
HQ U.S. Army Installation Management Command, Europe Region



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Press Release

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Overseas Housing Allowance Survey available through mid-April

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Servicemembers assigned in Europe have the opportunity to complete the 2008 Overseas Housing Allowance Survey, which is being conducted from March 18 to April 17.

Annually, the Per Diem Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee uses the data – such as utility and recurring maintenance expenses – to compute allowances for troops worldwide.

The survey will be made available to all servicemembers who receive OHA and live in privately leased quarters.

This year, the survey will be available only on the Internet, as there will be no paper format, said Master Sgt. Rhonda Thomas-Evans, 266th Finance Command.

“Responses can only be made via computer,” she noted. “An unfinished survey can be saved and completed later. But the unfinished survey can be accessed only from the same computer from which it was started.”

The survey will be available, beginning March 18, from the Website:
<http://266fincom1.hqusareur.army.mil/>

Thomas-Evans said the average survey completion time will vary; however, “you should allow at least 30 minutes. Actual time will depend on the individual’s monthly expenses that are reported and calculated during the survey.”

The survey directs responders to report their average monthly cost for utilities and routine maintenance. It is important that accurate figures be provided in the OHA Survey.

“OHA is a valuable entitlement for members who are stationed overseas,” Thomas-Evans said. “The information you provide could be instrumental in setting the rate for your area.”

Therefore, she recommended that servicemembers use saved records and receipts to accurately determine the amounts actually spent.

Additionally, completion time can be reduced if people have their monthly rental and utility expenses for the past year readily available prior to starting the survey.

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The U.S. Army Installation Management Command, Europe Region (IMCOM-Europe) is one of six regional offices created Oct. 24, 2006, (formerly known as Installation Management Agency) as part of an Army-wide initiative to focus management of Army installations around the world under one organization. IMCOM-Europe is responsible for all facets of support for U.S. Army Soldiers and families in Europe from drivers' licenses to child care to force protection. As the landlord for all U.S. Army facilities in Europe, IMCOM-Europe is responsible for infrastructure and continuing the Army's strong commitment to environmental protection. Its higher headquarters is located in Arlington, Va.