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# ***Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) Reform***



# Overview



- **BAS Reform**
- **Essential Station Messing**
- **Missed Meals**
- **Rations In-Kind Not Available**



# ***BAS Reform***



## **BAS reform started with FY98 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)**

- **Objective to tie BAS to a credible food index and provide all enlisted members the same compensation level**
- **Reform period initiated one percent cap on BAS growth and paid partial BAS to members on meal cards**
- **FY01 NDAA ends transition period 31 Dec 2001**
  - **Effective 1 Jan 02, one BAS rate will be implemented for all enlisted members**



# ***BAS Reform***



- **Enlisted BAS will now be a set monthly rate and increased annually each Jan based on percentage increases to US Department of Agriculture (USDA) foods costs**
- **Enlisted monthly rate effective 1 Jan is \$241.60**
  - **3.7% increase**
- **This rate will not fluctuate based on the number of days in the month**
- **DoD BAS policy is interim guidance**



# *BAS Reform*



- **Enlisted members who graduate from basic training will start receiving BAS**
- **Enlisted members may receive BAS without deduction only when they are not furnished government meals or when granted permission to mess separately**
- **Automatic authority to mess separately continues to be granted to: E-7s and above, members residing with their dependents, and military couples**
- **Members in grades E-6 and below permanently assigned to single government quarters may be assigned to Essential Station Messing (ESM)**



# *Essential Station Messing (ESM)*



- **Army policy for messing while assigned to single government quarters (barracks) has not changed. All members assigned to barracks are mandatorily messed.**
- **ESM will be applied uniformly for enlisted members assigned to single government quarters at the same location**
- **Members assigned to ESM will be charged for all meals made available while so assigned**
  - **ESM = meal-card holder**



# ***Essential Station Messing (ESM)***



- **Exceptions to ESM may be made when assigned duties prevent a member from being provided at least 80 percent of their government meals on a regular basis**
- **Discount meal rate is determined annually OSD Comptroller and is effective the first of each Oct**
  - **Current rate is \$6.75 per day**
- **Charges at the discounted meal rate will be directly deducted from the member's pay account**
  - **LES will show a BAS pmt and a deduction for meals**
- **Average residual amt for ESM members is \$40 per month**



# ***Essential Station Messing (ESM)***



- **ESM will not apply to the following duty statuses:**
  - **Regular TDY status (doesn't include field duty, sea duty, group travel periods, Essential Unit Messing (EUM), and Accession Pipeline Military Training (APMT))**
  - **Authorized leave and permissive TDY periods**
  - **Hospitalized in Uniform Service Medical Treatment Facility**
- **Members who miss meals at their permanent duty station due to assigned duties are allowed to claim missed meals**



# *Rations In-Kind Not Available (RIKNA)*



- FY98 NDAA eliminated the future payment of RIKNA
  - Loss of approx \$30 per month for members receiving RIKNA
- RIKNA is paid to enlisted members who live in single soldier housing and do not have a dining facility available
- FY 02 NDAA includes provision to allowing the continuation of the RIKNA rate
  - The RIKNA will be frozen until it equals the regular BAS rate.
  - Services wanted to ensure no member “lost” BAS entitlement with reform