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Personnel—General

Army in Europe Paired Communities

***This regulation supersedes AE Regulation 600-8-11, 2 November 2009.**

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Summary. This regulation provides information on paired communities in the Army in Europe and guidance on reassigning Soldiers between these communities. The guidance in this regulation is subject to the provisions of the Joint Federal Travel Regulations.

Summary of Change. This revision—

- Removes references to the communities of Dexheim and Mannheim.
- Updates table 1.

Applicability. This regulation applies to Soldiers in the European theater.

Supplementation. Organizations will not supplement this regulation without USAREUR G1 (AEAGA-MPP) approval.

Suggested Improvements. The proponent of this regulation is the USAREUR G1 (AEAGA-MPP, DSN 370-6816/6086). Users may suggest improvements to this regulation by sending DA Form 2028 by e-mail to mail.ugl.milperpol@eur.army.mil.

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Table

1. Army in Europe Paired Communities

Glossary

1. PURPOSE

This regulation establishes paired communities in the European theater and authorizes commanders to reassign Soldiers or change their permanent duty station (PDS) within these communities without requiring them to make a Government-funded, permanent change of station (PCS) move. The policy in this regulation will not be used to avoid the payment of temporary duty (TDY) entitlements as authorized by the Joint Federal Travel Regulations (JFTR), volume 1, chapter 4.

2. REFERENCES

- a. Joint Federal Travel Regulations (JFTR), volume 1, Uniformed Service Members (<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/travelreg.cfm>).
- b. AR 608-75, Exceptional Family Member Program.
- c. AE Regulation 612-1, Community Central In- and Outprocessing.
- d. SF 1164, Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business.

3. EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS

The glossary defines abbreviations and terms.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

The USAREUR G1, in coordination with IMCOM-Europe, will establish paired communities.

5. GENERAL

- a. The JFTR, paragraph U5317-8, states that the household-goods transportation entitlement does not exist for members “transferred between PDSs located in proximity to, or activities at, the same PDS, except as provided in paragraph U5355-B1 (57 Comp. Gen. 266 (1978)).” Two PDSs are considered to be “in proximity to” each other if both are in an area normally serviced by the same local transportation system or if a Soldier could commute daily from his or her residence to either PDS (JFTR, para U5355-B2).

b. In the European theater, 45 minutes is considered the time a Soldier may be expected to commute daily to the PDS.

c. Communities are considered “paired” (para 11) if they are within a 45-minute commute of each other when traveling during rush-hour traffic and inclement weather. The time limit does not include delays related to force-protection measures.

6. REASSIGNMENT AND CHANGE OF DUTY LOCATION

a. Commanders may reassign a Soldier or change his or her PDS anywhere within a 45-minute commute of the Soldier’s current residence without authorizing PCS entitlements (no-cost move), specifically without paying to move the Soldier’s household goods. If the commuting time is more than 45 minutes, the Soldier must be authorized a Government-funded move (PCS) to the new PDS. Soldiers must submit requests for PCS moves to the USAREUR G1 for approval.

b. Soldiers required to travel temporarily for more than 45 minutes one way from their current duty station should be provided Government transportation between the PDS and TDY station or be authorized TDY or mileage reimbursement for the excess mileage according to the JFTR, paragraph U3505. The use of Government vehicles for domicile-to-duty travel is prohibited. Soldiers may request mileage reimbursement using SF 1164 or through the Defense Travel System (DTS).

c. Soldiers residing in barracks will not be—

(1) Given a change of duty location outside the area normally serviced by Government transportation unless they have their own means of transportation or are reimbursed for commercial travel costs.

(2) Placed in a situation in which they are forced to purchase a privately owned vehicle to commute to work.

d. This regulation will not be used to avoid paying TDY entitlements when a Soldier maintains a residence at the previous duty location and is required to establish a temporary residence at a new duty location, or is forced to incur additional costs other than those for increased transportation within the 45-minute rule.

e. Soldiers whose permanent reassignment or change of duty location will require them to commute for more than 45 minutes from their current residence will be issued PCS orders. Soldiers who want to keep their current residence and, in so doing, incur a commute of more than 45 minutes to their new PDS will require approval from the losing and gaining commanders and the losing and gaining United States Army garrison (USAG) commanders concerned (for housing and school purposes). These Soldiers will not be entitled to reimbursement for commuting between their current residence and their new PDS.

f. Soldiers who move on their own and not at the direction of the Army are not eligible for entitlements.

g. Commanders who want to issue PCS orders to Soldiers as an exception to the policy in this regulation must submit a request to the appropriate proponent as follows:

(1) For enlisted personnel: USAREUR G1 (AEAGA-AGE), Unit 29351, APO AE 09014-9351 (e-mail: mail.ug1.epmdpa@eur.army.mil).

(2) For officers: USAREUR G1 (AEAGA-AGO), Unit 29351, APO AE 09014-9351 (e-mail: mail.ug1.opmd@eur.army.mil).

7. EXAMPLES

The following examples explain the use of paired communities and the 45-minute rule:

a. A Soldier stationed in Kaiserslautern is reassigned to Wiesbaden, which is a 60-minute commute from the Soldier's current residence. The Soldier is entitled to a Government-funded move and will be issued PCS orders. The Soldier may ask to continue residing in Kaiserslautern, but the Soldier will not be reimbursed for commuting between Kaiserslautern and Wiesbaden if this request is approved.

b. A Soldier stationed in Kaiserslautern is directed to begin a new assignment in Baumholder, which will require the Soldier to make a 30-minute commute from the Soldier's current residence. The Soldier is not entitled to a Government-funded move or reimbursement for transportation.

c. A Soldier stationed in Kaiserslautern and living in single-Soldier quarters is given a new assignment in Kaiserslautern. If the Soldier is required to move into different single-Soldier quarters because of the new assignment, he or she is entitled to a Government-funded move. The Soldier will not be directed to move his or her property. (This can usually be accomplished through a local short-distance move (JFTR, para U5355).)

d. A Soldier stationed in Kaiserslautern is given a temporary assignment in Wiesbaden, which is a 60-minute commute from the Soldier's current residence. If the Soldier is not authorized TDY entitlements and is required to return to his or her residence at the end of each duty day, the Soldier must be reimbursed for the excess mileage. If the Soldier is required to establish a temporary residence, the Soldier must be authorized TDY entitlements.

NOTE: Soldiers may not waive PCS travel and transportation entitlements. They may, however, choose not to use their entitlements or not to submit vouchers to collect them. Consequently, all Soldiers entitled to a Government-funded move or TDY entitlements will be issued orders.

8. DISPUTING DIRECTED MOVES

a. The locations of Soldier residences may vary within the same community. Disputes regarding the commuting time between communities should be resolved by actually driving from the Soldier's residence to the new duty location.

b. Soldiers who believe that they are being reassigned or directed to change duty assignments in violation of this regulation should bring their concerns to their chain of command. Commands will verify actual commuting time from the Soldier's residence to the new duty location. If the commuting time exceeds 45 minutes, the Soldier must be issued PCS orders. Soldiers who continue to disagree with their commander may request that the next higher commander in the chain of command verify the commuting time.

c. The policy in subparagraphs a and b above does not apply to Soldiers who volunteer to live in a private rental that is more than 45 minutes away from their PDS.

9. EXCEPTIONS TO POLICY

As an exception to policy—

a. PCS travel entitlements may be authorized within the 45-minute rule if the Soldier's household relocation is mission-essential, in the Government's best interest, and not primarily for the Soldier's convenience (JFTR, para U5355(B)(2)).

b. Soldiers may request authorization for PCS entitlements based on personal circumstances even if the new PDS is within a 45-minute commute of the Soldier's current residence. Requests must be forwarded to the USAREUR G1 for evaluation and determination.

10. EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM

Before Soldiers are issued PCS orders to another overseas location, they must be screened by the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP). A Soldier will not receive PCS orders if an initial enrollment or periodic update in the EFMP does not clear them for their new PDS. Commanders will ensure Soldiers report to their local medical treatment facility EFMP-case coordinator for screening according to AR 608-75.

11. PAIRED COMMUNITIES

a. Table 1 lists paired communities. This table will be used as general guidance when changing a Soldier's PDS. A Soldier's PDS may be changed from locations in the "From" column to locations in the "To" column and generally be considered to meet the intent of the 45-minute rule.

b. A permanent change of duty to locations other than those listed in table 1 may be permitted only after it has been established that the change will not require the Soldier to commute for more than 45 minutes. If the change will require the Soldier to commute for more than 45 minutes, the Soldier must be authorized a Government-funded move and issued PCS orders.

c. Table 1 was created based on the time needed to travel from military community to military community. This time may vary for Soldiers residing in leased housing or private rentals. In these cases, commands must consider the following in determining the actual commuting time:

(1) The distance between the two locations.

(2) The Soldier's residence.

(3) Roads linking the communities (for example, autobahn, secondary roads).

(4) Normal traffic volume on the road network during the times the Soldier can be expected to travel to and from work.

d. The term "paired communities" will not apply to installations that are identified as closing within 12 months in an official USAREUR G3 operation order or fragmentary order. Soldiers will not be reassigned on no-cost move orders if their current installation or the gaining unit's installation is identified for closure within 12 months.

12. IN- AND OUTPROCESSING PROCEDURES DURING IN-COUNTRY PCS MOVES

Soldiers who are being reassigned or change their PDS in the communities listed in table 1 will in- and outprocess through their community central processing facilities (CPFs). Soldiers will process through at least the CPF finance, housing, mail, medical, and personnel sections (AE Reg 612-1).

Table 1	
Army in Europe Paired Communities	
From	To
Belgium	
Between Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe/Casteau, Chièvres, and Mons	
Germany	
Ansbach	Illesheim, Katterbach
Bamberg	Schweinfurt
Baumholder	Einsiedlerhof, Kaiserslautern, Landstuhl, Miesau, Ramstein
Böblingen	Echterdingen, Möhringen, Stuttgart, Vaihingen
Echterdingen	Böblingen, Möhringen, Stuttgart, Vaihingen
Einsiedlerhof	Baumholder, Kaiserslautern, Landstuhl, Miesau, Pirmasens, Ramstein, Sembach
Garmisch	No paired communities
Germersheim	Heidelberg, Sandhofen
Grafenwöhr	Vilseck
Grünstadt	Kaiserslautern, Landstuhl, Miesau, Sembach
Heidelberg	Germersheim, Sandhofen
Hohenfels	No paired communities
Illesheim	Ansbach, Katterbach
Kaiserslautern	Baumholder, Einsiedlerhof, Grünstadt, Landstuhl, Miesau, Pirmasens, Ramstein, Sembach
Katterbach	Ansbach, Illesheim
Landstuhl	Baumholder, Einsiedlerhof, Grünstadt, Kaiserslautern, Miesau, Pirmasens, Ramstein, Sembach
Mainz	Wiesbaden
Mainz-Kastel	Wiesbaden
Miesau	Baumholder, Einsiedlerhof, Grünstadt, Kaiserslautern, Landstuhl, Pirmasens, Ramstein, Sembach
Möhringen	Böblingen, Echterdingen, Stuttgart, Vaihingen
Pirmasens	Einsiedlerhof, Kaiserslautern, Landstuhl, Miesau, Ramstein, Sembach
Ramstein	Baumholder, Einsiedlerhof, Kaiserslautern, Landstuhl, Miesau, Pirmasens, Sembach
Sandhofen	Germersheim, Heidelberg
Schweinfurt	Bamberg
Sembach	Einsiedlerhof, Grünstadt, Kaiserslautern, Landstuhl, Miesau, Pirmasens, Ramstein
Stuttgart	Böblingen, Echterdingen, Möhringen, Vaihingen
Vaihingen	Böblingen, Echterdingen, Möhringen, Stuttgart
Vilseck	Grafenwöhr
Wiesbaden	Mainz, Mainz-Kastel
Italy	
No paired communities	
The Netherlands	
Between Brunssum, Eyselshoven, Geilenkirchen, Maastricht, and Schinnen	

GLOSSARY

SECTION I ABBREVIATIONS

AE	Army in Europe
AR	Army regulation
CPF	central processing facility
DA	Department of the Army
DTS	Defense Travel System
EFMP	Exceptional Family Member Program
IMCOM-Europe	United States Army Installation Management Command, Europe Region
JFTR	Joint Federal Travel Regulations
PCS	permanent change of station
PDS	permanent duty station
SF	standard form
TDY	temporary duty
USAG	United States Army garrison
USAREUR	United States Army Europe

SECTION II TERMS

excess mileage

Miles driven in excess of 45 minutes from the place of residence to the duty location.

full-cost move

A permanent change of station (PCS) move for which the total expected cost will exceed \$1,000.

low-cost move

A permanent change of station (PCS) move for which the total expected cost, including the Soldier's travel and transportation entitlements and dislocation allowance, if applicable, does not exceed \$1,000. Low-cost moves are not curtailments and do not require waivers of time on station as are required for other moves. Low-cost moves do not require adjustments to the Soldier's original tour completion date, nor do they require the Soldier to have service retainability beyond the original tour completion date.

no-cost move

A permanent change of assignment or permanent change of station (PCS) move that incurs no fiscal liability to the Government.

paired communities

Communities deemed close enough (within a 45-minute commute of each other) to allow Soldiers to be reassigned or given a permanent change of duty location between the communities without a permanent change of station (PCS) move.

permanent change of station

A transfer or reassignment from one permanent duty station to another when authority to move household goods or entitlement to travel pay exists.

permanent duty station

As defined in the Joint Federal Travel Regulations, appendix A.

residence

Where a Soldier lives (including Government Family housing and single-Soldier quarters).