

MILPERSMAN 1300-180

COMMAND SPONSORSHIP OF DEPENDENTS AT OVERSEAS DUTY STATIONS - STATUS CHANGE, PROHIBITIONS, AND DEPENDENT ENTRY APPROVAL

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| References | (a) Joint Federal Travel Regulations (JFTR), Volume I, Chapter 5 (b) DoDI 1315.18 |
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1. Intra-Theater Assignments and Moves

a. Personnel reassigned under permanent change of station (PCS) orders between units ashore and or afloat units at the same overseas location, or other homeports in the same country, shall retain the command-sponsored status for their dependents, if previously conferred.

b. Members reassigned under permanent change of assignment orders with no new permanent duty station (PDS) identified, shall retain command sponsorship for their dependents at the overseas PDS. The Department of Defense (DoD) Comptroller General has ruled this situation does not constitute a PCS. The overseas PDS remains, until a new PDS is ordered.

c. If the consecutive overseas tour is an intra-theater move as the result of a base closure or similar action:

(1) Service members accompanied by command-sponsored dependents, who are moved involuntarily from one overseas PDS to another, shall have their dependents command-sponsored at the new PDS, regardless of the length of the consecutive tour.

(2) The new PDS, however, must have an accompanied-by-dependents tour prescribed in order for dependents to accompany the Service member.

2. Prohibitions and Limitations

a. In no case may dependents be command-sponsored in the overseas area unless the Service member has sufficient contractual obligated service (OBLISERV) to complete the prescribed accompanied-by-dependents tour. See MILPERSMAN 1300-170 for exceptions.

b. Dependents that existed on the effective date of orders, that elected initially to travel to the overseas PDS, must be command-sponsored prior to travel in order to travel to the overseas PDS at Government expense.

c. In no case may dependents be command-sponsored in an area:

(1) For which no accompanied-by-dependents tour is prescribed; or

(2) Declared as a "dependent restricted" area by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management and Personnel).

3. Acquired/Tourist/Returnee Dependents

a. In the case of:

(1) Locally acquired dependents; or

(2) Dependents who initially arrive in the vicinity of the overseas PDS at no cost to the Government while taking up residence with the evident intent to set up a permanent household, the appropriate overseas commander may, upon application by the member, grant command sponsorship to the dependents if the member meets the command sponsorship criteria per MILPERSMAN 1300-170. Specifically, the member agrees to serve the prescribed accompanied tour and has the service retainability to do so. Command sponsorship will be granted as soon as the member has the retainability. If the member is already serving the equivalent of the accompanied tour of the PDS location, command sponsorship shall be immediate upon acquiring the dependents or upon arrival of the dependents in the overseas area.

b. Children born to command-sponsored dependent spouses are command-sponsored at birth. Children born to command-sponsored

dependents that are not the spouse of the member, are not eligible for sponsorship unless they become legal dependents through separate legal action. These infants may be provided medical care as DoD and service regulations permit.

c. In cases of adoption, sponsorship is effective on the date of placement in the house, including pre-adoptive placement prior to final adoption.

d. In cases where one member of a Service member-married-to-Service member couple separates from the service, the separating member may be command-sponsored the day following separation, provided the remaining member is serving the accompanied tour length and the separating member did not travel back to continental United States (CONUS) at Government expense at the time of separation. To facilitate sponsorship for the separating member, commands should enable that member to conduct out-processing at the overseas PDS.

e. Dependents, who return to an overseas PDS after having been early returned from the overseas area under reference (a), Para U5222, may be command-sponsored only after

(1) The Service member obligates to serve 24 months after returning; and

(2) All other command sponsorship criteria are met.

4. Changing Tour Election

a. If, after electing an "all others" tour, the Service member desires dependents to be command-sponsored in the overseas area:

(1) The Service member's commanding officer (CO) will reverify the suitability of dependents; and

(2) Command sponsorship may then proceed as outlined above as long as dependent travel and transportation of household goods (HHG), or a mobile home at Government expense has not occurred per reference (a), Para U5203.

b. Service members who:

(1) Elect unaccompanied tours; and

(2) Have their dependents moved to a designated place at Government expense, cannot have their dependents transported to the vicinity of the overseas PDS at Government expense in connection with that tour.

c. This does not preclude a second movement of dependents or HHG from a designated place to the overseas area in connection with an accompanied tour election, when a previously issued denial of entry approval, for a period of 20 or more weeks, led to the move.

5. **When Dependent Entry Approval is Required**

a. Approval by the appropriate military commander for a member to have dependents present in the overseas area, dependent entry approval constitutes command sponsorship of dependents.

b. This form of command sponsorship is only valid for dependents:

(1) Who have successfully completed suitability screening; and

(2) Whose member sponsor is eligible for command sponsorship of dependents.

c. See reference (b) for specific dependent entry approval information.

6. **When Dependent Entry Approval is not Required**

a. For those areas for which dependent entry approval is not required, the distribution authority, by directing the PCS transfer confers command sponsorship on dependents who have successfully completed suitability screening.

b. Members must still elect the accompanied-by-dependents tour for dependent travel to the overseas PDS to be at Government expense.