



MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

January 7, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR  
MILITARY PERSONNEL  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY FOR  
MILITARY MANPOWER AND PERSONNEL  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE FOR  
FORCE MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Valid Documentation for Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) Rent Amount

To ensure consistent application across the Services, this memorandum clarifies the language in the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation (FMR), Volume 7A, par. 260601.B that requires establishing a monthly rental amount to compute OHA.

Section 403(c) of title 37, United States Code, does not specify that a Service member's name must be on the lease, mortgage, or deed to substantiate payment of OHA; neither does the current FMR language. Therefore, a lease, mortgage, or deed in the name of a Service member, a dependent of the Service member, or an active duty spouse may be used to substantiate the establishment of an OHA monthly rent amount if the Service member, dependent or active duty spouse resides in the dwelling for which OHA is claimed. The dependent or active duty spouse must be appropriately approved and annotated in the member's service record.

This clarification was previously coordinated with the Services as Allowances Branch Item 018-20.

J. B. Busch  
Director, Military Compensation Policy  
(Military Personnel Policy)