

MILPERSMAN 7220-120

FAMILY SEPARATION ALLOWANCE (FSA)

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Reference	(a) DoD 7000.14-R, Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation (DoD FMR), April 2022
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1. **Purpose**. Family separation allowance (FSA) provides compensation for added expenses incurred because of an enforced family separation under one of the conditions addressed below. FSA is payable to qualified members serving inside or outside the United States. FSA is not authorized when a member performs duty at any station under permissive orders.

2. **Policy**. FSA is payable to members with dependents and members married to other members of the Military Services, regardless of any other dependency status. FSA is payable in addition to any other allowance, or per diem, to which a member may be entitled. Members, however, may not receive more than one payment of FSA for the same period. Members must complete a [DD 1561 Statement to Substantiate Payment of Family Separation Allowance](#) to substantiate entitlement to FSA.

3. **Eligibility**. FSA is payable to members serving in any pay grade, with dependents. Members must meet all general requirements and one of the following conditions:

a. **FSA- Restricted (FSA-R)**

(1) Member's dependents, including dependents acquired after the effective date of permanent change of station (PCS)

orders, do not live in the vicinity of the member's homeport or permanent duty station (PDS); and

(a) Their transportation to, or near, the PDS is not authorized at government expense; or

(b) Transportation of dependents is authorized at government expense, but member elects an unaccompanied tour of duty because a dependent cannot accompany the member to, or at that homeport or PDS, due to certified medical reasons, regardless of the date on which the member first made the election to serve an unaccompanied tour.

(2) Members on continental United States (CONUS) orders, who are authorized movement of dependents at government expense to PDS, are not authorized when he or she is voluntarily reassigned on PCS orders under permissive orders. Separation from dependents under these circumstances is not an enforced separation due to government requirements; therefore, members are not entitled to FSA.

(3) Members on overseas assignments who elect to serve an unaccompanied tour, in lieu of an accompanied tour, at a PDS where dependents are permitted are not entitled to FSA. Members in receipt of accompanied tour orders, and subsequently request to serve an unaccompanied tour in lieu of an accompanied tour at a PDS where dependents are permitted, are not entitled to FSA-R for such a tour.

(4) Members who are voluntarily reassigned PCS orders overseas, under permissive orders, from the station where he or she already is entitled to FSA-R remain entitled if reassigned to an area overseas where dependents are not permitted.

(5) Reference (a), volume 7a, chapter 27, table 27-2, delineates FSA entitlement for eligible members assigned overseas.

b. FSA-Ship (FSA-S). Members on duty aboard a ship, and

(1) Whose ship is away from the homeport continuously for more than 30 days; or

(2) Ordered to remain aboard a ship while at homeport, and whose duty aboard the ship is for a continuous period of more than 30 days. When members are under orders to remain aboard a ship while at homeport, the days onboard the ship while at homeport will count towards the "more than 30 continuous days," except when members are required to stay aboard for disciplinary reasons. Dependents are not required to reside in the vicinity of the homeport.

c. FSA-Temporary (FSA-T)

(1) Members on temporary duty (TDY) or temporary assigned duty (TAD) away from the PDS or the home of residence (HOR) continuously for more than 30 days, and the member's dependents do not reside at, or near the TDY or TAD station. This includes members who are required to perform a period of the TDY or TAD before reporting to their initial station of assignment. Members on an unaccompanied tour are entitled to FSA-T for TDY or TAD periods of over 30 continuous days if the member's dependents do not reside at or near the TDY station, and they do not reside near the PDS.

(2) If a member's TDY or TAD location is within a reasonable commuting distance from the member's PDS or HOR, or if the member commutes daily, regardless of distance, the member is not entitled to FSA-T. A distance of 50 miles, one-way, is considered to be within a reasonable commuting distance of a PDS or HOR. "Within a reasonable commuting distance" may include distances of less than 50 miles, and the time required to travel, under unusual conditions, does not exceed 1.5 hours.

4. **Member Married to Member.** FSA is payable to a member married to another member, regardless of whether the member has any non-active duty dependents, when all other general conditions are met and provided members were residing together immediately before being separated by reason of execution of military orders.

a. Except as provided in subparagraph 4d below, no more than one monthly FSA may be paid with respect to a married military couple for any month. Each member may be entitled to FSA within the same month, but both cannot simultaneously be entitled. Payment will be made to the member whose orders resulted in the separation. If both members receive orders requiring departure on the same day, then payment will go to the senior member.

b. If a member meets the requirements for credit of FSA, but entitlement is precluded by an existing entitlement status of the spouse, then the second member may, if still qualified, immediately become entitled to FSA upon termination of the spouse's status. The military couple may qualify for sequential entitlements to FSA, provided military orders keep them continuously separated.

c. To qualify for a subsequent entitlement to FSA, a married member couple, no longer separated by reason of military orders, must reestablish a joint household and reside together.

d. FSA is payable to both married members when they reside together with their dependents immediately before being separated from their dependents by competent orders to assignments. The dual allowance will continue until one of the members is no longer assigned to one of those duty assignments.

e. In the case of a member being married to another member, and the couple has a child(ren), one member may claim the child(ren) for entitlement to basic allowance for housing and the other member may claim the child(ren) for entitlement to FSA. FSA may not be paid simultaneously to both members on behalf of the same dependent, except as provided in subparagraph 4d above.

5. **Separation Requirements.** Additional information on dependent's separation requirements, including when a member is not considered a member with dependents for FSA entitlement, and temporary social visits by dependents can be found in reference (a), volume 7a, chapter 27, section 3.

6. **Dependents Reside Near Duty Station.** FSA does not accrue to a member if all of the dependents reside at, or near, the duty station. If some, but not all, of the dependents voluntarily reside near the PDS, then FSA may accrue on behalf of those dependents who do not reside at, or near, the PDS.

a. Dependents reside near a duty station if they live within a reasonable commuting distance of that PDS, whether or not the member commutes daily. A distance of 50-miles, one-way, is usually considered to be within a reasonable commuting distance of the PDS or HOR.

b. Unusual conditions may permit a determination that dependents do not live within a reasonable commuting distance, even though the distance is less than 50 miles one-way. If the time required to commute one-way by commonly used route and method of transportation would exceed 1.5 hours, the dependents will be considered as not residing near the member's PDS, unless the member actually commutes daily.

c. If dependents are authorized concurrent travel with the member to the PDS and are subsequently authorized to reside at a location over 50 miles from the member's PDS for personal reasons, rather than as a result of military restriction on dependents' travel, then FSA entitlement does not accrue.

7. **Authorization of FSA-R During Homeport Change (HPC)**

a. Members will be separated into categories based either on their report date to the ship changing homeport or on the amount of time remaining aboard. In most cases, the categories are as follows:

(1) Members who will have more than 12 months remaining aboard will be authorized to move their dependents at government expense and will not be entitled to FSA-R.

(2) Members who have less than 12 months onboard, or who have PCS orders to detach the ship after the HPC effective date, are not authorized to move their dependents at government expense and will be entitled to FSA-R.

(3) Members who report to the ship after the promulgation date, but before the effective date, are authorized to move their dependents at government expense and will not be entitled to FSA-R.

b. Additional information regarding a ship's HPC will be addressed in its HPC business rules. Advanced and delayed dependent travel, are both voluntary and do not entitle a member to FSA-R. Reference (a), volume 7a, chapter 27, section 4.5, contains additional information regarding FSA-S due to an HPC.

8. **FSA Commencement.** Further examples of FSA entitlements and specific commencement dates can be found in reference (a), volume 7a, chapter 27, tables 27-1, 27-2, and 27-4.

9. **Waivers for Unusual Family or Operational Circumstances.**

Unusual family or operational circumstances are defined as those in which the Secretary of the Navy determines to be in the best interest of the government to permit payment of FSA to members who, through no fault of their own, must relocate in an unaccompanied status under certain circumstances. A waiver is effective upon the date granted.

- a. Waiver authority should be used prudently.
- b. Waiver requests may be forwarded to Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) Military Pay and Compensation Policy Branch (N130) for consideration.
- c. Waivers will not be authorized for personal convenience or preference (e.g., spousal employment, school, stability, etc.), or caused by dependent's misconduct.