



# Understanding BAH for New Recruits into the ARNG: An Overview

Training Aid developed by ARNG-HRR-AC 22 May 2017

*The Right Number, Right People, and Right Care equals Personnel Readiness*



# Understanding BAH

## Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) – Introduction:

BAH for ARNG Soldiers is an entitlement for those who qualify. Understanding the intent of the law and determining eligibility, and then communicating the correct information effectively are critical in assisting new Recruits into the ARNG. For RRNCOs, it is important to understand the rules and intent to clearly educate applicants; and also the specific challenges that could affect potential enlistees into certain MOSs.

The intent of offering BAH to ARNG Soldiers who must attend Active Duty Training is to offset the financial burden to Soldiers with dependents; and to Soldiers who enlisted and own a home, have a mortgage, or a long term lease/rental agreement for their primary residence that extends through the period they will be away at training.





# Understanding BAH

## Joint Travel Regulation:

The JTR authorizes who does/does not qualify for BAH and all the specific rules that apply do each Soldier's situation: See Chapter 10 Part E Section 9 Paragraph D. Additional information pertaining to ARNG Soldiers can be found in SMOMs and MilPay E-Messages.

The rules are specific as to what constitutes a valid rental property. Be aware that renting a room from a parent, or a place that would not be available to anyone other than a close friend or family member is NOT a valid property for BAH qualification. Entering into long term agreements prior to shipping solely for the purpose of gaining BAH violates the intent of the law. Advising new Recruits to go out and get a lease to 'get BAH' is wrong. Living the Army value of Integrity should ensure that all Soldiers operate within the context of the intent of the BAH offering.



# Understanding BAH

## Important Considerations for RRNCOs & RSP Personnel:

BAH is a valuable entitlement for new Recruits that qualify:

- Soldier who have dependents that they provide for (will need dependency / support documentation)
- Soldier who has a deed, mortgage, or lease / long term rental agreement for their primary residence (will need documentation of Soldiers obligation)

### There are exceptions that need to be understood:

- Soldiers without dependents, but with a deed, mortgage, lease or rental agreement who would normally qualify for BAH **will NOT get BAH when they report to a training location for training lasting 140 days or more (20 weeks or longer)**. Be sure to communicate this fact prior to enlisting/shipping Soldiers in this situation to these longer MOS schools.



# Understanding BAH

## Best Practices for RRNCOs & RSP Personnel:

The key to successfully care for our newest Soldiers is to understand that we need to both check for honest eligibility for BAH because the entitlement is there to help those Soldiers meet their obligation, while at the same time guarding against fraud. To assist in being good stewards follow these best practices:

- Ensure you use the RSP BAH Addendum form when screening Soldiers well in advance of their ship date.
- Use the RSP BAH Training Aid so you understand the rules and requirements.
- Communicate and work effectively with your RSP Soldiers regarding BAH eligibility, qualification, and requirements for documentation.
- Use redundant checks throughout the Soldier's RSP lifecycle.