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### Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: 5/30/13

The actual rules for TLA are in the JFTR, pars. U9150 through U9195. Following are answers to some basic questions concerning TLA and an extract from the JFTR indicating TLA computation steps and showing computation examples.

1. [What is the purpose of TLA? See par. U9150-A.](#)
2. [When is TLA Authorized? See par. U9150-A.](#)
3. [May a member serving an unaccompanied tour receive TLA when an available Government dining facility/mess isn't used or available Government quarters aren't occupied because of the presence of non-command sponsored dependents in the member's PDS vicinity? \(See par. U9155-D.\)](#)
4. [May a member receive TLA if Government quarters are available and other lodgings are used? See par. U9150-C1.](#)
5. [How many TLA days may a member have when assigned to an OCONUS PDS? See par. U9160-A.](#)
6. [When does TLA start? See par. U9160-A.](#)
7. [How soon is a member required to start looking for permanent housing? See par. U9160-C1.](#)
8. [May a member receive TLA when the member and dependents receive MALT plus flat per diem? See par. U9160-B.](#)
9. [How many TLA days is a member allowed upon departure from an OCONUS PDS? See par. U9170-A.](#)
10. [May a member receive TLA while on leave or permissive travel? See par. U9175.](#)
11. [Is an advance payment authorized for TLA? See par. U9158. Is an advance payment authorized for TLA? See par. U9190.](#)
12. [May I be reimbursed for International Transaction \(currency conversion\) Fees charged by my credit card company when being reimbursed for lodging cost?](#)
13. [How is TLA computed? See par. U9185.](#)

#### 1. What is the purpose of TLA? See par. U9150-A.

The purpose of TLA is to partially reimburse a member for:

1. The more than normal expenses incurred while occupying temporary lodgings (including Temporary Lodging Facilities as defined in Appendix A) and
2. Expenses for meals obtained as a direct result of using temporary lodgings OCONUS that don't have facilities for preparing and consuming meals.

#### 2. When is TLA Authorized? See par. U9150-A.

TLA is authorized in the following circumstances:

1. Upon initial arrival (reporting for duty) at an OCONUS PDS (includes reporting for TDY at an activity within the new OCONUS PDS limits (B-208740, 31 January 1983) and waiting for Government quarters assignment, or while completing arrangements for other permanent living accommodations when Government quarters are not available;
2. When, based on the OCONUS TLA Authority's written guidance, the appropriate official determines that for reasons beyond the member's control (does not include a ship entering any type of maintenance availability), it is necessary for a member, once established in a permanent residence in the PDS vicinity, to vacate the permanent residence permanently or temporarily, and to use temporary lodgings in the PDS vicinity while looking for another permanent residence or waiting to reoccupy the vacated permanent residence;
3. While seeking a permanent residence following a TDY period when a member without dependents vacated a permanent residence before a TDY assignment of 90 or more days (59 Comp. Gen. 486 (1980));
4. While house-hunting after the member arrives at the new PDS and reports for duty in conjunction with a PCS;
5. Immediately preceding PCS departure from an OCONUS PDS (includes reporting for TDY at a location within the old OCONUS PDS limits (B-208740, 31 January 1983) after Government quarters are/private sector housing is vacated in connection with a PCS order;
6. During a member's hospitalization period while en route between PDSs when dependents are required to use OCONUS temporary lodgings during the hospitalization period.
- 7.

NOTE 1: A member who retires/separates, stays in the PDS area, and then moves at a later date is not eligible for TLA.

NOTE 2: TLA is not intended, and must not be allowed to be used, for the personal enrichment of a member by extending TLA allowances for other than the purpose intended. Disciplinary action addressed in par. U1055 applies when TLA allowances are used for inappropriate reasons. Upon initial arrival (reporting) at an OCONUS PDS (includes reporting for TDY at an activity within the new OCONUS PDS limits (B-208740, 31 January 1983) and waiting for Government quarters assignment, or while completing arrangements for other permanent living accommodations when Government quarters are not available;

**3. May a member serving an unaccompanied tour receive TLA when an available Government dining facility/mess isn't used or available Government quarters aren't occupied because of the presence of non-command sponsored dependents in the member's PDS vicinity? (See par. U9155-D.)**

No.

**4. May a member receive TLA if Government quarters are available and other lodgings are used? See par. U9150-C1.**

Yes, but lodging reimbursement is limited to what the Government quarters would have cost. If Government quarters aren't available, the member's certification is required to support a claim for TLA.

**5. How many TLA days may a member have when assigned to an OCONUS PDS? See par. U9160-A.**

A number of days deemed sufficient, but ordinarily, not more than 60 days. A period in addition to that 60 days may be authorized/approved when any of the following reasons exist and are beyond the member's/dependents' control. See par. U9160-G.:

1. Non-arrival of HHG;
2. Delay in availability of/assignment to Government quarters due to Service requirements;
3. Acts of God, fire, flood, earthquake, riot, civil unrest, or other disturbances that make normally available or anticipated Government quarters or private sector housing temporarily or permanently uninhabitable or unavailable;
4. Withdrawal of housing from the market by a landlord;
5. Member is unable to secure housing considered by the housing officer to be suitable to the member's needs, in an acceptable location, and comparable to and within the price range of housing currently being used by other members in the area. NOTE: This does NOT mean the housing lease cost cannot exceed the OHA ceiling; it can.;
6. Member/dependent(s) are hospitalized or the member's duties requires the member to be away from the PDS (homeport, if attached to a ship) resulting in curtailment of opportunities to arrange for permanent living accommodations. The additional TLA period is authorized/approved in increments of 10 or fewer days.

**6. When does TLA start? See par. U9160-A.**

The TLA period begins on the same date that COLA eligibility begins.

**7. How soon is a member required to start looking for permanent housing? See par. U9160-C1.**

The member is required to begin aggressively seeking quarters as soon as possible after arrival. At the end of the first TLA period, the designated overseas commander has the member's case reviewed to determine the progress being made toward obtaining permanent housing. If the member's efforts appear deficient, the member is reminded of responsibilities in the matter. Unexcused failure to comply with the diligent search requirement leads to cause to stop TLA.

**8. May a member receive TLA when the member and dependents receive MALT plus flat per diem? See par. U9160-B.**

The member/dependents may not receive TLA on the reporting day to a new PDS if MALT plus per diem is being paid for that day.

**9. How many TLA days is a member allowed upon departure from an OCONUS PDS? See par. U9170-A.**

A member ordinarily should not require TLA for more than the last 10 days before the day the member departs the PDS in compliance with PCS orders. See par. U9170-A for exceptions.

**10. May a member receive TLA while on leave or permissive travel? See par. U9175.**

TLA is not payable for any day a member is away from the PDS vicinity on leave or permissive travel, except when one or more dependents remain in the PDS vicinity. In that case, the number of dependents who continue to occupy temporary lodgings determines the rate payable. In either case, postponement of TLA pending return is not authorized. See par. U9150-A5.

**11. Is an advance payment authorized for TLA? See par. U9158. Is an advance payment authorized for TLA? See par. U9190.**

Yes, an advance may be paid for the number of authorized TLA days, after authorization based on the appropriate directive(s) issued under par. U9150.

**12. May I be reimbursed for International Transaction (currency conversion) Fees charged by my credit card company when being reimbursed for lodging cost?**

Yes, you may be authorized reimbursement for International Transaction (currency conversion) Fees charged to your GTCC (or if a uniformed member and formally exempted from having a GTCC, from a personal credit card) for TLA lodging. The International Transaction fee for the amount of the TLA lodging becomes part of the lodging cost for TLA computation.

When determining the lodging expense ICW TLA, the International Transaction (currency conversion) Fees charged by the GTCC, fees are added to the actual daily lodging cost which also includes lodging tax or value added tax (VAT) certificate cost, and other authorized lodging costs. See JFTR, par. U9185-E, Step 2.

When using a personal non-GTCC credit card and not formally exempt from having a GTCC, International Transaction (currency conversion) fees charged by your credit card company is part of the 'otherwise unreimbursed expenses' paid through DLA. DLA is intended to partially reimburse a member for the otherwise unreimbursed relocation expenses of a PCS, evacuation, or movement as a result of BRAC closure. See Ch 5, Part G.

**13. How is TLA computed? See par. U9185-E..**

Please see the following document: [Computing TLA](#).

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