

USAG RHEINLAND-PFALZ

INFORMATION PAPER

Early Return of Dependents Versus Advance Return of Dependents

- PURPOSE:** To explain the differences between Early Return of Dependents and Advance Return of Dependents.
- BACKGROUND:** There are two methods that authorize the movement of command sponsored dependents out of an OCONUS location at Government expense before the sponsor's expiration-term-of-service date or the date eligible for return from overseas. They are Early Return of Dependents and Advance Return of Dependents. Both methods have their own unique requirements.
- EARLY RETURN OF DEPENDENTS (ERD):** IAW AER 55-46, an Early Return of Dependents is a sponsor-requested or a command-directed permanent-change-of-station (PCS) move of dependent Family members out of an OCONUS location before the sponsor's expiration-term-of-service date or the date eligible for return from overseas, and before the publication of orders that would move the sponsor out of that OCONUS location. Soldiers on PCS assignment instructions or with separation/retirement orders are NOT eligible for an ERD and may use their PCS/separation/retirement orders for the Advance Return of Dependents instead.
- ADVANCE RETURN OF DEPENDENTS (ARD):** IAW AER 55-46, an Advance Return of Dependents is a sponsor-elected movement of Family members out of an OCONUS location according to published PCS or separation/retirement orders and in advance of the Soldier's departure.
- EARLY RETURN OF DEPENDENT AND ADVANCE RETURN OF DEPENDENTS COMPARISON:**

	EARLY RETURN OF DEPENDENTS	ADVANCE RETURN OF DEPENDENTS
ELIGIBILITY	Soldier is NOT on PCS assignment instructions or in possession of separation/retirement orders.	Soldier is on PCS assignment instructions or in possession of separation or retirement orders.
FAMILY MEMBER TRAVEL	Soldier uses ERD orders authorizing early return of Family member(s).	Soldier uses published PCS, separation, or retirement orders.
HHG/POV SHIPMENT	Soldier uses ERD orders for shipment of HHG and POV. May make separate shipments (Family member & Soldier).	Soldier uses published PCS, separation, or retirement orders for shipment of HHG and POV (may make separate shipments).
FINANCIAL ENTITLEMENTS	Soldier uses ERD orders to receive BAH/OHA for the authorized designated location where Family member(s) moved to.	Soldier must request a Secretarial Waiver to receive BAH, OHA, or COLA for Family member(s) next duty station or home of selection (for up to 180 days).
SUBMIT REQUEST TO	Submit IPPS-A PAR thru unit S1 and O5 Commander to the Military Personnel Division (MPD). Instructions on USAG-RP webpage: https://home.army.mil/rheinland-pfalz/ , under Military Personnel (MILPER) Services.	N/A. Soldier use PCS, separation, or retirement orders, but must request a Secretarial Waiver per MILPER Message 24-109 to receive BAH, OHA, COLA.
APPROVAL AUTHORITY	USAG-RP Commander for moves to CONUS and US territories. ASA M&RA for moves to OCONUS locations.	Orders issuing authority. HQDA, DCS, G-1, Compensation & Entitlements Division for financial entitlements.

- REFERENCES:**
 - AR 55-46, Travel Overseas, paragraph 5-9 and paragraph 5-10, dated 15 Oct 20.
 - AER 55-46, Command Sponsorship and Travel Overseas, paragraph 15, dated 6 Aug 19.
 - JTR, Chapter 5, paragraph 050804 and paragraph 051301.
 - DoD Financial Management Regulation, Volume 7A, Table 26-39 and Table 26-40.
 - DODI 1351.18, Procedures for Military Personnel Assignments, Enclosure 5, paragraph 6, dated 28 Oct 15.
 - ALARACT 011/2022, Implementation Guidance for the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA), and Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) Secretarial Waiver Program.
 - MILPER Message 24-109, Implementation Guidance to Process Request for Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) and Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) Secretarial Waivers.
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