

QUESTION: Secondly, if Soldiers, with dependents living on post, have less than a year left in their duty time at FW, are they able to rent a home on post for less than 12 months? If not, why? According to the rental office, Soldiers are unable to reside on post if they have less than a year left on FW. Wait-lists, temporary housing and having to accept interim off-post housing influence the rental cycle time which is beyond a soldier's control. This situation creates hardships for Soldiers and families that may be forced to find housing and move off-post, and incur additional expenses with less than a year to go. While creating unrest for soldiers and families, this can also result in loss of renter confidence in the surrounding communities.

ANSWER: To reside in privatized housing, a Soldier must have 12 months remaining in the command. This is due to having to sign a 12-month lease. Prudent economic management of housing makes short-term rentals less desirable when there are sufficient families with longer remaining tours on the waiting list.

Soldiers with less than one year can reside on the local economy and obtain short-term rental agreements. The leasing office has no part to play in this process. These Soldiers and all Soldiers residing on the local economy are assisted by the Housing Services Office, staffed by government employees. The HSO can assist in locating, renting, starting BAH, clearing and TLA for all Soldiers and DOD civilians.

Wait lists: the "question" here is unclear, however based on the fact that there is less housing on the installation than Soldiers assigned to the installation, there are indeed waiting lists for on-post housing.

The wait lists are established based on the same rank and bedroom breakout as the quarters allocation. The length of the wait depends on the turnover of Soldiers departing the installation. When a family is scheduled to move to Fort Wainwright, they are informed via their PCS orders that their expected source of housing is the local economy. They may elect placement on a waiting list for on-post housing and move when it becomes available. A family moving to Fort Wainwright has the opportunity to work with the HSO to secure local rental housing prior to their actual arrival and therefore lessen their time in "temporary" lodging should they so choose. The HSO attempts to contact and work with each family transitioning to Fort Wainwright and assist in the relocation and provide all information necessary for the family to make the decisions that are best for them.

There are limited choices in many cases, especially those involving pets or families with special needs, but we will find all alternatives available given the necessary information from the family.

Housing on-post is a choice and not a mandatory move. Families are never forced to relocate once they have secured a residence on the local economy. Every family is encouraged to make the decisions that best meet their needs, regardless of whether that be renting, buying a home or moving onto post housing at some point.

The HSO has many tools available to assist with this and contacts in the local area to provide services which will help ease the moving experience.