

Approved DoD FMR Changes

DoD FMR, Volume 7A, Chapter 26, paragraph 6.0:

*6.1.4. MIHA. The MIHA/Miscellaneous is an upfront, lump sum payment based on the average move-in costs for a Service member. The five payment types of MIHA are specified in Table 26-23.

*6.5. Move-in Housing Allowance (MIHA)

6.5.1 General. MIHA exists to defray the move-in costs associated with occupying private-sector housing covered under the OHA program, whether leased or owned. MIHA is not payable to a Service member occupying Government or Government-leased housing. MIHA does not cover move-out costs. In most cases, a Service member authorized OHA is authorized MIHA. See the [DoD MIHA Process Guide](#) for how to complete the [DD Form 2556](#), MIHA Claim. That form must accompany a request for MIHA/Rent, MIHA/Security, MIHA/Infectious Disease, or MIHA/Safety-related expenses. Various [OHA Surveys](#) are sent to Service members in private-sector leased housing to document utility and move-in expenses.

6.5.2. Rules and Information

6.5.2.1 – 6.5.2.3.3 *****

6.5.2.3.4. The five MIHA payment types are described in Table 26-23. See the [DoD MIHA Process Guide](#) for qualifying areas and additional rules.

6.5.2.3.5. Sharer Eligibility. Each Service member classified as a sharer and authorized MIHA is authorized the full MIHA/Miscellaneous allowance. Only one sharer may claim the individual expense for MIHA/Rent, MIHA/Security, MIHA/Infectious Disease, and MIHA/Safety. Acceptable claims for MIHA/Rent, MIHA/Security, MIHA/Infectious Disease, or MIHA/Safety must include DD 2556 proper documentation, and detailed receipts for all expenditures.

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Table 26-23:

*Table 26-23. Types of MIHA Payments

Payment Type		Description
1	MIHA/ Miscellaneous	The MIHA/Miscellaneous amount indicated on the OHA locality tables is based on expenses a Service member typically incurs associated when moving into privately leased or owned dwellings. MIHA specifies reportable and non-reportable MIHA/Miscellaneous expenses. The OHA Calculator specifies the amount payable. Only one payment is authorized at a PDS unless otherwise specified in this paragraph.
2	MIHA/Rent	Homeowners are ineligible. MIHA/Rent covers all reasonable rent-related expenses. These are fixed, one-time, nonrefundable charges levied on behalf of the landlord or a foreign government that the Service member must pay before or upon occupying a dwelling. All unreasonable expenditures, as determined by the AO, must be disallowed. The following are not included in MIHA/Rent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Expenses deferred until lease termination, such as a real estate agent fee, a redecoration fee if paid up-front, or a one-time lease tax. b. Advance rental payments, refundable deposits, or recurring costs.
3	MIHA/ Security	MIHA/Security covers reasonable security-related expenses for a Service member assigned to an area where dwellings require modification to minimize terrorist or criminal threat. See the <u><i>DoD MIHA Process Guide</i></u> for MIHA/Security locations.
4	MIHA/ Infectious Disease	MIHA/Infectious Disease covers reasonable upgrades to the physical dwelling to prevent the spread of infectious disease, such as window or door screens, when the dwelling requires modification to minimize exposure to medical threats related to mosquito-transmitted diseases. See the <u><i>DoD MIHA Process Guide</i></u> for MIHA/Infectious Disease locations.
5	*MIHA/ Safety	MIHA/Safety covers reasonable safety-related expenses for a Service member assigned to an area where upgrades to the physical dwelling are required to comply with safety requirements in 15 Foreign Affairs Manual 971.1. See the <u><i>DoD MIHA Process Guide</i></u> for MIHA/Safety locations.

*REFERENCES

6.0 – OVERSEAS HOUSING ALLOWANCE (OHA) (2606)

6.1

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (OASD)
Manpower and Reserve Affairs (M&RA) Memo,
March 17, 2021

Approved DoD FMR Changes

- 6.5 Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(DASD), Military Personnel Policy (MPP)
Memo, June 2, 2023
- 6.8 DSSR § 130
DoDI 1400.25, Volume 1250, February 23, 2012

ACTION MEMO

FOR: DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL
POLICY *Stephen P. Miller 6/2/2023*

FROM: Ms. J. B. Busch, Director, Military Compensation Policy

SUBJECT: Move in Housing Allowance – Safety

- **Purpose.** Request you approve by initialing below, a Move in Housing Allowance (MIHA) to reimburse costs for required safety upgrades for Service members assigned to Chief of Mission (COM) under the Department of State (DOS) at approved locations.
- **Background.** DOS requires residences for all Service members assigned to COM meet the requirements set forth in the DOS 15 Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM) 970, ‘Safety, Health, and Environmental Requirements for Real Property’ at TAB A. The residence must be inspected and certified before a member may occupy the space. Although it is recommended that housing already approved for inspections be obtained or modifications to housing be made at the expense of the property owner prior to occupancy, this is not always feasible. In some instances, Service members assigned to COM must bear additional out-of-pocket expenses to meet the safety requirements, and there is no mechanism for reimbursement of these costs.
- The establishment of a MIHA – Safety will allow for direct reimbursement of approved expenses to the member.
- We used the number of personnel under COM authority at all overseas duty locations to estimate the cost for establishing a MIHA – Safety. The number of personnel are: USMC – 17, USA – 74, USN – 167, USAF – 198, and USCG/NOAA/USPHS - unknown. Using a cost estimate provided by the U.S. Defense Attaché to Australia of approximately \$3,000 to install all safety upgrades to a residence, we estimate MIHA – Safety may result in an annual cost of approximately \$456K.
 - The estimated annual cost is likely a maximum, as we expect relatively few members will have a need for these types of security expenses. For example, we are only aware of a small population of members (fewer than 15) in Canberra, Australia currently facing these challenges. Furthermore, in many overseas locations, residences with the security modifications are part of a “housing pool” and are transferred to incoming members as outgoing members depart.
- I recommend the changes at TAB B be submitted for inclusion in the next update to the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation (DoD FMR), Volume 7A, Chapter 26 to authorize payment of MIHA – Safety.

RECOMMENDATION: Initial below, approving a MIHA for required safety upgrades to housing.

Approve: *S. Miller* Disapprove: _____ Other: _____