

QUESTION: Is there anything that the Army has done to help offset the cost of rising fuel cost for heating oil and electricity. I have numerous soldiers and myself included fuel saying that the BAH rate is not sufficient to help with cost of fuel. I have most soldiers thinking about getting loans or picking up second jobs to help with the cost of fuel. Granted prices are going down again, but nobody knows how long that will last. Was just wondering if there is anything a soldier can do or if the Army plans to help us out that are in need of extra money to pay for high demanding fuel costs.

ANSWER: Many people feel the effects of the high costs of fuel. Unfortunately, the decision to raise COLA or BAH must be approved at the national level.

The only thing that can be done locally is that you can be sure to complete the surveys on BAH and COLA when they are distributed periodically. It's your input that helps the Department of Defense personnel in Washington determine the BAH and COLA rates. It's not something the local command can order.

Are you and your fellow Soldiers on the post's housing list? Residents are not charged for heat and electricity. If you are on the list and waiting, you can find a number of places off post that include heat in their monthly rent. Unfortunately, if you are purchasing a home, there's really not much the Army can do to help.

You and your fellow Soldiers can contact your Congressmen about it. They are the only ones who can make changes to your BAH and COLA.

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