

B Detachment, 267th Finance Battalion Fact Sheet
Military Pay Entitlements and General Information:
Operation Enduring Freedom/ Operation Iraqi Freedom

1. **Cost of Living Allowance (COLA).** There is no change to COLA while deployed. Soldiers lose their entitlement to COLA on behalf of dependents if their dependents leave Alaska for more than 30 days.
2. **Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS).** Soldiers without meal cards (Soldiers not in the barracks) will see no change. Meal deductions will stop for Soldiers on meal cards (Soldiers in the barracks) - meal deductions stop on the day of departure and resume the day of return to home station. All enlisted Soldiers will receive BAS of \$254.46 per month.
3. **Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH).** Soldiers drawing BAH prior to deployment will continue to draw the same BAH while deployed unless one of the actions below are conducted.
 - a. **Advance Return of Dependent (AROD) BAH.** An Advance Return of Dependents (AROD) is a voluntarily action conducted by the Soldier/ family member. Soldiers with dependents who conduct an AROD receive BAH at the with-dependent rate for Alaska.
 - b. **Early Return of Dependent (EROD) BAH.** An Early Return of Dependent (EROD) is a command-directed action to remove family members from the local area. Soldiers with dependents who are involved with an EROD receive BAH at the with-dependents rate based on the location that the dependents are sent to. If the Soldier must move off post (no room in the barracks) and is authorized by the Housing Office, the Soldier is also authorized BAH at the without-dependents rate for Alaska.
4. **Family Separation Allowance.** Family Separation Allowance appears on the LES as FSH. Soldiers with dependents receive Family Separation Allowance in the amount of \$250 per month. Family Separation Allowance begins the day of departure from home station and ends the day prior to return to home station.
5. **Jump Pay.** Jump Pay continues throughout the deployment for Soldiers who are currently on jump status.
6. **Hardship Duty Pay Location (HDP-L).** Hardship Duty Pay appears on the LES as SAVE PAY. Soldiers receive \$100 per month for Hardship Duty Pay. Hardship Duty Pay starts the day of arrival in the area and ends the day of departure from the area.
7. **Hostile Fire Pay/Imminent Danger Pay (HFP/IDP).** Hostile Fire Pay/ Imminent Danger Pay appear on the LES as HFP. Soldiers receive \$225 per month for Hostile Fire Pay/Imminent Danger Pay. This is a monthly entitlement; one day in the area qualifies the Soldier for the full amount of \$225 for the month.
8. **Combat Zone Tax Exclusion (CZTE).** All military pay for enlisted Soldiers and warrant officers is excluded from federal tax during service in a combat zone. For commissioned officers, the monthly exclusion is capped at the highest enlisted pay, plus hostile fire pay/ imminent danger pay- \$6,315.90 per month for 2004. Pay is excluded on a monthly basis; one day in the area excludes the Soldier's pay from federal taxes for the entire month. Federal taxes are not listed under the deductions column on the Leave and Earning Statement.
9. **Per Diem.** Soldiers receive \$3.50 per day while OCONUS and \$2.50 per day while CONUS. Per Diem begins the day of departure and ends the day of return to home station. Payment is made upon return to home station, finance briefs Soldiers on filling out a DD Form 1351-2 (Travel Voucher) and uses this form to pay the per diem in a lump sum. Soldiers do not receive per diem during rest and recreation leaves, emergency leave, and bad conduct status (such as AWOL), while an in-patient in a hospital, or a passenger on a government vessel.
10. **Special Leave Accrual (SLA).** SLA assists Soldiers unable to take leave due to operational requirements. Soldiers with approved SLA can carry forward up to 90 days of accrued leave into the next fiscal year. SLA is automatically approved for Soldiers who receive Hostile Fire Pay (HFP) / Imminent Danger Pay (IDP) for at least 120 continuous days during the fiscal year.

11. **Savings Deposit Program (SDP).** Soldiers can participate in the Savings Deposit Program once they enter the deployed area. Soldiers enroll in SDP through the deployed finance unit by allotment or through cash/check contributions. Deposited funds earn interest at 10% per year, compounded quarterly at 2.5%. Monthly deposits cannot exceed the Soldier's current pay and allowances less deductions and allotments. The maximum total amount allowed for deposit during the deployment is \$10,000. 90 days after redeployment, interest stops and Soldiers must remove their money from the program by sending a letter to: DFAS-CL, ATTN: Code FMCS, 1240 East 9th Street, Cleveland, OH 44199-2055 and include - Name, SSN, Branch of Service, delivery information (bank routing number, account number, or address for check), and date of departure from deployed area.

12. **Thrift Savings Plan (TSP).** Soldiers who contribute to the TSP (1 to 10 % of Base Pay) may contribute up to 100% of special pay, incentive pay, or bonuses. The annual limit for 2005 TSP contributions is \$41,000 for deployed Soldiers. Soldiers may start TSP contributions during the TSP open seasons: 15 April – June 30 and 15 Oct- 31 Dec. Soldiers can conduct TSP transactions over the internet on the **myPay** (see 16 below) website or through the PAC on a TSP-U-1 form available on **www.tsp.gov**. For more information visit **www.tsp.gov**.

13. **Filing taxes.** The IRS allows service members to file taxes up to 180 days after redeployment.

14. **Powers of Attorney (POA).** Specific language is required on EITHER a General or Special Power of Attorney for a dependent or designated representative to make changes to a service members military pay account. General Powers of Attorney (with no specific language) only allow dependents to obtain Leave and Earnings Statements (LESs) from the Finance office. The Judge Advocate General (JAG) office provides Power of Attorney services.

15. **OIF/OEF Personal Finance Lessons Learned.**

a. Make sure family members can manage their finances. Use allotments and automatic bill payment programs available at banks to pay bills automatically. Make sure family members have access to money, ATM cards, checkbooks, etc. Establish a second bank account with sufficient funds by allotment-one bank account for the deployed member and one for the family members. ACS offers personal finance classes.

b. Soldiers should deploy with no more than \$200 in cash with no bills larger than \$50. Soldiers should deploy with at least 50 checks; military check cashing facilities will be available. ATMs are extremely limited in theater.

c. Deployed Soldiers can receive cash through Casual Pays with the deployed finance unit when available. A Casual Pay is an advance on the Soldier's pay; approximate limit is \$400 per month.

16. **MyPay.** Soldiers can access the myPay website on the internet through the link at **www.dfas.mil** or directly at **https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx** Soldiers can view/print their last 12 months of LESs, view/print their last four W-2 Tax Forms, make allotment changes, conduct TSP transactions, create a "Restricted Access PIN", and much more.

a. Soldiers must have a current myPay PIN number to access this website. If Soldiers do not have a PIN or have lost/forgot their PIN, they can click the "New PIN" link on the website- the Soldier will get a new PIN by email.

b. The "Restricted Access PIN" lets the Soldier establish a separate PIN for family members that allows **VIEW ONLY** access to Soldiers pay information. No pay changes can be made with a "Restricted Access PIN". Soldiers can set up a "Restricted Access PIN" on the "Personal Setting Page" located on the Main Menu of myPay.

c. Soldiers and family members should familiarize themselves with the myPay website prior to deployment. The following facilities on Fort Wainwright offer internet access for Soldiers and family members:

Education center- Monday to Friday 0730 to 2200; Saturday 0800 to 1600; Sunday Closed

Library- Monday to Wednesday 1100 to 1900 Closed Thursday & Friday, Saturday & Sunday 1200 to 2000.

Finance Customer Service- Monday to Wednesday 0930-1130 and 1300-1630, Thursday Closed, Friday 0930-1130 and 1300-1430

For questions concerning this information please contact B Detachment, 267th Finance Battalion.

Customer Service 353-1307

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