted to determine the local economy outlets where military families shop. The annual Retail Price Schedule (Market Basket Survey) collects the prices of 120 goods and services from these outlets. After DTMO's Allowances Branch compares the prices in *(Location, Country)* to those in average CONUS, a COLA index is computed that reflects the difference.

**WHEN IS IT?** The survey will be conducted between *(date)* and *(date)*.

**WHO CAN TAKE IT?** All Service members assigned to *(Location, Country)* as their Permanent Duty Station for at least 3 months, and do not reside in the barracks or on ship should take the survey.

**HOW TO TAKE THE SURVEY:** Click on the link provided by DTMO's Allowances Branch and follow the instructions. Service Members are encouraged to take the survey at home with their families. It takes about 30 minutes to complete.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP THE PROCESS:** Get the word out to all assigned military personnel. The key to success is maximum participation and accurate data. Please encourage everyone to take the survey.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** or questions please contact: *(Country or Locality POC Name, Telephone number, email address)*

B. Retail Price Survey Sample Letter to Local Merchants

MEMORANDUM

From: Commander, *(Local Command)*  
To: *(Store Name)* Store Manager

Dear Sir or Madam,

SUBJECT: Retail Price Schedule Data Collection

On behalf of the United States Visiting Forces in the *(locality name)* area, we are here to collect and record prices for selected items. Every year, we submit a report called the Retail Price Schedule listing the prices of 120 items that we purchase in local retail outlets. This report is used to determine the Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) that is paid to our Military and Civilian employees to compensate for the extra expenses incurred while they are stationed here. We are recording prices solely for this purpose and will not share them with any other establishment or organization for any reason.

The persons carrying out this task are United States Visiting Forces Military or Civilian Members and will provide official identification upon request.

The point of contact for this matter is *(POC name)* at *(local phone number)*. Any questions and concerns are welcomed. Thank you for your continuing support to our military community.

*(Commander Name)*

C. OHA Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey

From: *(Country or Locality Survey Coordinator)*

To: ALL: PLEASE GIVE THIS INFORMATION WIDEST DISTRIBUTION IN THE MILITARY COMMUNITY

Subject: UTILITIES AND MOVE-IN EXPENSES SURVEY

The Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Utilities and Move-in Expenses Survey for *(Country Name)* is now available online. Here is the link to access the survey:

**[URL FOR CONNECTING TO SURVEY PROVIDED BY DTMO'S ALLOWANCES BRANCH](#)**

WHY THIS SURVEY IS IMPORTANT: Every year this survey is conducted to determine how much service members spent in the previous year for utilities (for example: electricity, heating fuel, water, trash removal, and sewer fees). The data from this survey is used to determine the Utility Allowance, which is part of the Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA).

Every third year a survey is conducted to determine how much service members spent when initially moving into their leased quarters to make them habitable (for example: purchase of major appliances and expenses for hook-up of utilities). The data from this survey is used to determine the Move-In Housing Allowance, which is part of the Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA).

WHEN IS IT? The survey will be conducted between *(date)* and *(date)*.

WHO CAN TAKE IT? The survey is intended for all military personnel who live residing in off-base privately leased housing.

HOW TO TAKE THE SURVEY: Click on the link provided by DTMO's Allowances Branch and follow the instructions. The survey asks service members to report the average monthly cost of utilities and routine maintenance in the past year and initial move-in expenses. To complete the utility portion of the survey, service members should have actual bills or records of their utility expenses and maintenance expenses for the last twelve months. They will be expected to compute a monthly AVERAGE for each of these expenses. To complete the Move-In Expense portion of the survey, service members should have actual bills or record of expenses incurred when first moving into their residences.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE PROCESS: Get the word out to all assigned military personnel. The key to success is good participation and good data. Please encourage everyone to take the survey.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION or questions please contact: *(Country or Locality POC Name, Telephone number, email address)*.

**PART 5: SAMPLE APPOINTMENT LETTER FOR COUNTRY OR LOCALITY  
ALLOWANCE COORDINATOR**

From: (Senior Officer)

To: (Designated Country or Locality Allowance Coordinator)

Subject: Appointment as Country or Locality Allowance Coordinator for (Country Name or Location Name)

1. You are hereby designated as the Country or Locality Allowance Coordinator and Point of Contact (POC) for COLA, OHA, and per diem travel allowances. You are directed to carry out your duties as described in Joint Travel Regulations (JTR), App M. As such, you will have the full support of this Command structure to accomplish these duties.
2. The Country Allowance Coordinator (Country POC) works directly with the Allowances Branch of the Defense Travel Management Office (DTMO), Alexandria, VA, for overseas housing, cost-of-living and travel per diem allowance issues in your Area of Responsibility (AOR). As the Country Allowance Coordinator you are responsible for coordinating the price collection data for all surveys in your AOR required by JTR, App M and submitting the results to DTMO's Allowances Branch.
3. The Locality Allowance Coordinator works directly with the Country Allowance Coordinator where applicable. As the Locality Allowance Coordinator you are responsible for collecting survey data for your specific location.
4. Typically a country with multiple reporting locations has a designated Country Allowance Coordinator as well as individual locality POCs. However, there are instances where there is no designated Country POC and each location reports independently through their Locality POC to DTMO's Allowances Branch. DTMO's Allowances Branch will advise if you are to report directly.

Signature and Signature Block  
Of Senior Officer

cc: Defense Travel Management Office  
ATTN: Allowances Branch  
4800 Mark Center Drive, Suite 04J2501  
Alexandria, Virginia 22350-9000  
FAX: Comm 571-372-1301



**PART 6: TABLES OF REPORTING LOCATIONS/SCHEDULES AND RESPONSIBLE COMMAND/SENIOR OFFICER**

A. Country Allowance Reports - Required Reporting Locations, Responsible Command, Senior Officer

<b>Required Reporting Location</b>	<b>Country Allowance Reports Responsible Command/Senior Officer</b>
Alaska	COMALCOM (Responsibility for all reports delegated to 11th Air Force, Alaska)
American Samoa	USAR TSG Det. American Samoa
Antigua and Barbuda	U.S. Naval Support Facility, Antigua
Argentina	USMILGP, Buenos Aires
Australia	USPACOMREP, Australia
Austria	USDAO, Vienna
Bahamas	American Embassy, Bahamas
Bahrain	Naval Support Activity Bahrain
Barbados	USDAO, Bridgetown
Belgium	NSSG US SHAPE (Responsibility for housing reports delegated to NSSG US SHAPE AERSH-FO)
Belize	USMLO, Belize City
Bolivia	USDAO, La Paz
Brazil	USMLO, Brasilia
Canada	USDAO, Ottawa
Chile	USDAO, Santiago
Columbia	USMILGP, Bogota
Costa Rica	USMILGP, San Jose
Denmark	USODC, Copenhagen
Dominica	USMLO, Bridgetown
Dominican Republic	USMAAG, Santo Domingo
Ecuador	COMUSMILGP, Quito
Egypt	ODC, Cairo
El Salvador	USMILGP, San Salvador
Fiji	USPACOMREP, Suva
France	USDAO, Paris
Germany	CGUSAREUR
Gibraltar	COMUSNAVEUR, Naples (Responsibility for all reports delegated to CNRE, Naples)
Greece	ODC, Athens (Responsibility for all reports delegated to CO, U.S. Naval Support Activity, Souda Bay)
Guam	USPACOMREP, Guam
Guatemala	USMILGP, Guatemala City
Hawaii	USPACOM, Honolulu
Honduras	USMILGP, Tegucigalpa
Hong Kong	USDLO, Hong Kong
Hungary	DAO Budapest
Iceland	U.S. Embassy, Reykjavik
India	USDAO, New Delhi
Ireland	USDAO, Dublin
Israel	USDAO, Tel Aviv
Italy	COMUSNAVEUR, Naples (Responsibility for all reports delegated to CNRE, Naples)
Jamaica	USDAO, Kingston
Japan	COMUSFORJAPAN
Jordan	Military Assistance Program (MAP), Amman
Kenya	U.S. Liaison Office, Nairobi
Korea	COMUSFORKOREA

Required Reporting Location	Country Allowance Reports Responsible Command/Senior Officer
Luxembourg	USODC BELLUX OL, Luxembourg
Malaysia	USDAO, Kuala Lumpur
Marshall Islands	USPACOMREP, Marshall Islands
Mexico	USDAO, Mexico City
Micronesia, Fed. States of	USPACOMREP, Guam
Midway Islands	USPACOM, Honolulu
Morocco	U.S. Liaison Office, Rabat
Netherlands	AFCENT SUPACT (US), Brunssum (Responsibility for housing reports for the Hague delegated to USODC, The Hague)
New Zealand	USDAO, Wellington
Northern Mariana Islands	USPACOMREP, Guam
Norway	USODC, Oslo
Palau, Republic of	USPACOMREP, Guam
Paraguay	USODC, Asuncion
Peru	USMAAG, Lima
Philippines	Senior Defense Official/Chief JUSMAG, Philippines
Portugal	U.S. National Support Unit, Lisbon
Puerto Rico	Commander, USAG Fort Buchanan
Singapore	USPACOMREP, Singapore
Spain	USODC, Madrid
Sweden	USDAO, Stockholm
Switzerland	USDAO, Bern (Responsibility for housing reports for Geneva delegated to USMISSION, Geneva)
Thailand	JUSMAGTHAI, Bangkok
Turkey	USODC, Ankara
United Kingdom	Vice Commander, 16th AF, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom (Responsibility for all reports delegated to the 48th Comptroller Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom)
Uruguay	USODC, Montevideo
Venezuela	USMILGP, Caracas
Virgin Islands, U.S.	Senior Army Advisor
Wake Island	Commander, 611th Air Support Group (ASG), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

B. Cost-of-Living (COLA) Surveys - Required Reporting Locations and Schedule

Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) Required Reporting Locations Living Pattern Survey (LPS) and Retail Price Schedule (RPS) Report Month and Year	LPS Month	LPS Year	RPS Month
<b>Alaska:</b>			
Anchorage	September	2018	October
Cordova	September	2018	October
Fairbanks	September	2018	October
Homer	September	2018	October
Juneau	September	2018	October
Kenai	September	2018	October
Ketchikan	September	2018	October
Kodiak	September	2018	October
Seward	September	2018	October
Sitka	September	2018	October

<b>Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) Required Reporting Locations Living Pattern Survey (LPS) and Retail Price Schedule (RPS) Report Month and Year</b>	<b>LPS Month</b>	<b>LPS Year</b>	<b>RPS Month</b>
Unalaska	September	2018	October
Valdez	September	2018	October
<b>American Samoa</b>	February	2018	March
<b>Australia:</b>			
Alice Springs	May	2017	June
<b>Bahrain</b>	February	2019	March
<b>Belgium:</b>			
Hainaut Prov (Incl Chievres/SHAPE)	April	2017	May
Province of Limburg (Kleine Brogel)	April	2017	May
<b>Canada:</b>			
North Bay	June	2018	July
Winnipeg	June	2018	July
<b>Cuba:</b>			
Guantanamo Bay	March	2018	April
<b>Germany:</b>			
Ansbach	October	2018	November
Garmisch	October	2018	November
Geilenkirchen	October	2018	November
Hohenfels	October	2018	November
Kaiserslautern Military Community (Incl Kaiserslautern, Landstuhl, Ramstein, and Sembach)	October	2018	November
Kalkar	October	2018	November
Pfullendorf (Incl Gross Engstingen)	October	2018	November
Spangdahlem	October	2018	November
Stuttgart	October	2018	November
Vilseck/Grafenwoehr	October	2018	November
Wiesbaden (H)	October	2018	November
<b>Gibraltar</b>	September	2018	October
<b>Greece:</b>			
Larissa	March	2019	April
Souda Bay	March	2019	April
<b>Guam</b>	April	2019	May
<b>Hawaii:</b>			
Hawaii (Big Island)	April	2019	March
Kauai	April	2019	March
Maui	April	2019	March
Oahu	April	2019	March
<b>Hungary:</b>			
Papa Air Base	March	2019	April
<b>Italy:</b>			
Aviano	April	2019	May
Gaeta	April	2019	May
Ghedi	April	2019	May
Livorno (Incl Camp Darby)	April	2019	March
Naples	April	2019	March
Sigonella	April	2019	March
Vicenza (Incl Longare)	April	2019	March

<b>Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) Required Reporting Locations Living Pattern Survey (LPS) and Retail Price Schedule (RPS) Report Month and Year</b>	<b>LPS Month</b>	<b>LPS Year</b>	<b>RPS Month</b>
<b>Japan:</b>			
Atsugi (KA)	May	2018	June
Camp Zama (KA)	May	2018	June
Iwakuni (YA)	May	2018	June
Kure (HI)	May	2018	June
Misawa (AO)	May	2018	June
Okinawa (OK)	May	2018	June
Sasebo (NA)	May	2018	June
Yokohama (KA)	May	2018	June
Yokosuka (KA)	May	2018	June
Yokota (KA)	May	2018	June
<b>Korea:</b>			
Camp Humphreys (formerly Pyongtaek)	March	2017	April
Chinhae	March	2017	April
Dongducheon	March	2017	April
Osan AB	March	2017	April
Seoul (K-16Fld/C.Mercer/SiteTango)	March	2017	April
Taegu/Waegwan (Incl Camps Carroll, Henry, & Walker)	March	2017	April
Uijeongbu	March	2017	April
Weonju	March	2017	April
<b>Netherlands:</b>			
Schinnen	April	2017	May
Volkel	April	2017	May
<b>Northern Mariana Islands:</b>			
Saipan	April	2019	May
<b>Norway:</b>			
Stavanger	February	2017	March
<b>Portugal:</b>			
Azores	November	2019	December
Lisbon	September	2019	October
<b>Puerto Rico:</b>			
Aguadilla (Incl CG AS Borinquen)	August	2018	September
San Juan (Ft. Buchanan)	August	2018	September
<b>Singapore</b>	August	2019	September
<b>Spain:</b>			
Moròn AB	September	2018	October
Rota	September	2018	October
<b>Turkey</b>			
Ankara	February	2019	March
Incirlik	February	2019	March
Izmir	February	2019	March
<b>United Kingdom:</b>			
Alconbury/Molesworth	February	2019	March
Digby	February	2019	March
Fairford/Croughton	February	2019	March
Harrogate/Menwith Hill	February	2019	March
High Wycombe/Daws Hill	February	2019	March
Lakenheath/Mildenhall	February	2019	March

<b>Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) Required Reporting Locations Living Pattern Survey (LPS) and Retail Price Schedule (RPS) Report Month and Year</b>	<b>LPS Month</b>	<b>LPS Year</b>	<b>RPS Month</b>
London	February	2019	March
<b>Virgin Islands:</b>			
St. Croix	July	2018	August
St. Thomas	July	2018	August

## C. Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Surveys – Required Reporting Locations/Schedule

<b>Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Utility Expenses Survey and Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey Schedule Report Month and Year</b>	<b>Annual Utility Expenses Survey</b>	<b>Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey</b>
Note: Utility Expenses Survey is conducted every year. Combined Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey is conducted every 3 <sup>rd</sup> year in the same month.	<b>Month</b>	<b>Year</b>
Algeria	July	2019
American Samoa	May	2019
Antigua and Barbuda	May	2019
Argentina	September	2019
Armenia	January	2019
Australia	September	2018
Austria	November	2019
Bahamas	July	2019
Bahrain	September	2019
Bangladesh	January	2019
Barbados	May	2019
Belarus	November	2019
Belgium	September	2019
Belize	July	2019
Bermuda	January	2017
Bolivia	January	2017
Bosnia	January	2017
Brazil	September	2019
Brunei	November	2019
Bulgaria	November	2019
Burkina Faso	July	2018
Burma	November	2019
Cambodia	January	2017
Cameroon	November	2019
Canada	May	2017
Cayman Islands	January	2017
Chile	May	2019
China	March	2019
Colombia	September	2019
Costa Rica	May	2019
Côte D'Ivoire	November	2019
Croatia	November	2019
Curacao	January	2017
Czech Republic	November	2019

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Utility Expenses Survey and Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey Schedule Report Month and Year</b></p> <p>Note: Utility Expenses Survey is conducted every year. Combined Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey is conducted every 3<sup>rd</sup> year in the same month.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Annual Utility Expenses Survey</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Month</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Year</b></p>
Denmark	November	2019
Dominican Republic	November	2019
Ecuador	November	2019
Egypt	January	2017
El Salvador	May	2019
Estonia	November	2019
Ethiopia	January	2017
Federated States of Micronesia	November	2019
Fiji	November	2019
Finland	January	2017
France	September	2018
Gambia	January	2017
Georgia	January	2017
Germany	March	2019
Ghana	September	2019
Gibraltar	November	2019
Greece	September	2018
Grenada	January	2017
Guam	May	2019
Guatemala	March	2019
Guyana	January	2017
Haiti	November	2019
Honduras	May	2019
Hong Kong	January	2017
Hungary	March	2017
Iceland	January	2017
India	March	2019
Indonesia	November	2019
Iraq	July	2018
Ireland	November	2019
Israel	November	2019
Italy	June	2018
Jamaica	September	2019
Japan	September	2019
Jordan	January	2017
Kenya	November	2019
Kosovo	January	2017
Kuwait	January	2017
Kyrgyzstan	November	2019
Latvia	November	2019
Liberia	July	2019
Lithuania	January	2017
Luxembourg	January	2017
Macedonia	January	2017
Malaysia	September	2019

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Utility Expenses Survey and Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey Schedule Report Month and Year</b></p> <p>Note: Utility Expenses Survey is conducted every year. Combined Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey is conducted every 3<sup>rd</sup> year in the same month.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Annual Utility Expenses Survey</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Month</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Year</b></p>
Mali	May	2019
Malta	July	2019
Marshall Islands	January	2017
Mauritius	July	2018
Mexico	May	2019
Moldova	March	2019
Montenegro	July	2019
Morocco	July	2019
Nepal	September	2019
Netherlands	March	2019
New Zealand	July	2019
Nicaragua	September	2019
Nigeria	July	2019
Northern Mariana Islands	May	2019
Norway	May	2019
Oman	March	2019
Pakistan	March	2019
Palau	July	2019
Panama	July	2019
Papua New Guinea	March	2019
Paraguay	May	2019
Peru	September	2019
Philippines	March	2019
Poland	September	2019
Portugal	September	2019
Puerto Rico	May	2019
Qatar	March	2019
Romania	July	2019
Russia	March	2019
Rwanda	March	2019
Saudi Arabia	March	2019
Senegal	March	2019
Serbia	July	2019
Sierra Leone	March	2019
Singapore	May	2019
Slovakia	July	2019
Slovenia	July	2019
South Africa	March	2019
South Korea	April	2017
Spain	September	2018
Sri Lanka	March	2019
Sudan	March	2019
Suriname	March	2019
Sweden	July	2019
Switzerland	May	2019

<p align="center"><b>Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Utility Expenses Survey and Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey Schedule Report Month and Year</b></p> <p>Note: Utility Expenses Survey is conducted every year. Combined Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey is conducted every 3<sup>rd</sup> year in the same month.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Annual Utility Expenses Survey</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Month</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Year</b></p>
Syria	March	2019
Taiwan	September	2019
Tanzania	May	2019
Thailand	March	2017
Timor-Leste	May	2019
Togo	July	2019
Trinidad and Tobago	March	2019
Tunisia	May	2019
Turkey	September	2019
Uganda	May	2019
Ukraine	July	2019
United Arab Emirates	September	2019
United Kingdom	September	2019
Uruguay	May	2019
US Virgin Islands	January	2019
Uzbekistan	July	2019
Venezuela	May	2019
Vietnam	September	2019
Yemen	July	2019
Zimbabwe	July	2019

D. Travel Per Diem Reports - Required Reporting Locations/Schedule

<p align="center"><b>Travel Per Diem Reports - Non-Foreign Areas Required Reporting Locations Hotel and Restaurant Data Collection</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Month Annual Travel Report Due</b></p>
<b>Alaska:</b>	
Adak	October
Anchorage (Incl Naval Reserve Station)	October
Barrow	October
Bethel	October
Bettles	October
Cordova	October
Delta Junction (Ft. Greely)	October
Dillingham	October
Dutch Harbor-Unalaska	October
Eareckson Air Station	October
Elfin Cove	October
Fairbanks	October
Gambell	October
Glennallen	October
Haines	October
Healy	October
Homer	October
Juneau	October



<b>Travel Per Diem Reports - Non-Foreign Areas                      Required Reporting Locations                      Hotel and Restaurant Data Collection</b>	<b>Month                      Annual Travel Report Due</b>
Kavik Camp	October
Kenai-Soldotna	October
Kennicott	October
Ketchikan	October
Klawock	October
Kodiak	October
Kotzebue	October
McGrath	October
Nome	October
Nuiqsut	October
Petersburg	October
Point Hope	October
Point Lay	October
Port Alexander	October
Prudhoe Bay	October
Saint George	October
Seward	October
Sitka-Mt. Edgecombe	October
Tok	October
Valdez	October
Wainwright	October
Wasilla	October
Yakutat	October
<b>American Samoa</b>	March
<b>Guam</b>	May
<b>Hawaii:</b>	
Isle of Hawaii: Hilo	March
Isle of Hawaii: Other	March
Isle of Kauai	March
Isle of Lanai	March
Isle of Maui	March
Isle of Molokai	March
Isle of Oahu	March
<b>Midway Islands</b>	March
<b>Northern Mariana Islands:</b>	
Rota	May
Saipan	May
Other	May
<b>Puerto Rico:</b>	
Aguadilla	June
Culebra	June
Fajardo	June
Ft. Buchanan (Incl GSA Svc Ctr)	June
Mayaguez	June
Ponce	June
Rio Grande	June
San Juan (Incl Naval Reserve Station)	June
Vieques	June
<b>Virgin Islands:</b>	

<b>Travel Per Diem Reports - Non-Foreign Areas                      Required Reporting Locations                      Hotel and Restaurant Data Collection</b>	<b>Month                      Annual Travel Report Due</b>
St. Croix	August
St. John	August
St. Thomas	August
<b>Wake Island</b>	May