

As of: 14 1400 April 2011

SUBJECT: Eligible Family Member (EFM) Entitlements and Return Questions and Answers

Question 1: PACOM is stating Eligible Family Members (EFM) who departed can return on a free ticket up to 365 days after the authorized departure date. Is this accurate?

Answer: Once the authorized departure is terminated, if a dependent chooses not to return immediately, safe haven allowances cease. Travel is not impacted because they can choose to travel up to 12 months later as long as the Military Sponsor has at least 60 days left on the tour or Civilian Sponsor has 30 days left on the tour.

Question 2: PACOM is stating per diem stops 180 days after the extension date. What is the guidance on when per diem terminates?

Answer: Safe haven allowances cease on the date stated in the PDUSD (P&R) departure termination memo. Safe haven allowances may not exceed a total of 180 days.

Question 3: PACOM is asking about school enrollments. Specifically, what will be our policy on return dates for those who reenrolled in schools at designated locations? Also, what is the effect on evacuation allowances?

Answer:

Responsible EFMs who departed with a command-sponsored school-aged dependent and enrolled that dependent in school at their safe haven location may remain with their school-aged dependent at their safe haven location until the dependent completes his or her current school semester (or equivalent academic period).

Safe haven benefits for military EFMs will terminate one day after the current school semester (or equivalent academic period) ends for their last command-sponsored dependent enrolled in school at his or her safe haven location.

Civilian EFMs who departed with a command-sponsored school-aged dependent and enrolled that dependent in school at their safe haven location may also remain with their school-aged dependent at their safe haven location until the dependent completes their current school semester (or equivalent academic period). Safe haven benefits for these EFMs will terminate in accordance with JTR Chapter 6, Part C, after the authorized departure is terminated. However, these EFMs may

request transitional separate maintenance allowance (TSMA) under Department of State Standardized Regulations (DSSR) section 264.3 (DSSR 262.3.b.). The period covered by TSMA may not exceed 90 days. Total safe haven benefits may not exceed 180 days.

Safe haven allowances for military dependents are:

- 1st 30 days: Dependents age 12 or older receive up to 100% of locality rate. Dependents under age 12 receive up to 50% of the locality rate.
- Days 31-180: Dependents age 12 or older receive up to 60% of locality rate. Dependents under age 12 receive up to 30% of the locality rate.

Question 4: If families decide not to return, what is their status? Do they get ERD entitlements? Are they on their own? Will orders have to be amended to place them in another location? Would they get TMO support? We understand that if they are within 60 days of PCS, they will stay at their CONUS location, what about over 60 days (60-150--summer moves)?

Answer: A sponsor whose dependents choose not to return to the PDS may: 1) request Early Return of Dependents (ERD); 2) have dependents travel to new PDS, if PCS orders from the evacuated PDS have been issued; or 3) have dependents remain in place after safe haven allowances terminate. Ordinarily dependents who chose to remain in place (HHG or POV not shipped under ERD or PCS, tour not changed to unaccompanied) may return to Japan up to a year later provided the member has at least 60 days remaining in the tour or a civilian employee has 30 days remaining. Early Return of Dependents (ERD) may be authorized IAW JFTR, par. U5900 or JTR, par. C5450 and an order would be 'issued.' For ERD or PCS the EFM's would be authorized TMO/CTO support.

Question 5: Pets: will families with pets be able to get a "pet waiver" if they can't meet the 10-30 day return window? Will entitlements continue? What is the process for waivers to extend past the window? Do you know there were 409 pets and most airlines only take a limited amount per flight?

Answer: Waivers to extend safe haven benefits in order to accommodate pet travel arrangements will not be considered.