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FM PTC WASHINGTON DC//ALARACT//
TO ALARACT
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***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****

SUBJ: ALARACT 158/2009 - BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING (BAH) PROCEDURES
FOR RESERVE COMPONENT (RC) SOLDIERS ATTENDING ACCESSION TRAINING
UNCLASSIFIED//

THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT BY THE PENTAGON TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER
ON BEHALF OF DA WASHINGTON DC//DAPE-MSO//

SUBJECT: BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING (BAH) PROCEDURES FOR RESERVE
COMPONENT (RC) SOLDIERS ATTENDING ACCESSION TRAINING AND
CLARIFICATION OF BAH PROCEDURES FOR OTHER FORMS OF RESERVE DUTY
REFERENCES.

- A. TITLE 37, US. CODE, SECTION 403.
 - B. JOINT FEDERAL TRAVEL REGULATIONS (JFTR), PARS. U10416-D.
 - C. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR RELEASE BY THE
PER DIEM TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCE COMMITTEE TRACKER
#RR09124.
1. EFFECTIVE 1 FEBRUARY 2008, RC SOLDIERS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS MAY BE
AUTHORIZED BAH WHILE ATTENDING ACCESSION TRAINING. THIS ALL ARMY
ACTIVITIES MESSAGE (ALARACT) ANNOUNCES THIS CHANGE TO POLICY AND
CLARIFIES CURRENT BAH POLICY FOR RC SOLDIERS ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY
TO ATTEND ACCESSION TRAINING, OR FOR A PERIOD OF MORE THAN 30 DAYS.
THIS MESSAGE ALSO CLARIFIES THAT ACTIVE COMPONENT (AC) AND RC
MILITARY PAY OFFICES WILL NOT REQUIRE PROOF OF FINANCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE STARTING A RC SOLDIER'S BAH EXCEPT WHEN THE
SOLDIER IS BROUGHT ON ACTIVE DUTY FOR ACCESSION TRAINING.
 - A. AC AND RC MILITARY PAY OFFICES WILL REQUIRE ONLY A CERTIFIED DA
FORM 5960 TO START BAH FOR OTHER THAN ACCESSION TRAINING
CIRCUMSTANCES. FOR BAH RULES IN SUPPORT OF THE CONTINGENCY
OPERATIONS, REFER TO CHAPTER 8 OF THE PERSONNEL POLICY GUIDANCE
(PPG) FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING LINK: [HTTP://WWW.ARMYG1.ARMY.MIL/MILITA
RYPERSONNEL/POLICY.ASP](http://www.armyg1.army.mil/milita
rypersonnel/policy.asp). ALL OTHER POLICY MESSAGES ISSUED WITHIN THE
ARMY ON BAH FOR RC SOLDIERS ARE SUPERSEDED.
 - B. THE CHANGES IN THIS MESSAGE REGARDING RC SOLDIERS WITHOUT
DEPENDENTS WHO ARE ATTENDING ACCESSION TRAINING ARE EFFECTIVE
1 FEBRUARY 2008. ALL OTHER CHANGES ARE EFFECTIVE 6 JANUARY 2006,
WHICH WAS WHEN THE PDS FOR BAH PURPOSES FOR A RC MEMBER WAS CHANGED
FROM THE DUTY LOCATION TO THE MEMBER'S PRIMARY RESIDENCE AND THE
DUTY LENGTH FOR PAYING BAH-RC WAS CHANGED FROM ORDERS GREATER THAN
140 DAYS TO GREATER THAN 30 DAYS.
 - C. RETROACTIVE PAYMENT OF BAH MAY BE REQUIRED IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES.
HOWEVER, AC AND RC MILITARY PAY OFFICES/FINANCE OFFICES WILL ONLY
MAKE CORRECTIVE INPUT BACK TO 1 OCTOBER 2008. FOR PERIODS OF DUTY
30 SEPTEMBER 2008 AND PRIOR, INFORMATION ON MAKING THESE ADJUSTMENTS
WILL PROVIDED AT A LATER DATE. COMPANY LEVEL COMMANDERS OR THE
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ACTIVITY BRINGING THE SOLDIER ON ACTIVE DUTY

AS PRESCRIBED IN THIS MESSAGE WILL BE THE CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY FOR THE DA FORM 5960 AND FOR PAYMENT OF BAH (TO INCLUDE ANY RETROACTIVE OR CORRECTIVE PAYMENTS). THE COMMANDER AT THE ACCESSION TRAINING LOCATION IS RESPONSIBLE TO CERTIFY DA FORM 5960 FOR SOLDIERS WHO DO NOT REPORT TO THEIR HOME UNIT PRIOR TO DEPARTING FOR ACCESSION TRAINING. ANY MEMBER (OTHER THAN A RC MEMBER WITHOUT DEPENDENTS) IN THE ACCESSION PIPELINE WHO WAS DENIED BAH DUE TO LACK OF PROOF OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR TOURS BEGINNING ON OR AFTER 6 JANUARY 2006 MUST HAVE THEIR BAH PAYMENTS ADJUSTED RETROACTIVELY. AS STATED, AC AND RC MILITARY PAY OFFICES/FINANCE OFFICES WILL ONLY MAKE CORRECTIVE INPUT BACK TO 1 OCTOBER 2008. BAH IS AN ENTITLEMENT THAT MAY NOT BE DENIED EXCEPT IAW JFTR, CHAPTER 10.

2. THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008 AUTHORIZED THE PAYMENT OF BAH TO A RC SOLDIER WITHOUT DEPENDENTS WHO IS ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY TO ATTEND ACCESSION TRAINING IF, BECAUSE OF SUCH ORDER, THE SOLDIER IS UNABLE TO CONTINUE TO OCCUPY A RESIDENCE: (A) WHICH THE SOLDIER MAINTAINED AS A PRIMARY RESIDENCE AT THE TIME OF THE ORDER; AND (B) WHICH IS OWNED BY THE SOLDIER OR FOR WHICH THE SOLDIER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RENTAL PAYMENTS. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS MESSAGE, "ACCESSION TRAINING" INCLUDES INITIAL ENTRY LEVEL OFFICER AND ENLISTED TRAINING COURSES/PROGRAMS (FOR LESS THAN 20 WEEKS) NECESSARY TO OBTAIN A PRIMARY MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY (MOS).

3. ACCESSION PIPELINE BAH.

A. RC SOLDIERS WITH DEPENDENTS ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY FOR ACCESSION TRAINING ARE AUTHORIZED BAH BASED ON THEIR DEPENDENTS' LOCATION IF THEIR DEPENDENTS ARE LOCATED INSIDE THE US., OR BASED ON THEIR TRAINING LOCATION IF THEIR DEPENDENTS ARE LOCATED OUTSIDE THE US. FOR ANY TRAINING 140 DAYS OR MORE AT ONE LOCATION, AND PCS HHG ARE AUTHORIZED, BAH IS PAID BASED ON THAT TRAINING LOCATION. PROOF OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED TO THE LOCAL FINANCE OFFICE TO START BAH. FINANCE OFFICES WILL START BAH BASED ON A CERTIFIED DA FORM 5960. ANY SUSPECTED CASES OF FRAUD (E.G., DEPENDENTS NOT LIVING IN THE LOCATION THE MEMBER CLAIMS) SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE LOCAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMAND OFFICE.

B. EFFECTIVE 1 FEBRUARY 2008, RC SOLDIERS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS MAY BE ENTITLED TO BAH BASED ON THE LOCATION OF THE PRIMARY RESIDENCE THEY MAINTAINED AT THE TIME THEY WERE ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY TO ATTEND ACCESSION TRAINING IF THEY OWN OR ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING RENT ON THE RESIDENCE. FOR ANY TRAINING 140 OR MORE DAYS AT ONE LOCATION, BAH IS PAID BASED ON THAT TRAINING LOCATION. IF A SOLDIER WITHOUT DEPENDENTS IS IN SINGLE TYPE GOVERNMENT QUARTERS AT A TRAINING LOCATION 140 OR MORE DAYS AT ONE LOCATION, ONLY BAH PARTIAL IS PAID.

FINANCE OFFICES WILL START BAH BASED ON A CERTIFIED DA FORM 5960 AND PROOF OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. THE SOLDIER'S COMPANY LEVEL/BATTERY/TROOP COMMANDER FROM THE SOLDIER'S OWNING COMMAND IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY OR THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ACTIVITY BRINGING THE SOLDIER ON ACTIVE DUTY WILL CERTIFY THE DA FORM 5960. THIS INDIVIDUAL WILL TAKE PRUDENT STEPS TO ESTABLISH PROOF OF RESIDENCY AT THE PRIMARY RESIDENCE AND ENSURE THE PROOF OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY DOCUMENTS ACCOMPANY THE DA FORM 5960 TO THE

LOCAL FINANCE OFFICE. THE COMMANDER AT THE ACCESSION TRAINING LOCATION IS RESPONSIBLE TO CERTIFY THE DA FORM 5960 FOR SOLDIERS WHO DO NOT REPORT TO THEIR HOME UNIT PRIOR TO DEPARTING FOR ACCESSION TRAINING. THE FOLLOWING SERVES AS ADEQUATE PROOF OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHICH THE PAYMENT OF BAH IS AUTHORIZED:

(1) ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PROOF OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR A

***** START OF SECTION 2 *****

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PRIMARY RESIDENCE THAT A SOLDIER MAINTAINED AT THE TIME THE SOLDIER WAS ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY FOR ACCESSION TRAINING INCLUDE A MORTGAGE OR A DEED TO A HOME IN THE SOLDIER'S NAME OR A LEASE OR RENTAL AGREEMENT IN THE SOLDIER'S NAME.

- (A) PROOF OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY DOES NOT INCLUDE A NOTARIZED PROMISSORY NOTE OR SIMILAR FINANCIAL AGREEMENT THAT IS NOT A TRUE MORTGAGE OR LEASE AGREEMENT.
 - (B) A SOLDIER WITHOUT DEPENDENTS WHO JOINTLY OCCUPIES THE HOME OF A FRIEND OR RELATIVE MAY NOT HAVE THE FRIEND OR RELATIVE PREPARE A LEASE AGREEMENT SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF QUALIFYING THE SOLDIER TO RECEIVE BAH.
 - (C) A HOUSE OR APARTMENT MUST BE A LEGITIMATE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY IN ORDER FOR IT TO QUALIFY FOR PROOF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.
- (2) TO QUALIFY FOR CONTINUED BAH, A RC SOLDIER WITHOUT DEPENDENTS MUST HAVE MAINTAINED THE PRIMARY RESIDENCE AT THE TIME THE SOLDIER WAS ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, AND THE SOLDIER MUST REMAIN FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RESIDENCE THROUGHOUT THE ACCESSION TRAINING PERIOD.
- (3) TERMINATION OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOLDIERS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS WILL RESULT IN THE PAYMENT OF BAH BEING STOPPED. BAH WILL NOT BE PAID TO SOLDIERS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS UNLESS THEY PROVIDE, THRU THEIR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL TO FINANCE, PROOF OF SUITABLE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.
4. CHANGES IN DEPENDENCY STATUS WILL RESULT IN RECERTIFICATION FOR BAH. SOLDIERS WHO ACQUIRE DEPENDENTS DURING PERIODS OF TRANSIT OR LEAVE WILL REPORT THIS CHANGE UPON REPORTING TO THEIR NEXT TRAINING LOCATION OR RESERVE CENTER. SOLDIERS WHO LOSE DEPENDENTS WILL ADHERE TO THE GUIDANCE IN THIS ALARACT FROM THE DATE OF THE LOSS.
5. RC SOLDIERS ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY FOR OTHER THAN ACCESSION TRAINING ARE AUTHORIZED BAH BASED ON THE TYPE AND DURATION OF THEIR ACTIVATION ORDERS. ADDITIONAL DOD GUIDANCE FOR RC SOLDIERS ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY FOR OTHER THAN ACCESSION TRAINING IS FOUND IN JFTR PAR. U10428.
6. CLARIFICATION OF CURRENT BAH POLICIES AS REFLECTED IN REF B FOLLOW:
- A. RC SOLDIERS WITH OR WITHOUT DEPENDENTS WHO ARE ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY (OTHER THAN FOR A CONTINGENCY OR ACCESSION TRAINING) FOR 30 DAYS OR LESS ARE ENTITLED TO BAH-RC (AT THE WITH OR WITHOUT DEPENDENT RATE). BAH-RC RATES CAN BE FOUND ON THE PER DIEM TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCE COMMITTEE WEBSITE.
 - B. RC SOLDIERS WITH OR WITHOUT DEPENDENTS THAT ARE ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY (OTHER THAN FOR CONTINGENCY OR ACCESSION TRAINING) FOR MORE THAN 30 DAYS ARE ENTITLED TO BAH. THE ZIP CODE LOCALITY RATE IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE OF THE RC SOLDIER UNLESS PERMANENT

CHANGE OF STATION (PCS) ORDERS IS ISSUED AND THE TRANSPORTATION OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS (HHG) IS AUTHORIZED. FOR ANY TRAINING FOR 140 OR MORE DAYS (OR FOR ANY DUTY OTHER THAN TRAINING FOR MORE THAN 180 DAYS), BAH IS PAID AT THE PDS IN THE SAME MANNER AS A MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY IF TRANSPORTATION OF HHG IS AUTHORIZED. THE SOLDIER'S OWNING COMPANY LEVEL COMMANDER IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY OR THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ACTIVITY BRINGING THE SOLDIER ON ACTIVE DUTY WILL CERTIFY THE DA FORM 5960. FINANCE WILL NOT REQUIRE PROOF OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY BAH IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

C. FOR GUIDANCE ON BAH FOR RC SOLDIERS WITH OR WITHOUT DEPENDENTS ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY IN SUPPORT OF A CONTINGENCY OPERATION, SEE CHAPTER 8 OF THE PPG. RC MEMBERS ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY IN SUPPORT OF THE CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS DO NOT HAVE TO SHOW PROOF OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO FINANCE TO START BAH.

D. PROVIDING PROOF OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (LIKE MORTGAGES/LEASES) TO FINANCE IS NOT REQUIRED TO START BAH FOR RC SOLDIERS PERFORMING ANY TYPE OF DUTY EXCEPT ACCESSION TRAINING FOR SOLDIERS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS.

E. WHEN PCS ORDERS ARE ISSUED, BAH IS PAID BASED ON THE NEW PERMANENT DUTY STATION IF GOVERNMENT QUARTERS ARE NOT ASSIGNED. IF SINGLE TYPE GOVERNMENT QUARTERS ARE ASSIGNED TO A MEMBER WITHOUT DEPENDENTS, THEN BAH PARTIAL IS PAID.

7. MANIPULATING ORDERS FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING A SOLDIER TO DRAW A HIGHER BAH RATE IS NOT AUTHORIZED AND CONTRADICTS PREVIOUS COMPTROLLER GENERAL DECISIONS. JFTR RULES SPECIFYING PCS OR TEMPORARY DUTY (TDY) STATUS WILL BE FOLLOWED IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. ORDERS ISSUED THAT DO NOT FOLLOW THE GUIDANCE IN THE JFTR AND SPECIFY AN IMPROPER STATUS BASED ON THE ORDER LENGTH ARE NOT VALID. ALLOWANCES WILL BE PAID ON THE PROPER STATUS BASED ON JFTR GUIDANCE FOR ORDER LENGTH REGARDLESS OF HOW THE ORDERS READ.

8. EXPIRATION OF THIS MESSAGE CANNOT BE DETERMINED.

9. POINTS OF CONTACT FOR THIS MESSAGE IS ARMY G-1, COMPENSATION & ENTITLEMENTS DIVISION: LTC GALLMAN, 703 692-6819, DSN (312) 222-6819, VINCENT.GALLMAN@CONUS.ARMY.MIL;. LTC GLASER, 703 692-7954, DSN (312) 222-7954, BARBARA.GLASER@HQDA.ARMY.MIL; LTC VOITHOFER, 703-692-6889, DSN (312) 222-6889, VOITHOFERMJ@CONUS.ARMY.MIL.

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