



OHA Components

- **Rental Allowance**

A monthly rate designed to offset rental expenses at overseas locations. Reviewed and updated biannually using rent amounts reported through the finance system. It is designed so that 80% of members with dependents have rental payments fully reimbursed. For other members, it may cover the majority of the rental expenses. The service member is paid either the amount of their rent or the rental allowance, whichever is lower.

- **Utility and Recurring Maintenance Allowance**

Paid monthly, in conjunction with the rental allowance, to help offset expenses for members who pay utilities, recurring maintenance, and minor repair expenses. When all utilities are included in rent, the member does not get the utility allowance. Instead, the utility allowance is added to the member's rental allowance. The rate is updated annually based on data collected from the OHA Utility Expenses Survey.

- **Move-in Housing Allowance (MIHA)**

- **MIHA Miscellaneous.** A one-time payment to all OHA recipients designed to offset average move-in expenses. The amount is based on expenses reported by members on the OHA Move-In Expenses Survey conducted every 3 years, including purchase of appliances and utility hookup fees.
- **MIHA Rent.** A dollar-for-dollar reimbursement for realtor fees.
- **MIHA Security.** A dollar-for-dollar reimbursement for security upgrades to a dwelling. Only certain locations are authorized.
- **MIHA Infectious Disease.** A dollar-for-dollar reimbursement for infectious disease related upgrades to a dwelling. Only certain locations are authorized.

OVERSEAS HOUSING ALLOWANCE

Overview

The Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) is designed to partially offset housing expenses at overseas duty locations when service members live in privately leased housing on the local economy. OHA is paid to approximately 60,000 service members at a cost of \$1.5 billion annually. The OHA Program takes into consideration the amount service members spend on rent, utilities, and move-in costs. For OHA policies, see the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation (FMR), Volume 7A, Chapter 26.

Key Facts

- OHA enables service members to obtain adequate housing at an overseas duty station. Unaccompanied members are entitled to up to 90% of the rental allowance and 75% of the utility allowance.
- Service members can impact their OHA rates by participating in the annual OHA Utility Expenses Survey and triennial OHA Utility and Move-In Expenses Survey.
- OHA reflects what service members are actually paying in housing costs and is adjusted based on currency fluctuations.

Helpful Resources

OHA Calculator:

<https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/ohaCalc.cfm>

OHA Policies in the DoD FMR:

https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/documents/fmr/current/07a/07a_26.pdf

OHA Survey Information:

<https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/ohaSurvey.cfm>

FAQs: <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/faqoha.cfm>

DoD Overseas Station & Housing Allowance Process Guide:

https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/DoD_Overseas_Station_and_Housing_Allowance_Process_Guide.pdf

DoD MIHA Process Guide:

[https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/DoD_Move-In_Housing_Allowance_\(MIHA\)_Process_Guide.pdf](https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/DoD_Move-In_Housing_Allowance_(MIHA)_Process_Guide.pdf)