



PER DIEM, TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCE COMMITTEE

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PDTATAC/vap

16 March 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: UTD for MAP 120-11 -- Temporary Increase in BAH Rate

1. SYNOPSIS: Authorizes SECDEF to prescribe a temporary increase in BAH rates in an area declared as a major disaster area by the President, or at an installation experiencing a sudden increase in the number of members assigned.
2. The Committee Chair has approved the attached changes to the Joint Federal Travel Regulations, Volume 1 (JFTR), made in MAP 120-11.
3. This determination is an advance notice of the changes to the JFTR. You are requested to disseminate this determination to the appropriate offices within your Service.
4. These changes are scheduled to appear in JFTR change 305, dated 1 May 2012.
5. This determination is *effective on 13 March 2012*, when it was approved by the Chairman.

//Approved by Velda A. Potter for//

PHILIP G. BENJAMIN

Chief, Strategic Planning and Policy Division

Attachment:

Rev 4

Uniformed E-Mail Distribution:

MAP Members T&T Branch PMO-DTS GSA-3FT GSA-OGP(MTT) PPC

JFTR PROPOSED REVISIONS:

U10018:

Effective 13 March 2012

U10018 TEMPORARY BAH INCREASE

A. General. The SECDEF may prescribe a temporary increase in BAH rates in an area declared as a major disaster area by the President, or at an INSTALLATION experiencing a sudden increase in the number of members assigned. Payment of the higher BAH is only effective for a MHA or zip code within a County Cost Group. *This authority expires 31 December 2012.*

B. Eligibility. A temporary increase in BAH rates results in members assigned to the same Zip Code being eligible for two different BAH rates, depending on the member's certification of higher costs. To receive the higher BAH rate, a member must certify to the Secretary Concerned that the member has incurred higher housing costs in an MHA by reason of a major disaster, or sudden increase of military personnel assigned to an INSTALLATION. The law requires that the member certify that higher costs have been incurred.

C. Member Certification. Once an MHA area is approved for an increased BAH rate, a member eligible for an increased allowance must document housing cost. The certification must be in a form acceptable to the approval authority. The member's certification must show rent, or mortgage expense in the case of homeowners, utility expenses and insurance costs (renters or homeowners).

D. Approval. The approval authority is at a level specified through the Secretarial Process. If the total housing expense (rent or mortgage, utility expenses and insurance costs) from the member's certification is:

1. Less than the existing BAH rate, no increase is authorized. In this situation, the existing allowance fully covers the documented expenses, even though the member may be paying more after the disaster/influx of military personnel than before.
2. Higher than the existing BAH rate, then the member is authorized the increased rate effective the latter of the approval date of the MHA for an increased rate or the date the member started incurring the increased expenses.

E. Termination. The increased allowance is paid through the day before the next regular rate change effective date for the area at which time the new regular BAH rate applies. *There is no rate protection of temporary increased rates.* The following examples reflect how changes during the temporary rate increase period affect the BAH paid. If a member receiving a temporary BAH rate increase:

1. Is Promoted. The member must certify that housing costs exceed the regular BAH rate for the higher grade, otherwise change to the regular BAH rate for the higher grade.
2. Is Demoted. The member must certify that housing costs exceed the regular BAH rate for the lower grade, otherwise change to the regular BAH rate for the lower grade.
3. Has a Dependency Change. The member must recertify housing costs for purposes of comparing applicable rates.

F. Locations. Any locations that a temporary BAH rate increase is approved are listed below:

1. *No Locations at this Time*