

MILPERSMAN 7220-160

BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR SUBSISTENCE (BAS) - GENERAL POLICIES

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References	(a) 37 U.S.C. §402 (b) DoD FMR 7000.14-R Volume 7A, Military Pay Policy - Active Duty and Reserve Pay
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1. **Policy**. Upon completion of initial basic training, Service members entitled to basic pay may also be entitled to basic allowance for subsistence (BAS) (unless otherwise restricted). For uniformity in making determinations, Government messes available in the geographical area must be used to the fullest extent compatible with economy and efficiency per references (a) and (b).

2. **Entitlement**. Service members entitled to receive basic pay are either:

a. furnished meals in a Government mess (subsisted in kind) and entitled to partial BAS or

b. entitled to BAS if not subsisted in kind.

3. **Enlisted BAS Types**. Enlisted Service members may be authorized one of the following types of full BAS on a daily basis when:

a. subsistence in kind is not available, or utilization of a Government mess is determined to be impracticable,

b. permission to ration separately (RATSSEP) is granted or

c. assigned to duty under emergency conditions where no messing facilities of the United States are available.

4. **Officer BAS.** Officers entitled to basic pay are also entitled to BAS at all times on a monthly basis.

5. **Restrictions.** Service members are not entitled to BAS of any type under the conditions listed in reference (b), section 250203. For sea duty BAS guidance, refer to [MILPERSMAN 7220-180](#).

6. **BAS Payment Authority.** Ashore commanders, commanding officers (CO) and officers in charge (OIC) are authorized to approve payment of prorated or supplemental subsistence allowances only for the exact number of meals Service members miss when duty prevents them from obtaining those meals at a Government mess, or when a Government mess is not available for certain meals. Use the table below to determine which subsistence allowance applies.

If Service members are...	and whose duties...	then...
not receiving any subsistence allowance,	prevent them from obtaining certain meals in a Government mess,	prorated subsistence allowance applies.
RATSSEP,	preclude them from utilizing a Government mess for certain meals,	supplemental subsistence allowance applies.

Note: Military members may not be provided meals or rations at no charge by or on behalf of the Government while entitled to BAS for the same period of service, except as patients in the hospital.

7. **Payment Authorization Process.** Payment authorization is:

a. verified by the officer exercising close daily supervision of the Service member and

b. authorized by the CO's certification of the dates and specific meals missed.

8. **Responsible Commanding Officer (RCO) Responsibilities**

a. **Authorizing BAS**

(1) The RCO is charged with ensuring commands serviced by the RCO's mess(es) are authorized BAS as set forth in this article in direct connection with the efficient operation of mess(es) involved.

(2) When more than one installation featuring a Government mess is located within the same geographical area, the RCOs must confer to ensure uniform determinations are made on the authorization of BAS.

b. **Determining Availability of Government Mess.** The CO of an installation where a Service member is performing duty must make the determination of when a Government mess is in fact not available per guidance contained in this article and reference (b).

c. **Auditing and Re-verifying BAS Authorizations.** Annual audits and reverification of all BAS authorizations are required. COs and RCOs must incorporate BAS audits into local management control programs.

9. **BAS Continuation Policy.** BAS authorizations continue in effect as long as circumstances leading to the approval of BAS remain unchanged, and the Service member is still assigned to the command that approved or endorsed the request. If the Service member is transferred to another command, even when the new command is under the cognizance of the same RCO, the request must be resubmitted through the appropriate channels.

10. **Unit CO and OIC Responsibilities**

a. **Determining When Use of Government Mess is Impracticable Due to Location.** The unit CO or OIC, with the concurrence of the RCO, must make the determination when the use of an available Government mess is impracticable due to location of the mess in relation to the Service member's place of duty per guidance contained in this article and reference (b).

b. **Determining When Use of Government Mess is Impracticable Due to Duties or Unusual Work Hours.** The unit CO or OIC, with the concurrence of the RCO, must determine if the Service

member's duties or unusual work hours prevent the Service member from eating all or certain meals in a Government mess.

11. **Office of Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV), Military Personnel Plans and Policies Division (N13) Responsibility.**

OPNAV (N13) has been designated by the Secretary of the Navy as the only authority to make a determination of impracticability due to adverse effects on an assigned mission.

a. Command requests for BAS to determine impracticability due to adverse effects on an assigned mission must be forwarded to OPNAV, Military Pay and Compensation Policy Branch (N130) via the Service member's CO and RCO.

b. The entitlement is at the "Government messing not available" rate.

c. BAS rates must be applied uniformly for all enlisted Service members under similar conditions permanently assigned to the same installation, station, base or ship.

12. **Limitation on Authority of Naval Vessel COs to Grant BAS.**

COs of naval vessels, which are normally equipped with messing facilities that become inoperable due to decommissioning, overhaul or other maintenance availability, are not authorized to automatically grant BAS. Refer to [MILPERSMAN 7220-180](#) for specific procedures.

13. **BAS During Contingency Operations.** Refer to reference (b) for procedures for BAS during contingency operations.