



Safe Haven Entitlements and Early Return of Dependents Allowances During Authorized/Ordered Departure

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Bottom Line Up Front

Ordinarily under an authorized/ordered departure, dependents of uniformed service members depart and receive safe haven entitlements, and uniformed service members always return on either Temporary Duty (TDY) or Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders. Eligible dependents are authorized Early Return of Dependents (ERD) allowances to return from Outside the Contiguous United States (OCONUS) to a designated Contiguous United States (CONUS) location.

Who needs to know?

- Sailors
- Families
- Leadership

Key Points

- **Authorized and Ordered departure entitlements** are similar to Temporary Duty (TDY) entitlements where dependents are authorized travel/transportation to the safe haven location as well per-diem and meals and incidental expenses (M&IE) while the departure order is in effect. Upon the rescinding of the departure order, TDY (per-diem/MI&E) entitlements will stop and dependents are authorized travel/transportation back to the permanent duty station (PDS).
- **Early Return of Dependents (ERD)** sends dependents to a designated place (CONUS) and entitles service members to receive a travel/transportation to the designated place and a housing allowance based on that designated place only. In addition to this, there is no authority to return via government expense to the OCONUS PDS and the service member will be required to complete the original accompanied tour length. Upon approval of an ERD, entitlements/allowances for an authorized or ordered departure stop.
- **Command-sponsored dependents of uniformed service members receive transportation and per diem** for allowable travel time (excludes personal travel time) until they reach the safe haven location.
- **Dependents receive both commercial lodging and meals and incidental expenses (M&IE)** entitlements at the safe haven.
- **Pet transportation and quarantine is authorized for up to two household pets**, allowing reimbursement for personally procured pet expenses in accordance with Joint Travel Regulations (JTR).
- **Personally owned vehicles (POV) and most household goods (HHG)** are not authorized.
- **Safe haven entitlements can terminate** under several circumstances depending on the service member's duty status, station or location, or on a specific government-designated date – whichever is sooner.
- **Early Return of Dependents (ERD)** is an option that allows dependents to return to a single Designated Place CONUS from an OCONUS location.
- **ERD requests** should be submitted in BUPERS Online (BOL) with command endorsement and documentation supporting ERD eligibility.



Sample Plan of the Day / Plan of the Week Note

Safe Haven Entitlements and Early Return of Dependents Allowances: Dependents are authorized safe haven entitlements during an authorized or ordered departure. These include transportation, per diem, lodging, meals and incidentals, and transportation and quarantine for up to two household pets. Early Return of Dependents (ERD) can be authorized if a family does not desire to return to the PDS during or after an authorized or ordered departure. ERD entitles service members to normal PCS-type travel/transportation and HHG allowances to a designated place CONUS as well as the housing allowance (BAH) of that location. If you are at a designated safe haven and desire to seek an ERD, and have questions, you can call MNCC at (833) 330-MNCC (6622), email AskMNCC@us.navy.mil, or chat with a customer service representative via MyNavy Portal, anytime 24/7.

Safe Haven Entitlements Questions and Answers

Q: How can families ensure they receive lodging and meal entitlements at the safe haven?

A: Keep your lodging receipts and remember:

- Lodging entitlement pays for commercial lodging, which must be documented by a receipt.
- Lodging entitlement is not authorized if staying with friends and family.
- Hotel taxes are separate reimbursable expenses and must be claimed separately from lodging rates.

Q: How much are the safe haven entitlements for a family?

A: Entitlements are based on dependent age, and time spent at the safe haven:

- For the first 30 days, dependents 12 and older get 100% of the locality rate, while those younger than 12 get 50%.
- After the first 30 days, dependents 12 and older get 60% of the locality rate, while those younger than 12 get 30%.
- You can look up locality rates for lodging and M&IE on the [General Services Administration website](#).

Q: How long will families receive safe haven entitlements?

A: Safe haven entitlements terminate on the **earliest** of the following:

- date the sponsor detaches on permanent change of station (PCS) from the OCONUS duty station,
- the sponsor's effective date of transfer, if they are already physically at their new duty station,
- date dependent commences return travel to their duty station,
- date of the sponsor's separation or retirement,
- date specified by the Secretary of State, Secretary of War, Undersecretary of War for Personnel and Readiness, or
- 180 days after the ordered departure order was issued.

Q: Are authorized pet expenses the same as during a PCS?

A: No, ordered departures **do not** constitute the same reimbursable expenses as a PCS per Joint Travel Regulations. Members who own pets:

- are authorized transportation and quarantine fees for up to two household pets (cat or dog) to and from a safe haven or designated place, and
- can receive reimbursement for transporting pets at personal expense, limited to the constructed cost the government would have incurred if it had transported the pets.



Q: Are any household goods authorized for shipment to safe havens?

A: Only household goods specifically needed for dependents' comfort and wellbeing *may* be authorized or approved. These could include:

- seasonal or children's clothing, or child comfort items
- personal care or medical items and equipment
- essential household items such as bedding and basic kitchenware
- pet supplies for up to two pets

Early Return of Dependents (ERD) Questions and Answers

Q: What is "Early Return of Dependents"?

A: Early Return of Dependent (ERD) is an option that allows dependents to return to a single Designated Place Contiguous United States (CONUS) from an Outside the Contiguous United States (OCONUS) location. The governing regulations/policy for ERD falls under Joint Travel Regulations (JTR) 050804, Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation (DODFMR) Chapter 26 Paragraph 10.8, Department of Defense Issuance (DoDI) 1315.18, and Naval Military Personnel Manual (MILPERSMAN) 1300-306.

Q: What criteria can be considered for ERD?

A: Criteria to be considered for ERD:

- An official situation.
- A matter of national interest. **This includes the families involved in the March 2026 CENTCOM ordered departures.**
- A personal situation at the Permanent Duty Station (PDS) OCONUS. Personal situations include:
 - Divorce/Marital Difficulties/Separation/FAP
 - EFM/Medical
 - Financial
 - Compelling Personal Reasons (death or serious illness of a close relative)
- Disciplinary action is taken against a Service member stationed OCONUS.

Additional ERD Criteria can be found in DODI 1315.18, para 6.

Q: What is required for ERD?

A: ERDs submitted via BOL (if unable to access BOL contact MNCC) as outlined in Naval Military Personnel Manual (MILPERSMAN) 1300-306. As part of the BOL submission, the following documents are required:

- Letter from the member with amplifying information as to why the ERD is requested (CENTCOM ordered departure)
- First Endorsement signed by the commanding officer (CO) (or as delegated)
- Current (Signed and validated) Navy Personnel (NAVPERS) 1070/602 (updated within the previous 30 days as required by Naval Military Personnel Manual (MILPERSMAN) 1070-270)
- Copy of original PCS orders
- Documentation supporting ERD eligibility – **This is not required for families requesting ERD due to the March 2026 CENTCOM ordered departure. The original PCS orders are sufficient justification.**

Q: What is the ERD request process?

A: Service member submits a request endorsed by command via BOL. PERS-451 will review and provide Line of Accounting (LOA) authorization letter to the command. For planning purposes, the process between submission to BOL and LOA release should take 3-4 days.



Q: What happens when the ordered departure ends?

A: When the OCONUS location is safe for dependents to return, an Authorized Return order will be issued. Upon the Authorized Return order, allowances that were in place due to the ordered departure (per diem, lodging, etc.) are complete and will cease. There is no requirement for dependents to travel back to the Permanent Duty Station (PDS) if ERD is requested.

Q: What if my dependents do not want to return OCONUS following the ordered departure?

A: If dependents do not desire to return to the OCONUS Permanent Duty Station (PDS), the service member should request ERD in order to establish their dependents' CONUS Designated Place for subsequent allowances regarding future PCS moves. The 2026 ordered departure is considered a "matter of national interest," which is an approved criteria for ERD.

Q: Can my dependents return OCONUS at government expense if I use ERD?

A: No, dependents cannot relocate at government expense to any other location outside of the ERD approved Designated Place until their service member receives their next PCS orders.

Q: Can my dependents return OCONUS at personal expense if I use ERD?

A: If service member regains command sponsorship and relocates dependents at personal expense to the OCONUS location, that is authorized. Upon arrival, all housing and station allowances from the Designated Place would stop and the OCONUS housing allowances would begin.

Q: Can my dependents relocate to a different location outside of the ERD approved Designated Place at government expense?

A: No, there is no authority in policy to relocate from one Designated Place to another Designated Place at government expense. The only funded move following an ERD would be to the service member's next Permanent Duty Station (PDS) upon receipt of Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders.

Q: Can my dependents relocate to a different location outside of the ERD approved Designated Place at personal expense?

A: Yes, dependents can perform a move at personal expense. However, any relocation of dependents to a location outside of the authorized Designated Place identified on the ERD approval is considered a move to an alternate location and will affect subsequent travel, transportation and Household Goods (HHG) shipment allowances. There is no authority for travel/transportation or HHG relocation from an alternate location without a potential indebtedness to the service member.

Q: Am I entitled to BAH based on dependent location if my dependents performed a move at personal expense to a location other than the authorized Designated Place identified in my ERD?

A: No, the housing allowance is established in accordance with Title 37 and Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation (DODFMR) Vol 7A Chapter 26. ERD authorizes a housing allowance based on the Designated Place only. Any location outside of this is considered an alternate location for housing allowance purposes and is not authorized in law.



Q: When ERD is approved, does the service member's overseas tour become an unaccompanied tour and thus enable them to complete a shortened tour length?

A: No, the service member will be required to complete their full accompanied tour length as outlined in Department of Defense Issuance (DODI) 1315.18.

Q: When does service member and family have to determine whether they want to request an ERD?

A: There is no requirement to request ERD from an authorized Safe Haven. Dependents do not have to make a decision to return to the OCONUS location until the Authorized Return order is released. If upon the return order, dependents do not desire to return to the PDS, ERD should be requested.

Q: What are my allowances if approved for ERD?

A: Approved ERD allowances include:

- Travel/Transportation for dependents to the authorized Designated Place
- Household Goods (HHG) shipment to the authorized Designated Place
- Personally Owned Vehicle (POV) shipment for one vehicle (refer to Personal Property for specific requirements)
- Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) (with-dependent rate) at the authorized Designated Place effective the day of arrival or the date the ERD order was issued, whichever is later.
- See Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation (DODFMR) Vol 7A Chapter 26, para 10.8.1.2 regarding the service member's housing allowances following the dependents' departure.

Q: If I request ERD, when do I get my HHG shipment?

A: HHG shipments into and out of the ordered departure area are currently on hold. Even if dependents are approved for ERD, they will have to wait until the area is deemed safe enough to resume HHG contract services. Once services in the affected areas are back to normal, the HHG process will be completed utilizing the ERD authorization order in the same fashion as a normal PCS move.

Q: What if I have further questions?

A: Please email your inquiries to askmncc@us.navy.mil or call 833-330-6622.