



Military members, E-1 through frocked E-5

With very few exceptions, all military members E-1 through frocked E-5 will live on base in Unaccompanied Housing (UH). These permanent party facilities provide a quality living environment that meets your comfort and security needs, and enhances your quality of life while stationed at Naval Support Activity Souda Bay. The UH Resident Handbook addresses the majority of the UH rules, regulations, and policies that are in effect at NSA Souda Bay.

Unaccompanied military members, E-5 and above, accompanied military members, and DoD civilians

With the exception of the Unaccompanied Housing discussed above, NSA Souda Bay does not have on-base housing. Unaccompanied military members E-5 and above, accompanied military members, and accompanied and unaccompanied DoD civilians will live in rental housing off base in the local community. Check in with the Housing Office as soon as possible upon arrival to begin the search for your new home. It is also helpful if your sponsor drives you around to see the neighborhoods near the base; this might help you narrow down your housing choices.

Rental properties in the local community are readily available and include apartments, duplexes, and single-family homes. You can see the current selection by going to the [Homes.mil website](#) and entering NSA Souda Bay in the Find Properties Now search bar. You'll also want to review the information on Household Goods (HHG) allowances and tips on What to Bring to Greece on our main Welcome Aboard page.

The Housing Office Team

After you arrive, you'll work with a member of the Housing Office team to select the properties you want to visit. In addition to a house-hunting trip to view the properties you are interested in, our bilingual team members can help with lease negotiations and translation services between you and your potential landlord. Once you've made your housing selection, the Housing Office team will schedule a date/time for you to sign the lease. They will also discuss your loaner furniture and full-tour appliance options. You can also rely on the Housing Office team to remain available during your entire tour to help with any issues that may arise with your off-base housing situation.

Finding A Home On Your Own

Some newcomers opt to find a house on their own. If you do this, you'll need to provide the Housing Office the landlord's name and telephone number, and the address of the home. The landlord will need to contact the Housing Office and follow up to schedule any required inspections and to negotiate the rent based on fair market rents. If you look for housing on your own, the Housing Office recommends not discussing or committing to a rental price. In most cases, the quoted price may end up being higher than the fair market rental costs the Housing Office may be able to negotiate.

Utilities

Utilities are rarely included in the rent.

Electricity: The electricity contract remains in the landlord's name, and you will reimburse them directly. Electricity in Crete is expensive. Local electricity is 220 volts, single phase, 50 cycle, and measured in kilowatts. The DEH (the Greek Electric company) sends electricity bills every two months, but reads your meter approximately three times a year, depending on the location of the property. In between readings, DEH will send your landlord estimated bills, based on historical patterns of usage for your rental property. This practice may result in a high bill when the actual reading takes place by DEH if the reading is above the amount estimated. The Housing Office will document your initial DEH meter reading and recommends you perform a meter reading monthly on your own and provide it to Housing for review and documentation. This practice shall prevent you from receiving bills that you may have difficulty paying. You should learn to estimate your own usage and set aside sufficient funds.

Stepdown transformers are a must for use with U.S. 110v and 60 cycle appliances. A transformer is an electrical device that changes a given input voltage to a different output voltage, allowing you to use your U.S. 110v and 60 cycle appliances in Greece. Transformers are usually available as part of the [Loaner Furnishings Program](#). With the exception of electrical clocks and other items not geared for 50-cycle power, most U.S. small appliances may be safely operated with a transformer. Lamps not plugged into a transformer require 220-volt light bulbs, available both in local shops and at the Navy Exchange. Electrical sockets are not the same as in the U.S.; therefore, when plugging in a dual-voltage device you will need an adaptor, available at the Navy Exchange.

Heating/AC: If you select a house or an apartment with only an electric split unit system (meaning the unit heats and cools), this will be your only heating source and may result in higher electric bills. It is recommended to set your thermostat at a reasonable temperature and to shut it off when the sun is out or when you are not home.

Heating Oil: Heating oil for houses and apartments with radiators is available to DoD personnel in Greece on a tax-free basis, which amounts to a substantial discount from the local market. The Housing Office will help you order the oil and calculate the cost. See the Greek Customs & Taxes section on our main Welcome Aboard page for information on the Value Added Tax (VAT) exemption.

Water: The water contract remains under the name of the landlord at all times. The cost of water based on the area you live, cubic meter consumption, and the price of water established by the supply company. When you are asked to pay a water bill, ask for a copy of the bill and take it to the Housing Office for review, to ensure you reimburse the landlord the correct amount.

Loaner Furniture and Appliances

NSA Souda Bay's [Loaner Furnishings Program](#) is available at no cost and open to all military and DoD civilian personnel on PCS orders. The 90-day Temporary Furniture Loan Program is designed to get you started in your new house or apartment while you are waiting for your HHG to arrive. There is also a Full Tour Appliance Package. Unaccompanied military personnel who opt to rent an unfurnished apartment may also use the Full Tour Furniture package.

Move-in Costs

Move-in costs are typically one month's rent, plus a security deposit. The security deposit will be returned to you, less any amounts deducted for damages, when the lease is terminated. You can get an idea of rental prices and security deposits by viewing the available housing options on homes.mil.

Housing Allowances**Military Members:**

Once your housing lease is established, the Housing Office team will fill out an Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) form. You will turn the paperwork into your Admin Office for processing.

NOTE Military members living in UH do NOT receive OHA.

DoD Civilian Employees

LQA is the allowance members receive to maintain a household off base. You'll provide the Human Resources Office a copy of your lease to begin the process of activating your LQA.

You'll also want to review the information on PCS Allowances on our main Welcome Aboard page.

The Housing Office is located in Bldg. 49B.

Customer Service Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Noon – 3:30 p.m., and Friday 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.